



Chamber ribbon-cutting held for Black Cat Metaphysical Shop See Page 3

# The Wakulla SWM

*"It's a New Day"*



Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunny Hi: 54° Lo: 38° 2% Sunrise 7:34 AM Sunset 5:55 PM	PM Showers Hi: 60° Lo: 41° 92% Sunrise 7:34 AM Sunset 5:55 PM	AM Showers Hi: 50° Lo: 33° 34% Sunrise 7:34 AM Sunset 5:56 PM



\$1 One Section

Locally Owned & Operated

Our 4th Year 2nd Issue  
Thursday, January 9, 2025

## Advisory letter on tax roll

Second straight year of state Department of Revenue warning property appraiser of 'sales chasing'

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN  
Editor

The state Department of Revenue has issued an advisory letter to the Wakulla Property Appraiser's Office that the 2024 tax roll showed signs of selective reappraisal.

The office also received an advisory letter the year before, for the 2023 tax roll, also citing selective reappraisal.

Property Appraiser Ed Brimmer, who is leaving office soon, has had

two good tax rolls and two that were cited for selective reappraisals – also commonly known as "sales chasing," which is where recent property sales overly influence the appraised value of other similar properties.

Incoming Property Appraiser Donnie Sparkman, set to take office on Tuesday, Jan. 7, estimated it would take 6 to 8 months to fix the problem.

Brimmer had a couple of issues during his term, including a whopping



Donnie Sparkman will be sworn in as new property appraiser on Jan. 7.

\$307 million overvaluation of a vacant lot that was only discovered as Tax Collector Lisa Craze prepared to send out tax

notices last year. The issue created budget issues for the county and school board – the budgets were off by millions as a result of the mistake. The county had to delay hiring of new sheriff's deputies and other county staff due to the mistake.

A series of fortunate events, including a larger than expected payment from the state helped the county overcome the budgeting issue.

Brimmer had been seeking reelection but

suddenly stepped down after reportedly confronting a member of the county's Human Resources staff who was explaining upcoming changes to insurance.

When Brimmer ended his candidacy, challenger Sparkman was automatically declared the winner.

Sparkman retired as property appraiser back in 2018. His then-chief deputy Brad Harvey won the election that year, but was arrested and removed from office

in 2020 for embezzling more than \$200,000 in office funds. Harvey was sentenced last year to 12 years in prison for theft, followed by 17 years of probation. Brimmer won the 2020 election against Sparkman's son, Colby, by a handful of votes. Colby was working at the property appraiser's office under Harvey and was fired after Brimmer came into office. Colby Sparkman sued for wrongful termination and the case was settled last year.

### WAKULLA WRESTLERS



### District Duals

Wakulla War Eagle wrestler Blake Barodte, above, took on Florida High's Christian Ajose-Adeogun in a tough heavyweight match that was marked by a controversial call that the wrestlers were out of bounds as Barodte executed a takedown. At right, wrestler Brayden Hodges vs. Malik Leonard. Walt Jacobs' story and more photos on Page 12. (Photos by Katie Reese)



A photo of the crash taken by Florida Highway Patrol.

## Wakulla teen injured in New Year's Eve crash

Staff Report

Two teenagers suffered serious injuries in a New Year's Eve crash on Woodville Highway, according to the Florida Highway Patrol.

The wreck occurred around 9 p.m. on Dec. 31, when a pickup truck driven by a 19-year-old Crawfordville man, headed southbound, ran off the road at Woodville Highway and Filmore Road and struck several trees and rolled over. There was a 19-year-old female passenger from Lake Worth.

Both occupants were entrapped in the car and received serious but non-life threatening injuries, according to FHP.

FHP was assisted by the Leon County Sheriff's Office, Tallahassee Fire Department, and Leon County EMS.

## County's legislative priorities

County commissioners set appropriation requests before start of session in March

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN  
Editor

Wakulla County Commissioners approved a list of priorities for the upcoming legislative session at a workshop back in December.

Some of the projects that commissioners will be seeking state funding for include:

• **Shell Point Fire and Rescue Facility.** The county is seeking \$2.1 million for engineering and design, sitework and construction of a new fire station on Shell Point Road. The old fire station at Shell Point has experienced flooding during severe weather events.

• **Emergency Opera-**

**tions Center furniture and fixtures.** The county is requesting \$673,000 funding for technology such as computers for staff, plus common area furnishings, office furniture, and the new dispatch center to be located in the new EOC.

• **Library technology and furnishings.** The county has received \$3.8 million for a new library to feature 8,800 square feet. The county is now requesting an additional \$485,000 for shelving, displays, seating and technology stations, and multi-purpose furnishings and office furniture. That total includes \$60,000 for desktop computers, servers and back-

up batteries.

• **Dewatering process and maintenance and operations at Otter Creek.** The county's wastewater treatment facility at Otter Creek is currently adding a new plant with some \$24 million in funding secured. The dewatering process is in need of an additional \$1.95 million to improve function. The process system separates water from the waste-activated sludge solids. The water is returned to the plant for further treatment while the biosolids are hauled off to a landfill in Campbellton, Fla. Additionally, the county is asking for another \$1 million for a maintenance

and operations building at Otter Creek. Currently, those operations are in two buildings, one has living quarters and lab equipment but the project manager and staff are in a portable building onsite.

• **Fire Rescue aerial truck.** The county is asking for \$2.1 million for a new ladder truck to ensure coverage of large commercial structure and multi-story residential building. The current aerial truck is 28 years old.

The county will make the funding request of the local legislative delegation, Rep. Jason Shoaf and Sen. Corey Simon. Session begins March 3.

## 'River Obscura' to screen Jan. 14

Nature film by musician Sammy Tedder

Wakulla County Historical Society

Sammy Tedder will be showing his latest film: "River Obscura – Secrets of a Blackwater River" in a screening hosted by the Wakulla County Historical Society on Tuesday, Jan. 14, at 6 p.m., at the Wakulla County Public Library. The public is invited and there is no cost.

Dark and mysterious, blackwater rivers can be intimidating to behold. This 55 minute film explores a blackwater river in Florida's eastern Panhandle known as the Sopchoppy. Musician, composer, cinematographer and naturalist Sammy Tedder reveals this blackwater river



Sammy Tedder

Turn to Page 3



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## Student of the Week

**Daelyn Taylor - 7th grader at COAST Charter School**

Principal: Frankie Harvey

**Achievements/Reason for Nomination:** Daelyn Taylor is a seventh grade student at COAST Charter School. She has shown excellence in the classroom as well as kindness to all of her classmates. She participates in theater club and was recently In the COAST Theater clubs performance of "The Wizard of Oz." She loves to draw and hopes to become a scientist one day. Daelyn's outgoing and bubbly personality on top of her love for learning is why she was selected as student of the week!



STUDENT OF THE WEEK FEATURES A DIFFERENT SCHOOL EACH WEEK.

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The Wakulla Sun  
 Readers' Choice Winners 2024

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## Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park

### Longleaf pine

By LYNN ARTZ, DAVID RODDENBERRY, and SANDY TEDDER



The majestic longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*) is a long-lived evergreen conifer that once dominated the southeastern U.S. It now covers about 3% of that range. More than 30 endangered species rely on longleaf pine forests as habitat. Birds and mammals eat the seeds and some the needles. Longleaves, at 100 feet tall, provide roosting sites for migrating birds, nesting sites, and cover. They prefer dry, sandy soil in full sun with no competition. Longleaves first spend several years in a grass stage while developing a taproot up to 12 long. They are drought-tolerant, wind-resistant, tolerate salt spray, and resist pests. Longleaf pines withstand fire and depend on fire to remove competition and expose bare soil for their seeds. The Florida Forest Service will give away longleaf seedlings at Hudson Park on January 18th.

FULLER CENTER FOR HOUSING  
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formerly Habitat for Humanity

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850-926-4544  
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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.







## Ribbon cutting

The Wakulla County Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting for Black Cat Metaphysical Shop back on Dec.

17. The store, on Crawfordville Highway a block from the courthouse, has an eclectic assortment of crystals, oils, natural soaps, teas and more. (Photo by Lynda Kinsey)

## Cole Hayne makes President's List

Special to The Sun

Cole Hayne of Alligator Point has been recognized on Georgia Southern University's Fall 2024 President's List

Georgia Southern University recently recognized approximately 2,520 students on the Fall 2024 President's List.

Hayne has been named to the list for excellence in academics.

To be eligible for the President's List, a student must have at least a 4.0 grade point average and carry a minimum of 12 hours for the semester.

Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/R2 institution founded in 1906, offers approximately 155 different degree programs serving more than 26,100 students through 10 colleges on three campuses in

Statesboro, Savannah, Hinesville and online instruction. A leader in higher education in southeast Georgia with expert faculty, the University is focused on public impact research and engaging learning opportunities through knowledge and know-how that prepare our students to take ownership of their lives, careers and communities. Visit GeorgiaSouthern.edu.

## 'River Obscura'

From Front Page

from a perspective mostly unseen – from underwater – and along hidden tributary creeks few have explored.

Tedder provides the narration and composed the original music for this film which is Episode One of what is to be a series about this blackwater river.

Tedder and his wife Sandy live in a remote cabin on the Sopchoppy River in the Eastern Panhandle of North Florida.

Sammy has been a professional musician for more than 50 years, producing several albums of his original instrumental compositions and has performed on numerous other artists albums including Tom T. Hall and Rita Coolidge.

Tedder has also composed soundtrack music for several Florida nature films that have been featured on PBS.

In recent years he has produced three nature films about the Sopchoppy River and the surrounding wild places where he lives. He is the cinematographer, film editor and composer of the soundtrack music for these films and utilizes various genres of music—from Native American style flutes to jazz saxophone—to highlight his experiences in north Florida's rapidly changing wild environments.

Sammy Tedder's most recent film River Obscura: Secrets of a Blackwater River received the Tallahassee Film Festival's Audience Choice Award for Best Local/Regional Film.

For more information call 850-926-1110.

## County hardship assistance open

Special to The Sun

The Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners announces the Fiscal Year 2024/25 Hardship Assistance Program related to the Solid Waste Services and Fire Protection Services Assessments.

The Hardship Assistance Program was created to assist residential property owners who meet the eligibility criteria, with the financial burden imposed by the Solid Waste Services and Fire Protection Ser-

vices Assessments. To apply for hardship assistance, citizens must complete an application and file with the County Administrator's Office for consideration prior to May 30.

The applicant must be the owner of the residential property for which must also be homestead exempt, and the following income criteria must be demonstrated:

Extremely Low (30%) Income Limits:

- 2 Person, \$21,550
- 3 Person, \$25,820
- 4 Person, \$31,200
- 5 Person, \$36,580
- 6 Person, \$41,960
- 7 Person, \$47,340
- 8 Person, \$52,720

You can pick up the application at the Public Works Administration Office, 340 Trice Lane, Crawfordville. If you have any questions relating to this program, please contact Ivanhoe Carroll at (850) 926-7616 or via email at icarroll@mywakulla.com.

## Water usage determines sewer rates

Special to The Sun

Now is the time to conserve water and save money on your sewer bill over the next year.

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.

Did You Know?

- Toilet leaks can waste hundreds of gallons per day and often are silent.

- A faucet that leaks one drop per second can waste 17 gallons per day. Leaks do not fix themselves.

- The base rate for sewer is currently \$40.02 for the first 2,000 gallons of water usage. Each additional 1,000 gallons is \$6.01.

### PUBLIC NOTICES:

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



### THE SCHOOL BOARD OF WAKULLA COUNTY ANNOUNCES THE FOLLOWING:

**EVENT:** School Board Meeting  
**DATE:** Tuesday, January 21, 2025  
**TIME:** 5:45 pm  
**PLACE:** School Board Room, 69 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida  
**PURPOSE:** Monthly School Board Meeting

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

January 9, 2025

### WAKULLA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD PRE-QUALIFICATION NOTICE

The School Board of Wakulla County is requesting Proposals for Pre-Qualifying for Construction Services for Wakulla County School Board projects for the 2025 year. Pre-Qualification packets are available at the School Board Office.

