

Delinquent taxes
in this issue

Graduation 2025
in this issue

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Three Sections

The Wakulla

Sum

"It's a New Day"

WAKULLA

WeatherSTEM

Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Mostly Cloudy

Hi: 90° Lo: 65° 5%

Sunrise 6:39 AM
Sunset 8:28 PM

Sunny

Hi: 92° Lo: 66° 5%

Sunrise 6:39 AM
Sunset 8:29 PM

Sunny

Hi: 92° Lo: 67° 6%

Sunrise 6:38 AM
Sunset 8:29 PM

Locally Owned
& Operated

Our 4th Year 20th Issue
Thursday, May 22, 2025

MEMORIAL DAY SPECIAL STORY

Bob Crowson's Vietnam experience

The Sopchoppy native enlisted in the U.S. Marines in 1967

By **BEVERLY CROWSON PARISH**
Correspondent

If Marine Corps veteran Bob Crowson of Sopchoppy comes to see you, he's going to bring you something: a mess of fish he caught in the rivers of Wakulla County, a sack of potatoes from his garden, or just a big, warm hug and a "how ya doing" greeting.

When the 19-year-old Crowson joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 1967, he took that same giving spirit he learned here among the rivers and woods of Wakulla County with him to Vietnam where he risked his life time after time protecting others while in combat.

A survivor of seven major campaigns and numerous skirmishes, Lance Corporal Robert Walker Crowson was awarded a Navy Achievement Medal for Combat Valor for rescuing fellow Marines while under fire and a Purple Heart after being wounded a month before completing his tour of duty. Fifty-seven years later, shrapnel is still lodged deep within his chest and embedded in other parts of his body at times working its way to the surface of his skin.

He joined the U.S. Marine Corps after graduating from Sopchoppy High School in 1967 where he served as Student Council President, Future Farmers of America President and Senior Class Vice-President. He served with the 5th Marine Division until 1969. "Back then, you didn't have a choice," he said referring to the draft. "You were going. You could pick the branch you wanted to go into. I didn't want to join the Army, so I joined the Marines."

Crowson said he always liked the Marines because it was exciting. "If you can make it through Parris Island (boot camp in South Carolina), you can make it through anything," he said with his usual self-deprecating laugh. His father, the late Oscar William Crowson, served as a Master Sergeant in the 5th Marines during World War II. His brother, Roger Dale Crowson, joined the U.S. Navy also serving during the Vietnam War.

Crowson said there was a "lot of homesick" during boot camp as it was his first time away from home. After completing basic training, he was transferred to Camp

U.S. Marine Lance Corporal Bob Crowson

LeJeune in North Carolina where he was given two months of Advanced Infantry Training. He was then sent to Camp Pendleton in California for a month and a half before traveling on a commercial airline to Vietnam.

After landing in the City of Da Nang (which he said was a lot like being in Tallahassee because it was secure), he was immediately assigned to Hotel Company with the 5th Marine Division (the same division in which his father served) and sent to Hue City.

"The 5th Marines had been in a bad-ass battle and most of them had gotten shot so they needed replacements," he said referring to the Tet Offensive of 1968. "That's who we were... the replacements." Crowson's squad was immediately sent to guard a bridge as well as to run patrols during the day looking for North Vietnamese Army (NVA) enemy soldiers.

He would stay in Vietnam for close to a year engaging in seven major campaigns including Hue City, Allen Brook, Mameluke Thrust, Muskogee Meadows, Meade River, Arizona Territory and one which is not named before being wounded by a mortar and sent home to recuperate.

REMEMBERING
EVERY STEP
IN VIETNAM

Although it's still hard for him to talk about, he recently shared memo-

ries of those long, grueling days of fighting alongside fellow Marines among the rice paddies, jungles and mountain sides of Vietnam 57 years ago. "For a couple of years after I returned, I could still remember every step I took while in 'Nam," he said, somberly.

"We were always engaged in skirmishes two or three times a week and in major offenses two or three times a month," he continued. "They'd send us back to the rear for a couple of days and then back out again."

"What most people don't realize about war is that it's like camping outside for a year," he said with his quiet laugh. "You see a lot of shooting stars."

After being in Vietnam for a couple of months, Crowson was promoted to Lance Corporal which placed him as squad leader. One of his tasks was to assign different men to "walk point" while seeking out the enemy.

"It was dangerous because the point man was the first person the enemy would see if we came up on them," he said. The men spaced themselves apart every 10 yards behind the point man so the enemy "couldn't kill all of them at once," he explained.

At times, a Marine would be in such fear of "walking point" they would break down so Crowson would take their place. "I just couldn't make them do it," he said. "They'd be crying and upset so I'd

do it myself."

