



Carson Falk signs scholarship for bass fishing /Page 13



WAKULLA

WeatherSTEM

Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mostly Cloudy Hi: 82° Lo: 64° 8% Sunrise 6:54 AM Sunset 9:15 PM	Partly Cloudy Hi: 85° Lo: 64° 11% Sunrise 6:53 AM Sunset 8:15 PM	PM Thunderstorms Hi: 83° Lo: 63° 38% Sunrise 6:52 AM Sunset 8:16 PM



\$1
One Section

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Our 4th Year 18th Issue
Thursday, May 1, 2025

Pat Jones retires after 50 years with the school district: 'Blessed'



Pat Jones, center, retired as transportation director for Wakulla County Schools the first of the year. She had worked under six superintendents in her 50-plus year career and gathered with the four surviving superintendents last week: William Payne, David Miller, Bobby Pearce and current Superintendent Rick Myhre.

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

Pat Jones ran buses for Wakulla schools for 50 years, finally retiring at the beginning of this year. "If people ask me to use one word to describe my career," she said. "It would be 'Blessed.'"

Jones was honored at a school board meeting on Monday, April 21 – the meeting room was packed with family and friends. She repeated at that meeting that her working life was "Blessed by God Almighty." The comment was greeted with applause.

Jones said what made her career so special was the love of the kids, the students she was responsible for transporting everyday to and from school as the district Transportation Director. It was a job that, to hear the stories, nobody before her wanted. In her 50-plus years,

Jones worked for six superintendents: William Payne, William Whaley, Roger Stokley, David Miller, Bobby Pearce and Rick Myhre. On Monday before the school board meeting, the four surviving superintendents – Payne, Miller, Pearce and Myhre

Turn to Page 9

Prime Meridian Bank is selling to credit union

Special to The Sun

MidFlorida Credit Union, a leading financial institution headquartered in Lakeland, has announced its intent to acquire Prime Meridian Holding Company and its wholly-owned subsidiary, Prime Meridian Bank, a respected community bank based in Tallahassee. This represents MIDFLORIDA's third bank acquisition in the past five years and will expand the credit union's footprint into Florida's panhandle. Upon completion, the combined entity will boast \$9.5 billion in assets, \$7.2 billion in loans, 1,578 employees, and 66 branches. Prime Meridian Bank currently operates four Florida offices: two in Tallahassee, one in Crawfordville, and one in Lakeland. The bank is widely recognized for its culture of personalized client service, commercial lending portfolio and well-established mortgage operation.

"We built a bank based on a culture of service to our clients, our team and our community," said Sammie Dixon, Prime Meridian's Vice Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer. "We recognized the strength in being able to adapt to change and it is fitting we now find ourselves in a position to bring physical locations to MidFlorida's opera-

Turn to Page 3

Girl killed in car crash, sister critically injured

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

An 18-year-old Crawfordville girl was killed in a car crash last week, and her 13-year-old sister, who was a passenger in the car, was critically injured, according to the Florida Highway Patrol. The accident occurred around 4 p.m. on Wednesday, April 23, on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Road just east of Cajal Posey Road. For unknown reasons, the sedan exited the roadway onto the north shoulder while negotiating a curve to the left, then re-entered the westbound lane and crossed over the center line. The car began rotating clockwise before striking several trees and overturning into the wood line. Both driver and passenger were transported to Tallahassee Memorial Hospital and the 18-year-old was pronounced deceased. FHP did not identify the victims, but they are Keeley Hand, who was killed; and sister Kiley. A fish fry fundraiser is set for May 24th to raise money for the family's expenses. (Please see ad for the fish fry on Page 13.)

ANNUAL STEPHEN C. SMITH MEMORIAL REGATTA



Windsurfers and other sailors were out at Shell Point this weekend for the Stephen Smith Memorial Regatta, an annual fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. Above, the race starts for novice windsurfer. (Photo by Gerald Brown)

Miss Wakulla is crowned

Special to The Sun

Congratulations to our new 2025 Miss Wakulla County Queens! Abigail Lawhon was crowned the 2025 Miss Wakulla County on Saturday, April 26th, at the Wakulla High School Auditorium. Abigail is the daughter of Shawn and Laura Lawhon. The contestants competed in the areas of scholastic and community achievement, short essay, personal interview, personal introduction, on-stage question, evening gown and an on-stage finalist question. Abigail also won Best Interview. Along with being crowned Miss Wakulla County, Abigail has won



Miss Wakulla Abigail Lawhon, Junior Miss Addy Lee, Young Miss Mckinley Perry, Little Miss Wakulla Lynley Bryan, and Tiny Miss Avyn Bryan.

a \$1,500 scholarship. First Runner Up was Kylie Lassiter, 2nd Runner Up was Madi-

son Hurley, 3rd Runner Up Kathryn Taff. Vanessa Foreman won the Scholastic &

Community Achievement award and voted on by her peers as Miss Congeniality. Junior Miss Wakulla is Addy Lee. She is the daughter of Nicholas and Kelsey Lee. Mckinley Perry was crowned Young Miss Wakulla. She is the daughter of Chad and Cara Perry. First Runner Up was Abigail Mckenzie and 2nd Runner Up Presely Hicks. Lynley Bryan was crowned Little Miss Wakulla. She is the daughter of Jeffrey and Heather Bryan. First Runner Up is Brynn Strutz. Avyn Bryan was crowned Tiny Miss Wakulla. She is the daughter of Jeffrey and Heather Bryan. First

Turn to Page 13

Man injured in jet ski explosion

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

A 76-year-old Tallahassee man was injured and transported to Tallahassee Memorial Hospital on Tuesday, April 22, after a personal watercraft he was on exploded and caught fire. Wakulla County Sheriff Sgt. Heather Will, who worked the incident, said the craft blew up and cast the man 10 feet in the air at the St. Marks Boat Ramp. He came down in the river, and St. Marks City workers pulled him from the water, Sgt. Will said. The craft was on fire and the city workers flipped it over in the river to extinguish the flames. The man sustained non-life-threatening injuries, Will said. She said the man believed his ankles were broken. A 55-year-old friend of the man said the two had been working on the craft before the explosion.



Remains of the watercraft in St. Marks

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Student of the Week

Brody Zeh – 8th grader at Riversprings Middle

Principal: Josh Sandgren

Achievements/Reason for Nomination: Brody Zeh is an eighth grader at Riversprings Middle School. He is a pitcher, first baseman, and 3rd baseman for the RMS Bear's Baseball Team. Brody also plays baseball for the Diamond Dawgs travel team. He is an active member of the Authentic Life Church youth group. Brody is currently enrolled in multiple high school credit courses and maintains a 4.0 GPA. His favorite part of RMS is getting to see his friends. Brody is the definition of a RMS Bear.




STUDENT OF THE WEEK FEATURES A DIFFERENT SCHOOL EACH WEEK.

Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park

Helmet skullcap

By LYNN ARTZ, DAVID RODDENBERRY, and SANDY TEDDER



Helmet skullcap (Scutellaria integrifolia) is a small wildflower with purplish-blue flowers that resemble snapdragon blooms. The fused upper petals form a small hood or helmet. The fused petals of the lower lip have two white stripes. The flowers attach by short stalks to an upright flower stem. The lowest flowers open first. The stem continues to grow and produce more flowers. Like most mints, the blooms mainly attract bees. Butterflies, moths, and flies also visit. Birds relish the nutlets of this prolific reseed-er. Also called rough skullcap, helmet skullcap grows 1-2 feet tall in full sun and a wide variety of soils. It occurs naturally in sandhills and pine flatwoods as well as along marsh, stream, and swamp edges. Helmet skullcap is flowering now at the pond edge in Sopchoppy Depot Park.

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OFFICE - CRAWFORDVILLE



Prime Meridian

From Front Page

tions in the Big Bend area. The opportunities for our employees (all of whom will be retained by Midflorida), and the expanded resources available to our clients, are huge,” Dixon added.

Steve Moseley, President and Chief Executive Officer of Midflorida Credit Union, echoed this sentiment. “As Florida’s community credit union we are already serving the panhandle in a lending capacity with mortgage, auto and commercial business loans. This acquisition will provide branches in the market to fuel additional growth in both consumer and business banking.”

Known for offering the convenience of extended drive-thru hours (7 a.m. to 7 p.m.) and full-service Saturday hours, Midflorida provides a full range of products and services designed to rival any large bank – while maintaining the personalized service of a community institution.

“While many financial institutions are leaving the branch model behind, Midflorida and Prime Meridian share the belief that in-person, in-branch service – coupled with convenient digital options – is an important win for customers,” shared Chris David, Chief Operations Officer with Midflorida.

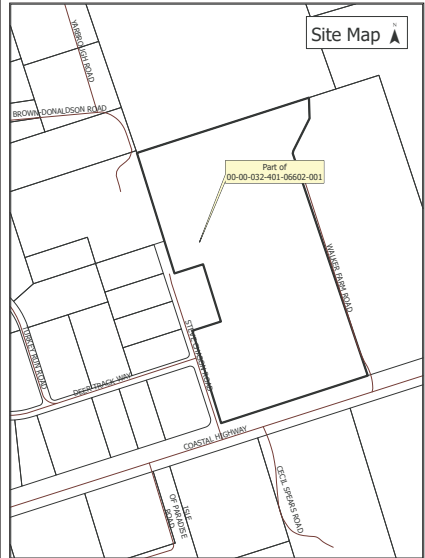
Midflorida’s agreement to acquire Prime Meridian has been unanimously approved by each institution’s board of directors. Subject to regulatory and Prime Meridian shareholder approvals and customary closing conditions, the acquisition is expected to take place in 2026. Prime Meridian shareholders will receive \$58.50 in cash for each share owned subject to adjustment as set forth in the merger agreement between Midflorida and Prime Meridian Holding Company.