WAKULLA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD/FACILITIES OFFICE  
 126 High Drive  
 Crawfordville, Florida 32327  
 Telephone Number: 850-926-0065

Interested parties may pick up packets between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Completed packets and a Public Entity Crime Statement must be returned to the office of Richard Myhre, Superintendent, Wakulla County School Board, 69 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida 32327. **Attention: Michael Barwick by 2:00 p.m. February 21, 2025.**

There will be a Pre-Qualification Meeting at 2:00 p.m. January 30, 2025 in the Wakulla County School Boardroom.  
 January 9, 16, 23, 2025

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PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE WAKULLA 4-H

Thursday,  
 January 30,  
 2025

5:30 – 10 PM

**Clover GALA**

A celebration with community partners & volunteers at The Lodge at Wakulla Springs

The event will include dinner, a silent auction, and dancing. During the event, Friends of 4-H and Volunteer of the Year nominees will be recognized.

Wakulla 4-H agent Dr. Rachel Pienta said, "We are excited to recognize and honor the 2024 Nominees for Friend of 4-H and Volunteer of the Year. These individuals and organizations contribute considerable time, talent, and resources to help support youth development programs in Wakulla County."

**2024 Friend of 4-H Nominees:**  
 Keep Wakulla County Beautiful  
 Panacea Waterfronts Florida Partnership -  
 Panacea Community Garden  
 Wakulla County Coalition for Youth

**2024 Volunteer of the Year Nominees:**  
 Jennifer Counce  
 Amanda Gruebel  
 Kiley Wilson

**Individual Tickets \$75.00 Table of 8 \$650.00**

Individual tickets and reserved tables for the Clover Gala are currently on sale and can be purchased at the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/WCG25>.  
 The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) is an Equal Opportunity Institution

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# 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.”

## January is National Human Trafficking Prevention Month

**FLORIDA ALLIANCE TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

January marks National Human Trafficking Prevention Month, a critical time to raise awareness about the hidden epidemic of human trafficking that continues to impact countless lives across Florida and the nation. As the state with the third-highest number of reported cases, Florida faces unique challenges in combating trafficking due to its vast tourism industry, extensive transportation networks, and diverse population.

The Florida Alliance to End Human Trafficking is committed to addressing this pervasive issue through education, advocacy, and community engagement. To empower individuals and organizations to join the fight, the Alliance has developed a free online training resource (available in 12 languages) that provides comprehensive education on recognizing, preventing, and addressing human trafficking.

“This month is a re-

minder of the collective responsibility we all share in ending human trafficking,” said Erin Collins, Executive Director of the Florida Alliance to End Human Trafficking. “By educating ourselves and those around us, we can break the cycle of exploitation and provide hope to survivors. Our training resource is a powerful tool that equips Floridians with the knowledge they need to make a real difference.”

The user-friendly courses are available on the Alliance’s website and are designed for individuals, the business community, law enforcement, and industry associations. Participants will learn how to identify the signs of trafficking, understand its root causes, and collaborate to create safer communities. Get the free training and other resources at [www.floridaallianceendht.com](http://www.floridaallianceendht.com).

Human trafficking affects individuals across all demographics and regions, yet it often goes unnoticed. The Florida Alliance to End Human

Trafficking urges everyone to take advantage of the free training resource and encourage their networks to do the same. Together, we can shine a light on this issue and work toward a future free from exploitation.

The Florida Human Trafficking Hotline at 855-FLA-SAFE (855-352-7233) is a confidential and toll-free resource for reporting suspected cases of human trafficking and connecting victims to vital support services. The public plays a critical role in identifying and stopping trafficking, which affects children and adults, women and men, across all communities. Reporting suspicious activity can be a lifesaving action that helps end exploitation and ensures victims receive the assistance they need while bringing traffickers to justice.

*The Florida Alliance to End Human Trafficking is a nonprofit organization created by the Florida Legislature to provide funding, support and assistance to the statewide effort to end human trafficking.*

## LETTERS FROM READERS

### Celebrating triumph of Trumpism

**Editor, The Sun:**

Local MAGA supporters pondering how they can play a part in contributing to the success of our beloved President Trump’s mass deportation program may want to consider pushing for the establishment of a detention center right here in Wakulla County, specifically, at Opportunity Park. Such a move would be an opportunity to add to the list of our new president’s list of accomplishments; it also would create an opportunity to come to the aid of our country by banishing job-stealing illegals, and it would be an opportunity to benefit our county by creating jobs.

In a recent (12/28/24) Fox Business interview, border czar Tom Homan revealed that the price tag to start the removal program was a mere \$86 Billion. One need not be a member of the Wakulla Economic Development Council to understand how the funneling of just a fraction of this sum to Wakulla County might benefit our local economy. The construction and operation of such a facility would attract good jobs fos-

tering stronger families. Additionally, this would develop a stronger community. No longer would we be a bedroom community; there could be a second revenue stream in addition to tourism. There may even be enough money left over to provide every classroom in the county with a copy of “The Art of the Deal.”

Opportunity Park is ideally situated for such an undertaking. There are acres and acres of vacant land; the infrastructure is already in place; there’s an airport conveniently located to fly out deportees; and almost next door there is a prison to incarcerate immigrant law breakers.

In addition to rapidly becoming the Fast Food Capital of Florida, what better way to celebrate the triumph of Trumpism? The construction of what should certainly come to be known as “Camp Gaetz” — so named in honor of our Republican superstar, Matt Gaetz the next governor of Florida — is just the ticket. MAGA!

**Palmer Carr**  
Shadeville

### Something on your mind?

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

## Library News

By **LINDA OAKS**

Library News Jan. 2-8

Thursday, January 9th

- Registration Opens for Kids Code Combat Winter Tech Workshop Ages 11+ Contact Patricia Owens. 4-week

course. Registration opened 7th-10th.

- Creative Writing 10am
- Middle Manga Club 5pm
- Wakulla Amateur Radio Club Radio Testing 6pm
- Bible Study 7pm
- Friday, January 10th

- Quilting Guild 9:30am Saturday, January 11th
- Zeta Phi Beta 9am
- Saturday Storytime 9:30am
- Alzheimer’s Support Group 10am Sunday, January 12th
- Closed
- Monday, January 13th
- American Legion Post 114 Executive Committee Meeting 5:30pm
- Tuesday, January 14th

- No Children’s Programs
- Crafting Group 9:30 am
- Historical Society 4pm
- Wednesday, January 15th
- No Children’s Programs
- Beginning Fiction Writing Class 10am
- Friends of the Library Annual Mardi Gras tickets are now for sale....Date of the Event is February 22.

## On the Horizon:

### Calendar of events for the week of January 9

**Thursday, January 9**

- Rotary Club of Wakulla meets at TSC Wakulla at 8:30 a.m.
- The VFW Auxiliary Bingo Night will be held at 7 p.m. at 475 Arran Road in Crawfordville, every Thursday. There are concessions and raffles.
- 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](mailto: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 10**

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

**Saturday, January 11**

- Songwriters Showcase will be held at Palaver Tree Theater from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Guest songwriters include David McKenzie, Ken Crawford, Ron Patrick, Michael AJ Roth, Michael Vanags, and Drew Whitfield. It’s a pay-what-you-can event.

**Monday, January 13**

- Planning commission meets at 6 p.m. in the commission boardroom. A special training for new planning commissioners will be held at 5:30 p.m., before the meeting.
- 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](mailto: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 14**

- “River Obscura – Secrets of a Blackwater River,” a nature film by Sammy Tedder, will be shown at the public library at 6 p.m. hosted by the Wakulla County Historical Society.
- 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](mailto:newposh3079@gmail.com) or text/call at (850) 528-5838.

**Wednesday, January 15**

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

## SUPPORT COMMUNITY JOURNALISM

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

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

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

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- More local news about our community
- More local content on the environment and local businesses

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We would very much appreciate your contribution.

William Snowden  
Editor & Publisher  
The Wakulla Sun

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We accept donations by card or check. If by check, payment must be made to the Florida Press Foundation and write in the check memo line that you want the donation to go to The Wakulla Sun.

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

*“It’s A New Day!”*

# The Wakulla Sun






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– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

## Polled at Crawfordville Quick Stop:

## What did you like to snack on when you were a kid?



**HAYES PETERSON**  
Fire Alarms

**“I think my favorite thing was the fruit snacks.”**



**TAWANNA HODGES**  
GM-Glory Days Sports Bar & Grill

**“Cheetos.”**



**JANIS DAVID**  
Artist

**“Peaches.”**



**CAREY WHEELER**  
Union Sheet Metal Worker

**“When my dad would take us fishing, we would stop and he would let us get a honey bun and those pecan pinwheels.”**



**DYLAN WABASH**  
New College Student

**“We used to go to the store and get like three of the Lindt Lindor chocolates for around 50 cents. We didn’t have snacks around the house, we would eat it up like it was dinner.”**

## Sopchoppy News

By DJ BUTCH

Hello from Sopchoppy! Did ya see Backwoods Crossing on “Diners, Drive-ins and Dives” on national television? I saw a few Sopchoppy folks on the show. The owners Tyler and Jesse are from Sopchoppy! I went to watch the show at their other restaurant, Trident. I was so excited to see hometown boys do it big. You could feel the energy in the room. I must say that the food on the show looked amazing also. I always say Sopchoppy

has a lot of talent. It is amazing how such a small area can produce so many artists.

I hope everyone had an amazing Christmas. The new year is here. I had a great time DJ’ing New Year’s Eve at Low Tide Bar under Trident. It was packed! Fireworks were amazing! It was a party.... I’m excited about the new year and I look forward to the blessings that it brings.

I went bass fishing with my cousin and had a great time. I love fishing and the weather warmed up quite a bit.

The weather has been nice. I’m ready to go catch some more bream too. Its about to get cold again though....

I did an interview with WTXL about the infrastructure of Sopchoppy. Sopchoppy is special. Sopchoppy must be protected. It will not be “easy living” if it grows too much. We have an amazing beautiful city. White squirrels, woodpeckers and so many more animals. We have beautiful rivers, trees, plants. It will not be the same if you cut down all the trees and pack two homes on every lot or worse...

We must also protect the Sopchoppy school property. That is our history and some people don’t even know the history. Life is more than money.

If you are a commissioner you need to educate yourself on the history of Sopchoppy. The school, the railroad, the people. Some families have been here for generations and really care. Sopchoppy is special. So much art is created in Sopchoppy.

I love Sopchoppy too much. Some people want to change it but I love it! I have a voice and my platform is growing. I’m going to use my platform for good. To push positive energy and to protect my home.

I also went catfishing recently in the Sopchoppy River with my son and a friend. The fish are biting.

Sending love from Sopchoppy!

## Wakulla Station News

By VERNA BROCK

Here we go! Another year, another opportunity to turn a page, hit refresh and move forward in positivity.

What are your resolutions? Do you even bother? Are you made of sterner stuff, able to make up your mind to change and see it through?

I tried the usual things (let’s face it... lose weight, get fit...). These things rarely held up until the next New Year. Eventually, I resolved to do my best and to accept myself first. Admittedly, that is way easier! But in all seriousness, my happiness is rooted in the grace God has given me, just the way I am. So it seems I should also accept myself, just the way I am, while doing my best to embody that same grace to others. Friends and strangers alike, wherever I find them.

Granted, I absolutely drop the ball on the regular. BUT. I pick it back up and start again, without judging myself. I have grace! So move along, keep

picking that ball back up and get in the game. After all, it absolutely is the only real game in town.

