



Teachers, Employees of the Month honored at school board See Page 3

# The Wakulla SWM



Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Partly Cloudy Hi: 60° Lo: 39° 3% Sunrise 7:33 AM Sunset 5:49 PM	Partly Cloudy Hi: 63° Lo: 39° 17% Sunrise 7:34 AM Sunset 5:50 PM	Mostly Sunny Hi: 62° Lo: 44° 3% Sunrise 7:34 AM Sunset 5:51 PM



\$1 One Section

"It's a New Day"

Locally Owned & Operated

Our 4th Year 1st Issue Thursday, January 2, 2025

## Woman shot, killed

Wakulla, Leon deputies were at woman's Sopchoppy home last week

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN Editor

The Wakulla County Sheriff's Office is investigating a fatal shooting that occurred when deputies responded to a call about a woman in Sopchoppy on Dec. 22. A release put out by the sheriff's office states that the Wakulla and Leon County Sheriff's

Offices are conducting standard investigations regarding a fatal shooting in the 300 block of Harms Road in Sopchoppy. Wakulla County Deputies responded to the initial call for service regarding a white female, armed with a handgun and making suicidal threats. When Deputies arrived on scene, the

female fired a long gun into the air and retreated back into the home. WCSO contacted LCSO for assistance. LCSO's Hostage Team, along with several members of the SWAT Team responded. During the encounter, shots were fired and the female suspect was pronounced deceased on scene.

The woman is not named in the press release. Her name is Ollie Denise Rogers, 62, of Sopchoppy. Per WCSO standard protocol, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement is conducting a full review of the incident. More details will be released as they become available.

## Former sheriff Charlie Creel has died

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN Editor

Former Wakulla County Sheriff Charlie Creel died at his home in Moultrie, Ga., on Christmas Day. He was 71. Creel retired after a 30-year career with the Florida Highway Patrol that included a stint as FHP liaison with Gov. Lawton Chiles, and security for Lt. Gov. Buddy MacKay.

After retirement, he challenged then-Wakulla Sheriff David Harvey in 2008, but lost by 48 votes – and a recount that was made especially controversial by conspiracy theories about voter fraud in Sopchoppy. Creel never endorsed those theories, and the controversy was fostered by a misunderstanding after the canvassing board posted absentee votes that went online and made it appear that all votes had been counted and Creel had won. Actually, Sopchoppy's votes were late and when they arrived and were counted, Harvey was declared the winner.



Charlie Creel

Harvey retired a couple of years later, and Undersheriff Donnie Crum finished his term. Creel ran again in 2012 against Major Maurice Langston and won. Creel served until 2016, when current Sheriff Jared Miller won office.

Creel is served by his wife Cheryl and other family, including his mother, Virginia Lang Bates of Crawfordville.

Services will be held at Lake Ellen Baptist Church in Crawfordville on Friday, Jan. 3, with the Rev. Keith Wallace officiating. The family will receive friends at

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### CHAMBER AFTER HOURS



### After Hours in St. Marks

The Wakulla County Chamber of Commerce held an After Hours event in St. Marks before Christmas, visiting The Shack and The Beach Trader on Dec. 19. Attendees, above, included Chamber member Karrie Larson, Chamber Executive Director Heather Bryan, Shack owner Tina Nunn, and Chamber member Samantha Morse. Checking out goods at Beach Trader were Gwendolyn Staten, Shirley Howard, the Rev. Dr. Betsy Goehrig with her husband Kevin Goehrig. (Photos by Lynda Kinsey)



## Watch water usage during winter months

From Wakulla County

Residential Sewer Billing is based on water usage. To bill for sewer usage most accurately, Wakulla County utilizes the winter months average method for sewer billing. The amount billed for sewer each month is the average of the actual number of gallons used during December, January, and February. These are the months where customers typically use the least amount of water.

Important notes about your winter months average:

- Pay attention to when your water meter is read – your December bill will generally have some November usage. Start conserving now.
- Take time during these months to review actual water usage – if it seems high – Look for leaks and report them to Wakulla Revenue Collections immediately.
- Talquin Water customers will see their new sewer winter months average on the April 2025 billing.
- Sopchoppy and Panacea Water customers will see their new sewer winter months average on the March 2025 billing.

## New year brings 10 new state laws

Social media restrictions for children is one change, but it be immediately enforced

By JIM TURNER News Service of Florida

A smattering of new state laws will arrive with the new year, but the highest-profile change – restricting access to social media for children – will not be immediately enforced.

Ten laws passed during the 2024 legislative session will take effect Wednesday. They were among 299 bills approved by the Legislature and Gov. Ron DeSantis, the majority of which took effect July 1.

The social-media restrictions were part of a bill (HB 3) that was a priority of then-House Speaker Paul Renner, R-Palm Coast, and became one of the biggest issues of the session.

The measure seeks to prevent children under age 16 from opening social-media accounts on some platforms. Parents can give consent

for 14- and 15-year-olds to have accounts, but children under 14 would be barred from opening accounts.

Renner argued that social-media companies have created addictive platforms that harm children's mental health and can lead to sexual predators communicating with minors.

In October, the Computer & Communications Industry Association and NetChoice, whose members include tech giants such as Google and Meta Platforms, filed a federal lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the restrictions.

"In a nation that values the First Amendment, the preferred response is to let parents decide what speech and mediums their minor children may access – including by utilizing the many available tools to monitor their activities on the internet," the law-

suit said.

The groups are seeking a preliminary injunction to block the restrictions, and Attorney General Ashley Moody agreed in November to delay enforcement until Chief U.S. District Judge Mark Wilson rules on the injunction request. Walker has scheduled a Feb. 28 hearing.

"In order to obtain a full record and obtain discovery, Florida agreed to stay enforcement of its statute until the court rules on the motion for preliminary injunction," Chase Sizemore, press secretary for Moody's office, said in a statement in November.

The bill did not name social-media platforms that would be affected. But it included a definition of such platforms, with criteria related to such things as algorithms, "addictive features" and allowing users to view the content or

activities of other users.

The lawsuit repeatedly referred to sites such as YouTube and Facebook – while also saying the restrictions would not apply to services such as Disney+. If social-media companies violate the restrictions they could face penalties up to \$50,000 per violation. The measure also would open them to lawsuits filed on behalf of minors.

Moody, however, wants to move forward immediately with another part of HB 3 that requires age verification for access to websites with adult content. The Free Speech Coalition, an adult-entertainment industry group, and other plaintiffs filed suit Dec. 16 challenging that part of the measure on First Amendment and other constitutional grounds.

Supporters say the age-verification requirements are designed to

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## Correction

A front page story last week headlined "Local Realtor found guilty of tax evasion" was not correct. The story, which came from a press release from the U.S. Attorney's Office, which prosecuted the case, did not specify that Sedita Cayson, the Realtor, was charged with five counts of attempting to evade or defeat tax and five counts of willful failure to file return. Cayson was not found guilty of evading taxes, only of willful failure to file.

While the subheadline explained that "Sedita Cayson failed to file income tax returns between 2017-2021," the main headline was incorrect.

We regret the error.



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STUDENT OF THE WEEK SHOULD RETURN NEXT WEEK.

Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park  
**Coral honeysuckle**

By LYNN ARTZ, DAVID RODDENBERRY, and SANDY TEDDER



A visit to Sopchoppy Depot Park will likely find the colorful blooms of coral honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*) displayed on the front fence. Whorled clusters of slender tubular flowers dangle at the ends of the stems. The striking 2-inch-long flowers are rich scarlet to orange-red on the outside and yellow inside. Bright yellow anthers extend beyond the flower. Also called trumpet honeysuckle, the flowers attract hummingbirds, bumblebees, butterflies, and other long-tongued insect pollinators. The blooms are followed by small inedible but ornamental red berries that appeal to many birds. The caterpillars of spring azure butterflies and snowberry clearwing moths dine on the leaves. Grow this 10-15-foot-long evergreen twining vine on a fence, trellis, or arbor. Few plants bear flowers for as long as this robust native vine.

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21st Annual **Free Trees!**  
 CRAWFORDVILLE  
**ARBOR DAY**  
 Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup>  
 10:00 am - 1:00 pm  
**Hudson Park**  
 Rain or Shine  
**Hundreds of young trees (in pots) will be given away!**  
 Red Maple, Chalk Maple, Live Oak, Willow Oak, Green Ash, Blackgum, American Elm, Pignut Hickory, Bald Cypress, Tulip Poplar, River Birch, Cabbage Palm, Rusty Lyonia, Redbud, Longleaf Pine, & more!  
**Children's Activities**  
 Music Food  
 Artisan & Craft Vendors  
 Wakulla County Garden Club, Florida Forest Service, Sarracenia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, National Wildlife Federation, & UF/IFAS Extension Master Gardeners  
 with Florida Wildlife Federation, Just Fruits & Exotics, The Wakulla News & The Wakulla Sun.

**Wakulla County Tax Collectors Office**  
**SPECIALTY TAGS**  
 \$15 - \$30 additional to cost of tag.  
 Lisa Craze, CFC  
 Wakulla County Tax Collector

**FLORIDA BAY FOREVER ENACTED: FEB. 24, 2015**  
 Proceeds from the Florida Bay Forever specialty plate will support conservation, education, and scientific programs in Everglades National Parks, including water cleanup, removal of derelict vessels, seagrass restoration, and aids to navigation, as well as long term funding projects. These long term priorities include wilderness waterway chickees, waterway trail maintenance, law enforcement staff support, interpretation staff support, historic fish cleaning stations, and Everglades environmental education programs.