Chuck Turner and Lew Moore at Prime Meridian’s customer appreciation day on April 15th.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING AN APPLICATION FOR CONDITIONAL USE

The Wakulla County Planning Commission proposes to consider the following application. A Public Hearing is scheduled regarding the following before the **Planning Commission on Monday, May 12, 2025, beginning at 6:00 P.M., unless otherwise noted below or as time permits.** All public hearings will be held at the County Commission Chambers located west of the County Courthouse at 29 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida 32327. Interested parties are invited to attend and present testimony.



1. Application for Conditional Use: CU25-02
Applicant: Welch’s II, LLC
Agent: Edwin Brown & Associates, Inc./ Wade Brown
Proposal: borrow pit
Tax ID Number: part of 00-00-032-401-06602-001

Existing FLU Map: Agriculture (FLUE Policy 1.2.3)
Current Zoning: AG (Section 5-25, LDC) & RR-1 (Section 5-27, LDC)
FEMA Flood Info: “X” & “0.2PCT” zone on Panel 0250E
Parcel size: 46.54+/- acres (project 4.99+/- acres)
Location: 111 Steve Chason Road, Walker Farm Subdivision, Lot 1

Hearings Required: Planning Commission: Monday, May 12, 2025 @ 6:00 PM

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

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

May 1, 2025

City of Sopchoppy Notice of Public Meeting

The City of Sopchoppy Depot Committee is holding a Public Meeting
Thursday, May 8, 2025 at 4:30 p.m.
The purpose of this meeting is for general planning purposes and will be held at the Sopchoppy Depot, 34 Rose Street, Sopchoppy, FL.

Persons with a disability needing a special accommodation should contact the City of Sopchoppy at least two (2) days prior to the meeting at (850)962-4611.

May 1, 2025

City of Sopchoppy Notice of Public Meeting

The City of Sopchoppy will hold a regular monthly meeting on **Monday, May 12, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.** The meeting will be held at City Hall, 105 Municipal Avenue, Sopchoppy, FL.

Purpose of Meeting: General Business.

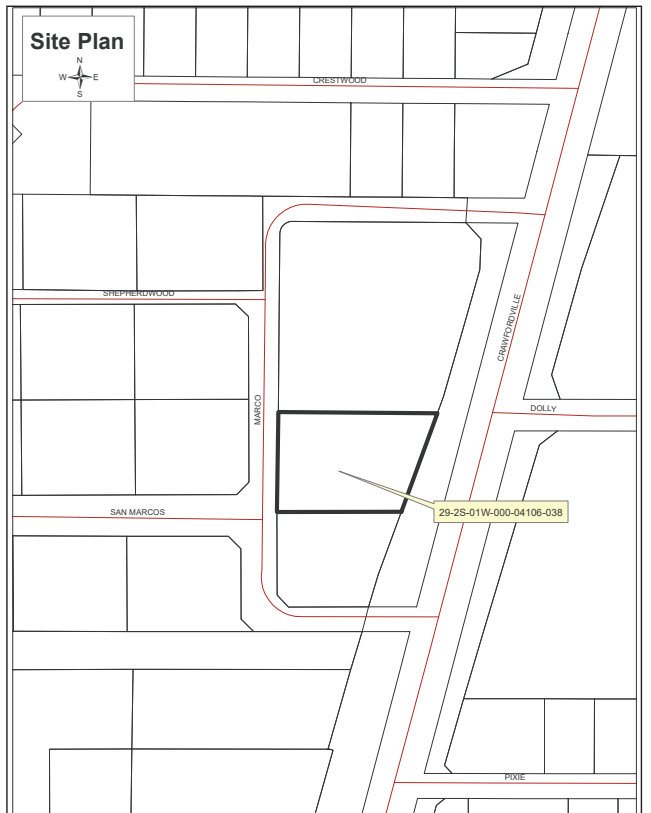
If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the board, agency, or commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Persons with a disability needing a special accommodation should contact the City of Sopchoppy, Administration Office at least two (2) days prior to the meeting at (850) 962-4611.

May 1, 2025

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING AN APPLICATION FOR CONDITIONAL USE

The Wakulla County Planning Commission proposes to consider the following application. A Public Hearing is scheduled regarding the following before the **Planning Commission on Monday, May 12, 2025, beginning at 6:00 P.M., unless otherwise noted below or as time permits.** All public hearings will be held at the County Commission Chambers located west of the County Courthouse at 29 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida 32327. Interested parties are invited to attend and present testimony.



1. Application for Conditional Use: CU25-01
Applicant: Leonard Brownell
Agent: CWB Engineering, LLC/Caleb Brown
Proposal: auto glass repair
Tax ID Number: 29-2S-01W-000-04106-038
Existing FLU Map: Rural 2 (FLUE Policy 1.2.5)
Current Zoning: C-2 (Section 5-38, LDC)
FEMA Flood Info: “X” zone on Panel 0100E
Parcel size: 1.25+/- acres
Location: 15 Marco Road, River Sink Estates, Lot 2

Hearings Required: Planning Commission: Monday, May 12, 2025 @ 6:00 PM

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

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May 1, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICES:

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



More Public Notices appear on Page 13.

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF WAKULLA COUNTY ANNOUNCES THE FOLLOWING:

EVENT: School Board Meeting
DATE: Monday, May 19, 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

May 1, 2025

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS CONCERNING AN APPLICATION FOR CHANGE OF ZONING

The Wakulla County Planning Commission and Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners propose to consider the following application and/or adopt the following by ordinance and has scheduled Public Hearings before the **Wakulla County Planning Commission on Monday, May 12, 2025, beginning at 6:00 P.M.** and before the **Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners on Monday, May 19, 2025, beginning at 5:00 PM,** or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard. All public hearings will be held at the County Commission Chambers located west of the County Courthouse at 29 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida 32327. Interested parties are invited to attend and present testimony.



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

1. Application for Change of Zoning: R25-02
Applicant: Golden Construction Company, Inc.
Agent: Robert Miller
Proposal: rezone from semi-rural residential to low density residential
Tax ID Number: 00-00-059-000-10035-004
Existing FLU Map: Urban Fringe (FLUE Policy 1.2.7)
Current Zoning: RR-1 (Section 5-27, LDC)
Proposed Zoning: LDR (Section 5-68, LDC)
FEMA Flood Info: “X” zone on Panel 0250E
Parcel size: 3.61+/- acres
Location: north side of Shadeville Road, west of Powell Lane

Hearings Required: Planning Commission: Monday, May 12, 2025 @ 6:00 PM
BOCC: Monday, May 19, 2025 @ 5:00 PM

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

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May 1, 2025

FOLLOW THE SUN.

– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

Polled at Prime Meridian Bank’s Customer Appreciation Day Luncheon:
What was your first bank loan for?



GUINN HASKINS
Retired – Wakulla Times

“It was for a house, it had 13 rooms, on 8 acres and cost \$8,000.”



JOSH THOMPSON
Just a Geek

“I have never taken out a bank loan. I was very lucky to have a grandmother who left me a small inheritance.”



KEN NABORS
Retired

“My first one was to buy a car, a 1953 Chevrolet and the loan was for one year at \$37 a month. Later I opened a welding shop business and took out lots of loans.”



DAVID MILLER
Retired Superintendent of Schools

“I think it was for a mobile home, the payments were \$119 a month, it had no air. I sold some livestock and bought my motorcycle, It was a Yamaha 305.”



ELAINE MOORE
Retired – Wakulla Gas

“It was for a house. My husband and I were married for 65 years and we lived 15 of those years in that house.”

Wakulla Station News

By **VERNA BROCK**

This past week, following the celebration of Easter and all the promise it holds, has been one filled with sadness and grief. The loss of another young, shining light in our community has paused the frenetic pace of life. Neighbors gather to offer prayers and support to yet another grieving family, even as their youngest daughter continues to recover. Accidents such as these, with the devastating losses that accompany them, can leave scars that last a lifetime. How do we as a community, and as individuals, respond?

Whether we have a faith to lean into, or simply a heart that shares others’ pain, we each can identify the weight of tragedy when we see it. For believers, prayer is a given. For everyone, we can put our shock and sorrow into action by reaching out. When we are able to give in some small way, we ease our pain. But our responses also envelope the grieving with our love and support.

This past weekend I received word of the loss of another friend, Janet Schneider. After a long battle with illness, Janet left us. She was a devoted wife, mother, nurse and friend. Every day, someone in our small communi-

ty is gone, and we are left to process and remember. That process seems to ebb and flow as the days slip by. Random things, usually unexpected and small, will trigger memories that flood us with pangs of sadness. But eventually, the sting of sorrow transforms into the warmth of quiet joy. We slowly begin to know gratitude for the time we shared versus the weight of moments unfulfilled.

The journey is always difficult. There is no easy way to find peace when we lose a loved one. I believe we will always bear the scars of losing someone precious to our hearts. The scars will be tender for a very long time, perhaps our entire lives. But we heal, and begin to move forward with small, faltering steps. For those

of us watching, our job is to offer the steadying hand, the strong shoulder, to be ready to catch those who feel broken and falling. It can make all the difference in the world to have that loving support!