He humorously recalled a time when he was "walking point" using his rifle to check for holes as he crossed a creek "making sure I didn't fall into a hole. That night while cleaning my rifle I realized it was unloaded," he chuckled.

Another event he recalls with humor took place while they were fighting in the jungles of Vietnam. "There were some pretty places there. It was all green with beautiful waterfalls and clear streams. We made the mistake of drinking the water without putting Halazone (water purification tablets) in it. We lived in that stream for a while washing our britches out," he laughed.

Crowson recalled some of the dangerously close calls he had while in Vietnam attributing his narrow escapes to the prayers of his mother, the late Madelyn Joyce (Sanders) Crowson of Sopchoppy, and members of the Sopchoppy Congregational Holiness Church.

During one exceptionally close call, his squad was watching a river to keep the enemy from crossing it. "Me and another guy were at a listening post in a stand of elephant grass," he said. "I was watching the river and Green was asleep. There was a bamboo tree line running along the river down from us. I heard something and looked around. There were five gooks coming at us."

One of the enemy soldiers was holding a .45 caliber machine gun and another an AK-47 assault rifle.

"First thing I thought was, 'Let's talk this out' but we didn't talk the same language," Crowson laughed. "I turned to get my rifle. I knew they were going to shoot me in the back, but I just knew it wouldn't kill me."

After grabbing his rifle, Crowson looked back around but the enemy had turned and run away. "It was a good thing because my rifle jammed," he said. He shot two of them and, although the squad chased them, the other three escaped.

The incident appeared in an article in the Stars and Stripes, a military newspaper, in which Crowson was attributed "two kills." The article (which misspelled his name as "Crow"), "Rob-

Turn to Page 5

Some cast members at the movie premiere in Tallahassee.

'Tate' premiere was sold out

By **LINDA ANN McDONALD**
Correspondent

The first fictional film on the legend of Tate's Hell, a dangerous cypress swamp located in the areas of Carrabelle and Apalachicola, was a red-carpet premiere held in the IMAX Theater at the Challenger Learning Center to a full house of 203 seats in Tallahassee.

Crawfordville's Stacy Brown Jr. and Joseph Badia of Tallahassee's short film starred a cast from Wakulla including Jessica Parker, Travis Herndon and Palaver Tree's Herb Donaldson along with volunteers who supported the idea of bringing the legendary folklore of North Florida to the big screen.

"Tate" is based on the well-known legend of Tate's Hell in which farmer Cebe Tate was lost in a dangerous cypress swamp for several days in the late 1800s. The film previously won first place for audience choice in the Tallahassee 48-hour Film Festival.

"Anything that promotes Wakulla is exciting and selling out tickets before the show is incredible," said Brent X. Thurmond of the Wakulla County Historical Society.

Herb Donaldson, who portrayed a man of religion in disturbing scenes of mental anguish and hallucination endured by Cebe Tate while being lost in the woods for days said, "I am excited and glad to be a part of it, anything that showcases Wakulla makes me proud."

During the movie, there was a scene with Donaldson oaring a boat across a river. Donaldson said, "I was kind of nervous being out on the water, halfway across the water, I had to tell people I couldn't swim; it was a great time filming the movie."

Stacy Brown participated in TV production and drama under the direction of teacher Susan Solburg while attending Wakulla High School. Solburg and her husband Walter, also a teacher, came to the event and commented, "This is no shock to me that this film has come so far, I have so many students here tonight and I am very proud of them."

Elena Myhre, a member on the Board of the historical society came to the event in an elegant black dress to support the red-carpet. "I love the idea of making sure historical legends don't get lost and tonight it was recreated in a new space."

Sopchoppy's Worm Grunting guru Snap Revell said, "I am here to support the movie and the cast and the beauty of Wakulla's woods on film, Travis Herndon on film is super exciting and I am excited to see my friends on film."

Engaging with movie supporters, Joseph Badia and Stacy Brown held a question-and-answer session after the film and thanked everyone who supported the documentary.

Memorial Day observance and VFW community event is set

Staff Report

A Memorial Day ceremony will be held on the Courthouse lawn beginning at 10 a.m., hosted by the county Veterans Service Office on Monday, May 26.

The solemn event is to pay tribute to those who fell in service to our country.