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 The Wakulla Sun



# School employees of month are honored

These school staff were celebrated at the school board meeting on Dec. 16.

(Photos provided by Lori Sandgren, district executive director of human resources)



**Sarah Waters, teacher of the month from Riversink Elementary.**



**Felicia Langston, employee of the month from Crawfordville Elementary.**



**Heather Hatfield, district office instructional services.**

# Join 4-H for cleanup

Special to The Sun

Wakulla 4-H agent Rachel Pienta announced today that the first 4-H road clean up for 2025 will be held on Saturday, Jan. 4. Interested youth and community members should meet in the Crawfordville Commons parking lot. The group will meet outside Jimmy John's restaurant at 9 a.m.

We'll be hitting the streets of Songbird Avenue for a good cause. Wakulla 4-H is proud to take part in the Keep Wakulla County Beautiful Adopt-A-Road Program, and our adopted stretch of road runs from 319 by Publix to the end of the Hammocks neighborhood.

What to Bring/Wear: Closed-toe shoes are a must. If you've got a wagon, feel free to bring it along to help carry bags as we work. Show off your 4-H spirit by wearing your 4-H shirt or a green shirt! We'll also have neon mesh vests for anyone who wants one. Don't forget sunscreen, water, bug spray, and a hat to stay comfortable and protected.

# Katlynnne Borosky makes Dean's List

Special to The Sun

Katlynnne Borosky (Crawfordville) was named among the students who qualified for Belmont University's fall 2024 Dean's List. Belmont University recently released the Dean's List for the fall 2024 semester.

Approximately 53% of the University's 7,175 undergraduate students qualified for the fall 2024 Dean's List at Belmont University in Nashville.

"Earning a place on the Dean's List is an accomplishment that reflects the dedication, talent and resilience of our students who maintain competitive GPAs while concurrently making lasting contributions at Belmont and beyond," said Belmont University Provost Dr. David Gregory. "These scholars have gone above and beyond, matching rigorous academic schedules with robust extracurriculars including volunteerism, student organizations, athletics, the arts,

and more. It gives me great joy to acknowledge the dedicated students who embody what it means to seek excellence, academically. Their achievement is a testament not only to their hard work and intellectual aptitude but also to Belmont's high academic standards and commitment to student success."

Dean's List eligibility is based on a minimum course load of 12 hours and a quality grade point average of 3.5 with no grade below a C.

# Charlie Creel has died

From Front Page

1 p.m. and services begin at 2 p.m.

One of Creel's favorite stories was years ago when he made a traffic stop of movie star Dan Akroyd on U.S. Highway 98 in Newport. Akroyd was driving from south Florida to New Orleans on the scenic route and hit that curve where the speed limit suddenly drops from 55 to 35. Trooper Creel pulled the car over, then recognized the celebrity driver.

Creel had a picture taken with Akroyd, and came to The Wakulla News office and we ran it in the newspaper. I can't recall if he said he wrote Akroyd a ticket.

# New Year, new laws

From Front Page

keep minors from viewing pornography online.

Pornhub isn't waiting for Walker to rule on the age-verification requirements, saying the adult site will be unavailable to Florida users starting Wednesday.

"Did you know that your government wants you to give your driver's license before you can access Pornhub?" users of the site are advised when they log on. "As crazy as it sounds, it's true. You'll be required to prove you are 18 years or older such as by uploading your government ID for every adult content website you'd like to access. We don't want minors accessing our site and think preventing that from happening is a good thing. But putting everybody's privacy at risk won't achieve that."

Among other laws taking effect Wednesday will be a measure (SB 184) aimed at preventing people from harassing or threatening first responders. The bill makes it a second-degree misdemeanor to get within 25 feet of a first responder after receiving a verbal warning not to approach.

Supporters touted the bill as a way to help police officers and other first responders.

"While blue states vilify and defund the police, Florida will continue to be the friendliest state in the nation towards our law enforcement community," Gov. Ron DeSantis said in an April statement as he signed the legislation.

But in March, The Rutherford Institute, a civil-liberties organization, warned the "no go zone" was unnecessary and could give police broad discretion to abuse the law.

"Riddled with vague terms and lacking explicit safeguards for protected First Amendment activities such as simply observing or recording the first responder's actions, SB 184 not only stands to chill free speech activities but could also encourage government officials to undermine the very rights they are sworn to uphold and protect," John W. Whitehead, president of The Rutherford Institute, wrote in a March 28 letter to DeSantis.

Also taking effect Wednesday will be a law (HB 135) that includes preventing changes to people's political-party affiliations without their written consent and a law (HB 267) that requires the Florida Building Commission to change parts of the state building code related to replacement windows, doors and garage doors.



## Notice of Special Meeting of the Wakulla County Planning Commission

The Wakulla County Planning Commission will hold a special meeting on Monday, January 13, 2025, at 5:30 P.M. in the Commission Chambers located at 29 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida 32327. The purpose of this special meeting is for an orientation and training session for new Planning Commissioners. Persons with a disability needing a special accommodation should contact the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners Administration Office at least two (2) days prior to the meeting at (850) 926-0919; Hearing and Voice Impaired at 1-800-955-8771; or email at [ADARrequest@mywakulla.com](mailto:ADARrequest@mywakulla.com).

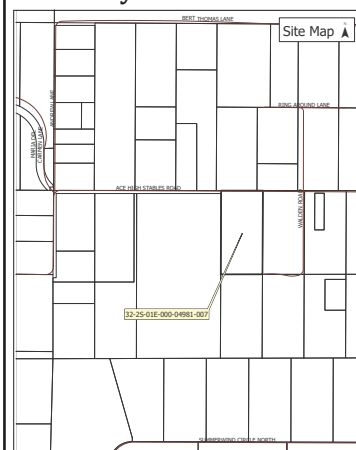
Jan. 2, 2025

### PUBLIC NOTICES:

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

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

The Wakulla County Planning Commission and Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners proposes to consider the following application and/or adopt the following by ordinance and has scheduled Public Hearings before the **Wakulla County Planning Commission on Monday, January 13, 2025, beginning at 6:00 P.M.** and before the **Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners on Tuesday, January 21, 2025, beginning at 5:00 PM**, or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard. All public hearings will be held at the County Commission Chambers located west of the County Courthouse at 29 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida 32327. Interested parties are invited to attend and present testimony.



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

**1. Application for Change of Zoning: R24-17**  
 Applicants: Christopher and Kelli Osborn  
 Proposal: rezone from semi-rural residential to agricultural  
 Tax ID Number: 32-2S-01E-000-04981-007  
 Existing FLU Map: Rural 2 (FLUE Policy 1.2.5)  
 Current Zoning: RR-1 (Section 5-27, LDC)  
 Proposed Zoning: AG (Section 5-25, LDC)  
 FEMA Flood Info: "X" zone on Panel 0100E  
 Parcel size: 5.0+/- acres  
 Location: 345 Ace High Stables Road

**Hearings Required: Planning Commission: Monday, January 13, 2025 @ 6:00 PM**  
**BOCC: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 @ 5:00 PM**

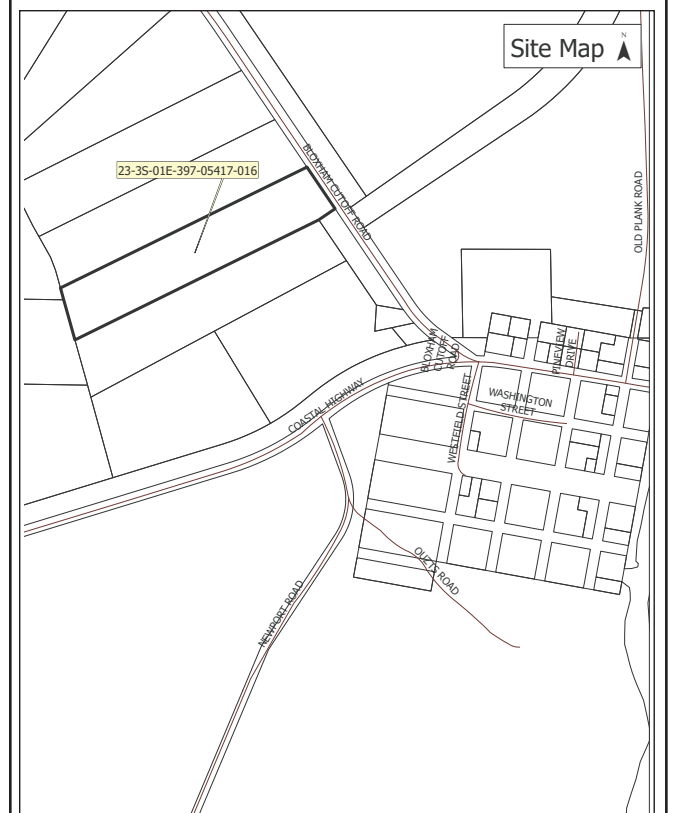
If an individual wishes to submit documents or other materials related to a matter before the Planning Commission for consideration by the Planning Commission at a public meeting, they are strongly encouraged to submit copies of all such documents or other materials to the Wakulla County Office of Planning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

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

Jan. 2, 2025

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING AN APPLICATION FOR CONDITIONAL USE

The Wakulla County Planning Commission proposes to consider the following application. A Public Hearing is scheduled regarding the following before the **Planning Commission on Monday, January 13, 2025, beginning at 6:00 P.M., unless otherwise noted below or as time permits.** All public hearings will be held at the County Commission Chambers located west of the County Courthouse at 29 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida 32327. Interested parties are invited to attend and present testimony.