For me, personally, the first step is prayer. It is where my heart turns, crying out to God to envelope the brokenhearted with comfort and peace. So today, I am praying for them, and all the ones I know to be struggling with the burden of grief. If you feel moved, please join me in lifting the grieving in prayer.

This coming Sunday the Wakulla UMC will celebrate Communion at the 10 a.m. service, followed by a covered-dish dinner. All are welcome to join us! Hope to see you there.

Medart School of Music recital is Saturday

Special to The Sun

The Medart School of Music will be having its Spring recitals on Saturday, May 3rd at the Ochlockonee Bay United Methodist Church located at 2780 Surf Road.

There will be performances at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Come enjoy a variety of music performed on a variety of instruments by these young musicians!

Students performing at the 11

a.m. recital include Ariel Roe, Lulu Fenenbock, Isabella Laughlin, Kaylee Keays, Gabi Morales, Poppy Yost, Brooks Loper, Nina Fox, Ava Lucas, Ryan Ladwig, Lauretta Compton, Harper Arkenberg, Bella Sutton, Ariel Revell, Fabiola Larregui, Isabella Larregui, Titus Williams, Olivia Davis, Lylah Tull and Olive Kelly.

Students performing at the 2 p.m. recital include Sabian Jett, Latesha Monroe, Ruari Robinson, Joe Miller, Liam Miller, Brooklyn Ruggless,

Hudson Kauffman, Ivy Kauffman, Kylee Campbell, Liam Campbell, Alexandria Coronel, Celia Whittle, Jacob Perry, Walker Roberts, Morghan Courson, Madalyn Carraway and Lydia Brown.

Other students who attend the Medart School of Music include Brayden Barlar, Laila Francis, Eliana Howard, Blaiden Ward, Addison Wells, Riley Solano, Gary Diskerud, Lily Bridges, Coner Bridges, Raelyn Prentiss, Wyatt Prentiss, Easton Rundles, Gideon

Ely, Zander Sweatt, Ella Yost, Paige Peckham, Jaden Brawer, Sophia Rae Louise Shelton, Emma Reams, Jaccey Gilstrap, Wyatt Hawkins, James Patterson, Luna Petrizzo, Marlene Meeks, Martha Coggins, Kenny Hughes and Trixie Smith.

At the Medart School of Music we offer lessons for ages 4 to adults Monday - Saturday in piano, organ, voice, woodwinds, brass, percussion, violin, guitar, ukulele and music theory.



Wakulla High School Theatre presents ‘Big Fish the Musical’

Join Troupe 5036 and Edward Bloom as they teach you how to be the hero of your own story with Big Fish the Musical! This show features 40 student actors, 12 students working backstage and dozens of others who have worked on the set and props for the show. Join us for this magical journey through Edward’s life May 1st, 2nd and 3rd at 6:30 p.m. and Sunday, May 4th at 2:30 p.m. Student

tickets are \$5 and adult tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the door. Each night will feature a themed raffle basket up for grabs and all proceeds go directly towards the theatre program and its students. Be sure to come and support this large group of students and learn how to dream bigger than you ever thought possible with Big Fish the Musical.



Ribs & Butts fundraiser



Cone Distributing’s Team Cone and English Financial joined for a Ribs & Butts barbecue on Friday, April 25 to raise money for local causes – including the annual Sleep in Heavenly Peace bed build for kids with no bed. At left, Jordan Lee of English Financial and Kenny Kinsey of Team Cone at the grill. (Photos by Lynda Kinsey)

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Outdoors

outdoor sports

HOME ON THE RANGE

How to get your gal to let you buy another gun



By MARJ LAW

“I need another 9mm handgun,” says Joe a few months after we meet.

“Another?” I ask. “You have more guns than any one person needs. No. We don’t need another one in the gun safe. No.”

How does a guy expand his collection when his significant other wants nothing to do with it?

Guns were surely not my interest. When it comes to interest, I for one, have in mind we would like to go antiquing, cook for friends, and try out some of those continuing education classes.

I asked ‘way back then: “What do you enjoy in your spare time?”

Well, Joe likes hunting, target practicing and fishing.

Our interests are certainly not the same. How do we blend them?

Joe has figured the answer to this one.

He disparages my ancient Saturday Night Special that had given me a false sense of security when I lived alone.

“Let me give you a real gun!” he offers, and purchases a Ruger Mark III 22/45. We go to the

Wakulla County Sheriff’s Office range.

You can’t miss the target with this long-barreled .22 Ruger. It’s a great beginner gun. There’s hardly any recoil, a light trigger pull, and a long barrel that helps to ensure accuracy. In short, even a rank beginner can shoot holes in the target and look great doing so. The Browning Buckmark and the Smith & Wesson Victory are also wonderful .22s that’ll make beginners look good.

Hitting the target is fun. I have instant success with that .22. I meet other women and men who enjoy hitting the targets, too. With .22s, we learn rules of the range, proper grip, not to flinch, and to make a good stance, among other things.

Well, guys, this is how Joe hooked me into the sport. Instead of sitting at home doing crossword puzzles like my mother did, I get to be outdoors, meet new friends, and practice harder each week to make holes in the bull’s-eye. Yes, I’m hooked.

Now, some gals prefer to learn to shoot by someone other than their husbands. They may want a woman’s advice, or they may want to join a group. Over the last 15 years, Joe and I have assisted those new to shooting on Wednesday mornings at the WCSO range around 10. We practice with friends who also enjoy hitting the targets.

Anyway, let’s go back in time. I realize the .22 I’m learning on is too long to wear comfortably in a holster and too heavy to lug in a purse.



Ruger Mark III 22/45

Great 1st Handgun
Low Recoil
Light Trigger
Accurate
(Red Dot Added)

What to do?

Since new shooters are often told that while a .22 is a great target gun, it isn’t sufficiently powerful to use as a defensive weapon. Over the months, I’d made many holes in the bull’s-eyes with that .22. “It’s time to move on,” I think.

I’d like a gun to conceal in my purse, and that I can wear in a holster next to my body.

I really do need a .380. A person can have 2 handguns, right? One for target shooting and one for defense. The Smith & Wesson .380 EZ is a compact gun that can fit in a purse or holster. Other .380s are also compact. So, I’m rationalizing the need to have to have a .380.

Like the .22, the .380 EZ has light recoil and a grip that fits a small hand. Even with its shorter barrel, the .380 is nicely accurate.

Blam! Blam! Blam!

Hey, I’m getting rather good at this! Now I have a target gun and a defensive gun. Well, sort of a defensive gun. Some people, though, don’t consider the .380 much of a defensive

handgun.

“You otta try a 9mm,” advises a male range friend. “If there ever comes a time when you need self-defense, you’ll want at least a 9mm handgun.”

“Isn’t my .380 good enough?” I wonder, but am starting to be interested.

“It’s OK.” However, he looks unconvinced. “But a 9 has more take-down power. If a bad guy is hopped up on drugs and decides to attack you, a 9mm handgun will be more likely to stop him from hurting you or your children.”

“Like which one?” I ask.

“The Sig Sauer 365 9mm is a good gun.” He looks down at my hands. “With your small hands,” he begins, “you’ll be able to get a good grip.”

He just so happens to own the Sig 365 and brings it to the range the following Wednesday for me to try out.

Like the .380, I find that this Sig 365 shoots very accurately. Cool. Recoil is firmer than the S&W .380, but it’s controllable. So, yes, I think I might need the 9mm handgun,

and I like the way this one handles. Maybe I should have a handgun with more take-down power. Especially when Joe works out of town.

But having a third handgun? Aren’t two enough? I’m too parsimonious to purchase yet another handgun.

Joe is quite clever. At Christmas that year, I open a smallish rectangular box. Yes, it’s that Sig 365 I like so well.

And now I have three. Each has its own use.

The .22 is for target shooting and ego building because you just can’t miss the target with the Ruger Mark III. The .380 sits on my bedside table, in case Mr. Bad breaks down the door intending great harm. And finally, the 9mm Sig for personal protection. I have a way cool sticky holster for the Sig. With this holster, the Sig fits within the waistband of my pants or in my purse.

Three guns is a little over the top, but I’ve learned quite a lot about handguns. In fact, I’m a pretty good shooter. At the 7-yard targets, anyway.

It’s enough of a confidence boost to make me consider the competition at the WCSO range. Wouldn’t it be nice to try competing with a gun which has a long barrel like my .22, but also the strength of the 9mm? That would make a fine competition gun.

Somehow, a fourth handgun ends up in the gun safe. I need it. Right?

And this is the story of how Joe got me hooked in handguns. I’ve learned that different handguns suit different purposes, so we need more than 1 gun each.

Now Joe wants yet another 9mm? I sigh. I’ve learned the truth of: “If you can’t beat ‘em, join ‘em.”

Over the years, we have merged our interests. Joe will go happily to look at antiques with me. He is ready and able to help cooking dinner for friends. We save a lot by eating venison from his hunting instead of using hamburger in lasagna and tacos. His teaching about handguns is now my continuing education class. We visit the WCSO range, assisting newbies and practicing with range friends.

If you want another gun in your house, learn from Joe. First, involve your significant other in shooting, making certain she/he gets a gun that is simple to shoot. After she becomes proficient with this one, it will simply follow that she’ll need another gun. And maybe another.

As you can see, this is Joe’s clever way of: 1) involving me in his favorite hobby, and 2) helping me understand the absolute necessity of owning yet another handgun.

Sigh.