Afterwards, the VFW Post 4538 will hold a community event at the post, 475 Arran Road, with hamburgers and hot dogs, sno-cones, cake walk, silent auction and raffles from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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The Wakulla Sun

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Saturday 8-5

God Bless America

MFS

EST 2017

Student of the Week

Harper Douin – 3rd grader at Crawfordville Elementary

Principal: Alena Crawford

Achievements/Reason for Nomination: Harper Douin is a standout third grade student at Crawfordville Elementary School. Three traits that her teacher says would describe her are hard-working, considerate, and humble. Harper is one of the most hard-working students she has ever taught. Whether it's a skill that is challenging or not, Harper is going to give 110% every single time. She is also considerate and always thinking about others above herself. Harper will go out of her way to make sure everyone feels included and welcomed. Lastly, she is humble. Harper is never one to brag about her accomplishments and is always respectful of her peers-which is very special. Not only has Harper excelled in the classroom, but also as a dancer. She has been dancing for seven years and has been on a competition team for 2 years. We are very lucky to have Harper as a Crawfordville Cougar.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK FEATURES A DIFFERENT SCHOOL EACH WEEK.

Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park

Eastern smooth beardtongue

By LYNN ARTZ, DAVID RODDENBERRY, and SANDY TEDDER

Eastern smooth beardtongue (Penstemon laevigatus) is the rarest of Florida's three beardtongue wildflowers. Widespread in the eastern U.S., it occurs naturally in only a few Panhandle counties including Wakulla. The pale purple to white tubular flowers have reddish purple nectar guides. Above the 3 fused lower petals is a staminode (non-pollen producing stamen) bearded in light yellow hairs. Numerous flowers appear in May and June. They attract native bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. The leaves feed common buckeye butterfly caterpillars. This long-lived perennial grows 1 to 3 feet tall in light shade and moist, rich soil. It forms small colonies from basal off-shoots. In the wild, it occurs in low moist forests and meadows. Eastern smooth beardtongue is blooming now at the north edge of the woods at Sopchoppy Depot Park.

FULLER CENTER FOR HOUSING

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formerly Habitat for Humanity

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940 Shadeville Rd.

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.

Wakulla County Tax Collectors Office

SPECIALTY TAGS

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

Lisa Craze, CFC

Wakulla County Tax Collector

It matters to us which plate you buy

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The Wakulla Sun celebrates 3 years with an after-hours event



Megan Smith, Heather Bryan, Tonya Hobby and Valerie Russell share some laughs.



Food in the conference room at The Wakulla Sun office with Joe Morgan, Niraj Patel and Ralph Thomas.

PHOTOS BY LYNDA KINSEY
& GERALD BROWN



Marianne Dazevedo and Harriet Rich.



Mary Wallace and Shirley Howard.



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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 CITY OF ST. MARKS REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING CONSULTANT SERVICES

The City of St. Marks is requesting qualifications from firms or individuals licensed to practice in the State of Florida for professional Construction Engineering and Inspection (CEI) services for the Gulf Spray Drive, Wilson Street, and Terminal Drive SCOP.

For a complete copy of the RFQ, please email: kgatewood@cityofstmarks.com. Prospective firms/individuals should submit proposals on or before June 18, 2025 at 2:00PM Eastern Standard Time. The notice shall state the place, date, and time of the opening of bids or proposals. May 22, 29, 2025

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

WAKULLA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

INVITATION TO BID No. ITB 2025-12

ITB -2025-12 WHIDDON LAKE ROAD RESURFACING

**ADVERTISEMENT BEGIN DATE:
MAY 22, 2025**

RELEASE DATE MAY 22, 2025

**BIDS DUE TO BOCC:
JUNE 24, 2025 @ 3:00 P.M. EST**

Sealed bids to Resurface Whiddon Lake 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 June 24, 2025 @ 3:00 p.m. EST 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 WHIDDON LAKE ROAD RESURFACING. The specifications of this procurement are stated in ITB 2025-12

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 bnnowak@mywakulla.com.

All technical inquiries and clarification requests shall be submitted in writing to Berkleigh Nowak, Procurement and Contracts Coordinator, bnnowak@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 22, 2025



FOLLOW THE SUN.

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.”

LETTERS FROM READERS



Wakulla library writers

Editor, The Sun:

Kitty Culkin, standing, leads the Wakulla Library Writers Class: a group of writers of all ages and abilities. From left to right are: Marj Law, Diane Tompson, Marigrace Cole, Elizabeth Goble, Jan Holtman, Mike and Sara Lindert, Tony Rizzo, Lorrie Stanford, and Verna Brock.

We join together each week to improve our writing skills and create stories,

both fictional and non-fictional. Kitty guides us through the rudiments of competent and creative writing. “Watch for us. We’re going places!” she said to me.

Thanks to Library Director Linda Oaks, the Wakulla County Public Library hosts many programs each month such as the: Historical Society, Quilting Guild, Book Babies, Wakulla County Garden Club and many more.