As for you and yours, I hope you can fulfill your resolutions, whatever they may be. If you’re closer to my age, you might find yourselves contemplating more “spiritual” changes. Younger folks may be examining financial goals, physical goals, career goals, a regular smorgasbord of self-improvements. Whatever you seek, may you find success and joy in 2025. Happy New Year!

The new year is bringing a lot of new adventures and opportunities for everyone. Next Sunday at 6 p.m., the Second Sunday Sing at the Woodville UMC will welcome a gospel group from the frozen north (Ohio). Please put the date in your calendar and join us for this great performance. It will be followed by an always delicious dinner in the social hall and convivial fellowship. Y’all COME!

As always, the first weekend of March sees the annual presentation of The Battle of Natural Bridge in Woodville. Both educational and entertaining, the battle is something any aficionado of the Civil War should experience. Be sure to mark your calendars!

Wakulla Wonderful is gearing up, as we plan to celebrate the founding of our amazing home county. If you want more information, go to the Extension Office website and see how you can participate on the second weekend of March (March 7-9). We are seeking local Wakulla County vendors and makers.

Preparations are in full swing for the 2025 Woodville Founders Day Festival, and the Woodville Volunteer Fire Department is actively seeking vendors for the big day. Happening the third Saturday of March, the 15th, at the J. Lewis Hall and Recreation Park, we want you! There will also be activities at the Woodville Community

Center, straight south off of the Bike Trail. Please go to the Facebook page for more information, or reach out to me (vernalsbrock@gmail.com).

Please continue to lift the following folks in your prayers: Deborah Giles, sister of Cindy Blackstock; Gloria Dock whose leg has been causing a great deal of pain; Greg Chitwood’s brother-in-law, Jay, who is doing better; the Woodville First Baptist Church’s Pastor, Tommy Stone; Sara Fountain, who is under the weather; and Jared Miller and his family on the loss of their father and grandfather.

Every day seems to bring fresh horrors; please pray for the victims of a malicious terror attack in New Orleans, as well as the world at large.

The majority of people throughout the world long for a peaceful world in which they can live lives of productivity and prosperity.

Let us faithfully pray for the end of war and hostility between peoples. What a glory that would be!

## Weekly Roundup: A ‘Life dedicated to serving’ the state

By JIM SAUNDERS  
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE – Former Florida Gov. Kenneth “Buddy” MacKay, who was thrust into the state’s top executive office in 1998 because of the death of Lawton Chiles, died peacefully during an afternoon nap on New Year’s Eve surrounded by his wife and sons.

MacKay’s decades-long public-service career included stints as a state legislator, U.S. representative, lieutenant governor and — briefly — governor.

MacKay was elected lieutenant governor in 1990 alongside the late Gov. Lawton Chiles. The Democrats were re-elected in 1994.

MacKay ran to succeed Chiles in 1998, but was defeated by Republican Jeb Bush. Shortly before leaving office, however, MacKay stepped in as governor after Chiles’ sudden death on Dec. 12, 1998. MacKay’s tenure as the

state’s chief executive lasted until Bush was sworn in on Jan. 5, 1999.

MacKay, 91, drew praise from both sides of the political aisles.

“Governor MacKay’s life was dedicated to serving the state of Florida, which he did with honor and distinction,” Bush posted on the social-media platform X.

Chiles demonstrated his confidence in his second-in-command by using MacKay as a fixer for a variety of high-profile issues, including overseeing the response to Hurricane Andrew. The storm tore through Miami-Dade County in 1992.

MacKay also helped sort out the city of Miami’s financial woes and stepped in to temporarily lead the troubled Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services. The agency later was broken apart into separate agencies to oversee health and human-services issues.

“Gov. MacKay was one of Florida’s greatest leaders and statesmen with a career of service that benefited all the people of Florida,” Ron Sachs, who served as communications director in the Chiles administration, said Thursday in a phone call on behalf of the MacKay family.

MacKay, a soft-spoken Ocala native with a Southern twang and a humble demeanor, was a lawyer who was elected to the Florida House in 1968 and the Florida Senate in 1975. He was elected to the U.S. House in 1982 in a district that included all or parts of eight counties and served three terms in Washington.

MacKay, Chiles and other leaders, such as former Gov. and U.S. Sen. Bob Graham, were part of a bygone era when Democrats controlled the state. Graham died in April at age 87.

### ELECTRIC BILL JOLTS

The past week marked the start of a process to increase utility rates for a large portion of Floridians.

Pointing to issues such as growth and a need to continue expanding its system, Florida Power & Light on Monday said it will propose a four-year plan to raise base electric rates, which make up a major part of customers’ monthly bills.

FPL, the largest utility provider in the state, will seek increases of about \$1.55 billion that would take effect in 2026 and \$930 million that would take effect in 2027, according to a letter filed with the Florida Public Service Commission. It also will seek additional money in 2028 and 2029 to pay for solar-energy and battery projects, though the filing did not detail specific amounts.

In the letter, FPL said, for example, that it has “experienced significant

growth in our customer base” during the past four years and expects such growth to continue.

The Public Service Commission on Dec. 19 gave final approval to a \$184.9 million base-rate increase in 2025 for Tampa Electric Co., followed by increases of \$86.6 million in 2026 and \$9.1 million in 2027.

In August, the commission approved a settlement that will increase Duke Energy Florida’s base rates by \$203 million in 2025 and \$59 million in 2026.

Meanwhile, Duke Energy Florida and Tampa Electric Co. filed proposals last Friday to collect about \$1.55 billion from customers to cover costs of restoring power and replenishing storm reserves.

In all, Duke Energy recoup about \$1.09 billion, while Tampa Electric is seeking nearly \$464 million, according to the utilities and filings at the commission.

The commission has regularly approved utilities recouping such costs, including giving approval Dec. 3 to a proposal by Florida Power & Light to recover about \$1.2 billion from customers for costs related to hurricanes Debby, Helene and Milton and to replenish a reserve fund.

**STORY OF THE WEEK:** Former Florida Gov. Kenneth “Buddy” MacKay, 91, died peacefully during an afternoon nap at his home in Ocala surrounded by his wife and sons on New Year’s Eve.

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK:** “Always thought the true Shakespearean tragedy of Florida politics was this man got to live his dream for 24 days only because his best friend died.” — Steve Schale, a Democratic consultant, on the death of former Florida Gov. Kenneth “Buddy” MacKay.



# Outdoors

outdoor sports

## HOME ON THE RANGE



By MARJ LAW

Lara and Mark have brought their new handguns to the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office range. This is their first time out since they purchased range bags, and filled them with different items they thought they needed. It was a challenge: which of them would have found the most useful things.

Lara is all about expense. "There's a huge difference in the price of ammunition," she states. "I found some rounds they call 'reloads' and they are a lot cheaper than those name brand ones, especially when bought in the big boxes."

"Yeah," responds Mark, "but I think you might have a problem with those reloads. They may not be formed precisely as required standard. I bought one of the top brands. I also put in the range bag a really neat first aid kit."

"You sure did. And it is huge. You sure you're going to lug it in your range bag? You're really going to need an ankle brace in there?" she teased. "I just bought a bunch of Band-Aids and a tube of

Neosporin."

"Since we're here, let's take out our guns and place them on the shooting bench. Even if nobody else is here, we're going to yell 'hot' so anyone on the range knows we have our guns and ammunition ready to shoot. That keeps them from going down range and putting up targets. And remember to bring your Equalizer to the shooting bench in its new bag. You never move a 'naked gun' around the range: it's always encased."

"I know all that," declares Lara. "And since the range is hot, I'm going to shoot."

Lara and Mark are wearing their hearing and vision protection. Lara unzips her gun bag and pulls out her gun. She picks up a magazine, and plops rounds into it using her UpLula. (Mark is pushing his rounds in using his thumb. As the magazine spring compresses, it takes him longer and longer to put in the last rounds.)

Blam!  
Lara shoots and puts her gun down. She pulls out her tiny binoculars to see where (and if) she hit the target!

Right near the bull's-eye! That's exciting!

She shoots a few more rounds. Her target has holes all near the center.

"Beginner's luck!" calls Mark.

"Don't jinx me!" Lara retorts and aims again.

She hears a small 'pip' sound.

"Oh, no! See what you did? You jinxed me!"

Mark comes over. "Well, first you" he begins.

## Just a pip



"Yes, I know. First, I drop the magazine, and then I look into the chamber to make sure it's empty."

"All the while pointing..."

"The muzzle in a safe direction," finishes Lara.

"Well, the magazine is empty and I don't see anything in the ejection port or the chamber, but I did notice the casing come out." Lara is perplexed. "Where did the bullet go?" she wonders.

"In my very well-stocked range bag, I happen to have a dowel," says Mark as he fishes in the bottom of his bag. He pulls it out and shoves it into the barrel of her gun. A bullet falls out.

"You had a 'pip.'" He is not surprised. "Must be from that very cheap ammunition."

"What's a pip?" Lara wonders.

"It can happen when there is no or there is not sufficient powder within the casing. This is called the 'charge.' Sometimes, reloads aren't always up to standard."

"Will it happen again?"

"Try some of my ammo and see if everything's OK."

Lara looks at his small box of ammunition.

"There's grease all over one side of your box. I'm going to take rounds

from the side that isn't all goopy." Lara fastidiously takes out a handful and begins to load her magazine.

Mark watches as she aims at the target.

Blam! Blam! Blam!

"Drat," Lara is not pleased. "What would have happened if I'd tried to take a second shot after that first round didn't go off as it should?"

"You could have tried, but it wouldn't work. The slide hasn't returned to battery. You won't be able to press the trigger."

"I guess it's a safety thing," returns Lara, then says in a small voice: "Can I have some of your ammunition? I don't like it when my gun doesn't work right."

"Sure!" Mark is fine on sharing.

"But I'm still not going to use the rounds in the box that have oil all over them," she maintains.

"Guns and oil go together," says Mark. "I made sure my Kimber's slides were well lubricated when I field-stripped it. Then, yeah, I spilled some of the lubricant and it made a mess of this box. A little more oil won't hurt."

They continue shooting and make lots of holes in their respective targets.

Then Lara hears Mark. "What?" he says.

Lara puts her gun down

and goes to Mark's stall.

"What happened?" she wonders.

Mark is surprised. "The gun didn't fire right. Let me check."

He drops his magazine and then he inspects the chamber.

"I don't see anything," he says.

"Maybe you got a pip, too!" Lara suggests.

"Oh, I don't think so. This is really good ammunition."

"Try that dowel again." Mark picks up the dowel and pushes it down the muzzle.

Plop!  
A bullet falls on the shooting bench.

"I think it's all that oil those rounds are sitting in. I don't know much about ammunition, but it can't be good to have it sit in oil. See where the casing and the bullet come together? Maybe the oil seeped in and fouled the charge."

Mark is dubious.

Then one of their shooting friends comes to use the stall next to them. He notices they are not shooting.

"What's the matter?" he asks, and looks down at the Kimber and the box of ammunition.

"Wow! What vat of oil did that box get dumped into?" he laughs.

"One of the rounds didn't go off," says Mark,

a little defensively.

"I'm not surprised. Keep ammo in any liquid, it can leach into the charge. Let's just run a bore snake down your barrel and then load some of your clean ammo. You're really lucky that that first bullet didn't travel too far down the barrel. Then, you might have been able to shoot again. Imagine how dangerous that could be! It's good that you are paying attention to every time you fire!"

Mark loads his magazine. Then he aims and fires.

Blam!  
Mark puts his gun down thoughtfully.

"Looks like either cheap ammo or fouled ammo can cause a pip."

"Yeah, you're going to have to be more careful with the oil," Lara says to him.

"And you'll have to break out your pennies and buy better ammo!" he retorts.

They share rueful smiles.