**1. Application for Conditional Use: CU24-02**  
 Applicant: Lynniam Farms, LLC  
 Agent: Ric Hollifield  
 Proposal: private airstrip  
 Tax ID Number: 23-3S-01E-397-05417-016  
 Existing FLU Map: Agriculture (FLUE Policy 1.2.3)  
 Current Zoning: AG (Section 5-25, LDC)  
 FEMA Flood Info: "AE" zone on Panel 0275E  
 Parcel size: 20.02+/- acres  
 Location: Bloxham Cutoff Road, Lot 16, River Ridge Phase II Subdivision

**Hearings Required: Planning Commission: Monday, January 13, 2025 @ 6:00 PM**

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

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Jan. 2, 2025



# Opinions

THE FIRST AMENDMENT

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

## Thanks to our readers, advertisers and supporters for another year



By **WILLIAM SNOWDEN**  
Editor

As we head into 2025, I want to thank the readers, advertisers and supporters of The Wakulla Sun for another year.

February will mark the third year of publication – and it would not be possible without you.

Thanks to the staff of this newspaper – Lynda Kinsey (Sales/Marketing), Eric Stanton (Production), Krystal Sheppard (Circulation/Billing), and Jessi Smith (Delivery). Thanks to Correspondent Linda Ann McDonald, and photographers Ken Fields, Gerald Brown, and Perry Dissmore.

Thanks to our regular contributors, including Ethel Skipper (Buckhorn News), who has been

writing her column for at least 30 years; Verna Brock (Wakulla Station News), who I had asked for years to resume her column and agreed to do it after she retired; and DJ Butch (Sopchoppy News), a new columnist whose love of Sopchoppy comes through.

And thanks to a couple of volunteers – Cheri Morgan, who helps label papers, and Bill Dickman who, uh, “provides security”?

Thanks to our advertisers, many of whom have been with us since that first issue. I am sincerely grateful for your support.

Thank you to our readers – without you this would have no purpose. I hope in every issue you find something interesting.

And I also want to thank those who have made donations to the Florida Press Foundation to benefit The Wakulla Sun.

We have had donations from people who stop in to buy a couple of copies of the pa-

per and hand us a \$20 bill and say “Keep the change,” those who add an amount to their subscription renewal of \$15 up to “the amount of the other paper, which I am no longer subscribing to.”

And then we have one donor who has made a contribution of several thousand dollars every year for the past three years.

This generosity means so much to me and reaffirms the belief that it is important to the community to have a local newspaper.

And that the local newspaper covers what’s happening in the community – the people, the events, the changes and issues of concern.

Our mission is to do that fairly and objectively (except when it comes to sports – Go War Eagles!).

And not that we don’t make mistakes, but we own up to them and make corrections.

I wish everyone a happy and prosperous new year!

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

## LETTERS FROM READERS

### Writing class for beginners is starting

Editor, The Sun:

Several years ago you put a small announcement of my free writing class in an edition of the SUN. I thanked you then and am doing so again now. We have gained some new class members and the progress in everyone’s writing has been very good. We are now nine, a perfect number for the time and space available.

The group has worked diligently on my challenges (fancy word for assignments) without complaint and have grown into quite proficient writers. Publication is a word we often say. I am confident it will soon become reality. They have done so well that they scare away newcomers.

Therefore, I want you and the community to know that I am starting a new class for beginning writers in hopes that they can perfect their skills and become something they never thought or just dreamed of doing in the past. This free class will start with an organizational meeting on January 15 at 10 a.m. in the Wakulla Library and will meet thereafter at the same time on first and third Wednesdays.

I hope that some would-be writers will come, learn and grow together as the advanced group has done. They have shown amazing progress and creativity.

Thank you,

**Kitty Culkin**

aka White-haired lady with the white dog

### Vendors sought for Arbor Day Festival

Editor, The Sun:

Artisan and craft vendors are invited to display their wares on Saturday, January 18th at the annual Crawfordville Arbor Day Celebration in Hudson Park between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Garden art, gardening tools, outdoor furniture, and bird feeders will appeal to festival goers. Tree and yard service companies, nurseries, and other nature-based businesses are encouraged to publicize their services. Food vendors are

sought as well.

Educational exhibits of all kinds are welcomed. Exhibitors and non-profits pay no fee. However, commercial vendors selling goods at the event are required to pay a \$15 fee to Wakulla County. More than 500 people are expected to attend.

To participate as a vendor or exhibitor at this year’s festival, please contact Lynn Artz (lynn\_artz@hotmail.com; 850-320-2158).

**Lynn Artz**

## Library News

By **LINDA OAKS**

Library News Jan. 2-8

Thursday, January 2nd

- Creative Writing 10am
- Wakulla County Garden Club Board Meeting 10am

Friday, January 3rd

- Quilting Guild 9:30am

Saturday, January 4th

- No Programs

Sunday, January 5th

- Closed

Monday, January 6th

- No Programs

Tuesday, January 7th

- Registration Opens for Kids Code Combat Winter Tech Workshop Ages 11+ Contact Patricia Owens. 4-week course. Registration opened 7th-10th.
- Book Bunch 10am

- Lego Club 4pm

- Wakulla Youth Baseball 6:30pm

Wednesday, January 8th

- Book Babies 10am
- Wakulla Garden Club General Meeting 12pm
- WCCY Monthly Meeting 12:30pm
- Wakulla County Youth Football/Cheer Association 6:30pm

## On the Horizon:

### Calendar of events for the week of January 2

#### Thursday, January 2

- The VFW Auxiliary Bingo Night will be held at 7 p.m. at 475 Arran Road in Crawfordville, every Thursday. There are concessions and raffles.
- Yin Yoga at 6 p.m. with Nellie every Thursday. Classes are \$12, at New Posh on 3079 Crawfordville Hwy. RSVP to newposh3079@gmail.com or text/call at (850) 528-5838.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. every Thursday at 54 Ochlockonee St.

#### Friday, January 3

- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon at

8 p.m. every Friday at 54 Ochlockonee St.

#### Saturday, January 4

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

#### Monday, January 6

- County commission meets at 5 p.m. in the commission boardroom.
- The Wakulla Respite Program will be available for anyone with memory impairment at no cost from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Lake Ellen Baptist Church every Monday.
- Yoga 101 with Nellie at 6 p.m. Classes are

\$12, packages available at New Posh on 3079 Crawfordville Hwy. RSVP to newposh3079@gmail.com or text/call at (850) 528-5838.

- Gentle Yoga and Stretching Class, every Monday, 11 a.m. Wakulla Community Center. Bring a mat. Come early to sign in. Chair Yoga participants welcome. \$2 per class.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. at 54 Ochlockonee St.

#### Tuesday, January 7

- 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, January 8

- Wakulla County Coalition for Youth meets at the public library at 12:30 p.m.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon and 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday at 54 Ochlockonee St.

*“It’s A New Day!”*

# The Wakulla Sun

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- More local content on the environment and local businesses

A little bit goes a long way. With your help, we can keep the presses running through hard times.

We would very much appreciate your contribution.

William Snowden  
Editor & Publisher  
The Wakulla Sun

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– Compiled by William Snowden

Polled at The Wakulla Sun:

# What's one thing you're grateful for from the past year?



**WILLIAM SNOWDEN**  
Owner/Publisher

**“I’m grateful for the support of the community for The Wakulla Sun.”**



**LYNDA KINSEY**  
Advertising/Sales

**“Family and friends!”**



**ERIC STANTON**  
Production Manager

**“The most memorable moment was saying goodbye to my father, whose love and humor in his last days taught me the true essence of living.”**



**KRYSTAL SHEPPARD**  
Circulation

**“I feel blessed beyond measure to have so many wonderful, supportive people in my life.”**



**LINDA ANN MCDONALD**  
Correspondent

**“Lessons learned.”**

## Buckhorn News

By ETHEL SKIPPER

One has come to free us from the bondage of sin. Christ suffered to free us.

Isaiah 53:5: “But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.”

People who are suffering and in pain need support from their brothers and sisters in Christ. It could be this week – God will allow you to turn toward someone who is suffering and in need

of God’s healing. God may use you to minister to someone who is hurting by visiting the person, sending a card or note, preparing a meal, or doing chores.

Family and friends shared in the celebration of Willie F. Skipper on Monday, Dec. 23, as he reached 97 years of life.

He served his country in the United States Navy. He likes to tell his grandchildren and great-grandchildren about that – how things were so different.

Some call him granddaddy. Some call him Papa, Deacon Skipper, Uncle Skip-

per, Daddy and My Friend.

It was like going back to the old times in December with a cookout. All cell phones were silent as family and friends told about their time with the 97 year old. We are all so blessed. God has been very good to us. He can tell his own story of his life.

Willie F. Skipper thanked everyone for coming to his birthday party. He was grateful to have home those people whose lives he’s been in forever: Patrick Rosier family, Virginia; Elzela Rosier of Seattle; and Kenny Johnson of Tallahassee.

Happy birthday to Kenneth Rosier on Jan. 3; Ailyah Paschal on Jan.

8; Elbonita Rosier-Nicholas on Jan. 9; Wanda Gavin Bailey on Jan. 9; Colleen Skipper Mitchell on Jan. 11; Glenda Simmons on Jan. 16; Warren Paschal on Jan. 17; Tamrick Holmes on Jan. 22; Frances Gantt on Jan. 26; Leston Green on Jan. 30; Deborah McRoy on Jan. 30; Willie Mae Steven on Jan. 7 and George Franklin Jr.