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



SHEEPSHEAD
(Archosargus probatocephalus)

A handsome black and white fish with a hard mouth and both incisor like and grinding teeth for crushing prey. Sheepshead are found wherever there is an abundance of crustaceans, barnacles, mussels and oysters. They are often caught by fishermen in brackish waters, preferring temperatures >60° to 65°F. Sheepshead are wary and are known to gently nibble all the bait off a hook with the large protruding teeth. They can grow to a length of about 30” and weight up to 20-25 lbs (the average is 5-15 lbs).

Eukarya, Animalia, Cordata, Actinopterygii, Siluriformes, Sparidae

Gulf Specimen Marine Laboratory
www.gulfspecimen.org

Wakulla
Lawn Ranger

Gene
Darby

850-251-9122

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Edging - Trimming
Sidewalk/Driveways
Pressurewashing
Landscaping

Licensed & Insured
Great Prices - Great Work

Palm Tree
Trimming

WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO

Retired Wakulla Springs State Park Ranger Bob Thompson, on his weekly wildlife survey at the park last week, took this photo of spider lilies.

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



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Thursday 1

Sun rise/set
6:53AM
8:14PM

Moon rise/set
10:03AM
12:03AM

Moon Illumination 20%

Friday 2

Sun rise/set
6:52AM
8:15PM

Moon rise/set
11:09AM
1:03AM

Moon Illumination 30%

Saturday 3

Sun rise/set
6:51AM
8:15PM

Moon rise/set
12:15PM
1:53AM

Moon Illumination 40%

Sunday 4

Sun rise/set
6:50AM
8:16PM

Moon rise/set
1:18PM
2:34AM

Moon Illumination 51%

Monday 5

Sun rise/set
6:49AM
8:17PM

Moon rise/set
2:18PM
3:09AM

Moon Illumination 61%

Tuesday 6

Sun rise/set
6:48AM
8:17PMMoon rise/set
3:14PM
3:39AM

Moon Illumination 70%

Wednesday 7

Sun rise/set
6:48AM
8:18PMMoon rise/set
4:08PM
4:05AM

Moon Illumination 79%

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., 31 Min.

Cat Point 1 Hr., 13 Min. 2 Hrs., 3 Min.

Lower Anchorage 1 Hr., 36 Min. 2 Hrs., 3 Min.

West Pass 1 Hr., 26 Min. 2 Hrs., 39 Min.

Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

May 1 - May 7



Tide charts by
tides4fishing.com



First
May 4

Full
May 12

Last
May 20

New
May 26

Best fishing days this month
May 1-12, 26-31

Thursday 1

Minor Times
11:18PM
9:18AM

Major Times
3:48AM
4:19PM

Friday 2

Minor Times
12:18AM
10:24AM

Major Times
4:50AM
5:19PM

Saturday 3

Minor Times
1:08AM
11:30AM

Major Times
5:47AM
6:14PM

Sunday 4

Minor Times
1:49AM
12:33PM

Major Times
6:39AM
7:03PM

Monday 5

Minor Times
2:24AM
1:33PM

Major Times
7:25AM
7:47PM

Tuesday 6

Minor Times
2:54AM
2:29PMMajor Times
8:08AM
8:29PM

Wednesday 7

Minor Times
3:20AM
3:23PMMajor Times
8:49AM
9:08PM

St. Marks River Entrance

Th

12:35 am
▼ -0.7 ft

6:51 am
▲ 2.7 ft

11:36 am
▼ 1.7 ft

4:59 pm
▲ 3.8 ft

Fr

1:29 am
▼ -0.4 ft

7:51 am
▲ 2.4 ft

12:12 pm
▼ 1.2 ft

5:39 pm
▲ 3.5 ft

Sa

2:31 am
▼ 0.0 ft

9:06 am
▲ 2.2 ft

1:02 pm
▼ 1.9 ft

6:26 pm
▲ 3.1 ft

Su

3:44 am
▼ 0.4 ft

10:31 am
▲ 2.2 ft

2:34 pm
▼ 1.9 ft

7:42 pm
▲ 2.7 ft

Mo

5:00 am
▼ 0.6 ft

11:34 am
▲ 2.4 ft

4:54 pm
▼ 1.8 ft

10:21 pm
▲ 2.4 ft

Tu

6:06 am
▼ 0.8 ft

12:15 pm
▲ 2.6 ft

6:34 pm
▼ 1.4 ft

We

12:11 am
▲ 2.5 ft

6:55 am
▼ 0.9 ft

12:48 pm
▲ 2.8 ft

7:30 pm
▼ 0.9 ft

City of St. Marks

Th

6:31 am
▲ 3.1 ft

10:59 am
▼ 1.9 ft

4:47 pm
▲ 4.1 ft

Fr

12:46 am
▼ -0.5 ft

7:29 am
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11:39 am
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5:28 pm
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Su

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7:42 pm
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Mo

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11:03 am
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10:14 pm
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Tu

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▲ 3.0 ft

5:51 pm
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11:52 pm
▲ 2.8 ft

We

6:05 am
▼ 0.9 ft

12:23 pm
▲ 3.2 ft

6:46 pm
▼ 1.0 ft

Shell Point, Spring Creek

Th

6:07 am
▲ 2.1 ft

10:43 am
▼ 1.3 ft

4:15 pm
▲ 3.0 ft

Fr

12:36 am
▼ -0.3 ft

7:07 am
▲ 1.9 ft

11:19 am
▼ 1.4 ft

4:55 pm
▲ 2.8 ft

Sa

1:38 am
▼ 0.0 ft

8:22 am
▲ 1.8 ft

12:09 pm
▼ 1.5 ft

5:42 pm
▲ 2.5 ft

Su

2:51 am
▼ 0.3 ft

9:47 am
▲ 1.8 ft

1:41 pm
▼ 1.6 ft

6:58 pm
▲ 2.2 ft

Mo

4:07 am
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9:37 pm
▲ 1.9 ft

Tu

5:13 am
▼ 0.6 ft

11:31 am
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11:27 pm
▲ 2.0 ft

We

6:02 am
▼ 0.8 ft

12:04 pm
▲ 2.3 ft

6:37 pm
▼ 0.7 ft

Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay

Th

6:41 am
▲ 2.3 ft

10:23 am
▼ 1.9 ft

4:20 pm
▲ 3.3 ft

Fr

12:21 am
▼ -0.5 ft

7:54 am
▲ 2.1 ft

10:54 am
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Sa

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Su

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St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.

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4:20 pm
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5:08 pm
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Dog Island West End

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10:53 am
▼ 2.0 ft

4:40 pm
▲ 2.8 ft

Fr

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11:31 pm
▲ 1.8 ft

We

6:03 am
▼ 0.9 ft

12:10 pm
▲ 2.1 ft

7:05 pm
▼ 0.8 ft

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



Coast Guard Auxiliary Reports

By Carolyn Brown Treadon



Over the next month, we will be sharing safe boating information from the Coast Guard in support of National Safe Boating Week.

The Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary celebrate National Safe Boating Week, May 17 through May 23, and urge mariners and beachgoers to be safe this Memorial Day weekend.

Memorial Day weekend is considered by many as the unofficial start to the recreational boating season. As boaters take to the water, there is an increased likelihood for search and rescue situations, mechanical failures and accidents.

Continuing from last week, where instruction was known, 75% of deaths occurred on boats where the operator did not receive boating safety instruction. Only 15% percent of deaths occurred on vessels where the operator had received a nationally-approved boating safety education certificate. Where data was known, navigation rules violations were a contributing factor in 53% of acci-



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

dents, 34% of deaths, and 60% of injuries.

The Boat America is one boating certificate class that offers an in-depth and interesting boating safety course, and provides the knowledge needed to obtain a boating certificate.

Some insurance companies will also offer discounts on boating insurance to boaters who successfully complete this course. Topics include:

- Introduction to Boating – Types of power boats, boating vocabulary, sailboats, paddle boats, powerboats, and engine types.
- Boating Law – Boat registration, regulations, hull identification numbers, required safety equipment, Federal boating law, state boating law, and reporting acci-

dents.

- Safety Equipment – Life jackets, fire extinguishers, sound-producing devices, visual distress signals, anchors, and other safety equipment.
- Safe Operation and Navigation – Buoys and beacons, aids to navigation, navigation rules, docking, and the dangers of alcohol on the water.
- Boating Emergencies – Hypothermia, boating accidents, man overboard, capsizing, emergency radio calls, carbon monoxide dangers, and weather.
- Trailering – Types of trailers, lights, hitches, towing a trailer.
- Sports and Boating – Water-skiing, hunting and hunting gear, PWC operation, and other boating

tips.

Thanks to Sherrie, we will always remember safe boating is no accident! Check back next week for more information from the 2023 Recreational Safe Boating report.

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

Please contact us for more information about our safe boating classes or learning more about getting involved in the Auxiliary, check out our website at www.uscgaux.net follow us on FaceBook @ Apalachee Bay Flotilla 12 or contact our Flotilla Commander Norma Hill at njhill@ballstate.bsu.edu.

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

Snook harvest closes May 1

From FWC News

The recreational harvest of snook in the Panhandle, Big Bend, Tampa Bay, Sarasota Bay, Charlotte Harbor and Southwest management regions will close May 1. The recreational harvest season will reopen Sept. 1, in the Panhandle, Big Bend, Tampa Bay and Sarasota Bay

management regions. The recreational harvest season will reopen Oct. 1, in the Charlotte Harbor and Southwest management regions. Within each region, this includes all Florida state and inland waters as well as adjacent federal waters.