The Wakulla County Public Library serves as a vital force of our county!

Marj Law
Crawfordville

Something on your mind?

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

Class of ‘75 reunion

The Wakulla High School Class of 1975 will gather for supper at the Seineyard at Wildwood on Saturday, June 14, 2025 at 6 p.m. to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our graduation.

We will order from the menu and The Allie Cats will be playing later in the evening. Please reach out to Randy Myers, Gwendolyn Manning Staten, Jack Townsend, or Sandra Davis Vidak for more information and to join our group page on social media.

Library News

By LINDA OAKS
Library Director

Library News May 22nd to 28th:

Thursday, May 15th

- Creative Writing I 10am
- Lego Robotic Parent Meeting

5:30pm

- Friends of the Library Meeting 6:30pm
- Bible Study 7pm

Friday, May 23rd

- Mommy & Me Yoga 9am
- Quilting Guild 10am

• Family Game Night 4pm

Saturday, May 24th

- Closed for Memorial Day

Sunday, May 25th

- Closed

Monday, May 26th

- No Programs

Tuesday, May 27th

- No Children’s Programs
- Big Bend AHEC Tobacco Free 5:30pm
- Wakulla Girls Softball Assoc 6:30pm

Wednesday, May 28th

- No Children’s Programs
- Knitting Group 4pm

On the Horizon

Calendar of events for the week of May 22

Thursday, May 22

- Wakulla High School graduation for the Class of 2025 will be held at J.D. Jones Stadium beginning at 8 p.m.
- 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 or text/call at (850) 528-5838.
- Gentle Yoga at First Baptist Church, 3086 Crawfordville Hwy., at 11:30 a.m. Chair participants welcome. \$2 donation per class. Bring your mat.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. every Thursday at 54 Ochlockonee St.

Friday, May 23

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

Saturday, May 24

- Fish fry fundraiser for Keely and Kiley Hand will be held at Hudson Park from 11 a.m. until sold out. \$10 per plate includes mullet, two sides and hushpuppies. (Proceeds go to Keely’s funeral expenses and Kiley’s medical bills.

Monday, May 26

- MEMORIAL DAY – Banks, government offices will be closed for the holiday.
- Memorial Day Observance will be held on the courthouse lawn beginning at 10 a.m.

Tuesday, May 27

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

Wednesday, May 21

- Yoga with Stacy at the community center at 11 a.m. \$2 donation per class.
- 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.

• VFW Memorial Day event, featuring hot dogs and hamburgers, a cake walk and more, will be held at Post 4538, 475 Arran Road, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. (See advertisement on Page 13)

• The Wakulla Respite Program will be available for anyone with memory impairment at no cost from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Lake Ellen Baptist Church every Monday.

• Yoga 101 with Nellie at 6 p.m. Classes are \$12, packages available at New Posh on 3079 Crawfordville Hwy. RSVP to newposh3079@gmail.com or text/call at (850) 528-5838.

• Gentle Yoga and Stretching Class, every Monday, 11 a.m. Wakulla Community Center. Bring a mat. Come early to sign in. Chair Yoga participants welcome. \$2 per class.

• Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. at 54 Ochlockonee St.

“It’s A New Day!”

The Wakulla Sun

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The Wakulla Sun, Copyright © 2023 is published weekly by Hot Water Publishing, 12 Arran Road, Crawfordville FL. Periodicals postage is pending at Crawfordville FL.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Wakulla Sun, 12 Arran Road, Crawfordville FL 32327.

Subscriptions to The Wakulla Sun

In County - \$40/yr. - \$25/6 mo. Out of County - \$50/yr. - \$30/6 mo.

Out of State - \$60/yr. - \$35/6 mo.

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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

William Snowden
Editor & Publisher
The Wakulla Sun

To celebrate the 3rd anniversary of The Sun, here’s the first Street Beat from our first issue:

Polled at the Wakulla Christian Coalition’s Black History Parade 2022: What’s your favorite thing about Wakulla County?



BOSSIE HAWKINS
WAKULLA CHRISTIAN COALITION

“I like the rural feel of it.”



JENNIE V. JONES
WAKULLA CHRISTIAN COALITION

“The ruralness of it! But we are growing so much right now. I want to add that the Christian Coalition is going on 20 years.”



SHIRLEY HOWARD
COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER

“I like the unity and togetherness. And, in times of need - United We Stand!”



KENNY MANNING
EVENT COORDINATOR

“The love from the citizens and the agencies. The sheriff’s office, the school board, the health department, and so many more, lots of unity.”



ROBERT MANNING
EVENT COORDINATOR

“The camaraderie, the unity of this community.”

--Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

Wakulla Crossroads

By Verna Brock

Here we are, on the cusp of another weather season from Hell. Our neighbors across the country are returning to homes that have been reduced to kindling. Currently the death count stands at 28 souls gone in seconds. Hurricane “season” is slated to begin June first, and predicted to be “above average” in intensity. Feeling that PTSD kicking in yet?

This past weekend, our TeeVee screens were filled with scenes of neighbors rushing to disasters. Across the landscape folks are pitching in to help those unfortunate enough to be in the path of the latest tornadoes. Only a year ago, it was Tallahassee, and us, digging out from a triple whammy. Many are still in the throes of demolition and renovation. Some will never recover, their lives upended in minutes during those early morning storms.

Sometimes, we as a people seem divided and angry all the time. But look around and really see who we are. From every walk of life, every culture, every religion, we respond with compassion and genuine concern for our neighbors experiencing disaster and loss. It was true nearly 25 years ago on September 11th when the unthinkable was visited upon us. Weren’t we all New Yorkers on that terrible day? And it is true today, as people see their entire lives destroyed in an instant by storms, fires and floods. It is also true when someone is lost to violence, accident or illness. Even trauma on a smaller scale summons our most heartfelt and supportive reaction.

No one asks for our voter’s registration cards, or our birth certificates in time of need. We simply reach to embrace each other and help pick up the pieces. I believe this is the absolute best thing we do, allowing our

shared humanity to shine through the darkest days. It is what defines us as a people, as a community, and as a nation. I’m so grateful to live in a time and place where we simply work to move mountains together, no matter how insurmountable the task appears to be. Friends, I deeply respect and applaud this spirit of fellow-feeling, and salute you!

In the midst of all of this, I take comfort in the basic goodness of Americans. We don’t just respond in emergencies. We work to support each other everyday. This week, I want to recognize the Men Baking Cakes for the Wakulla Coastal Optimist Club. These awesome gentlemen made amazing cakes to auction off to the highest bidders, just in time for Mother’s Day. I was proud to be the highest bidder for the cake made by Robert Manning, and my family was the very happy beneficiaries of his baking skills.

All together, over \$4,000 was raised! Every penny will go to the best and brightest students in Wakulla Coun-

ty to support their further education and training. This year, the Class of 2025 was awarded \$22,000 by the Optimists; the funds raised two weeks ago will help next year’s graduates. If you’re unfamiliar with the Optimists and Men Bake Cakes, check out the Club’s Facebook page. The videos are hilarious, and the cakes, spectacular. These guys are total heroes.

Be sure and thank our game friends for being such good sports. Their efforts help support a very worthy cause. But this is just one example of what Wakullans do to be neighborly. In times of loss and tragedy, we respond with everything from go-fund-me sites to help mitigate grieving families’ expenses, to fish-fries, to work days, to prayer chains, to simply checking on each other in times of stress, illness and sorrow. We are the definition of the words “neighbor” and “citizen” when we put our convictions into actions.

Y’all keep up the good work out there!

Bob Crowson

From Front Page

ert Crow(son) Shows Heroism in Viet Nam”, reported that one of the five enemy soldiers “stood his ground” as Crowson and the enemy opened up simultaneously. “Crow(son)’s rounds were first to find their mark and the enemy sagged to the ground. Crow(son) killed a second enemy soldier as the remaining three escaped,” the article stated.

Operation Meade River – “Good Job, Hotel Company”

Although some events he recalls with humor, his eyes often “tear up” when speaking of horrific battles in which his buddies or fellow Marines were wounded or killed.

In Operation Meade River, known as the largest air assault in Marine Corps history, Crowson was commended for saving the life of a fellow Marine. The VVA Veteran organization reported the battle lasted for 19 days and was the “final major – and arguably the biggest and most volatile – battle of 1968.”

Crowson said during the Operation, the Marines formed a 15-mile circle around the enemy and pushed in. “They (U.S. Marines) kept pulling us Marines out as we closed in until it got down to 200 yards,” he said. “Then they dropped leaflets telling Vietnamese soldiers to get out.”

After closing in to 200 yards, all the 5th Marines had been pulled out except for Hotel Company, he said. “It took three days to take 200 yards. They told us to take no prisoners.”

In a letter home, Crowson described the Meade River battle in detail. “That operation was a long and rough one,” he wrote. “Hotel Company got the worst end of the job. We pushed the gooks down a small place about a 1,000 yd. sq. We still had them surrounded and they sent us down the middle to clean them out. We made it about 200 yards when the gooks started hitting us. We were in the middle of a rice field when they hit us, and we

kept going until we got to a tree line. The tree line was about 300 yd or so.”