Our prayers and blessings go out to all the sick and shut-in, to those in need of help in all ways, those in the hospital, nursing home, prison, the homeless, and all in need of a blessing everywhere. May you have a blessed year.

## Wakulla Station News

By VERNA BROCK

Merry Christmas Wakulla County, and Happy Hanukkah too!

Sometimes, the two celebrations share the same beginning date, and 2024 is one of those times. As we celebrate, let’s keep the meaning of both “Holy-days” in the forefront of our minds and hearts. With all the feasting and gift giving, it’s important we hold the true significance of our joy tight in our souls.

Christians welcome the coming of

the “Light Of The World”, Jesus our Savior! Our Jewish brethren celebrate eight days of the miracle of the oil lamps ending with a rededication of David’s Temple with a festival of lights. The ancient telling of Jesus’ birth in a lowly stable continues to move Christians. And the story of how the Maccabees managed to overthrow the Syrian-Greeks, and freed Israel to worship God is powerful. Both traditions honor God, and celebrate His miraculous love. So many treasured traditions bind us to each other and

to our Creator.

On the 26th, folks will begin to celebrate Kwanzaa, another celebration of truth and light, with lighting of candles and upholding traditional values. Secular in nature, Kwanzaa is celebrated by people of many different religions and ethnicities who uphold the 7 Principles of Unity, Faith, Purpose, Cooperative Economics, Collective Work and Responsibility, and Self-Determination. Happy Kwanzaa y’all!

Even as Kwanzaa draws to a close on January 1st, people around the world will welcome the start of a fresh new year full of promise. The fire-work displays will begin in the far East and circle the globe at midnight on New

Year’s Eve, and the sun will rise on a brand new year. There will be worldwide celebrations with awe inspiring lights and hopes for joy, hope and prosperity as millions toast and observe the turning of a new leaf for a happier future!

I pray we can all resolve to extend grace and peace to one another, and nations will recognize the futility of war. This old world is in dire need of a respite from violence and senseless death. May the One who spoke the very universe into being work peace in our hearts, lives and world. Amen.

God bless you all, and here’s to a better year and a better world!

## Weekly Roundup: Sex, drugs and money

By JIM SAUNDERS  
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE – It was a holiday-week news bomb.

The U.S. House Committee on Ethics released a report Monday alleging that former Florida Congressman Matt Gaetz “regularly” paid women for sex, used illegal drugs and violated state laws.

The release came after years of investigations into Gaetz, who resigned from Congress in November after President-elect Donald Trump picked him to become U.S. attorney general — a selection that didn’t last long as Gaetz withdrew from consideration.

Though Gaetz was no longer a member of the House, a majority of the ethics committee decided to go ahead and release the report, which quickly dominated headlines and bounced around the internet.

The report alleged that Gaetz violated Florida law by hiring women for sex and violated a state statutory rape law by engaging in sexual activity with a 17-year-old girl. It also alleged that he violated state laws by using illegal drugs. The U.S. Department of Justice investigated Gaetz but decided last

year against charging him with crimes.

“There is substantial evidence that Representative Gaetz paid women for sex, and had others pay women for sex on his behalf,” the report said. “The Committee heard testimony from over half a dozen witnesses who attended parties, events, and trips with Representative Gaetz from 2017-2020. Nearly every young woman that the Committee interviewed confirmed that she was paid for sex by, or on behalf of, Representative Gaetz. A few of the women characterized their relationship differently, describing a date-for-hire arrangement that may not necessarily implicate state prostitution laws. Even assuming the payments to those particular women would not violate prostitution laws, the Committee found evidence that Representative Gaetz spent tens of thousands of dollars on other women with whom he had a shared understanding that they would be compensated for sexual activity with him.”

The report also said the committee found substantial evidence that in 2017, “Representative Gaetz engaged in sexual activity with a 17-year-old girl” and that during “the period 2017 to 2019, Rep-

resentative Gaetz used or possessed illegal drugs, including cocaine and ecstasy, on multiple occasions.”

Gaetz, a Panhandle Republican, refuted the allegations in posts Monday and earlier on the social-media platform X. In a Dec. 18 post, he wrote that the “Biden/Garland DOJ spent years reviewing allegations that I committed various crimes. I was charged with nothing: FULLY EXONERATED. Not even a campaign finance violation. And the people investigating me hated me.”

“In my single days, I often sent funds to women I dated – even some I never dated but who asked,” he also wrote in the post. “I dated several of these women for years. I NEVER had sexual contact with someone under 18. Any claim that I have would be destroyed in court — which is why no such claim was ever made in court. My 30’s were an era of working very hard — and playing hard too. It’s embarrassing, though not criminal, that I probably partied, womanized, drank and smoked more than I should have earlier in life. I live a different life now.”

BRING YOUR

### CHECKBOOK

Writing checks is becoming something of a lost art.

A three-judge panel of the 4th District Court of Appeal on Thursday upheld a circuit judge’s ruling that rejected five candidates for municipal offices in the Palm Beach County city of Riviera Beach because they used debit cards — instead of checks — to pay qualifying fees.

While the appeals court gave little explanation, Palm Beach County Circuit Judge Reid P. Scott in a Dec. 12 ruling cited a state law that requires qualifying fees to be paid with a “properly executed check drawn upon the candidate’s campaign account.”

Scott wrote that the law “does not make an exception for the use of a debit card to pay the qualifying fee. The court finds that the plain language of the statute is clear and unambiguous.”

The rulings by the circuit judge and the appeals court blocked mayoral candidates Kendrick Wyly and Kendra Wester and city council candidates Joseph J. Bedford Sr., Madelene Irving-Mills and Douglas Lawson from running in March mu-

nicipal elections. After a November qualifying period, other candidates challenged a decision by the city clerk that Wyly, Wester, Bedford, Irving-Mills and Lawson had properly qualified to appear on the ballot.

### ‘CLEAN WATER’ TOSSED OUT

Another appeals court Thursday rejected a voter-approved measure that sought to establish a “right to clean water” in the Brevard County community of Titusville, saying it conflicted with state law.

Nearly 83 percent of local voters in 2022 approved a change to the city charter that said residents “possess the right to clean water, which shall include the right to Waters of Titusville which flow, exist in their natural form, are free of pollution, and which maintain a healthy ecosystem,” according to Thursday’s opinion.

The charter measure also said any “resident of Titusville may bring a legal action, in the name of the resident or in the name of the Waters of Titusville ... to enjoin violations of the right to clean water. Remedies shall include injunctive relief

to enjoin the violation and monetary damages to restore the waters to their pre-damaged state.”

In rejecting the Titusville measure, a panel of the 5th District Court of Appeal focused, in part, on the wording in the charter amendment that would allow residents to take legal action “in the name of the Waters of Titusville.” It said the 2020 state law prevents a local charter from “recognizing a legal right to a body of water.”

**STORY OF THE WEEK:** The U.S. House Committee on Ethics released a report alleging that former Florida Congressman Matt Gaetz “regularly” paid women for sex, used illegal drugs and violated state laws.

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK:** “(The) Committee concluded there was substantial evidence that Rep. Gaetz violated House Rules, state and federal laws, and other standards...prohibiting prostitution, statutory rape, illicit drug use, acceptance of impermissible gifts, the provision of special favors and privileges, and obstruction of Congress.” — U.S. House Committee on Ethics report.



# Outdoors

outdoor sports

## HOME ON THE RANGE

### Needs, wants and range bags



By MARJ LAW

Lara and Mark show me their new handguns. She is excited.

"See, for Christmas, Mark bought me my Smith & Wesson Equalizer and I got him the Kimber R7 Mako he wanted. We're ready to go to the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office range now."

I'm glad they both have what they want. At first, they had decided to purchase a 9mm handgun that would work for both of them. That didn't happen.

Mark has much larger hands than Lara, and the Kimber has a larger grip. Mark is stronger than Lara, and he doesn't mind that the slide on the Kimber is harder to pull, while Lara likes the easier pull of the Equalizer. When we visited the range, Lara hit a bullseye with the Equalizer. On the other hand, Mark got three, count 'em three, bullseyes with the Kimber. After trying out both of our handguns, they each wanted their own.

"Perfect. Now, where are their bags?"

"Oh, they came in these cute black plastic

boxes. We don't need a bag," says Lara happily.

"Those boxes hold your handguns well," I agree, "but how will you carry your ammunition?" I wonder.

"I didn't think of that." Lara is perplexed. Then she brightens. "In my purse?" she asks.

"Perhaps. How is Mark going to carry his?"

"Maybe he has pockets deep enough."

"He might. A box of 9mm ammunition is pretty heavy."

"Well, then I'll get me a bag for my gun, like you have. Are they expensive?" Lara and Mark have spent quite a bit, after buying two guns.

"Not much at all. You can find them at several local stores."

"Great. Then, we'll buy a bag."

"One bag for two 9mm handguns?" I don't think this is the best idea. "How will you be sure to pull the right magazine, when you want to load them?"

"Oh. That might pose a problem. So, then we can each have our own gun bags. We'll get those and we'll be ready for the range." Lara smiles.

"Great. You can carry your guns to the shooting bench in their own bags. That's good because you never tote around a 'naked' gun at the range. Now, how will you carry your safety glasses?"

"I'll just wear mine, or tuck them in the neck of my shirt," says Lara. "Mark can do that, too."

"OK," I reply. "Where will you carry your ear protection? I see you both have the electronic ear



muffs."

"Well," Lara thinks fast. "Maybe we can slide them in with the gun."

I show her my gun bag. She picks up her ear muffs and tries to push them on top of the gun in the bag. The muffs are too wide to fit in the bag.

"That's not going to work. What's the big bag you carry?" she asks me.