Big Bend
Open season:
March 1-April 30 and

Sept. 1-Nov. 30

Closed season:
Dec. 1-end of February and May 1-Aug. 31

Bag limit: One fish per person per day
Slot limit: 28–33 inches total length

B o u n d a r i e s :
The western coastal boundary is at 84°20.800 west longitude in Franklin County near Alligator

Point. The region extends east and south to Fred Howard Park, near the border of Pasco and Pinellas counties. Includes all waters of the Ochlockonee, Withlacoochee, and Anclote rivers and their tributaries. The management region extends inland, as shown on the map, and into adjacent federal waters.

Underwater

By Gregg Stanton

Wakulla

I live underground. June 9, 2011

I became interested in subterranean habitation when I had an opportunity to live underwater.

As a graduate student participating in the Scientist-In-The-Sea Program, I spent days living in an underwater house called a habitat. The effect was so profound that it altered my perception of what was possible, to include the bizarre.

First I noticed that living underwater meant I had a constant temperature, regulated by my surrounding environment.

Then weather became less of a concern, what with 50 feet of water above me to buffer inclement storms, I could remain safely tucked away from harm's way.

And, of course, sitting next to a coral reef to visit for 12 hours a day, was nothing short of miraculous.

When you live in the three dimensional underwater realm, rules that apply on land are altered, such as flying everywhere, talking very little and mostly to yourself, realizing that your breath is finite with no surface exit to resolve its loss. My day would begin with tasteless food before dropping through the hatch into warm tropical waters.

A quick swim over to the air station to fill up my twin cylinders, and a swim off to my research area on the adjoining reef.

Every hour, I must return for a refill of my air cylinders, a routine shared by everyone else on the team.

I was studying the animals that lived on anemones (a soft tentacled anchored creature), so I covered a large part of the reef with an intense focus once a host was found. Yes, my fingers looked like prunes by the end of the day, but they recovered overnight while sleeping in the air-filled habitat.

We could feel the radiation of the sun as it crossed over our horizon. When the sun went down, the reef we studied went to sleep, but another woke up. We retired to the habitat and over supper watched as night creatures came to inspect us. Our large window at the end of the habitat had a light outside that attracted fascinating organisms worthy of a science fiction thriller.

To “come home” at the end of the project we had to decompress for 15 hours from our residence at 50 feet to reach the surface pressure.

I vividly remember climbing out of the water on to the deck of a boat and feeling the wind as a strange but familiar sensation.

The silence of the surface was also distracting, as underwater, between the reef racket and my exhaling bubbles, silence was scarce.

When I was faced with what type of house I was to build in Wakulla, I was easily drawn to underground for many of the same reasons as underwater: Constant ground temperature keeps my home at an average of 70 degrees, severe storms are seldom noticed, and only tracked on TV.

My family lives in a forest full of life, like the reef, that we visit every time we exit our habitat. I do have windows into the next best thing to a reef – a 30,000 gallon swimming pool where I can watch my students as they learn how to scuba, something almost as much fun as watching the night creatures in front of the habitat.

Bizarre what the imagination can produce when motivated.

Editor's Note: This is a repeat of a column from 2011.

For National Day of Prayer: God, the reason for our hope



By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

When was the last time tears streamed down your face, your heart ached, and your thoughts were too jumbled to think clearly? When did you know beyond a doubt that this

time, for sure, your situation was hopeless? How many years did it take for you to return to the reality you’ve known for years? To the part of God’s character that always brought reassurance, warmth and truth? Maybe it only took a few days (perhaps merely a few hours) for you to discover, again, the God of All Hope in the midst of your despair and doubt. Whether it takes years or only hours, when we grab hold of our Bible, desperate to find the determination to persevere, we rediscover

the hope, strength and understanding we’ve come to know and depend on. Once again, the God of all hope reminds us that He loves us. Where tears of pain, fear and loss once poured down our face, tears of comfort and peace now flow in their place. The more time we spend in God’s Word, the more we come to know personally, through experience, this God of hope – His warmth, His Truth and His faithfulness. Thursday, May 1, is the National Day of Prayer. This year’s theme

is “He is the God of Hope and the reason for our hope!” based on Romans 15:13 (NASB): “Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Most of the time, a verse will stand out while reading my Bible. I write these verses on index cards and look at them throughout the day. Romans 15:13 is my new favorite. I love it when one minute I’m struggling with my faith, then, as I spend time thinking and praying a Bible

verse, God’s presence unexpectedly shows up. As Christ-followers, every day we have the opportunity to model Christ and stand firm in the hope we have in Him, even in the midst of devastating trials. As each opportunity presents itself, we can know (and show others) that the God of hope walks alongside us, filling us with His presence and power. Almighty God, the perfect, forgiving, resurrected Lord, offers hope for every aspect of our lives – including (especially) the for-sure-

hopeless situations. Our hope comes alive when we place our faith in the resurrected Christ. God wants to be involved in every area of our life because we’re important to Him. Let’s live as if we knew, from personal experience, that the God of hope is, indeed, the “reason for our hope!”

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.

Encouraged to endure



By **CHERYL CRUCE**

I have discovered that everything in life can teach us a lesson. The question is, are we willing to learn? For example, my son, Michael, decided on a career change and enrolled in classes to become a firefighter. With a wife, a young daughter at home, and a full-time job that demanded much of his time, the journey became one of perseverance. Every

evening, he faithfully attended classes, studied late into the night, and pushed himself through endless hours of preparation. His days were long, and his nights were short, but he kept his eyes on the goal before him. The final step in Michael’s journey was a grueling endurance test. It involved physical challenges and ended with a long-distance run, fully suited in heavy gear. As he neared the finish line, the weight of the equipment and the months of fatigue began to wear him down. Ahead of him, he could see his fellow trainees pulling farther away. Doubt crept in, whispering that maybe he had come as far as he could.

Then something unexpected happened. One of his teammates, seeing his struggle, slowed his own pace. Matching strides with him, he placed a steady hand on his back and said simple words: “Come on, man, I got you. We got this.” The encouragement was more than mere words; it breathed life into tired lungs and hope into a weary heart. With his teammate’s support, he found strength he didn’t know he still had. Step after step, they crossed the finish line together. The race of faith often mirrors this story. Surrounded by the great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us (Hebrews 12:1-2), we are called to lay aside every

weight and the distractions that hinder our steps. Yet even as we press on, we do not run alone. When the path grows steep, and our strength begins to fail, Jesus Himself draws near. With the gentlest touch – a hand at the small of our back – He reminds us we are not alone. Throughout Scripture, encouragement is woven into the story of God’s people. When Moses led the Israelites to freedom, Aaron strengthened and supported him. After Elijah’s victory on Mount Carmel, when he felt utterly alone, God raised up Elisha as a helper and companion. Paul found strength and affirmation through Barnabas, whose very name

means “son of encouragement.” Even Jesus, knowing the road would be difficult, sent His disciples out two by two – reminding us that we are stronger when we walk together. There will always be moments when perseverance means digging deep within ourselves, pressing on when everything in us longs to quit. But there will also be times when perseverance looks like receiving strength from another – a brother, a sister, or the Spirit of God Himself. Both are acts of grace. Both are part of the race we have been called to run. And both lead us closer to the prize that awaits – the crown of life promised to those who remain faithful. If today you find

yourself weary, lagging behind, or unsure if you can take another step, know this: you are not alone. Whether through a helping hand, a word of encouragement from a friend, or the quiet strength of God Himself, you are being upheld. The finish line awaits – and Jesus is right there beside you, cheering you on. But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint.” (Isaiah 40:31)

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

OUT TO PASTOR

It was a snarly kind of day



By **JAMES SNYDER**

Last week The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage had another one of her girl days with our daughter and granddaughter. Don’t let this get around, but it is one of my favorite days of the year, including my birthday. It’s a day on which I can do what I want to do. That doesn’t come often; when it does, I cherish it and celebrate with an Apple Fritter or two... Of course, I had some work to do in my office, so I was rather happy to be alone for the day. Nothing is more important to me than getting my work done. I planned to catch up on several writing projects in the morning. Getting behind in a project is easy, so setting aside time just to catch up is wonderful. I kissed The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage goodbye, got a hot cup of coffee from the kitchen, and went to my office to begin the day’s

work. I was almost singing as I was getting to my desk. I’m not allowed to sing aloud when The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is home. If you heard me sing, you would understand. I was getting started, and suddenly realized there was a problem with the internet and that my computer was not working. I fiddled with it for about 20 minutes and then realized there was nothing I could do but wait for the internet to return. (Grrr) Being a little frustrated, I didn’t quite know what to do, and then remembered I had something to pick up across town. I don’t like driving across town because there are so many idiots with licenses who are driving. How these people get driver’s licenses is beyond my curiosity. I wanted to get there and back as quickly as possible, thinking I could take advantage of this time. I was becoming frustrated because every traffic light was red. I had to drive and then stop, drive another two blocks, and then stop. I was getting irritated by this kind of nonsense. Have you ever been tempted? At one of the red lights there was no traffic coming or going, and not even any cars behind me. I sat there

for three seconds, and then I was tempted to drive across the highway despite the red light. After all, there’s no harm if there’s nobody on the street and I won’t get caught. The thought danced in my head as I was about to do that. There is around here somewhere a police officer watching me, and as soon as I cross the line, he’s going to pull me over and give me a ticket. Believe it or not, it would not be a ticket for the Policeman’s Ball. I was reminded of a hymn we sing in church: “Yield not to temptation for yielding is sin.” Although frustrated, I waited for the light to turn green, not yielding to temptation. As I was coming back, I noticed it was lunchtime. This would be a great time to stop at one of my favorite restaurants and have lunch.