"You learn something new every day at the range," says Mark and Lara nods in agreement.

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



MANGROVE TUNICATE  
(*Ecteinascidia turbinata*)

Individuals cluster making bright orange colonies coating docks while eating plankton. These small animals can reproduce sexually or asexually. Eggs are held in a pouch for 7-9 days. Swimming larvae with a spinelick notochord swim like fish survive on yolk. After dispersing they must find a suitable place to attach and transform. Adult tunicate concentrate the toxic metal vanadium to discourage predators. They also produce an anticancer drug. Small amphipods (shrimplike animals) often live inside adult tunicates.

Eukarya, Animalia, Cordata, Ascidiacea, Enterogona Perophoridae

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 couple of white ibis. He also added a note: Of the 35 animals monitored during weekly wildlife surveys, the three most abundant on Dec. 28 were 133 Hooded Mergansers, 91 White Ibises, and 52 Common Gallinules. Also, 21 manatees were observed.

**Wakulla  
Lawn Ranger  
Gene  
Darby**  
850-251-9122  Palm Tree Trimming

**Mowing  
Edging - Trimming  
Sidewalk/Driveways  
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# Water Ways

a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences



## 24/7 PRIORITY ON-WATER ASSISTANCE

ARE YOU A MEMBER? SEA TOW BIG BEND \ 850-984-3456 \ seatow.com

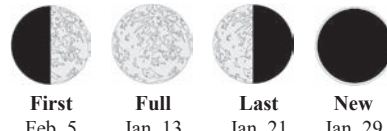


### Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

Jan. 9 - Jan. 15



Tide charts by tides4fishing.com



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

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

	High Tide	Low Tide
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	4:25 am ▼ -0.6 ft	11:27 am ▲ 2.4 ft	3:36 pm ▼ 1.7 ft	9:30 pm ▲ 3.1 ft
Fr	5:32 am ▼ -0.4 ft	12:30 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	4:51 pm ▼ 1.7 ft	10:40 pm ▲ 3.2 ft
Sa	6:29 am ▼ -1.1 ft	1:19 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	5:54 pm ▼ 1.6 ft	11:42 pm ▲ 3.3 ft
Su	7:19 am ▼ -1.3 ft	2:00 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	6:47 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	
Mo	12:37 am ▲ 3.4 ft	8:03 am ▼ -1.2 ft	2:37 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	7:34 pm ▼ 1.2 ft
Tu	1:25 am ▲ 3.4 ft	8:42 am ▼ -1.1 ft	3:10 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	8:16 pm ▼ 1.0 ft
We	2:08 am ▲ 3.4 ft	9:16 am ▼ -0.9 ft	3:40 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	8:57 pm ▼ 0.8 ft

#### City of St. Marks

Th	5:29 am ▼ -0.5 ft	12:03 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	4:40 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	10:06 pm ▲ 2.9 ft
Fr	6:36 am ▼ -0.8 ft <td>1:06 pm ▲ 2.4 ft <td>5:55 pm ▼ 1.6 ft <td>11:16 pm ▲ 2.9 ft </td></td></td>	1:06 pm ▲ 2.4 ft <td>5:55 pm ▼ 1.6 ft <td>11:16 pm ▲ 2.9 ft </td></td>	5:55 pm ▼ 1.6 ft <td>11:16 pm ▲ 2.9 ft </td>	11:16 pm ▲ 2.9 ft
Sa	7:33 am ▼ -1.0 ft <td>1:55 pm ▲ 2.5 ft <td>6:58 pm ▼ 1.5 ft <td></td> </td></td>	1:55 pm ▲ 2.5 ft <td>6:58 pm ▼ 1.5 ft <td></td> </td>	6:58 pm ▼ 1.5 ft <td></td>	
Su	12:18 am ▲ 3.1 ft <td>8:23 am ▼ -1.1 ft <td>2:36 pm ▲ 2.6 ft <td>7:51 pm ▼ 1.3 ft </td></td></td>	8:23 am ▼ -1.1 ft <td>2:36 pm ▲ 2.6 ft <td>7:51 pm ▼ 1.3 ft </td></td>	2:36 pm ▲ 2.6 ft <td>7:51 pm ▼ 1.3 ft </td>	7:51 pm ▼ 1.3 ft
Mo	1:13 am ▲ 3.1 ft <td>9:07 am ▼ -1.1 ft <td>3:13 pm ▲ 2.7 ft <td>8:38 pm ▼ 1.1 ft </td></td></td>	9:07 am ▼ -1.1 ft <td>3:13 pm ▲ 2.7 ft <td>8:38 pm ▼ 1.1 ft </td></td>	3:13 pm ▲ 2.7 ft <td>8:38 pm ▼ 1.1 ft </td>	8:38 pm ▼ 1.1 ft
Tu	2:01 am ▲ 3.2 ft <td>9:46 am ▼ -1.0 ft <td>3:46 pm ▲ 2.7 ft <td>9:20 pm ▼ 0.9 ft </td></td></td>	9:46 am ▼ -1.0 ft <td>3:46 pm ▲ 2.7 ft <td>9:20 pm ▼ 0.9 ft </td></td>	3:46 pm ▲ 2.7 ft <td>9:20 pm ▼ 0.9 ft </td>	9:20 pm ▼ 0.9 ft
We	2:44 am ▲ 3.1 ft <td>10:20 am ▼ -0.8 ft <td>4:16 pm ▲ 2.7 ft <td>10:01 pm ▼ 0.7 ft </td></td></td>	10:20 am ▼ -0.8 ft <td>4:16 pm ▲ 2.7 ft <td>10:01 pm ▼ 0.7 ft </td></td>	4:16 pm ▲ 2.7 ft <td>10:01 pm ▼ 0.7 ft </td>	10:01 pm ▼ 0.7 ft

#### Shell Point, Spring Creek

Th	4:46 am ▼ -0.6 ft	11:47 am ▲ 2.3 ft	3:47 pm ▼ 1.7 ft	9:51 pm ▲ 3.0 ft
Fr	5:55 am ▼ -1.0 ft <td>12:55 pm ▲ 2.4 ft <td>5:03 pm ▼ 1.8 ft <td>10:59 pm ▲ 3.1 ft </td></td></td>	12:55 pm ▲ 2.4 ft <td>5:03 pm ▼ 1.8 ft <td>10:59 pm ▲ 3.1 ft </td></td>	5:03 pm ▼ 1.8 ft <td>10:59 pm ▲ 3.1 ft </td>	10:59 pm ▲ 3.1 ft
Sa	6:54 am ▼ -1.2 ft <td>1:46 pm ▲ 2.6 ft <td>6:11 pm ▼ 1.8 ft <td></td> </td></td>	1:46 pm ▲ 2.6 ft <td>6:11 pm ▼ 1.8 ft <td></td> </td>	6:11 pm ▼ 1.8 ft <td></td>	
Su	12:01 am ▲ 3.2 ft <td>7:46 am ▼ -1.3 ft <td>2:28 pm ▲ 2.7 ft <td>7:07 pm ▼ 1.6 ft </td></td></td>	7:46 am ▼ -1.3 ft <td>2:28 pm ▲ 2.7 ft <td>7:07 pm ▼ 1.6 ft </td></td>	2:28 pm ▲ 2.7 ft <td>7:07 pm ▼ 1.6 ft </td>	7:07 pm ▼ 1.6 ft
Mo	12:56 am ▲ 3.3 ft <td>8:31 am ▼ -1.3 ft <td>3:05 pm ▲ 2.7 ft <td>7:55 pm ▼ 1.4 ft </td></td></td>	8:31 am ▼ -1.3 ft <td>3:05 pm ▲ 2.7 ft <td>7:55 pm ▼ 1.4 ft </td></td>	3:05 pm ▲ 2.7 ft <td>7:55 pm ▼ 1.4 ft </td>	7:55 pm ▼ 1.4 ft
Tu	1:44 am ▲ 3.3 ft <td>9:12 am ▼ -1.2 ft <td>3:37 pm ▲ 2.7 ft <td>8:39 pm ▼ 1.2 ft </td></td></td>	9:12 am ▼ -1.2 ft <td>3:37 pm ▲ 2.7 ft <td>8:39 pm ▼ 1.2 ft </td></td>	3:37 pm ▲ 2.7 ft <td>8:39 pm ▼ 1.2 ft </td>	8:39 pm ▼ 1.2 ft
We	2:28 am ▲ 3.3 ft <td>9:47 am ▼ -1.0 ft <td>4:06 pm ▲ 2.7 ft <td>9:20 pm ▼ 1.0 ft </td></td></td>	9:47 am ▼ -1.0 ft <td>4:06 pm ▲ 2.7 ft <td>9:20 pm ▼ 1.0 ft </td></td>	4:06 pm ▲ 2.7 ft <td>9:20 pm ▼ 1.0 ft </td>	9:20 pm ▼ 1.0 ft

#### Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay

Th	4:36 am ▼ -0.4 ft	11:19 am ▲ 1.8 ft	3:47 pm ▼ 1.2 ft	9:22 pm ▲ 2.3 ft
Fr	5:43 am ▼ -0.7 ft <td>12:22 pm ▲ 1.9 ft <td>5:02 pm ▼ 1.3 ft <td>10:32 pm ▲ 2.4 ft </td></td></td>	12:22 pm ▲ 1.9 ft <td>5:02 pm ▼ 1.3 ft <td>10:32 pm ▲ 2.4 ft </td></td>	5:02 pm ▼ 1.3 ft <td>10:32 pm ▲ 2.4 ft </td>	10:32 pm ▲ 2.4 ft
Sa	6:40 am ▼ -0.8 ft <td>1:11 pm ▲ 2.0 ft <td>6:05 pm ▼ 1.2 ft <td>11:34 pm ▲ 2.5 ft </td></td></td>	1:11 pm ▲ 2.0 ft <td>6:05 pm ▼ 1.2 ft <td>11:34 pm ▲ 2.5 ft </td></td>	6:05 pm ▼ 1.2 ft <td>11:34 pm ▲ 2.5 ft </td>	11:34 pm ▲ 2.5 ft
Su	7:30 am ▼ -0.9 ft <td>1:52 pm ▲ 2.1 ft <td>6:58 pm ▼ 1.0 ft <td></td> </td></td>	1:52 pm ▲ 2.1 ft <td>6:58 pm ▼ 1.0 ft <td></td> </td>	6:58 pm ▼ 1.0 ft <td></td>	
Mo	12:29 am ▲ 2.5 ft <td>8:14 am ▼ -0.9 ft <td>2:29 pm ▲ 2.1 ft <td>7:45 pm ▼ 0.9 ft </td></td></td>	8:14 am ▼ -0.9 ft <td>2:29 pm ▲ 2.1 ft <td>7:45 pm ▼ 0.9 ft </td></td>	2:29 pm ▲ 2.1 ft <td>7:45 pm ▼ 0.9 ft </td>	7:45 pm ▼ 0.9 ft
Tu	1:17 am ▲ 2.6 ft <td>8:53 am ▼ -0.8 ft <td>3:02 pm ▲ 2.1 ft <td>8:27 pm ▼ 0.7 ft </td></td></td>	8:53 am ▼ -0.8 ft <td>3:02 pm ▲ 2.1 ft <td>8:27 pm ▼ 0.7 ft </td></td>	3:02 pm ▲ 2.1 ft <td>8:27 pm ▼ 0.7 ft </td>	8:27 pm ▼ 0.7 ft
We	2:00 am ▲ 2.5 ft <td>9:27 am ▼ -0.6 ft <td>3:32 pm ▲ 2.1 ft <td>9:08 pm ▼ 0.6 ft </td></td></td>	9:27 am ▼ -0.6 ft <td>3:32 pm ▲ 2.1 ft <td>9:08 pm ▼ 0.6 ft </td></td>	3:32 pm ▲ 2.1 ft <td>9:08 pm ▼ 0.6 ft </td>	9:08 pm ▼ 0.6 ft