Crowson said they took cover in the tree line until the next morning. He noted that while other platoons had suffered losses that day his (3rd) Platoon didn’t have anyone hit.

“The next morning, we moved out again and were getting sniper fire all the time we were moving up,” he wrote. “We were 700 yards in when they hit us hard. We were out in a rice paddy and the gooks were in bunkers and had machine guns set up.”

He went on to explain how he and his best friend, William W. “Bill” Burke rescued fellow Marine David A. Welham. “Dave was in front of me and got hit in the leg and side. His leg was broke,” Crowson wrote. “The gooks had us pinned down and we couldn’t move. I had another boy in my squad that was killed.

“Me and Bill Burke went out and got Dave and pulled him on the ground for about 50 yards before we could get up. We got him back (to an area) where the choppers could get him out, and there were wounded Marines laying all over the place.”

Crowson wrote that at the end of the day, there were 17 Marines killed and 18 wounded with 10 wounded and three killed from 3rd Platoon. “I don’t know how they missed me,” he wrote. “I had bullets raining all around me, but they still missed.”

Crowson said they stayed there that night and were “chopped” out to An Hoa the next morning “Today is the 10th and we’ve got another operation the 13th which is supposed to be 90 days long,” he wrote. “I guess they think we’re super Marines because they sure don’t let us stop. I’ll sure be glad when this war is over. I know the Lord was with me or I would have got hit.”

Bill Burke was wounded by sniper fire during the battle as he and Crowson loaded wounded Marines onto helicopters to be “medevacked” out. “We were loading a wounded guy onto the chopper when Bill was shot,” Crowson said. “It hit his flak jacket and went through his arm. Fibers from his flak jacket hit my stomach.

“I thought I was shot,” he laughed.



Bob Crowson of Sopchoppy and grandson Nate Crowson of Inverness making a tracing at the Vietnam War Memorial traveling wall in Inverness.

“I put Bill on the chopper and went back and got my rifle to keep snipers away. There were too many of us getting shot.”

Crowson described the return of his squad to base camp after Meade River. “There weren’t many of us left,” he said, his voice getting gruff with tears. “Only six of us made it back.” He said Marines lined up on both sides of the road as they returned, cheering, slapping them on the back and saying, “Good job, Hotel Company.”

‘I Could Have Saved Him’

Although Crowson’s friend, Bill Burke, survived his wounds from the Meade River battle, he tragically lost his life in Vietnam shortly after Crowson had been sent to the Naval Hospital in Pensacola to recuperate from his wounds. One of Crowson’s major regrets is that he was not in Vietnam when Burke was shot. “I could have saved him,” he said his voice tightening with pain. “We always watched each other’s backs.”

After Burke was killed, his parents sent Crowson a letter telling him about their son’s death. “He was so distraught he couldn’t even read it,”

said Crowson’s longtime partner, Linda George of Sopchoppy. “His father (Oscar Crowson) had to read it to him.”

Burke’s family requested that the Marine Corps have Crowson identify their son’s body and accompany him back home to California. “That’s the worst thing I ever had to do in my life,” said Crowson, who was at that time still recovering from his wounds.

Crowson flew to San Francisco and from there accompanied Burke’s body to Los Angeles. “Everybody stayed on the plane until Bob got off and they had unloaded Bill’s body,” George said. Crowson then went to the funeral home where he identified Burke’s body before meeting his family.

“The only thing Bill’s dad asked was, ‘Is it my son?’” Crowson said. “I answered, ‘Yes, sir. It’s definitely Bill.’”

Crowson stayed with the family for a week after the funeral. “They loved him, and he loved them,” George said. He has visited and stayed in touch with the Burke family over the years and he and George recently visited Bill’s gravesite in California. They have taken their grandson, Nathaniel “Nate” Walker Crowson of Inverness, to get a “rubbing” of Bill’s name engraved on The Traveling Wall.

Although Crowson was happy to be back home in Wakulla County where he continued his recovery, adjustment was not easy. “I lived in the woods for a while,” he chuckled. “I didn’t want to be around nobody. I didn’t want to be in a place with a bunch of people. The first few months I just walked around wanting someone to look at me the wrong way.”

He has suffered from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder since the war, two bouts of cancer due to Agent Orange, and is now engaged in a case regarding the water at Camp Lejeune.

Crowson, an avid fisherman (he had a knee replacement so he could continue using his trolling motor), gardener and hunter, now lives contentedly with his partner, Linda, on the Sopchoppy River in his beloved hometown.