The host seated me at my favorite table when I entered the restaurant. I’ve been to this restaurant often, so they knew me. My waitress came, introduced herself, and handed me the menu. Being such a faithful customer I really did not need a menu because I knew what I wanted. I cheerfully gave the waitress my order and then she brought me some coffee as I waited. I sipped my coffee rather cheerfully and was finally happy that things were going my way. What a day it had been, but now, things will start going my way at my favorite restaurant. I don’t always experience this, but today, I’m going to celebrate that it is finally happening to me. I was sitting there drinking my coffee and anticipating my cheeseburger and fries lunch

when the waitress came and put a plate on my table. When I saw that plate, I gasped in horror. I’ve never seen such a terrible plate of food in my life. How can my day get any worse? In the center of that plate before me was some of the worst vegetables I’ve ever seen – broccoli. The fact that this waitress brought me a plate with broccoli made me realize my day was not improving yet. While I was gasping, the waitress turned around, started gasping, and said, “Oh, I’m sorry. That’s not your plate; that’s for the table on the other side of you.” Finally, my real plate came, and as I ate, I thought of what a snarky day this has been. What is going to happen be-

tween now and when I get home? Where are my Apple Fritters when I need them? As I was driving home I was reminded of of a verse of Scripture. “He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding; but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly” (Proverbs 14:29). One of the great challenges for me is patience. I can be patient when everything is going my way, but that is not patience. I need to practice the “slow to wrath” part of my life.

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



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Pastor Cheryl Mixon-Cruce

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Worship 11 a.m.

Bible Study Wed. 6 p.m.

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Wednesday: Mass at 7:00 pm
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Obituaries

DEATH NOTICES

- **Carol Martin Dickey**, 82, of Crawfordville, died April 23, 2025.
- **Anne Estes**, 99, of Crawfordville, died April 26, 2025.
- **Kenneth Earl Glaze**, 80, of Carrabelle, died April 23, 2025.

Pat Jones: ‘Blessed’

From Front Page

– gathered to tell stories about Jones and working together.

Jones presented each of the superintendents with a bag with chocolates and a mug from the Wakulla County Historical Society that said: “Wakulla – Roots run deep.”

“That’s the way I feel,” she said. “Because of y’all, and the two no longer living, you made a big impact on our system.”

She turned to Payne, who was superintendent from August 1968 to January 1977, and said: “Thank you for hiring me.”

Why did Jones stay at the job so long? “Love of the kids,” she said.

Although she did recount a story of the worst day of her life, driving a bus to the old Jack Crum Trailer Park on Jack Crum Road. “A little boy came walking down the center aisle of the bus,” she recounted. “I told him, ‘Sit down.’ He did not.” Instead he walked up to her, as she is driving, and asks: “Do you want this snake?” and handed it to her.

Jones was terrified, but thought to herself: “You cannot let the children see how scared you are.” She pulled the bus to the side of the road – it wasn’t far from the trailer park – ordered the child and the

- **Rebecca Miller Jones**, 79, of Crawfordville, died April 24, 2025.
- **David Clarence Phillips**, 85, of Crawfordville, died April 25, 2025.
- **Gregory Leiland Printy**, 85, of Crawfordville, died April 18, 2025.
- **Thomas Elonza Sanders**, 71, of Crawfordville, died April



Pat Jones presented with a plaque at the school board meeting by Superintendent Rick Myhre.

snake off the bus. She drove to the trailer park and the child’s mother was there as the bus unloaded and asked where was her son. Jones told her, and said the child got a spanking when he showed up.

Her scariest day was when she almost hit a boy at a bus stop on Emmett Whaley Road. The stop required the students to cross in front of the bus – and students got on and she happened to look back at the door and there was a little fellow who had crossed in front of the bus and she hadn’t seen him. “I could have hit that young man,” she said.

- 28, 2025.
- **Janet Schneider**, 64, of Crawfordville, died April 24, 2025.
- **Debra J. Seidel**, 62, of Crawfordville, died April 24, 2025.

Family Funeral Home at Harvey-Young Chapel, 850-926-5919, www.familyfhc.com.

Superintendent Miller recounted back in 2004 when the district was one day from running out of fuel and being forced to shut down. (They found another source for fuel.)

It is a mark of leadership, Miller said, to hire the best people you can and let them do their job.

Jones recalled when the law changed in 1983 and drivers were required to have a commercial driving license (CDL) not just a chauffeur’s license, and how she taught CDL classes at Shadeville for weeks.

Payne recounted the challenges of the civil rights era: in 1968, there was a teacher walk out at Wakulla High, Martin Luther King was shot, he had death threats slid under his door. He worked to reduce the pressure by changing the name of the high school team from the Rebels to the War Eagles. (Payne is an Auburn alumni.)

Superintendent Pearce said Jones helped bring stability during some of his biggest challenges: the Covid pandemic and the bus driver shortage. As for drivers, Pearce credited Jones with coming up with a bonus plan to create insentives for drivers to work. “A lot of districts started after we did it,” he said.

Later, at the school board meeting that evening, Superintendent Myhre praised Jones for her career and all the students whose lives she made better.

“She is,” he said, “a top tier human being.”

Jones received a standing ovation.

Sheriff’s Report

This report is for activity April 18 to 25. There were 1,592 total calls for service during the week.

FRIDAY, APRIL 18

- Deputy Weekes conducted a traffic stop off in the area of Berlin Court and Old Shell Point. Vehicle was being operated by James Lamarquise Harvey who did not possess a valid driver’s license. Harvey had three priors, and was issued a Notice to Appear for Driving While License Suspended or Revoked (DWLSR).

SATURDAY, APRIL 19

- Deputy DeGuzman investigated a vehicle theft on Nelson Road. Complainant reported her vehicle being taken by a person known to her without her permission. Complainant recovered her vehicle from impound after it was involved in a traffic crash, however she still wished to pursue charges. Case forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division.
- Deputy Surrette investigated a theft at Walmart. Complainant reported her phone being stolen by an unknown person after leaving it in a shopping cart earlier in the day. A search to locate the phone was conducted, however yielded no results. Asset Protection advised they would review video footage. Case forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division.
- Deputy Kreitlow investigated as fraud on Hemlock Way. Com-

plainant reported her computer had been hacked, her bank information had been compromised, and someone had purchased an iPad for \$354.22. Case forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division.

- Deputy Weekes investigated a criminal mischief on Jared Street. Complainant reported her mailbox had been destroyed. Further investigation revealed the neighbor accidentally backed over the mailbox. The neighbor agreed to replace the mailbox.

SUNDAY, APRIL 20

- Deputy Surrette responded to Walmart and made contact with a citizen who reported his medication went missing when he left it in his cart on April 18.
- Deputy Saba responded to Walmart in reference to a theft that occurred on April 18, in which an unknown male entered the store and stole approximately \$194 worth of merchandise. Case forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division.
- Deputy Gray investigated a theft on Bloxham Cutoff Road. Complainant reported the theft of her Bluetooth speaker valued at approximately \$200. Case forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division.

MONDAY, APRIL 21

- Lieutenant Alexander responded to the Sheriff’s Office lobby in reference to a theft. Complainant reported going to AMI conve-

nience store on April 20 and losing her wallet. She spoke with the manager who reviewed the security footage which shows an unknown male taking the wallet from the store’s counter and slipping it into his pocket. Case forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division.

- Deputy Smith responded to Coastal Highway in reference to a found property complaint. Complainant advised she observed some unknown pills near the bike trail as she made her way past. The pills were seized for destruction.
- Deputy Kittrell responded to Palmetto Drive in reference to a fraud. Contact was made with the resident who believed his mother was being scammed. The resident advised his mother has been sending unknown amounts of money to an individual described as an Egyptian diamond miner. Case forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division.

TUESDAY, APRIL 22

- Deputy Parker responded to Lawhon Mill Road in reference to a theft. Complainant reported his air compressor was stolen from the curtilage area by his shed. Case forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division.
- Deputy Bennett responded to the Sheriff’s Office lobby in reference to a possible fraud. Complainant reported her bank notified her of unusual activity on her deceased husbands bank account. Approximately \$8,000 was withdrawn from his account.
- Sgt. Will and Depu-

ty Parker responded to Old Fort Road in reference to a jet ski exploding and the rider being thrown 10 feet into the air. Wakulla Fire Rescue responded and transported the rider to the hospital.

- Lieutenant Spence was contacted by telephone by a complainant who reported that she and her family traveled through Wakulla County on April 19 enroute to St. George Island. On their way back home to Valdosta, they stopped for fuel at Rocky’s. Once they arrived home, they realized their .38 Taurus revolver was missing from the driver’s side door compartment of their vehicle. Complainant stated she noticed a man pumping gas nearby their vehicle prior to them entering the business, and her husband did not secure their vehicle prior to them entering the business. Case forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division.
- Deputy Buckhalt responded to Monticello Avenue in reference to a burglary complaint. The resident reported someone entered his woodshop shed through the roof between April 21st-22nd, and stole a game camera and a trail camera. Case forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division.
- Sergeant Broxsie located a severely shattered black iPhone in the Walmart parking lot. The phone did not appear to be in working order. The condition of the phone’s surfaces made it difficult to locate any identifying features. The phone was entered into evidence as found property.
- Deputy Smith re-

sponded to Walmart in reference to a theft complaint. Loss Prevention reported observing a white female inside the business placing items inside a reusable shopping bag. He further reported observing the female make contact with a second female, who had two 12-packs of “twisted tea” in her possession. The females then attempted to exit the business, passing all points of sale. When Loss Prevention made contact with the females to direct them to the loss prevention office, both individuals fled the scene westbound through the parking lot. The suspects were last seen fleeing the area in a grey sedan towards Leon County. Case forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23

- Deputy Godwin responded to Walmart in reference to a Retail Theft. Terry Joseph Wayne Smith was arrested for passing the last point of sale with unpaid merchandise. Smith had approximately \$1,500 worth of merchandise in his possession and also possessed methamphetamine. Smith was transported to the Wakulla County Detention Facility.