#### St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.

Th	4:32 am ▼ -0.8 ft	12:17 pm ▲ 1.7 ft	3:46 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	9:18 pm ▲ 2.4 ft
Fr	5:34 am ▼ -1.1 ft <td>1:27 pm ▲ 1.9 ft <td>5:01 pm ▼ 1.6 ft <td>10:18 pm ▲ 2.4 ft </td></td></td>	1:27 pm ▲ 1.9 ft <td>5:01 pm ▼ 1.6 ft <td>10:18 pm ▲ 2.4 ft </td></td>	5:01 pm ▼ 1.6 ft <td>10:18 pm ▲ 2.4 ft </td>	10:18 pm ▲ 2.4 ft
Sa	6:29 am ▼ -1.2 ft <td>2:14 pm ▲ 1.9 ft <td>5:59 pm ▼ 1.6 ft <td>11:16 pm ▲ 2.5 ft </td></td></td>	2:14 pm ▲ 1.9 ft <td>5:59 pm ▼ 1.6 ft <td>11:16 pm ▲ 2.5 ft </td></td>	5:59 pm ▼ 1.6 ft <td>11:16 pm ▲ 2.5 ft </td>	11:16 pm ▲ 2.5 ft
Su	7:18 am ▼ -1.3 ft <td>2:50 pm ▲ 1.9 ft <td>6:46 pm ▼ 1.5 ft <td></td> </td></td>	2:50 pm ▲ 1.9 ft <td>6:46 pm ▼ 1.5 ft <td></td> </td>	6:46 pm ▼ 1.5 ft <td></td>	
Mo	12:11 am ▲ 2.6 ft <td>8:03 am ▼ -1.3 ft <td>3:20 pm ▲ 1.8 ft <td>7:29 pm ▼ 1.3 ft </td></td></td>	8:03 am ▼ -1.3 ft <td>3:20 pm ▲ 1.8 ft <td>7:29 pm ▼ 1.3 ft </td></td>	3:20 pm ▲ 1.8 ft <td>7:29 pm ▼ 1.3 ft </td>	7:29 pm ▼ 1.3 ft
Tu	1:03 am ▲ 2.6 ft <td>8:44 am ▼ -1.1 ft <td>3:45 pm ▲ 1.8 ft <td>8:12 pm ▼ 1.2 ft </td></td></td>	8:44 am ▼ -1.1 ft <td>3:45 pm ▲ 1.8 ft <td>8:12 pm ▼ 1.2 ft </td></td>	3:45 pm ▲ 1.8 ft <td>8:12 pm ▼ 1.2 ft </td>	8:12 pm ▼ 1.2 ft
We	1:53 am ▲ 2.5 ft <td>9:22 am ▼ -0.9 ft <td>4:07 pm ▲ 1.8 ft <td>8:57 pm ▼ 1.0 ft </td></td></td>	9:22 am ▼ -0.9 ft <td>4:07 pm ▲ 1.8 ft <td>8:57 pm ▼ 1.0 ft </td></td>	4:07 pm ▲ 1.8 ft <td>8:57 pm ▼ 1.0 ft </td>	8:57 pm ▼ 1.0 ft

#### Dog Island West End

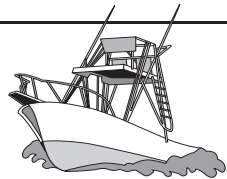
Th	5:00 am ▼ -0.7 ft	9:27 pm ▲ 2.1 ft		
Fr	6:05 am ▼ -1.0 ft <td>10:19 pm ▲ 2.2 ft <td>5:05 pm ▼ 1.6 ft <td>10:19 pm ▲ 2.2 ft </td></td></td>	10:19 pm ▲ 2.2 ft <td>5:05 pm ▼ 1.6 ft <td>10:19 pm ▲ 2.2 ft </td></td>	5:05 pm ▼ 1.6 ft <td>10:19 pm ▲ 2.2 ft </td>	10:19 pm ▲ 2.2 ft
Sa	6:57 am ▼ -1.2 ft <td>11:16 pm ▲ 2.2 ft <td>6:41 pm ▼ 1.6 ft <td>11:16 pm ▲ 2.2 ft </td></td></td>	11:16 pm ▲ 2.2 ft <td>6:41 pm ▼ 1.6 ft <td>11:16 pm ▲ 2.2 ft </td></td>	6:41 pm ▼ 1.6 ft <td>11:16 pm ▲ 2.2 ft </td>	11:16 pm ▲ 2.2 ft
Su	7:40 am ▼ -1.3 ft <td>12:13 pm ▲ 2.2 ft <td>7:23 pm ▼ 1.4 ft <td></td> </td></td>	12:13 pm ▲ 2.2 ft <td>7:23 pm ▼ 1.4 ft <td></td> </td>	7:23 pm ▼ 1.4 ft <td></td>	
Mo	12:17 am ▲ 2.2 ft <td>8:19 am ▼ -1.2 ft <td>4:06 pm ▲ 1.7 ft <td>7:57 pm ▼ 1.3 ft </td></td></td>	8:19 am ▼ -1.2 ft <td>4:06 pm ▲ 1.7 ft <td>7:57 pm ▼ 1.3 ft </td></td>	4:06 pm ▲ 1.7 ft <td>7:57 pm ▼ 1.3 ft </td>	7:57 pm ▼ 1.3 ft
Tu	1:13 am ▲ 2.2 ft <td>8:56 am ▼ -1.1 ft <td>4:26 pm ▲ 1.7 ft <td>8:33 pm ▼ 1.1 ft </td></td></td>	8:56 am ▼ -1.1 ft <td>4:26 pm ▲ 1.7 ft <td>8:33 pm ▼ 1.1 ft </td></td>	4:26 pm ▲ 1.7 ft <td>8:33 pm ▼ 1.1 ft </td>	8:33 pm ▼ 1.1 ft
We	2:02 am ▲ 2.2 ft <td>9:33 am ▼ -1.0 ft <td>4:43 pm ▲ 1.7 ft <td>9:15 pm ▼ 1.0 ft </td></td></td>	9:33 am ▼ -1.0 ft <td>4:43 pm ▲ 1.7 ft <td>9:15 pm ▼ 1.0 ft </td></td>	4:43 pm ▲ 1.7 ft <td>9:15 pm ▼ 1.0 ft </td>	9:15 pm ▼ 1.0 ft

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



## Coast Guard Auxiliary Reports

By Carolyn Brown Treadon



The following information comes from the USCG Auxiliary Pad-lecraft Safety Division.

January 2025 Recreational Boating Safety Message Scott Szczepaniak, Recreational Boating Safety Specialist, Seventh Coast:

After 10 minutes, with the heater of the truck running at full blast, his shaking started to subside. He was not able to speak since it happened. I was relieved that he seemed on the mend and started to relax. He finally said to me, not making eye contact, "that it felt like a major league baseball player hit me in the chest with a fencepost."

Long story short, my new acquaintance had joined a group of sea kayakers for a New Year's Day paddle on Lake Marion in the center of South Carolina. The air temperature was in the balmy mid-70s, the water temperature in the mid-40s. The paddler was in his mid-30s, super fit and ready to join the group for a fitness paddle in his surf ski. As he prepared to launch – the group leaders said "no way – you are not going to paddle with us without a life jacket properly fitted and zipped up. He reluctantly put his life jacket on. The rest of the group, all dressed for immersion in drysuits or windproof paddling jackets with wetsuits underneath to insulate, should have been more forceful about lending him a wetsuit top and paddling jacket.

The group had a nice paddle and was almost back to the landing.



### 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

The paddler on the surf ski, dressed in shorts and a T-shirt, capsized just ahead of the group. The more experienced paddlers performed a quick rescue and got him back to the landing. I helped him to his truck, got it running and turned the heat on. After he gave me his baseball player and fencepost analogy, he was quiet for a few more minutes. He then said: "If I wasn't wearing a life jacket, and you didn't get me out of the water so quickly, I would be dead now." I am pretty sure that he was correct.

Cold water kills. Often not by lowering the bodies core temperature (hypothermia), but by cold shock. From the Cold Water Safety website:

"The sudden lowering of skin temperature on immersion in cold water represents one of the most profound stimuli that the body can encounter." – Golden and Tipton in Essentials of Sea Survival.

Translation: Short of being hit by a bus or struck by lightning, cold shock is one of the biggest jolts that your body can experience."

When you hit the cold water against unprotected skin you gasp

- really gasp, and suck water into your lungs. More from the Cold Water Safety website: "Sudden Drowning - If your head is underwater when you gasp, you will immediately drown, and without the support of a PFD, you will head straight for the bottom. Before cold shock was identified as the cause, this phenomenon was known as Sudden Disappearance Syndrome."

As a boating safety professional, I worry on days in the winter and spring when the air temperature gets warm enough to wear shorts and a t-shirt. The water temperature takes many weeks to follow warming trends...and is not impacted at all for those few balmy days in the winter and spring months. Whether paddling a kayak, canoe or Stand Up Paddleboard; or duck hunting in a small boat; or boating out on cold water - dress for immersion. Wear a life jacket properly fitted and zipped up. Save the alcohol for after the outing. Slow down - maintaining a safe speed is required by the rules of the road and the mark of a competent boater. Take a boating class or paddling class. Be weather

aware. File a float plan as simple as a text to a trusted friend or family member that includes who, what, where, and when you are going to be back with an emergency number to call at a specified time. And include a picture of the boat in the float plan.

More information on the dangers of cold water can be found at the National Center for Cold Water Safety website: <https://www.coldwatersafety.org/> Boat and Paddle Responsibly! And finally, please share this post on your personal page and boating groups that you are a member of. Thanks!

As Sherrie says, safe boating is no accident!

For more information about our safe boating classes or to learn more about getting involved in the Auxiliary, check out our website at [www.uscgaux.net](http://www.uscgaux.net) follow us on Facebook @ Apalachee Bay Flotilla 12 or contact our Flotilla Commander Phil Hill at [pnkhill2000@yahoo.com](mailto:pnkhill2000@yahoo.com)

If you would like to learn more about vessel safety checks, please contact Steve Hulst, Staff Officer for Vessel Examinations at [steve.hulst@uscgAux.net](mailto:steve.hulst@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.uscgAux.org](http://www.uscgAux.org).



## Underwater Wakulla

By Gregg Stanton

### Picket Mine study for NASA. January 6, 2011

After carrying extra cylinders down a steep slope to the water's edge, we put our dry suits on, and help each other adjust our rebreathers to a comfortable fit.

With extra cylinders properly attached, and oxygen safety cylinder tied off at 20 feet, our powerful underwater lights lit brightly, and our safety line tied to the surface, we descended into a vertical dark shaft. At 70 feet we came upon a familiar weight used by body builders that has a line running horizontally into the wall of the sink-hole, the start of our cave dive. Visibility is not bad for this location at about 15 feet. We enter under the overhanging rock and into a landscape from a different world.

Recently I explored Picket Mine, now flooded and cold, located in Wisconsin, to find the walls covered in orange globular, colonial bacteria under study by NASA. It seems this species found in the mine resembles a fossil found on a meteor that was reported to have originated from Mars. Now, every time I enter our caves, I envision finding life forms either new to science or from another world.

I now see black encrustations on an otherwise white wall and recognize them as a goethite mineral deposits that are very fragile, beautiful and abundant at this Wakulla cave.

We reach a "T" in the permanent line indicating two different paths into the cave, one up stream and one down. We each leave a personal arrow with our name on it to be collected on the way out. If we are separated, we will know if the other got out OK by collecting them upon exiting.

The water quality improves as we swim, both in visibility and on occasion warmth! Pockets of warm water boil down from the ceiling suggesting the sink behind us is siphoning surface water from a nearby swamp today.