Outdoors

outdoor sports

HOME ON THE RANGE

Revolvers vs. semi-automatic hand guns



By MARJ LAW

Sam (Samantha) and Edie are twins. They are identical in appearance, and they both agreed they should have 9mm handguns.

I'm sitting in a booth behind them in an eating establishment. Their voices are raised; maybe because of their choices of libations. Not meaning to eavesdrop, I can hear almost every word of their conversation.

"Well, we both bought our 9mm handguns," begins Sam, "but I got the best one. The Charter Arms Target Pit Bull 4.2"-inch barreled gun makes the most sense."

"Why do you think that?" questions Edie. "I like my Smith & Wesson Equalizer just fine."

"Good thing, since you already bought it," retorts Sam. "My Pitty is better. It's a revolver. All you do is point and shoot. How simple is that?"

"Goodness, Sam, I seem to recall that we both graduated Wakulla High School a few years back. Do you think we're too stupid to learn to use a semi-automatic?" Edie is clearly insulted.

"Well, no, but loading a revolver is a lot easier than loading a semi-automatic."

"Ha! Those moon clips are a pain. Moon clips are a lot of bother for only five rounds."

"What are you talking about?" defends Sam. "My Pit Bull doesn't take moon clips. You just pop a round in each chamber. Easy peasy."

"Oh, yeah, I remember. Although most revolvers need moon clips, your Pit Bull doesn't need them. But still, Sam, your revolver only takes five rounds. You're practically a new shooter. Are you so confident in your shooting that five rounds will take down an angry Mr. Bad? And what if Mr. Bad has a friend? Five rounds aren't many!"

"OK, you got me on that one. But your Equalizer only takes 10 rounds."

"Yeah," and Edie is sounding smug. "Only one of the magazines holds 10 rounds. But my gun also came with a 13 and a 15-round magazine."

"I forgot about those. But loading them will be hard on your hands. By the time you have a few rounds in a magazine, your thumbs will be sore from all that pushing against the magazine spring."

"You forget, Sam, that my Equalizer also came with an UpLula. Not bad to get three magazines, an UpLula and a gun for such a low price. Besides, I don't like a safety and your Pit Bull has one."

Sam is quiet for a moment. Then she replies: "Oh, yes it does. In a way.



My Pit Bull has a really long and hard trigger pull. It's so long and hard that you really mean to shoot when you pull that trigger. The hard trigger acts as a safety. So, I don't have to have a safety. Your Equalizer doesn't have a safety and it does have an easy trigger pull. I think it needs a safety."

Edie objects. "It does too have a safety. The safety's in the grip. If you don't have a firm hold on the Equalizer, the gun can't shoot. It's that thing on the back of the grip. Your Pit Bull's long hard pull makes it no fun to shoot at all. My Equalizer's trigger pull is 5 pounds, 10 ounces according to our Lyman Digital Scale. Your Pit Bull comes in at close to 10 pounds. That's a big difference."

"I'll give you that one. A 10-pound pull is kinda strong, but it won't seem like much because I intend to practice a lot at the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office range."

"Good thing. I'll be practicing too," Edie retorts. "Besides having a hard trigger pull, your Pit Bull has a longer barrel and it's wider. It must weigh a ton more than my Equalizer."

"You'd think so, but my Pit Bull weighs in at 23

ounces, and your Equalizer weighs 22.9 ounces. That's about as close as you can get in weight. Besides, my gun is stainless, and your gun is a polymer gun."

"Nothing wrong with polymer," says Edie. "And the Equalizer's slide is metal. That's where it counts. Besides, have you ever tried to clean a stainless gun? It's really hard to get all the shooting deposits off the stainless steel."

"That's just because you can see the dark shooting residue on my stainless gun. Your Equalizer gets just as dirty. You just don't see it as well as on my Pit's shiny stainless finish."

"Yeah, well speaking of your stainless gun, did you notice how hard it is to see the front sight on your Pit Bull? It's stainless, like the rest of the gun. That makes it too hard to see. I prefer my big white dot sights."

"I've already figured that one." Sam is loud and proud. "I got me some bright orange nail polish and covered the entire ramp of the front sight."

"You tell her!" booms a man from the booth behind them. "A revolver is the only way to go!"

Edie isn't taking that sitting down. Her gaze rakes over the large man who is now standing up. "For you, maybe. You can carry a big gun, but we're built small. I can carry my Equalizer inside my waistband, but I'd never be able to carry the Pit Bull."

The man winks at the young women. "Yep, lil' ladies. I believe you're right. If you were carrying the Pit Bull, I bet I'd see it."

Both gals avoid looking at him, so he sits back down.

"I don't like a hammer gun," says Edie. "Your revolver is a hammer gun."