THURSDAY, APRIL 24

- Deputy Cordoba responded to Crum’s Mini Mall in reference to a theft. Complainant reported a male entered the store and took items past the last point of sale. Case forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division.
- Deputy Post responded to Sarsi Drive in reference to a Credit Card Offense. Complainant reported someone using his Venmo card without his permission, and taking approximately \$3,000 from him since 2023. Case forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division.
- Deputy Kreitlow responded to Old Woodville Road in reference to a theft. Complainant reported the theft of his Yeti cooler from his backyard. Value of the cooler is approximately \$200.

FRIDAY, APRIL 25

- Complainant reported her juvenile daughter’s trumpet being stolen from Riversprings Middle School Band room. Case forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division.

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

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USE THE NEWS

1. TREE TROUBLE IN L.A.

In downtown Los Angeles, a man was caught cutting down more than a dozen trees with a chain saw. The trees were important because they brought beauty and shade to the busy city streets. People were very upset because it took years for the trees to grow, but only minutes to destroy them. The police arrested the man on Earth Day, and he could face serious punishment. City leaders promised to plant two new trees for every tree that was lost, to help make the neighborhood beautiful again. Pretend you are the mayor of your town for one day. Some trees were damaged, and everyone is feeling sad. Write a short letter (5–7 sentences) to the people in your town. In your letter, tell them how you will help fix the problem, what you will do to plant new trees, and why taking care of nature is so important for everyone.

2. CREEPY CATERPILLAR

On the Hawaiian island of Oahu, scientists have discovered a very strange caterpillar they call the “bone collector.” Instead of just eating leaves like most caterpillars, this one eats other insects! But that’s not even the weirdest part — after eating, the caterpillar uses pieces of the bugs to decorate its body. The bone collector lives only in a small area on Oahu and spends its time on spider webs. It carefully picks parts from dead bugs, like beetle legs or weevil heads, and uses silk to stick them onto its case, kind of like building armor. Scientists think this disguise helps the caterpillar stay safe from spiders. These caterpillars are very rare, and their home is in danger because of other insects like ants and wasps moving in. Scientists hope to protect the bone collector and other special creatures in Hawaii.

In 3 to 5 sentences, write what you learned about the bone collector caterpillar, such as where it lives and why it’s a strange bug!

3. UNUSUAL MUSICAL

In 1925, a man named Floyd Collins got trapped inside a cave in Kentucky when a rock pinned his ankle. Even though rescuers tried hard, they couldn’t save him, and he sadly passed away after 14 days. His story became very famous across the country. Now, Floyd’s story has been turned into a Broadway musical called Floyd Collins. The musical shows how Floyd never

gave up hope and how people worked to help him. The show uses songs and set designs to help the audience imagine what it was like inside the cave. Imagine you are a news reporter in 1925, just like the ones who came to the cave to tell Floyd Collins’s story. First, write a short news report (about 3–5 sentences) explaining what happened to Floyd and why people cared so much. Next, create a headline for your story that would make people want to read it.

4. FOCUS ON FOOD DYE

The U.S. Department of Health and

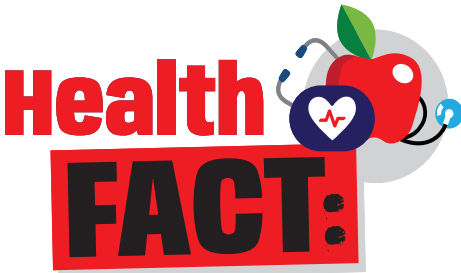
Human Services announced it wants to remove some colorful dyes from foods like candy, chips, and cereal because they might not be healthy for kids. Scientists have found that some dyes could be linked to problems like hyperactivity, trouble paying attention, and even illnesses like diabetes and cancer. Eight dyes are being targeted, like Red 40, Yellow 5, and Blue 1. Some food companies agreed to start using safer, more natural colors instead, like colors made from flowers. Even though taking away these dyes probably won’t solve big health problems by itself, experts say it’s still a good idea because the dyes don’t help kids stay

healthy. Researchers are continuing to study food dyes to learn more. For now, the government hopes companies will make foods that are colorful and better for our health! Make a colorful poster showing natural ways foods can get their colors! (For example, beets for red, spinach for green, carrots for orange.) Then, write one or two sentences about why eating colorful natural foods is good for you.

5. BONOBO GIRL GROUPS

In the wilds of Congo, girl groups of bonobos, which are close relatives to humans, work together to stay safe from bossy male bonobos. Scientists

studied these animals for 30 years and found that female bonobos team up to chase males away from food and protect each other. Even if they aren’t best friends, the girl bonobos help one another. This teamwork helps them become leaders in their groups. The study shows that sticking together makes them stronger, just like it sometimes does for people too. Imagine you are a bonobo living in the forest. Draw a picture showing how you and your friends help each other. How does teamwork make your group stronger? Write at least 3 sentences explaining how your picture features teamwork.

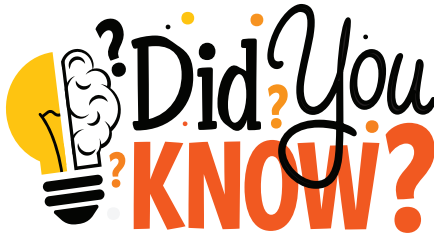


This activity is low-impact on the joints, but has a high impact on working the cardiovascular system.

Answer: Cycling



English: To pedal
Spanish: Pedalear
Italian: Pedalare
French: Pédaler
German: Strampeln



When cycling uphill, a person should use the lowest gear on the bike. This is sometimes called the “granny gear.”



What’s the Difference?

Find the four differences between the two pictures.

A



B



Answers: 1. Logo on girl's shirt 2. Dog on lawn 3. Mom has pig tails 4. Missing window on house

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1790: Rhode Island becomes the last of the original colonies to ratify the Constitution.

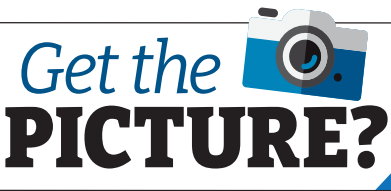
1919: Albert Einstein's theory of general relativity is tested by Arthur Eddington and others.

1988: Ronald Reagan visits the Soviet Union.



CADENCE


the rate at which a cyclist pedals, measured in RPMs



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Bikes

SAFE BUILD WORD SEARCH



Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

- ANCHOR
- APRON
- BEAM
- BOARD
- CAULKING
- CIRCUIT BREAKER
- COLUMN
- CONCRETE
- CONDUIT
- DISCONNECT
- DRYWALL
- DUCTS
- ELECTRICIAN
- FIRE RATED
- FLASHING
- FOUNDATION
- FRAMING
- GRADE
- GROUND WIRE
- INSULATION
- JOIST
- PANEL
- PLANS
- TRUSSES

CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. English TV station
- 4. It fuels cars
- 7. Where ships dock (abbr.)
- 10. Indigenous people of Thailand
- 11. Midway between northeast and east
- 12. Small Milky Way constellation
- 13. Fritz __, Austrian chemist
- 15. A Brit’s grand-mother
- 16. Colombian city
- 19. Visualize
- 21. Charged
- 23. People’s assets
- 24. Informative books
- 25. Jeer
- 26. You can do it with your horn
- 27. Agents of your downfall
- 30. Central Uganda city
- 34. Supervises flying
- 35. Type of tree
- 36. Alfalfa
- 41. Dishwasher soap brand
- 45. Hall where military eats
- 46. Ancient Greek City

- 47. Speaks incessantly
- 50. Discuss again
- 54. Extreme greed
- 55. Adopt or support
- 56. Fantasy writer Russell
- 57. Seize
- 59. Early Mesoamerican civilization
- 60. Noted pet detective Ventura
- 61. Automobile
- 62. Georgia rockers
- 63. Color opposite green
- 64. Amount of time
- 65. Attempt

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Sheep sound
- 2. Some can be emotional
- 3. Inflammation of colon lining
- 4. Origins
- 5. Comedienne Gaster
- 6. Perceived by the senses
- 7. A place to play ball
- 8. Occur before
- 9. Animal body parts
- 13. Thanksgiving desert
- 14. Root mean square

- (abbr.)
- 17. 1960s teen idol Bobby
- 18. Promotional materials
- 20. One point east of northeast
- 22. Piers Anthony protagonist
- 27. Popular sports league
- 28. Cologne
- 29. Partner to cheese
- 31. Constrictor snake
- 32. Not good
- 33. Supplement with difficulty
- 37. Hug with fondness
- 38. Enforced again
- 39. Small amount of time (abbr.)
- 40. Substance
- 41. Anterior parts of the brain
- 42. Brews
- 43. Where ships load cargo
- 44. Holiday season singer
- 47. “__ humbug!”
- 48. Monetary unit of Macao
- 49. Popular children’s book elephant
- 51. Glutinous
- 52. Function
- 53. Old world, new
- 58. Swiss river

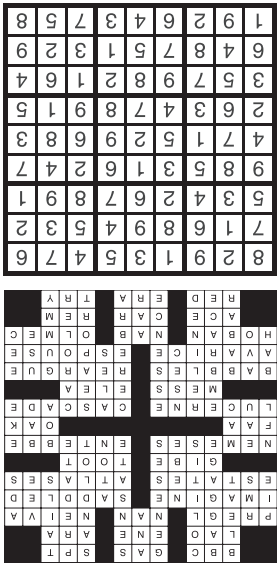
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54									55				
56								57	58			59	
			60					61				62	
			63					64				65	

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to building safety.