We proceed until we begin to find piles of rocks on the floor, breakdown from the ceiling where in years past, a drought may have loosened the roof until, without water to support it, a portion collapsed. Rising out of the debris are tiny white and equally blind amphipods swim vertically up in our way feeding on incoming organic material from the surface. They in turn become food for blind crayfish, which become food for the catfish we see at the edge of the cave passage.

All of this, mind you, done in complete darkness, by sensory capabilities we clearly do not possess.

We turn into the big room we seek today. We again leave arrows to show us the way back, then turn into a small hole to our left and slowly in single file, slip downward into a room that has a ceiling at about 50 feet and a floor in one end at 130 feet, and a diameter of three times that height. We find a line running around the outer wall of large room and again set our arrows to mark our exit.

There is breakdown rocks in the middle of this room as well, better water clarity and the expected rising amphipods. But where are the crawfish?

Nearly at the end of the circumference I find the answer: dark blotches on the floor, with remnants of crawfish in the middle. Many have died leaving their exoskeletons are a reminder that they were not eaten.

Could this be cold surface water invading their warm world causing a shock to their frail physiology? Could surface pollution be the culprit? Upon certain conditions of high tide and low regional rain fall, the salt water invades caves like this one and kill fresh water creatures caught in deeper passages. More study is required.

But it's time we returned to our world. So with heavy heart to lost life, we ascend to the upper passage and recovering our arrows in single file, swim back towards the surface.

I always look up and see the surface light with tree branches silhouetting a bright day, and pause to thank the many who in my past have made such a day possible.

Editor's Note: This was the eighth Underwater Wakulla column written by Gregg Stanton back in 2011.

# FOLLOW THE SUN.

Your local source for news.



# Remembering the ‘forgotten fathers’



By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

Carol, a client advocate at The Hope Center, a pro-life pregnancy resource facility, glanced up as the door swung open. A nicely dressed man in his early twenties hesitated, then pushed the door open the rest of the way.

“Welcome to The Hope

Center,” she said.

“My name is Steve,” he said, taking a deep breath but failing to meet her eyes. “I – I.” Rubbing the back of his neck, he said softly, “I ... saw a billboard.”

“I understand, Steve. Welcome. Would you like to talk with one of our male counselors?”

The kindness in her voice gave him the courage to follow her to a small counseling room. Soon, he was settled into a blue upholstered armchair sharing his story with Ron.

Bouncing his knee, Steve continued, “Monica and I were talking about getting married

and everything.” He rose to his feet and paced from one wall to the next. “Next thing I know, she dropped the bomb that she was pregnant. I said, ‘No problem. We can get married right away.’ I was nervous but not unhappy with the news.”

Steve reclaimed his seat and continued. “Then Monica said she wanted to have an abortion! She wasn’t ready to settle down and have kids.” His voice broke. “I begged her not to, but the next day, she went through with it.”

“How long ago was this?” Ron asked.

“Two years ago, this

month. I can’t stop thinking about it, especially when I see young couples with their kids.” Tears streamed down his face. “Is this normal behavior? ... Especially for a man?”

Steve’s story, though fictionalized, reflects real life.

We often focus on those who have been victims of abortion – innocent babies, of course, and their mothers. But we rarely hear about how this tragedy affects dads. These “forgotten fathers” often bottle up their emotions, including grief, depression, anger and guilt – all of which can escalate to

self-destructive behavior if they don’t seek counseling.

Jan. 19 is National Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. If you are pro-life, please pray for every woman who’s had an abortion and for every “mother with child” who’s considering an abortion. But don’t forget the dads (and grandparents) who have lost a child through abortion. Remember, they’re suffering too.

Thankfully – and mercifully, “The LORD is near to the broken-hearted and saves the crushed in spirit” (Psalm 34:18 ESV). As we pray for those affected by

abortion, let’s thank God for His unfailing love that transforms pain into hope and offers the chance to start anew.

If you or someone you know is struggling after an abortion, remember that you’re not alone. Pregnancy Resource Centers provide free, confidential support for men and families, offering compassion, guidance, and a path to healing.

*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 new year tradition



By **CHERYL CRUCE**

The New Year is upon us. Fireworks are being purchased, resolutions are being carefully thought out, and plans are being made for the midnight countdown. As a young child, I cannot remember ever seeing my parents staying up for the “ringing in” of the new year or hearing them set resolutions. However, I do remember the tradition of collard

greens and black-eyed peas with cornbread on the table on the first day of January.

This year, I will turn the lights off early on New Year’s Eve for a good night’s rest. I will also forego any resolutions for the future days. The few times I have made resolutions, I found I set my goals too high, setting myself up for failure. Nonetheless, I will continue the tradition of the bountiful dinner table taught to me much later in life.

My brother’s wife, Wanda, would place items essential to her on the dinner table, allowing them to stay as the old year transitioned into the new. There would be a loaf of bread for food, a glass of water for drink, a picture rep-

resenting family, and a Bible to signify faith. Her cherished tradition was that the significance of these items would stay with her throughout the coming year. It also made a statement about what she valued most.

New Year’s resolutions should reflect what we value and our desire for growth. Whether the goal is to lose weight, read more, or cultivate better habits, the end goal is an improvement in self. Therefore, it is key to set realistic goals that become stepping stones to success rather than obstacles to failure. Despite life’s setbacks, our Lord is a source of unwavering support and inspiration. Hence, we should set ambitions based on faith, remaining stead-

fast in our commitment to God.

King Solomon, the wisest of kings, inspired us to set our goals in faith, promising that the Lord would establish our plans (Proverbs 16:3). A successful resolution, rooted in Biblical truth, not only honors the Lord but empowers us to strive for excellence. The Apostle Paul exemplified this by setting clear objectives in his life, motivating him to pursue his ultimate prize, his relationship with the Lord. Paul focused on the future, refusing to let past failures deter his journey. Despite his many challenges, he pressed onward, his aim steadfastly anchored in God, who would guide his steps (Philippians 3:13-14).

When we set resolutions grounded in faith, our current circumstances become promising. The Lord establishes His people, making plans for a future brighter than we could imagine. Our Heavenly Father listens to our needs, vowing plans filled with prosperity and hope (Jeremiah 29:11-12). When we allow the Lord to guide us, our desires and resolutions will transpire into expressions of faith that bring Him honor. I cannot think of a better purpose for a resolution than to honor our Lord.

I do not know which New Year tradition you will follow; for me, there will be a Bible for fulfillment and faith, a loaf of bread and a glass of water for food and drink,

and photos of my family representing love and happiness on the dining table. Whichever tradition you choose, do so to honor God, and if by chance you do stumble, know you will never fall beyond His reach, for He holds in His hands the greatest plans to prosper you.

Many are the plans in a person’s heart, but it is the LORD’s purpose that prevails (Proverbs 19:2). You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance (Psalm 65:11).

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

## OUT TO PASTOR

# Aches, pain and another year older



By **JAMES SNYDER**

It’s hard to believe another year has already started. How many of these new years can a person have without going crazy?

The past year was rather challenging. I had some health issues, not too serious, but aggravating all the same. I’ve seen my doctor more than my wife this past year. Believe me, I’m not too excited in seeing my doctor. He must be related to Dracula because he always wants my blood.

However, when I have

a physical issue, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage makes sure I see my doctor. I tell her that I’m OK and don’t need to see a doctor. She smiles at me and says, “I didn’t hear what you said, but you’re going to see the doctor.”

I’m not complaining; I do have some health issues, but I sure don’t have anything serious in the health department. I have some friends that are really sick and some that are in the hospital, and so I pray for them and thank God that I’m not that sick.

As this year begins, I’ve noticed that I am achy with pain in just about every area of my body. I can’t remember ever having this kind of pain before but there it is.

Every once in a while, I have trouble with my right leg, and it seems

to pass out or something. I have a hard time walking when my leg is like that. It is not really serious just aggravating.

My doctor has prescribed a lot of medication for me, and The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage ensures I take my medicine daily. If I didn’t know better I would think I was a drug addict.

Keep this a little secret between you and me, but sometimes, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage forgets to give me my medicine. Being the crazy guy that I am, I never remind her of that. I just snicker on the inside and count it one victory for me.

In the many years of our marriage, I have discovered that what the wife doesn’t know doesn’t hurt the hus-

band.

My wife’s memory is 150%. But there are times when she forgets my medicine because of her busy schedule, and who am I to tell her about it?

I don’t get away with very much, but when I do get away with something I’m thrilled.

Once in a while The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage will come into my office and see me smiling and then say, “Okay, what did I forget to do?”

Even when she forgets something, she remembers that she forgot something. There’s no winning in this situation.

I was complaining about my body aching in various places, and I looked at my wife and said, “I think I’m going to go to a body shop

and get some parts replaced. Do you have any recommendations?”

Without skipping a beat, she replied, “I know an antique store you could go to.”

I pretended not to hear that, but she knew I heard it. It’s interesting that there are a lot of things that I can’t hear, but then there are things that I can hear, and it’s aggravating.

I’m beginning to see some good aspects to getting old. This year, my New Year’s resolution is to find all of these good aspects and cash in.

It doesn’t pay to complain; rather, it pays to find out how to look on the positive side of things.

In my devotions I

read some scripture that was encouraging.

“My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing” (James 1:2-4).

My focus this year must not be on my pain, but on the One who gives me strength every-day to life for Him.

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

**Sopchoppy United Methodist Church**

Pastor Cheryl Mixon-Cruce 850-962-2511

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

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
MISSOURI SYNOD

**SUNDAY SERVICE... CHRISTMAS EVE CANDELIGHT SERVICE**

10:17a.m. Dec. 24 - 7:00p.m.

850-926-7808 • 3254 Coastal Hwy., Crawfordville  
In Medart Across from Wakulla High School

**St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church**

Fr. Paul Raj, HGN • Den. Dave Harris  
Director of Music & Choir - Jeff Cook  
3609 Coastal Hwy. Crawfordville FL 32327  
850 745-8359

Saturday Mass 5:00 pm • Sunday Mass 11:00 am  
Tuesday and Thursday: Mass at 8:30 am.  
Wednesday: Mass at 7:00 pm  
1<sup>st</sup> Saturday: Adoration and Confessions at 8:30 am  
1<sup>st</sup> Saturday: Mass at 9:30 am.  
Every Saturday: Confessions at 4:30 pm  
Live Streaming - Sundays  
Facebook - Seas Parish

Cemetery lots and 850-509-7630  
or the Church Office at:  
Cremain spaces available. 850-745-8359

**SERVICES:**

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10:30 am  
Morning Worship  
11:30 am  
Wednesday Night  
Bible Study 7:30 pm

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Crawfordville, FL  
(850) 926-4889

<https://www.fpccupci.org>

JESUS PLEASE CHANGE MY LIFE

THAT'S WHAT CHRISTMAS IS ALL ABOUT CHARLIE BROWN!

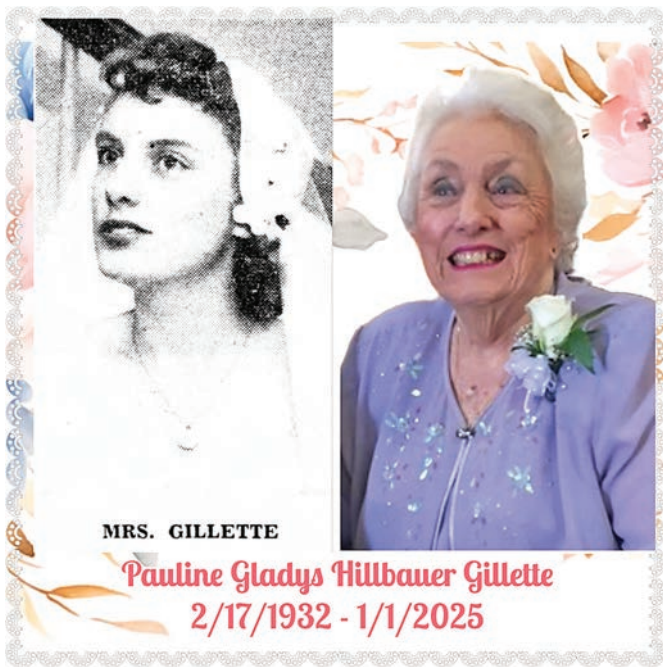
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WAVE 94

THE BEST CHRISTMAS MUSIC ALL SEASON LONG ON WAVE 94!