"That's my range bag. I keep my 'ears' and 'eyes' in it."

"Do we really need one? And is one expensive?" she wonders.

"Well, you both have ear and eye protection. I suppose you don't have to have one. But then, how will you carry your ears and eyes?" I ask.

"Looks like we're about to buy a range bag," Mark chimes in.

"Good idea," I agree. "And will you each have a range bag?"

"Why would we both need one?" Mark wonders. "Isn't one enough?"

"It could be. But the inside of range bags is generally black. Your two sets of eyes are mostly black. It might be easier if you each have a range bag of your own."

"Yes," agrees Lara. "Besides the eyes and ears, we like different targets. You like paper plates," and she looks at Mark. She leans over to whisper to me. "That's because he's cheap."

Then she adds in a louder voice, "But I prefer the

Shoot-N-C type targets. It's easier to see where the bullets land on those targets."

"But two range bags?" Mark is getting a worried look. "Aren't we talking overkill here?"

"I want my own bag," maintains Lara. "I need room for other stuff too."

"What else do you think you need?" Mark is totaling dollar signs in his mind. "I think one range bag between us is enough."

"Well, do you want to keep my comb and pump hair spray in the same bag? What about my lip gloss?"

"You want a girlie bag." Mark is not surprised. "You'll probably want a whole make-up kit in there, too." I'm hearing a bit of sarcasm creeping into his tone.

"Just a few essentials," agrees Lara.

Before they begin to argue, I ask: "Mark, Lara's gun came with an UpLula. Will you need one in your range bag?"

"Nah, I can load with my thumbs. I don't need an UpLula. And I'm still not sure we each need a range bag."

"You could both use the same one, but will there be enough room?" I ask him.

"Likely there won't be any extra room when she stuffs it with girlie things."

I see an argument building. "Who is going

to carry a first-aid kit?" I divert them.

"I'll carry it, seeing as I'll be carrying less stuff," says Mark. "That is, if we do end up buying two different range bags."

"We're going to each need our own," Lara is adamant. "And I really like those small binoculars, like you have," she says to me.

"Yes, I like them. The binoculars make it much easier to see where you hit the target."

"I'll probably get a spotting scope. I think it'll work better for me. It'll be like the gizmo I use golfing," Mark continues.

"Depending on the cost, it might be better if we each have our own bags," he adds reluctantly. "Besides, I think it'd be a good idea to have a small screwdriver set in case our reflex sights need tightening."

"You carry that," replies Lara. "You'd be the one fixing any problems." She turns to me.

"And why do you carry a microfiber cloth in your bag?" she asks.

"It's good to wipe off the shooting bench when it's damp from rain or morning dew. I also use it to rest my gun, and with a little squirt of glass cleaner, it will clean the reflex sights and the lenses of the binoculars."

"They won't take up a lot of room," says Lara.

"I suppose I'll need a stapler," grumbles Mark.

"And extra staples for my plate targets."

"That's what you get for using cheap plates for targets," Lara shoots back.

"Let's think this out one more time." Mark is still considering using one bag between them. "Isn't that all we'll need?"

I consider this for a moment. "I like to add batteries for the sights, in case they stop working. A dowel is good, too, to make sure there is no obstruction in the barrel.

Since the inside of the bag is dark, I like a small flashlight. Also, a flashlight is convenient when checking the chamber or making sure the barrel is clear.

A roll of stick-on hole fillers can be handy if you want to shoot at just one target. And suntan lotion and bug repellent are useful, too. I carry a jack-knife in my bag. Some of the ammo we use comes in heavy plastic bags, and you need something to pierce them."

"That's sounding like a big list," comments Mark. "Are we done yet?"

"Well, hand wipes after shooting will help

to remove the lead and shooting residue," I add. "And since it's always allergy season here, I bring a pack of Kleenex. I also carry a small pad of paper and a pen or two. It helps to keep up contact information with other shooters. You might also make notes about how your gun handles. If your gun shoots a little high or low, a reminder is good."

"Are we done yet?" Mark looks uncomfortable as he gazes up at me from his list. "We don't need any other bag, do we?"

"Nope," I reply. I don't say anything about the .44 Magnum that Mark was eyeing at the gun shop. He didn't need to hear that he'd want a special bag for it too.

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



LINED SEA HORSE  
(*Hippocampus erectus*)

This larger seahorse species lives in sea grass and coral reefs feeding on tiny crustaceans using its long tongue. All sea horses are "marsupium" with the father taking eggs from the mother and carrying the babies until they are ready to swim free. Sea horse males will spar for a female with tail wrestling and head snapping. Seahorses form monogamous pair bonds after an elaborate courtships dance that lasts for three days before mating. The female stay with the male throughout his pregnancy.

Eukarya, Animalia, Chordata, Actinopterygii, Gasterosteiformes, Sygnathidae, Hippocampus erectus

Gulf Specimen Marine Laboratory  
www.gulfspecimen.org

## WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO



On his weekly survey of Wakulla Springs, retired park ranger Bob Thompson shared this photo of a white ibis.

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FOLLOW THE SUN.



# Water Ways

a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences



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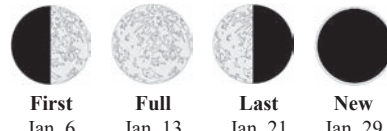


### Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

Jan. 2 - Jan. 8



Tide charts by  
tides4fishing.com



Best fishing days this month  
January 1-13, 29-31

<b>Thursday 2</b>	
Sun rise/set 7:33AM 5:48PM	Moon rise/set 9:53AM 8:46PM
Moon Illumination 9%	
<b>Friday 3</b>	
Sun rise/set 7:33AM 5:49PM	Moon rise/set 10:28AM 9:51PM
Moon Illumination 16%	
<b>Saturday 4</b>	
Sun rise/set 7:33AM 5:50PM	Moon rise/set 11:01AM 10:55PM
Moon Illumination 25%	
<b>Sunday 5</b>	
Sun rise/set 7:33AM 5:51PM	Moon rise/set 11:32AM 11:59PM
Moon Illumination 36%	
<b>Monday 6</b>	
Sun rise/set 7:33AM 5:51PM	Moon rise/set 12:03PM -----
Moon Illumination 47%	
<b>Tuesday 7</b>	
Sun rise/set 7:33AM 5:52PM	Moon rise/set 12:35PM 1:04AM
Moon Illumination 58%	
<b>Wednesday 8</b>	
Sun rise/set 7:34AM 5:53PM	Moon rise/set 1:11PM 2:10AM
Moon Illumination 69%	

For tides at the following points add to Dog Island Listings:  
 Carrabelle 28 Min. 25 Min.  
 Apalachicola 1 Hr., 53 Min. 2 Hrs., 38 Min.  
 Cat Point 1 Hr., 13 Min. 2 Hrs., 31 Min.  
 Lower Anchorage 1 Hr., 36 Min. 2 Hrs., 3 Min.  
 West Pass 1 Hr., 26 Min. 2 Hrs., 39 Min.

#### St. Marks River Entrance

Th	2:37 am ▲ 3.5 ft	9:47 am ▼ -1.0 ft	4:18 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	9:36 pm ▼ 0.9 ft
Fr	3:23 am ▲ 3.4 ft	10:22 am ▼ -0.8 ft	4:50 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	10:25 pm ▼ 0.7 ft
Sa	4:15 am ▲ 3.2 ft	10:59 am ▼ -0.4 ft	5:23 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	11:21 pm ▼ 0.5 ft
Su	5:15 am ▲ 2.8 ft	11:39 am ▼ 0.1 ft	5:58 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	
Mo	12:26 am ▼ 0.3 ft	6:32 am ▲ 2.5 ft	12:23 pm ▼ 0.6 ft	6:37 pm ▲ 3.0 ft
Tu	1:43 am ▼ 0.1 ft	8:12 am ▲ 2.2 ft	1:16 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	7:23 pm ▲ 3.0 ft
We	3:06 am ▼ -0.2 ft	10:00 am ▲ 2.2 ft	2:21 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	8:21 pm ▲ 3.0 ft

#### City of St. Marks

Th	3:13 am ▲ 3.2 ft	10:51 am ▼ -0.9 ft	4:54 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	10:40 pm ▼ 0.8 ft
Fr	3:59 am ▲ 3.1 ft	11:26 am ▼ -0.7 ft	5:26 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	11:29 pm ▼ 0.6 ft
Sa	4:51 am ▲ 2.9 ft	12:03 pm ▼ -0.4 ft	5:59 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	
Su	12:25 am ▼ 0.5 ft	5:51 am ▲ 2.6 ft	12:43 pm ▼ 0.1 ft	6:34 pm ▲ 2.8 ft
Mo	1:30 am ▼ 0.3 ft	7:08 am ▲ 2.3 ft	1:27 pm ▼ 0.5 ft	7:13 pm ▲ 2.8 ft
Tu	2:47 am ▼ 0.1 ft	8:48 am ▲ 2.0 ft	2:20 pm ▼ 1.0 ft	7:59 pm ▲ 2.8 ft
We	4:10 am ▼ -0.2 ft	10:36 am ▲ 2.0 ft	3:25 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	8:57 pm ▲ 2.8 ft