P E R R I A

--	--	--	--	--	--



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

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GUESS WHO ?

I am an actor born in Kentucky on May 6, 1961. In my teens, I tried out for the Cincinnati Reds but didn't make it past the first round of cuts. I've played a pediatrician, Batman, a gangster, and a ship captain in my career. A newer role has been Dad to twins.

Answer: Repair

Answer: George Clooney

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Big Bend Hospice is seeking
direct patient care volunteers
to provide companionship
and respite services in
Wakulla County.
If you are interested in learning
more, please contact Andrea
Zinker at (850) 878-5310.



198 Edgar Poole Road
Crawfordville, FL 32327
FWMA.org
363-2351

**RIVER PLANTAION
NEIGHBORHOOD YARD SALE**
Sat., May 3rd – 8-2
Kitchenware, lamps, large gar-
den pots, plants, wine cart, mir-
rors, lawn art, trunks, pottery,
jewelry, oriental rugs, fishing
poles, table saw, planer, router,
drill press, hand power tools,
and MUCH MUCH MORE!

Family Yard Sale
7 Cardinal Court – Songbird
Subdivision
Sat 5/3/25 Rain Date 5/10/25
8:30am - 1pm
Furniture, vintage items, house-
hold, small kitchen appliances,
adult/kids clothing, books,
games, Christmas decorations,
jewelry, golf clubs and much
more.

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Rental wanted for mature
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WELCOME

FICTITIOUS NAMES
FICTITIOUS NAME
Notice under Fictitious Name Law, pursuant to Section 856.09, Florida Statutes. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, Steagus, LLC, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of
STEAGUS PUBLISHING
Located at 25 Parkside Cir, Crawfordville 32327
In the County of Wakulla
Intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporation of the Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida.
Published on May 1, 2025

FICTITIOUS NAME
Notice under Fictitious Name Law, pursuant to Section 856.09, Florida Statutes. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, Steagus, LLC, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of
STEAGUS GAMES
Located at 25 Parkside Cir, Crawfordville 32327
In the County of Wakulla
Intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporation of the Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida.
Published on May 1, 2025

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Carson Falk signs fishing scholarship

Wakulla High School’s Carson Falk signed the school’s first-ever college fishing scholarship with Tennessee Wesleyan’s new bass fishing team. Carson has been making waves as a youth fisherman in bass fishing tournaments. His aunt and high school principal, Michele Falk, noted Carson is a member of the school’s bass team, which is a club, not a sport. His signing on Tuesday, April 22 at the Panacea Community Center was packed with friends and family and well-wishers. TW Coach Mike Keen, left, speaks about Carson, seen with mom Laurie and dad Mike and sister Kaelyn.

– William Snowden

Champions

2024-2025 Riversprings Middle School baseball team won the first Big Bend Conference Championship for the school and possibly the district.

– submitted by Amber Matthews Stallings



Miss Wakulla

From Front Page

Runner Up was Karter Bertera.

The People’s Choice Award was voted on by you, the people, online the week leading up to the pageant and during the pageant.

Winners in this category were Miss Division Whitlee Harvey. Junior Miss Division Lizzie Allen. Tiny, Little and Young Divisions combined Winner is Lily Burch.

With the installment of this category, the committee was able to increase the amount of the scholarship awarded to Miss Wakulla from \$1,000 to \$1,500. The Miss Division Runner Ups will be given a cash prize along with the Jr., Tiny, Little and Young Queens.

Thank you to all our sponsors this year Wakulla High Schools Theatre Troupe 5036, Bluewater Realty Group, Anytime Electric, Posey’s Seafood Restaurant & Catering, Piney Palms, Angie Nichols School Board District 2, Waggin Tails of Wakulla and Panacea Waterfronts.

Thank you to our emcees Molly Jones-BoWell and Kyle Jones. Special thank you to all the parents and contestants for making this year fabulous! We appreciate you and your support of the pageant.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL PUBLIC HEARING

The Wakulla County Dangerous Dog Appeals Board will hold a **Public Hearing** **On May 6, 2025, at 5:30pm** in the Commission Chambers, 29 Arran Rd., Crawfordville, FL 32327.

Interested parties are invited to attend and participate. Persons with a disability needing a special accommodation should contact the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners Administration Office at least two (2) days prior to the meeting at (850) 926-0919; Hearing & Voice Impaired at 1-800-955-8771; or email at ADARquest@mywakulla.com.

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the board, agency, or commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

May 1, 2025



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Call (850) 962-8019 to get started.

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.

More Public Notices appear on Page 3.

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

WAKULLA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

INVITATION TO BID No. ITB 2025-10

ITB 2025-10 TIGER HAMMOCK ROAD RESURFACING

ADVERTISEMENT BEGIN DATE: MAY 1, 2025

RELEASE DATE: MAY 1, 2025

BIDS DUE TO BOCC: MAY 22, 2025 @ 3:00 P.M. EST

Sealed bids to **resurface Tiger Hammock Road** will be received at the office of the Board of County Commissioners, 3093 Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville, FL 32327; until **3:00 P.M., Local Time, on May 22, 2025**, at which time the bids will be opened and read aloud. Bids received after the deadline will not be accepted.

The principal feature of this procurement by the County is known as **TIGER HAMMOCK RESURFACING**

The specifications of this procurement are stated in **ITB 2025-10**

The ITB and any addenda issued will be posted to the County’s Website at www.mywakulla.com or can be obtained by contacting the County Procurement Office at 850-926-0919 or bnowak@mywakulla.com.

All technical inquiries and clarification requests shall be submitted in writing to Berkleigh Nowak, Procurement and Contracts Coordinator, bnowak@mywakulla.com in accordance with the ITB. Verbal clarifications will not be provided.

A person or affiliate who has been placed on the convicted vendor list following a conviction for a public entity crime may not submit a bid on a contract to provide any goods or services to a public entity, may not submit a bid on a contract with a public entity for the construction or repair of a public building or public work, may not submit bids on leases of real property to a public entity, may not be awarded or perform work as a contractor, supplier, subcontractor, or consultant under a contract with any public entity, and may not transact business with any public entity in excess of the threshold amount provided in Section 287.017, Florida Statutes, for CATEGORY TWO (\$35,000) for a period of 36 months from the date of being placed on the convicted vendor list.

The Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners reserves the right to waive informalities in any bid; reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part; re-bid a project, in whole or in part; and to accept a proposal that in its judgment is the lowest and best bid of a responsible bidder. In accepting a bid, Wakulla County may award a contract based only on the base bid, the base bid plus all alternates, or the base bid plus any alternates which Wakulla County selects -- with all decisions being made based upon what Wakulla County believes to be the best interests of its ratepayers, in the reasonable exercise of its discretion. Wakulla County further reserves the right to increase or decrease quantities as may be required to meet the needs of Wakulla County, at the unit price which was bid.

Wakulla County does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, marital status and disability/handicapped status in employment or provision of service.

Wakulla County is an Equal Opportunity Employer
MBE/WBE businesses are encouraged to participate
Wakulla County strictly enforces open and fair competition

ADA – Special Accommodations: Any person requiring accommodations by the County due to a disability should call the Purchasing Office at 850-926-0919 at least five (5) days prior to any pre-response conference, response opening, or meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the County Purchasing Office by the Florida Relay Service, which can be reached at 1-800-955-8771 (TDD).

May 1, 2025

Fish Fry Benefit

for Keely & Kiley Hand

May 24th 2025 - 11am until sold out!
Location: Hudson Park, Crawfordville

All proceeds from this event will be donated to the Hand Family to use for Keely’s funeral expenses, Kiley’s medical bills. and any additional needs the family may have.

\$10 per plate
Mullet, 2 sides and a hushpuppy
Fried chicken will be available too.

If you would like to donate or volunteer please contact
Ethan Trumbull (850) 363-4720 or Lori Fry at (850) 570-1333.



Please Recycle



Wakulla County Tax Collectors Office

SPECIALTY TAGS

\$15 - \$30 additional to cost of tag.



Wakulla County Tax Collector

It matters to us which plate you buy



Credit: Ron Magill



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Learn more about the Florida panther at MyFWC.com/panther.

Chamber holds April monthly luncheon at Salty Donkey



Chamber members socialize at the Salty Donkey in Panama before lunch.



Chamber members go through the buffet line for seafood and sides.



Elena Myhre, Jessica Oxendine, Melanie Gilmore, Sherri Rose and Brittany Munger at the luncheon.

PHOTOS BY LYNDA KINSEY



Duke presents check

Scott Mixon of Duke Energy presented a \$6,000 check to Wakulla Emergency Management Director Jennifer Nagy on April 23 for storm preparation. A portion of the money will go towards the planned expo at Hudson Park on May 10. (Photo by William Snowden)

WE ARE HIRING

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- Associate Dean
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