# Obituaries



## Pauline Gladys Hillbauer Gillette

Pauline Gillette was welcomed into the arms of the Lord on 1 Jan. 1, 2025. Daughter of William and Irene Hillbauer, she was born in Miami on Feb. 17, 1932. She graduated from Miami Jackson High School where she was a member of the band and National Thespian Society. She was married to the love of her life, her late husband and Coast Guard veteran Edwin, for over 60 years. Pauline was a loving, dedicated wife and mother to her husband and children, Steven Alan Gillette and Cynthia Lee Gillette Cockerham. She dedicated her life to her family and enjoyed being active in her children's lives. She spent several years nurturing her daughter through illness, sacrificing time away from home to act as her caregiver.

Pauline was a faithful child of God and born-again Christian. She volunteered countless hours to her church and community, enjoying fellowship and sharing the Gospel. She had a fondness for an-

tiques and design, especially all-things-Christmas! She thoroughly enjoyed creating elaborate Christmas displays and joyously celebrating the birth of Jesus. She had an effervescent, welcoming presence and could enjoy a conversation with anyone.

She is preceded in death by her father William, mother Irene, husband Edwin Lafayette Gillette, daughter Cynthia Lee Gillette Cockerham (James), sisters Yvonne Grove (Lloyd) and Violet Sizemore (Gordon), and brother William C. Hillbauer Jr. She is survived by her son Steven Alan Gillette (Elma), grandchildren Stephanie Rebecca Cockerham Hubbard (Clint), Elizabeth Lee Cockerham Devinney, Laura Katherine Cockerham Case (James), and James Vance Cockerham III (Emily), as well as 7 great-grandchildren.

A funeral service and celebration of life was held at Bevis Funeral Home on Saturday, Jan. 4, 2025 at 4 p.m. Flowers and condolences may be sent to Bevis Funeral Home, 200 John Knox Road, Tallahassee FL 32303.

## Sheriff's Report

This report is for activity Dec. 27- Jan. 3. There were 1,242 total calls for service during the week.

### FRIDAY, DEC. 27

- Deputy Trujillo investigated a theft on Crawfordville Highway. Complainant reported the theft of a car trailer. The trailer was entered into NCIC/FCIC as stolen. Case has been forwarded to the Criminal Investigation Division.

- Deputy Post investigated a burglary on Roberts Williams Road. Complainant reported someone broke into his vacant home, and stole multiple items valued at approximately \$7,600. Case has been forwarded to the Criminal Investigation Division.

- Lieutenant Gibson responded to Duncan Drive and spoke with a resident who reported being scammed out of approximately \$30,000 in a Bitcoin scam. Case has been forwarded to the Criminal Investigation Division.

- Deputy Post investigated a theft on Fallwood Lane. The resident reported items

were taken from his residence to include tools, and an abandoned vehicle on the property had been destroyed. Case has been forwarded to the Criminal Investigation Division.

### SATURDAY, DEC. 28

- Deputy Rivers responded to El Jalisco's and made contact with a citizen who reported their bicycle had been stolen. Bicycle was valued at approximately \$250. Case has been forwarded to the Criminal Investigation Division.

- Deputy De Guzman responded to Running Deer Lane and made contact with a resident who reported dropping his phone in the Rocky's parking lot. The resident further advised he called his phone and an unknown person answered the phone and then shut it off afterwards. Case has been forwarded to the Criminal Investigation Division.

- Deputy Godwin responded to Edith Odesa Drive and spoke with a citizen reporting his electric bike had

been stolen. The bike is white in color and valued at approximately \$1,200. Case has been forwarded to the Criminal Investigation Division.

### SUNDAY, DEC. 29

- Deputy Surrette responded to Ruby Lane for a fire. A garbage can and several layers of siding caught fire and were extinguished by Wakulla Fire Rescue.

- Deputy De Guzman responded to Publix for a male leaving the store with a cart full of items past the last point of sale. Contact was made with the suspect who was identified as Edward Whitehead. He was arrested and charged with Petit Theft and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. The total amount of stolen items was valued at \$382.13. Whitehead was transported to the Wakulla County Detention Facility.

- Deputy Cordoba responded to Mashers Sands in reference to a male in the water. Contact was made with an adult male who advised his Jon boat took on water and sank.

- Deputy Godwin located an electric bicycle at an abandoned location on Dogwood Drive.

Deputy Godwin noted the bicycle had been reported stolen on an earlier date, and it was returned to its owner. Crime Scene responded and impounded a second bicycle. Case has been forwarded to the Criminal Investigation Division.

### MONDAY, DEC. 30

- Deputy De Guzman responded to Newport Campground and made contact with a citizen who advised she found a baggie containing suspected narcotics in the bathroom. Approximately 3.5 grams of methamphetamine was seized.

- Deputy Sullivan responded to Walmart in reference to a theft, where an unknown male gathered items in the store and provided old receipts to obtain money for the items. Case has been forwarded to the Criminal Investigation Division.

- Deputies Bennett and Parker responded to the Wakulla County Detention Facility in reference to Benjamin Millership bringing controlled substances into the jail. Millership received additional charges for Introduction of Contraband into a Correctional Facility.

- Deputy Dill responded to the Sheriff's Office front lobby in reference to a citizen finding a firearm on Mount Zion Road. The firearm was turned over to property and evidence for safekeeping.

- Deputy Dill responded to the Sheriff's Office front lobby in reference to a citizen losing her wallet and identification cards.

### TUESDAY, DEC. 31

- Deputy Buckhalt and Deputy Sammons conducted a traffic stop on vehicle for failure to stop at a stop sign on Old Shell Point Road. When contact was made with the driver, Nken-gen Ayanna Johnson, she gave a false name but was later positively identified. Deputy Sammons noticed Johnson had something bulging in her cheek. Subsequently, a whole cigarette pack was discovered in her mouth containing 3.2 grams of cocaine. Johnson was arrested and charged with Possession of Cocaine, Obstruction by Disguise, and Driving While License Suspended/Revoked was subsequently transported to the Wakulla County Detention Facility.

- Deputy Williams responded to the Sheriff's Office lobby located at 15 Oak Street in reference to a lost wallet. Complainant advised she lost her wallet possibly in Tallahassee, and she was contacted by a Post Office worker in Monticello who advised the wallet was put in the dropbox in their city to be sent back to Wakulla.

- Deputy Bennett and Parker responded to 2592 Crawfordville Highway in reference to a lost wallet. Complainant advised she lost her wallet with \$300 in it, and last recalled having it at Walmart yesterday.

### WEDNESDAY, JAN. 1

- Deputy Kittrell responded to Blackfoot Road in reference to a suspicious person. When Deputy Kittrell arrived on scene, he found two windows were broken at two separate addresses off Catawba Trail. According to a witness, a subject

walked out of the woods onto Blackfoot then proceeded to Catawba Trail. The witness heard loud noises and after further investigation the broken windows were discovered. Case has been forwarded to the Criminal Investigation Division.

- Deputy Sammon and Deputy Buckhalt responded to a residence on Sarah Court where contact was made with the complainant who advised she stepped away from grease heating up on the stove and when she returned the grease was on fire. She was able to extinguish the fire but not before the stove and microwave were damaged the estimated value of damage was \$2,000.

- Deputy De Guzman responded to Dickson Bay Road and made contact with a resident who reported sometime during the previous night an unknown suspect entered her vehicle and stole an ax. Video Surveillance of the incident was collected. Case has been forwarded to the Criminal Investigation Division.

### THURSDAY, JAN. 2

- Deputy Godwin responded to Klickitat Drive for a Vehicle Burglary. Complainant reported her vehicle had been burglarized, and her wallet and cash were stolen. Case has been forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division.

- Deputy Cordoba responded to John David Drive and made contact with a resident reporting a rifle was stolen from his vehicle. Case has been forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division.

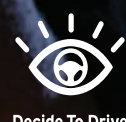
### FRIDAY, JAN. 3

- Deputy Gray responded to 2343 Crawfordville Highway on a Found Property complaint. Publix Management turned over a \$50 which was located in the meat department. The money was collected and placed into property and evidence.

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# CROSSWORD

## CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Hand (Spanish)
- 5. Siskel and \_\_, critics
- 10. Seaman
- 12. Chemical weapon
- 14. One who eliminates
- 16. They precede C
- 18. Baseball stat
- 19. Americans' "uncle"
- 20. Cassia tree
- 22. Surround
- 23. Crisp and Pebbles are two