#### Shell Point, Spring Creek

Th	2:56 am ▲ 3.4 ft	10:17 am ▼ -1.1 ft	4:49 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	10:01 pm ▼ 1.0 ft
Fr	3:44 am ▲ 3.1 ft	10:53 am ▼ -0.9 ft	5:22 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	10:52 pm ▼ 0.8 ft
Sa	4:36 am ▲ 3.1 ft	11:29 am ▼ -0.5 ft	5:56 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	11:48 pm ▼ 0.6 ft
Su	5:36 am ▲ 2.8 ft	12:08 pm ▼ -0.1 ft	6:30 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	
Mo	12:53 am ▼ 0.3 ft	6:51 am ▲ 2.4 ft	12:49 pm ▼ 0.4 ft	7:08 pm ▲ 3.0 ft
Tu	2:07 am ▼ 0.0 ft	8:27 am ▲ 2.2 ft	1:37 pm ▼ 1.0 ft	7:52 pm ▲ 3.0 ft
We	3:28 am ▼ -0.3 ft	10:16 am ▲ 2.1 ft	2:36 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	8:46 pm ▲ 3.0 ft

#### Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay

Th	2:29 am ▲ 2.6 ft	9:58 am ▼ -0.7 ft	4:10 pm ▲ 2.3 ft	9:47 pm ▼ 0.7 ft
Fr	3:15 am ▲ 2.5 ft	10:33 am ▼ -0.6 ft	4:42 pm ▲ 2.3 ft	10:36 pm ▼ 0.5 ft
Sa	4:07 am ▲ 2.1 ft	11:10 am ▼ -0.3 ft	5:15 pm ▲ 2.3 ft	11:32 pm ▼ 0.4 ft
Su	5:07 am ▲ 2.3 ft	11:50 am ▼ 0.0 ft	5:50 pm ▲ 2.3 ft	
Mo	12:37 am ▼ 0.2 ft	6:24 am ▲ 1.8 ft	12:34 pm ▼ 0.4 ft	6:29 pm ▲ 2.3 ft
Tu	1:54 am ▼ 0.0 ft	8:04 am ▲ 1.7 ft	1:27 pm ▼ 0.8 ft	7:15 pm ▲ 2.3 ft
We	3:17 am ▼ -0.2 ft	9:52 am ▲ 1.7 ft	2:32 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	8:13 pm ▲ 2.3 ft

#### St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.

Th	2:26 am ▲ 2.6 ft	9:50 am ▼ -1.1 ft	4:43 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	9:37 pm ▼ 1.0 ft
Fr	3:18 am ▲ 2.5 ft	10:31 am ▼ -0.9 ft	5:16 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	10:33 pm ▼ 0.8 ft
Sa	4:17 am ▲ 2.3 ft	11:11 am ▼ -0.6 ft	5:49 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	11:36 pm ▼ 0.6 ft
Su	5:24 am ▲ 2.0 ft	11:52 am ▼ -0.1 ft	6:21 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	
Mo	12:45 am ▼ 0.3 ft	6:45 am ▲ 1.7 ft	12:36 pm ▼ 0.4 ft	6:56 pm ▲ 2.2 ft
Tu	2:02 am ▼ -0.1 ft	8:27 am ▲ 1.5 ft	1:25 pm ▼ 0.9 ft	7:36 pm ▲ 2.2 ft
We	3:20 am ▼ -0.4 ft	10:29 am ▲ 1.6 ft	2:26 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	8:23 pm ▲ 2.3 ft

#### Dog Island West End

Th	2:40 am ▲ 2.3 ft	10:09 am ▼ -1.0 ft	5:17 pm ▲ 1.8 ft	10:03 pm ▼ 1.1 ft
Fr	3:33 am ▲ 2.1 ft	10:50 am ▼ -0.8 ft	5:41 pm ▲ 1.8 ft	11:08 pm ▼ 0.9 ft
Sa	4:31 am ▲ 1.9 ft	11:28 am ▼ -0.4 ft	6:06 pm ▲ 1.8 ft	
Su	12:10 am ▼ 0.3 ft	5:35 am ▲ 1.6 ft	12:03 pm ▼ 0.0 ft	6:33 pm ▲ 1.8 ft
Mo	1:18 am ▼ 0.3 ft	6:56 am ▲ 1.3 ft	12:35 pm ▼ 0.5 ft	7:05 pm ▲ 1.9 ft
Tu	2:36 am ▼ -0.1 ft	8:23 am ▲ 1.1 ft	1:05 pm ▼ 0.9 ft	7:45 pm ▲ 2.0 ft
We	3:50 am ▼ -0.4 ft	10:16 am ▲ 2.1 ft		

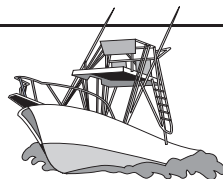
Best hunting and fishing based on solunar times. MAJOR feeding periods are 2 hours long, centered on the solunar time. MINOR feeding periods are only 1 hour long, again centered on the solunar time.

<b>Thursday 2</b>	
Minor Times 9:08AM 8:01PM	Major Times 1:35AM 2:01PM
<b>Friday 3</b>	
Minor Times 9:43AM 9:06PM	Major Times 2:27AM 2:51PM
<b>Saturday 4</b>	
Minor Times 10:16AM 10:10PM	Major Times 3:16AM 3:39PM
<b>Sunday 5</b>	
Minor Times 10:47AM 11:14PM	Major Times 4:03AM 4:26PM
<b>Monday 6</b>	
Minor Times -----	Major Times 4:50AM 5:14PM
<b>Tuesday 7</b>	
Minor Times 12:19AM 11:50AM	Major Times 5:38AM 6:03PM
<b>Wednesday 8</b>	
Minor Times 1:25AM 12:26PM	Major Times 6:29AM 6:56PM



## Coast Guard Auxiliary Reports

By Carolyn Brown Treadon



### Boating Emergencies

Coast Guard Station	
Panama City .....	(850) 234-4228
Coast Guard Station	
Yankeetown .....	(352) 447-6900
Coast Guard Auxiliary	
Apalachee Bay (Flotilla 12) .....	(850) 942-7500
or .....	(850) 284-1166

about getting involved in the Auxiliary, check out our website at www.uscgaux.net follow us on FaceBook @ Apalachee Bay Flotilla 12 or contact our Flotilla Commander Phil Hill at pnkhill2000@yahoo.com

If you would like to learn more about vessel safety checks, please contact Steve Hults, Staff Officer for Vessel Examinations at steve.hults@uscgaux.net.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed civilian volunteer component of the U.S. Coast Guard and supports the Coast Guard in nearly all mission areas. The Auxiliary was created by Congress in 1939. For more information, please visit www.cgaux.org.

With the New Year upon us, many boaters take to the water to enjoy festivities, which can involve shooting off fireworks.

It may seem obvious, but doing fireworks on boats is never a good idea.

A boat constantly moves and rocks on the water, making it difficult to safely light and control fireworks, increasing the risk of misfires and unpredictable trajectories.

Sparks from fireworks can easily ignite flammable materials on a boat like fuel lines, upholstery, or fiberglass hull.

If a firework malfunctions or lands unexpectedly, it can cause severe burns or injuries to people on board.

As we head into the

holiday weekend, one of the leading causes for accidents is boating while intoxicated.

Remember to drink responsibly and designate a driver. Boaters 21 years of age or older are considered to be under the influence, and may not operate a boat or PWC, if their blood alcohol level is 0.08 or more or if drugs are detected.

Additionally, many

boaters with limited or no experience on the water are out in heavier than usual traffic.

When accidents do happen, the Coast Guard will often broadcast out of channel 16 a series of messages.

As Sherrie says, safe boating is no accident!

For more information about our safe boating classes or to learn more



## Underwater Wakulla

By Gregg Stanton

Wakulla Springs. December 30, 2010

Standing atop the observation tower overlooking Wakulla Springs basin brought me a renewed thrill to the otherwise beautiful clear day. The air is warm for a December day, the breeze refreshing and the bright sun penetrating what can only be described as nature at its best. I am pleased to share this with departing Toni and Jani, held up by cancelled flights back to Finland.

Below us in vast blue water, swim Manatees. They bask, and play in the 72 degree waters of Wakulla Springs as though on holiday. These gentle giants are a recent and very welcome visitor to our Springs. In past years, visitors to our area were sent south to places like Crystal River to see Manatee this close and personal. Divers could even swim with them, bringing much needed revenue to those counties. I count 7 Manatee today and am told by the single other visitor on the platform, that there are many more.

She asked me about other large dark swimming objects below us, which I identify as Garfish the size of children. I point out the sun bathing Alligators on the far side of the basin and try to identify birds in the area. I suggest she take the boat ride down river and into the past to see even more of this beautifully preserved part of Florida. And I wonder why this tower is not crowded with other visitors witnessing such beauty.

Then, I am reminded of last week's Wakulla News report that the Lodge at Wakulla Springs may be outsourced or closed as a cost cutting move, which can only mean few people come to visit. Jani, taking pictures of everything in sight, suggested the Lodge would be busy if the Springs were open to the public for diving. He said all divers in Finland know about Wakulla Springs, and know as divers, they are not currently welcome.

How different would it be here if divers could enjoy just the basin and cavern, better yet the caves, from underwater? Earlier in our tour we visualized a small dive support facility where folks could get air from a quiet fill station, rent equipment only to qualified divers, and pay diving fees to the park to support a larger mission. We could see underwater video cameras in the basin and cavern with displays in the boat house and Lodge lobby for visitors viewing and Ranger monitoring. Beach entrance & exit next to the tower provides no adverse impact on the facility. Rules limiting diver areas to the deeper basin and cavern under the tower would keep boats, alligators and divers separated, and everyone happy! Perhaps designated dive times with surface supervision would relieve park safety concerns.

Jani said he and his family would be back when Wakulla Springs is open to diving. But for now, we stand witness to such a display of nature as anyone can hope for, wishing Toni and Jani a fine farewell, and wondering why we are alone.

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

## FWC Law Enforcement Report

From FWC News

This report represents some events the FWC handled Dec. 6-12 in the Northwest Region.

### WAKULLA COUNTY

Officer D. Travis was on patrol in the Apalachicola Wildlife Management Area. He located a camouflage hunting blind, camera, hunting chair, and shooting stick. He also observed a liquid substance on the ground near the blind as well as deer attractant and discarded empty containers. Officer Travis returned to the area and made contact with a subject, who was in possession of a cross-bow and muzzleloader. He admitted to hunting in the blind, placing the bait and leaving empty bait bottles. He was given a notice to appear for placing bait in the WMA and appropriate law en-

forcement action was taken regarding illegal method of take, littering on public lands and operating a vehicle on an unnamed/unnumbered road.

Officers K. Matthews and M. Fernbach responded to a complaint about a subject who was hunting in the Wakulla Wildlife Management Area, which was posted closed to hunting. Officer Specialist J. Hofheinz relayed information from a trail camera that a complainant had sent to him. Officers Matthews and Fernbach found the subject's boot prints and followed the sign back to a residence where the subject had been staying. They identified the subject from the trail camera picture. The subject showed the officers where he had hidden the bow, deer attractant, and grunt call on the neighboring property. The subject

was given a notice to appear for hunting in a prohibited area of the WMA.

Officer Fernbach was on patrol in the Apalachicola National Forest and located a game camera with corn placed on the ground in front of it. The officer investigated to determine who the subject was and identified and interviewed an individual. The subject admitted the camera was his and he had placed the illegal bait. Officer Fernbach gave the subject a notice to appear for placing the bait in a prohibited area.

### SANTA ROSA COUNTY

Officer R. Corbin conducted an inspection of a local wildlife rehabilitation center. During the inspection, it was determined the facility was in violation of several regulations, including

improper caging requirements and inadequate record keeping. The rehabilitator was charged in accordance with the law. The FWC emphasizes the importance of compliance with wildlife standards to ensure the safety and well-being of animals while in rehabilitation.

Officer Lewis was on patrol at the Blackwater Heritage State Trail Park when he observed a subject using the trail after sundown during closed hours. The subject advised the officer he knew the trail was closed during night hours and had been trespassed from the trail previously. Upon confirming the subject was trespassed from the trail, the officer arrested the subject for the violation, cited the subject for being in the closed area, and transported the subject to the Santa Rosa County Jail.

FOLLOW THE SUN.



# Does God tire of our constant repenting?

By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

Is there a sin that keeps harassing you – the one you thought you'd conquered, only to find it creeping back? At first, only occasionally, but now, much more often.

Should you go to God and repent – again?

Absolutely.

We must never believe that we can't go to God again (and again) for the same sin. We can – and very importantly, we must.

When you pray, do you picture God drumming His fingers wishing you'd hurry it up? Or do you see him leaning in, compassionately listening to every word?

How about when you seek God's help to overcome a sin or a bad habit that has ensnared you year after year? Do you wonder if you're wasting God's time with your constant "Sorry"s and "I'll never do it again"s?

After a year, or perhaps a decade, of giving in to a besetting temptation, is it taking you longer to feel shame after lying to your coworker? Is it scaring you that your conscience barely bothers you when you curse or watch something inappropriate on TV?

But after praying about this issue ad nauseam, you wonder what "new" prayer would get His attention? With your history, what could you say to Him that would make this new year a better one?

Perhaps these questions wouldn't be an

issue if you could see your heavenly Father in a different way. Read Psalm 18:16 (AMPC): "He reached from on high, He took me; He drew me out of many waters."

Although David the psalmist wrote about being physically delivered from the murder-minded King Saul, God also stands ready to deliver you from your sin. Satan loves to make us feel so condemned that we begin to believe we're abusing God's mercy when we keep going to God for the same sins. But Satan is a liar. Read the verse again,

but this time, try praying it aloud to your heavenly Father. Picture Him actively rescuing you from your enslavement – that habit you can't seem to escape from.

For example, "Father, I'm drowning in my sin. Hold me. Reach into my thoughts, my will and my heart and draw out the hate [or whatever sin you're struggling with] that's destroying me."

God commands us to be holy, but He doesn't leave us to figure it out alone or shout down at us in frustration, "Stop sinning! Be holy!" In-

stead, He lovingly invites us to come to Him with our struggles. When we confess, He listens to every word, reaches into our lives – directly into our messes – and lifts us out of the many waters.

So, go to Him again. Pray as often as needed. Discover (or discover again) a compassion that never fails and the grace that empowers us to walk in holiness.

*Sheryl H. Boldt is a sales executive for Wave 94 and author of the blog, www.TodayCanBeDifferent.net. Connect with her at SherylHBoldt.Wave94@gmail.com.*

## The gift

By **CHERYL CRUCE**

Christmas! People everywhere have gathered to celebrate Christmas, the season of giving, and the season of the birth of our Lord. Festive lights adorn our streets and homes, while local shopping centers promise a better buying experience. Children have made their wish list, hoping for the best on Christmas morning. It is a scene played over and

over again in our world. Nevertheless, beneath the twinkling lights and joyful laughter lies a contrasting reality.

For many, the holiday season can bring with it a sense of emptiness and longing. The cheer surrounding them may contrast with the harshness of the real world. While some joyfully tear open packages amid giggles and smiles, others sit in silence, grappling with the pain of loss or loneliness. In this season of celebration, the absence of what many take for granted – gifts, presence, and togetherness – can cast a shadow over the season's bright lights.

Unfortunately, many contrasting sentiments caused by the holiday season affect us all. Our

homes may be decorated, our tables filled with favored recipes, as family and friends gather, yet the presence of an empty chair remains; a wish is unfulfilled. Sometimes, the contrasting emotions of joy and sadness become an unexpected part of our celebrations. Who among us hasn't experienced the aching nostalgia of the past or the deep yearning to reunite with a loved one?

Within the contrasting realities of the Christmas season, it is essential to remember the true gift that this time personifies – the gift of the baby Jesus. His birth was not just a moment in history but a sincere blessing that brought hope, joy, peace, and love into a broken world. Through

our struggles and sorrows, His birth reminds us that light has come into the darkness, offering comfort for the lonely and strength for the weary.

I wonder how lonely and tired the shepherds were on that faithful night when the Angels appeared with the proclamation of "good tidings and great joy." How long had they been in the fields tending the sheep, missing their loved ones? How often had the townspeople scorned them because they were unkempt and dirty? Yet this gift of the Baby Jesus was announced to them, the undesirable, weary, humble shepherds who needed a message of peace and goodwill from God. After hearing

the profound message, the shepherds left their fields to find Baby Jesus. Upon encountering Him in the manger, they eagerly shared the news with everyone (Luke 2).

It is the message of Jesus that transcends the material aspects of the season. It beckons us to embrace the spirit of giving and receiving in its truest form. Nothing can completely erase the longing of one's heart. Still, if we reflect on the birth and the teachings of our Lord Jesus, the longing will ease, fear will subside, and rest will come. In the gift of Jesus, we find the truest essence of Christmas lies in the compassion we extend and the love we cultivate within our hearts.

Christmas comes but once a year. This year, may we be reminded of the gift of hope born beneath the Star of Bethlehem. May the birth of Jesus encourage us to look beyond our circumstances, cherish those around us, and share the message of hope we have received. May we find solace in the promise of love and renewal that Jesus continues to bring to us.

For God so loved the world that he gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).

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

### OUT TO PASTOR

## And then it all came to an end

By **JAMES SNYDER**

Time has a way of getting ahead of me. Just when I think I've caught up, I find out I was wrong.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I were sitting down, relaxing after a wonderful Christmas activity with all the kids, grandkids, and great-grandkids. It was a wonderful time, but with my age, I ran out of steam very quickly.

Once upon a time, I had enough steam to do just about anything. Now, that seems to have evaporated.

This year's Christmas celebration was a wonderful time, and as we sat around the table, I noticed that the people around us were a lot older than they were a year ago.

Looking at me with a smirk, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage said, "Well, I guess this year's over." Then she let out one of her patented laughs

As always, she was right. This year will be over in a few days, and I can tuck it into bed and let it go to sleep.

It seems strange that when I'm getting used to something, it's over before I know it. Things go by so quickly these days.

As a young teenager, I just couldn't wait until I was 16 to get my driver's license. It took me four and a half years to get to the point where I was old enough. It seemed like an eternity.

Looking back, I have had my driver's license for over 50 years, and I'm not sure how much time has passed. I can remember wanting my driver's license, and now, all of a sudden, all of that is over.

I remember when I was teaching teenagers in our church, and often told them when they visited their grandmother, asked her to show her wedding picture. Then compare that picture with what she looks like today. I wasn't finished. Then, look at your picture and just remember that one day you just might be as old as your grandmother.

Why is it that when you're young and have energy, things don't go very fast, no matter how hard you try? However, the older you get the faster things seem to go. I guess I'll never figure

that one out.

Then The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage mentioned the unmentionable, "So, have you worked on your New Year's resolutions yet?"

That's the one question I don't want to hear. When she brought that up, I looked back at her, smiled and said, "On the top of my list is that I will only eat one Apple Fritter at a time."

She did not laugh at that one.

When I was done chuckling, I looked at her and said, "OK, have you made your New Year's resolution list yet?"

Then she began with her list, which was almost infinity. She had so many things that she wanted to get done in the next year that I got tired of listening to them. I did know that if she made a list of some-

thing, you can bet your bottom dollar that she's going to complete every one of them.