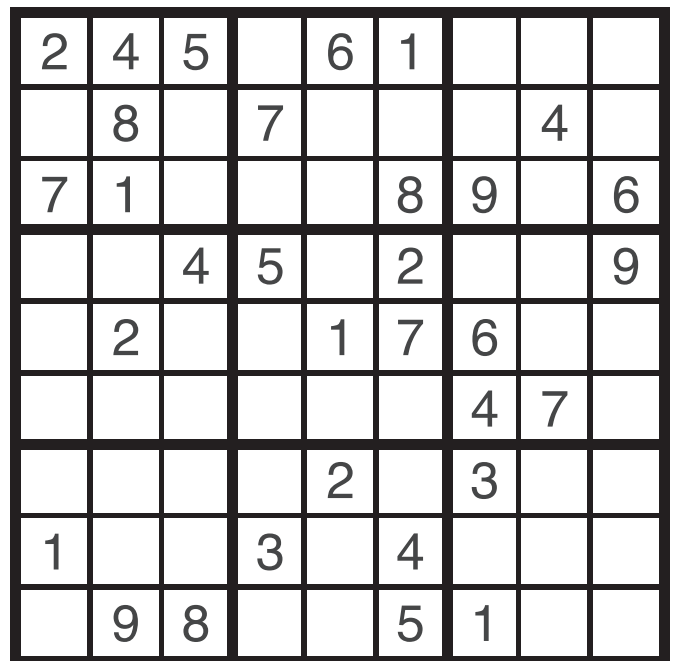
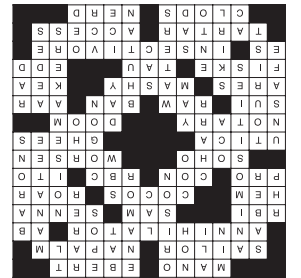
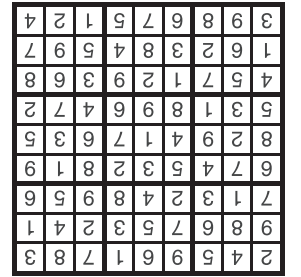
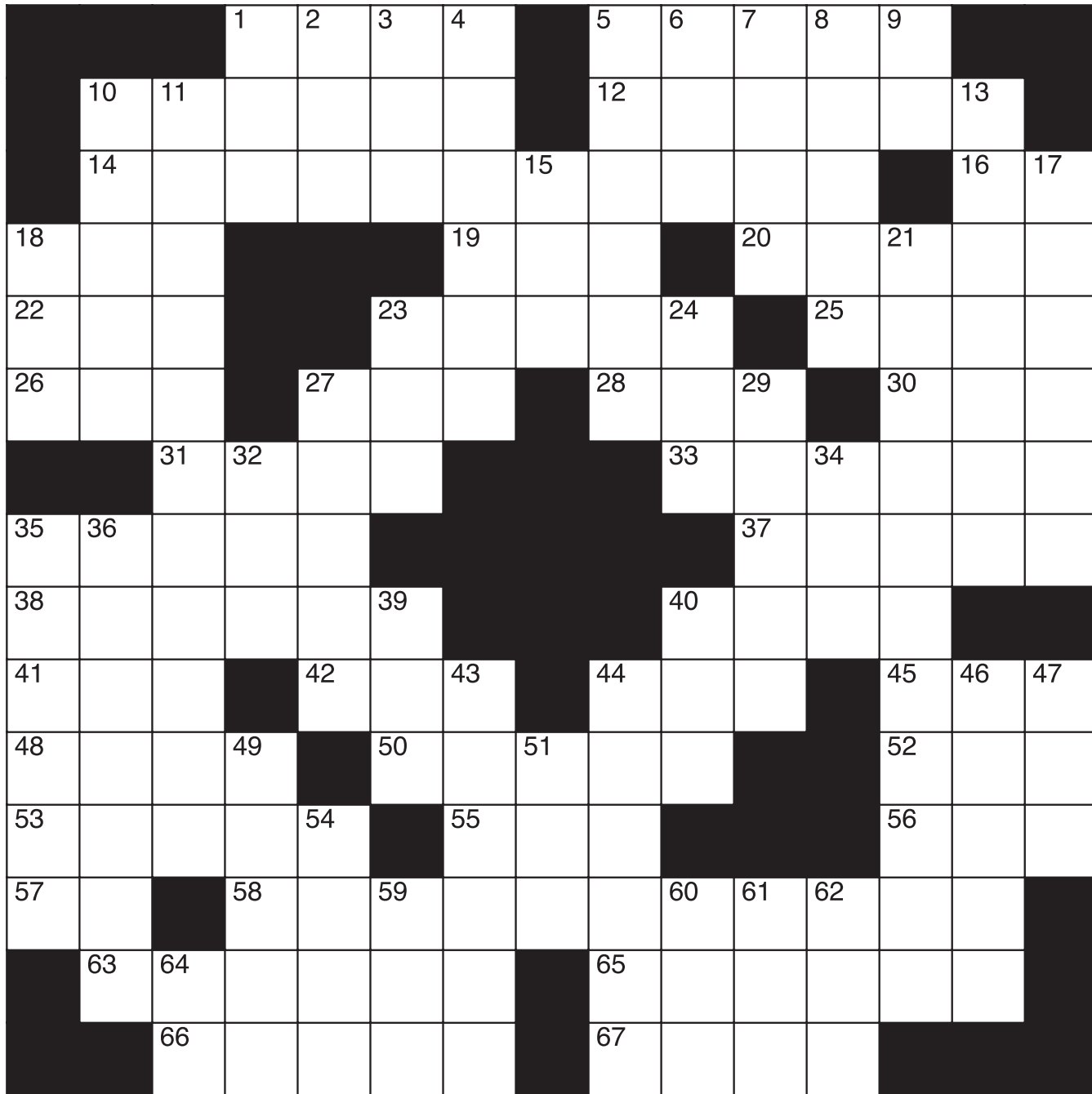
- 25. A sudden very loud sound
- 26. Affirmative
- 27. Disadvantage
- 28. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
- 30. OJ trial judge
- 31. New York art district
- 33. Become more bleak
- 35. Upstate NY city
- 37. Clarified butters
- 38. One who witnesses
- 40. Condemn

- 41. \_\_ juris
- 42. Natural
- 44. Prohibit
- 45. Swiss river
- 48. Greek war god
- 50. 5 iron
- 52. New Zealand mountain parrot
- 53. Scandinavian surname
- 55. Follows sigma
- 56. Doctor of Education
- 57. Spanish be
- 58. One that feeds on bugs
- 63. Tooth issue
- 65. Get into

- 66. Lumps of clay
  - 67. Overly studious student
- ## CLUES DOWN
- 1. Variety of Chinese
  - 2. Boxing's GOAT
  - 3. Japanese classical theater
  - 4. Prayer
  - 5. Inspire with love
  - 6. Ballplayers' accessory
  - 7. Retailer payment system
  - 8. More raw
  - 9. Atomic #81
  - 10. Fencing sword

- 11. Hostilities
- 13. Sea dweller
- 15. Resinlike substance secreted by certain insects
- 17. Businessmen
- 18. Rest here please (abbr.)
- 21. Loud devices
- 23. Make a soft murmuring sound
- 24. One point west of due south
- 27. Trout
- 29. Type of grass
- 32. South American plant
- 34. Letter of the Greek alphabet
- 35. Not secure
- 36. Traveler
- 39. Sweet potato
- 40. Period after sunrise and before sunset
- 43. Some are choppy
- 44. Asian country
- 46. Genus of mosquitoes
- 47. Cool!

- 49. Shrill, wailing sound
- 51. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- 54. Within
- 59. Unhappy
- 60. Decorate a cake with frosting
- 61. Videocassette recorder
- 62. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
- 64. It cools a home



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WRESTLING

# Wakulla advances to regional duals

By **WALT JACOBS**  
Correspondent

The seventh ranked Wakulla High wrestling team hosted and competed in the FH-SAA 1A District 2 Duals on Monday, December 30th, featuring Godby, Liberty County, Marianna, No. 9 Florida High, and No. 4 Suwannee. Wakulla and Suwannee were favored to emerge from the fray as the top two in the district. Just 10 days earlier, Suwannee demolished Florida High 57-24 and Wakulla beat Suwannee 45-32 on December 12th.

This time, however, a district title was at stake, along with an opportunity for the top two finishers to advance to the regional round of the Dual State Championship Tournament.

In Round 1, Wakulla cruised to a 69-12 victory over Marianna. The War Eagles followed that up with a 63-12 win over Liberty County. In Round 3, Wakulla blanked Godby 72-0.

In Round 4 Wakulla faced their first test of the night against Florida High. The War Eagles struck first at 215 pounds when Noah Vernon pinned Caiden Gipson with three seconds left in the first period.

Next, Blake Barodte wrestled Florida High's heavyweight Christian Ajose-Adeogun. Ajose-Adeogun had a substantial size advantage, but Barodte more than held his own and was winning 2-1 at the end of the second period. Barodte and the hometown crowd believed he had secured a takedown late in the second period that would have given



**Wyatt Brown secures the win for Wakulla pinning Nicholas Panesh.**

him a 5-1 lead, but a controversial decision by the official ruled the wrestlers out of bounds.

Thirteen seconds into the third period, Ajose-Adeogun executed a two point reversal to take a 3-2 lead. Four seconds later, Barodte escaped and tied the score up 3-3.

The two embattled warriors exhaustedly went back and forth searching for an advantage for what must have seemed like an eternity to them.

With 58 seconds remaining, Barodte attempted an outside trip and ended up beneath the colossal Seminole. Ajose-Adeogun then secured the pin and knotted the team score up at 6-6.

Florida High took the lead 11-6 when Malik Leonard won by technical fall over Brayden Hodges at 106.

In what could be considered a pivotal match, Patrick Cooksey got the Wakulla faithful

on their feet when he pinned Florida High's John Cheney in the first period.

At 120 pounds, Matthew Thaxton kept things rolling in the right direction for Wakulla with a 41 second pin over Lucas Taczak.

The War Eagles extended their lead to 21-11 when William Harvey got a 4-3 decision over Sterling Hollingsworth.

At 132 pounds, the momentum shifted back in Florida High's favor when Brayden Reed pinned Wakulla's Zach Wardrup with 14 seconds left in the first period.

Highly touted Jasper Croom of Florida High added 6 more points for the Seminoles with a pin over Caleb Thompson.

At 144 pounds, Wakulla's Troy Thaxton faced Keaton Ellis. In three previous meetings last season, Thaxton was undefeated against Ellis with wins of 8-2,

5-4, and 3-0.

Interestingly, each victory by Thaxton was in finals matches at the Gator Brawl, and the District and Regional Championships. On this occasion however, Ellis fared better with a second period pinfall over the Wakulla stand-out.

Florida High at this juncture took a 29-21 lead. From 150 to 165 pounds, Wakulla regained momentum with dominating wins.

At 150 pounds, Wakulla's Nate Jacobs got a 16-3 major decision over Terence Hinson.

At 157 pounds, Aaron Robinson made quick work of Florida High's Myles Dupont with a 16 second pinfall.

At 165 pounds, Wakulla's Gavin Mitchell continued the onslaught with a win over John Schee by pin.

With two matches remaining, Wakulla enjoyed a slim 37-29 lead over the Seminoles. A

win was still within Florida High's reach if they were able to get at least either a combination of a fall and a decision or a tech fall and a major decision in the final two matches.

At 175 pounds, Florida High's Jordan Haigler checked the first box with a victory by pin over Cole Manning.

The weight of a Wakulla win now rested solely on the shoulders of Wyatt Brown. Brown didn't leave Wakulla fans in suspense for very long, pinning Nicholas Papesch in 1:02 to secure a 43-35 victory for Wakulla over Florida High.

After the dual, Brown said, "Coach encouraged me to stay focused and do my job. I was focused on doing what was best for my team and getting the job done."

In their final dual of the evening, Wakulla faced off against Suwannee. The dual began at 285 and from the start to the end Suwannee was in control with only brief interruptions in their success, which was vastly different from the two teams previous encounter.

At 126 pounds, Wakulla's William Harvey pinned Tyler Phinney in the second period, and Nate Jacobs pinned Jonathan Gonzalez in 57 seconds at 144 pounds. By the time the dual reached 175 pounds, Suwannee had built a commanding 42-12 lead. With victory for the War Eagles out of reach, Suwannee Coach John Wainwright elected to forfeit the Bulldogs' remaining matches.

The final score was

Suwannee 42 - Wakulla 30.

Both teams advance to the regional round of the Dual State Championship tournament which will be hosted by Suwannee on January 10th.

**CRADLE CANCER INVITATIONAL**

The team traveled to Jensen Beach to compete in the Cradle Cancer Invitational on January 3rd and 4th. The tournament attracted teams from all over Florida. Perennial powers from every classification including 3A Southwest Miami (ranked 2nd), 2A Tampa Jesuit (ranked 2nd), and 1A Mater Lakes Academy (ranked 1st) were featured. NYSPHSAA State Champs Minisink Valley High School from New York, featuring the 160 pound State champion, Super 32 Champ and Penn State commit, PJ Duke made the trip as well.

Wakulla finished 22nd out of 38 teams participating. Regarding the tournament,

Coach Nate Litowsky said, "We competed in one of the toughest events of the season. Each time we step on the mat, we're improving, and I'm proud of how this team keeps rising to every challenge. The focus and work ethic are starting to show."

The War Eagles will travel to Suwannee County this weekend to compete in the Billy Saylor Duals and again on the 16th to compete in the FHSAA 1A R1 Duals.



**Auston Ryals vs. Josh Mercer, above; Julia Baggett wins.**

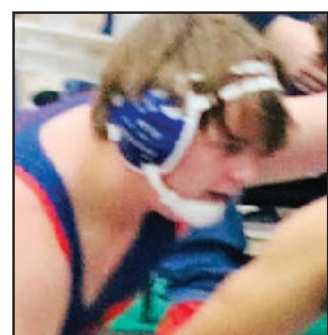
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"Our team showed real grit this week. A lot of things went wrong before the duals but the kids still earned a win over Florida High. We fell short against Suwannee, finishing second in the district. While we didn't get the top spot, we're moving on to regions this week, and the team is continuing to make strides."

Coach Nate Litowsky

Stepping into the starting lineup, Noah not only did his job but wrestled outstandingly. We expect big things from this young man as he continues to grind and develop. Great job, Noah-Keep it up!

Coach Nate Litowsky

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