With a very curious look in her eyes, she looked at me and said, "Out of all those Christmases that we had together, which one would you think is your best Christmas?"

I learned a lot from my father, so I responded, "Oh, my dear. My best Christmas is the one we're celebrating right now."

Coming to the end of a year and the beginning of a new year, I couldn't help but think of a verse in the Bible.

Solomon wrote many years ago, "The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done:

and there is no new thing under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 1:9).

My experience is that the older I get the less things change. As a young person, I always hoped things would change and get better. Sometimes they did, but more often than not, things remain the same.

The only change in my life was when I surrendered my life unto the Lord Jesus Christ as my Saviour.

*Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail jamessnyder51@gmail.com, website www.jamessnyderministries.com.*

**Sopchoppy United Methodist Church**

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.  
Worship 11 a.m.  
Bible Study Wed. 6 p.m.

Pastor Cheryl Mixon-Cruce 850-962-2511

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# Obituaries

## DEATH NOTICES

• **Ray Lamar Barksdale**, 64, of Crawfordville, died December 21, 2024.

• **Elizabeth Burger**, 57, of Crawfordville, died December 23, 2024.

• **Jack Cardin Jr.**, 54, of Crawfordville, died December 26, 2024.

• **Christine Howard Gaffney**, 63, of Crawfordville, died December 25, 2024.

• **Chris Koenig**, 79, of Crawfordville, died December 22, 2024.

• **Robert Randolph Pennington**, 70, of Crawfordville, died December 26, 2024.

• **Joan Relyea**, 91, of Carrabelle, died December 25, 2024.

• **Ollie Denise Rogers**, 62, of Sopchoppy, died December 21, 2024.

• **Charles W. Tully**, 78, of Crawfordville, died December 24, 2024

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

## Sheriff's Report

This report is for activity Dec. 20-27. There were 1,152 total calls for service during the week.

### FRIDAY, DEC. 20

• Deputy Cole responded to Oak Street to two construction sites where new residences were being built, in reference to a criminal mischief complaint. A manager for an electrical contractor service was informed of some damages discovered at the addresses by two of his employees. The employees arrived at the new construction site in the morning and discovered the electrical wires installed at the property had been tampered with. The employees stated the wires appeared to have been cut, and the wires were protruding from the outlets. The employees advised they were last at the site on Dec. 19 at approximately 4:30 p.m. The employees also noticed a spool of wiring was missing from the site. Total damages and loss of property amounted to \$5,450. The case has been forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division.

### SATURDAY, DEC. 21

• Deputy Marshall responded to a residence on Sopchoppy Highway in reference to Audrey Ann Perkins trespassing on the property after being previously served a trespass warning. Perkins was arrested and transported to the Wakulla County Detention Facility.

• Deputy Kittrell responded to Pawnee Trail in reference to a vehicle burglary complaint. Complainant advised she noticed her vehicle was burglarized via her Ring security camera. Complainant reviewed the footage and observed suspects searching through vehicles in the front of her residence. The case has been forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division.

• Deputy Irvin re-

sponded to Lynn Circle in reference to a jet ski theft complaint. The resident reported his boat and jet ski were docked at the above location, and the last time he saw the jet ski was on Dec. 15. Upon his return on Dec. 21, he noticed his jet ski was no longer attached to the boat. The ropes attaching the jet ski to the boat appeared to be frayed when the resident returned to the marina. Later in the shift, the resident called communications and advised the jet ski had been located nearby.

• Deputy Kittrell responded to Broken Bow Trail in reference to a vehicle burglary complaint. The resident advised she discovered her vehicle had been burglarized with the center console appearing to have been rummaged through and a Michael Kor's tote bag containing a laptop computer and a wallet were missing. Case has been forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division.

• Deputy Kittrell responded to Mohawk Trail in reference to a vehicle burglary complaint. The resident reported observing a Facebook post in reference to a string of auto burglaries in the area. The resident stated this prompted her to check her vehicle and she noticed the glove box to her vehicle open, and \$100 in cash was missing. Case has been forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division.

• Lt. Spence responded to Mohawk Trail in reference to a vehicle burglary complaint. While investigating a previous auto burglary at another residence on Mohawk Trail, Lt. Spence was canvassing the neighborhood and made contact with the resident requesting to review her surveillance video. At this point, the resident discovered her vehicle had also been rummaged through, and \$300 in cash was removed from the center console of her vehicle. Case has been for-

warded to the Criminal Investigations Division.

### SUNDAY, DEC. 22

• Deputy Buckhalt responded to the Circle K at 3180 Coastal Highway in reference to a theft complaint. Upon arrival, contact was made with store clerk who wished to report a theft that occurred a day earlier, Dec. 21. While inside the business, the suspect distracted the clerk by asking for pickles for a sandwich he purchased. While the clerk retrieved the pickles, the suspect reached behind the counter and stole \$120 worth of Lottery scratch-off tickets. On Dec. 22, the clerk observed the suspect return to the business. Deputies made contact with the suspect and detained him. The suspect was identified as Antonio Detron Green. He was placed under arrest for Petit Theft 2nd degree, and was transported to the Wakulla County Detention Facility.

• Deputy Bennett and Deputy Parker responded to Feather Trail in reference to a vehicle burglary. The resident reported on Dec. 21 three subjects attempted to break into his car, but due to his car being locked they were unable to steal anything. The resident had discovered the suspects while reviewing his video surveillance footage. The resident turned over the relevant surveillance video footage to deputies. Case has been forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division.

• Deputy Marshall responded to Juniper Drive in reference to a fraud. Complainant advised she received emails from multiple websites regarding new services being created under her name, and discovered unauthorized charges on her bank account. Case has been forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division.

• Sergeant Will conducted a traffic stop on Spring Creek Highway and James Road. The driver, Demario Antonio Davis, did not have a valid driver's

license. Additionally, Davis was found to be in possession of a firearm and ammunition. Due to Davis being a convicted felon, he was placed under arrest for Possession of a Weapon or Ammo by Convicted Felon. Davis was transported to the Wakulla County Detention Facility.

• Deputy Bennett and Deputy Parker responded to Walmart to meet with asset protection staff, who reported an unidentified male and female stole \$436.32 worth of merchandise. Case has been forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division.

### MONDAY, DEC. 23

• Deputy Munroe responded to Shawnee Trail in reference to a vehicle burglary. The resident reported previously placing a package in the trunk of her unlocked vehicle which contained wrapped Christmas presents for her children. The resident advised a neighbor of hers returned the package and explained she found the package on the side of the road on Saturday. The resident did not report this incident until she heard of the other reported burglaries in the neighborhood, and stated all of the property taken from her vehicle has been returned. Case has been forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division.

• Deputy Munroe responded to Chick-at Trail in reference to suspicious activity. Complainant reported he believes someone attempted to open his door and enter his home, and said he heard his front door handle "jiggle" and heard his dog begin barking. Complainant went to the door and found it still closed, walked into the yard and did not see anyone present. Deputies canvassed the area with no success. This incident was documented because of its proximity to the recent vehicle burglaries in the area.

• Deputy Godwin responded to the Sheriff's Office lobby in reference to a fraud. Com-

plainant reported her bank advised her of fraudulent charges to her account totaling \$448. Case has been forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division.

### TUESDAY, DEC. 24

• Deputy Surette responded to Apachee Road and made contact with a resident who advised an Amazon package was taken from her porch on Dec. 22 worth \$30.98. Case has been forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division.

• Deputy Sullivan conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle on Coastal Highway and Joe Mack Smith Road. During the stop marijuana was discovered on the driver, Phillip Tyrone House, and he was charged with Possession of Marijuana (less than 20 grams). House was transported to the Wakulla County Detention Facility.

### WEDNESDAY, DEC. 25

• Deputy Surette and Deputy Saba responded to London Circle due to a vacant house having an open door. A rear window to the residence was damaged, along with the Realtor key box. Case has been forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division.

• Deputy Sullivan conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle being operated by Phillip Lewis Rosier Jr. on Hill Greene Road. Deputy Sullivan determined Rosier had a suspended driver's license. Rosier was charged with Driving While License Suspended/Revoked (DWLSR) 2nd Subsequent Offense, and was transported to the Wakulla County Detention Facility.

• Deputy Rivers conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle being operated by Christopher Michael Vuoso on Shell Point Road. Deputy Rivers determined Vuoso had a suspended driver's license. Christopher Vuoso was charged with

DWLSR Subsequent Offense, and was transported to the Wakulla County Detention Facility.

### THURSDAY, DEC. 27

• Deputy K. Smith responded to a residence on Old Magnolia Road in reference to an email scam. The resident reported receiving a threatening email from an unknown person that had his address and name attached. The email also demanded he send money through Bitcoin in the amount of \$1,950. The email further stated if he didn't send the money, that the sender would pay him a visit at his address. According to the resident, the unknown male advised he attached a malware software on his computer and was using it for blackmail purposes. Deputy K. Smith noted, after reading the email, it contained the same verbiage to several other suspicious email cases he had worked in the past. This incident was documented for information purposes only.

### FRIDAY, DEC. 27

• Deputy Williams responded to McMahan Drive in reference to a check fraud. Complainant reported someone used one of her checks to attempt to make an unauthorized deposit. Complainant sustained no financial loss, but requested a report for information purposes only.

• Deputies Dill, Bennett, and Parker responded to Lake Avenue reference Shannon Marie Erickson on the property after being previously trespassed earlier in the day. Erickson was located on the property, arrested, and charged with Trespassing. Erickson was transported to the Wakulla County Detention Facility.

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



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