"Edie," returns Sam patiently. "Your Equalizer is a hammer gun, remember?"

"Darn. You're right," agrees Edie. "At first, I thought it was a striker-fired gun because the back of the gun was flat, and I couldn't see the hammer. But then, I locked back the slide and turned it upside-down. Sure enough, there was the firing pin. Oh well, I still like my Equalizer best."

"And, Edie," continues Sam after a short pause, "the Pit Bull has a great big grip. You can hold on tight with its rubberized finish. And it has finger grooves, too."

"Mebbe so, but my Equalizer is smaller and narrower. The grip is great for a small hand," retorts Edie.

"Both our grips are pretty well suited to our size," agrees Sam. "But your semi-automatic is hard to take down to clean. Revolvers are easy."

"Oh, really, Sam. You think I can't lock back the slide, then turn a lever at a 90° angle? Then you can move the slide right off the frame. People make it sound like semi-automatics are so difficult to learn."

Sam and Edie finish their meals and ask for the check.

"It's been taken care of," says the server.

Sam and Edie look around. The big guy from the booth behind them stands and smiles.

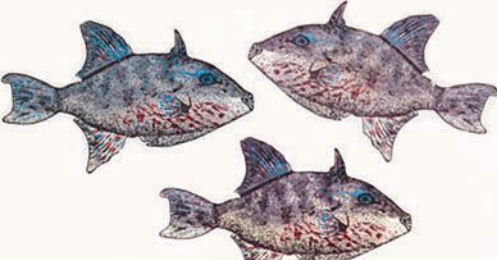
"Y'all have a great evening!"

Sam and Edie walk arm-in-arm to the door, giggling.

"Maybe we should have been a little nicer to him!" I hear Edie say.

"Yeah, but then we'd have to hear all about his revolver!"

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



TRIGGERFISH
(*Balistes capriscus*)

This fish has a sharp dorsal spine that springs up when threatened. Triggerfish hunt by spraying water at sand to expose prey. Their hard jaws bite holes in shells. They bite the eyestalks off lobsters, devour their legs until the lobster are helpless and then finish them off. They mate when water is >70F. They guard the nest until the fry hatch in 2 days. Fry live in floating sargassum beds. Trigger fish are important commercial fishes growing to 30" and living 13 years.

Eukarya, Animalia, Cordata, Tetraodontiformes, Balistidae

Gulf Specimen Marine Laboratory
www.gulfspecimen.org

Wakulla
Lawn Ranger
Gene
Darby
850-251-9122



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Trimming

Mowing
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Lady War Eagles head to state

Staff Report

The Lady War Eagles are headed to the FHSAA softball Final Four this week after winning the regional championship last week. On Tuesday, they defeated West Florida 11-0 in 6 innings to advance, and had a great game from pitcher Charley Butler, who is an Auburn commit, and had 10 strikeouts On Thursday, they sealed a trip to the Final Court with a 6-0 win over Paxon in which Butler was back in the circle for a perfect game. On Wednesday, May 21, the Lady War Eagles take on Eustis at noon in the state semi-final. The winner takes on either Somerset Academy or Dunedin in the state championship on Thursday, May 22 at 6:30 p.m. Wakulla High Principal Michele Falk is traveling down for the semi-final game and if the girls win, Falk says she wants to have some sort of graduation ceremony for the seniors on Thursday before she heads back to Crawfordville for graduation. (Photo by Perry Dissmore)

Water Ways

a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences

SEA TOW

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

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Thursday 22

Sun rise/set
6:38AM
8:28PM

Moon rise/set
3:22AM
3:43PM

Moon Illumination 26%

Friday 23

Sun rise/set
6:38AM
8:28PM

Moon rise/set
3:54AM
4:50PM

Moon Illumination 17%

Saturday 24

Sun rise/set
6:38AM
8:29PM

Moon rise/set
4:27AM
6:00PM

Moon Illumination 9%

Sunday 25

Sun rise/set
6:37AM
8:29PM

Moon rise/set
5:05AM
7:13PM

Moon Illumination 3%

Monday 26

Sun rise/set
6:37AM
8:30PM

Moon rise/set
5:50AM
8:28PM

Moon Illumination 0%

Tuesday 27

Sun rise/set
6:37AM
8:31PM

Moon rise/set
6:42AM
9:41PM

Moon Illumination 1%

Wednesday 28

Sun rise/set
6:36AM
8:31PM

Moon rise/set
7:43AM
10:46PM

Moon Illumination 4%

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.

Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

May 22 - May 28

Tide charts by
tides4fishing.com

First
June 2

Full
June 11

Last
June 18

New
May 26

Best fishing days this month
May 26-31

Thursday 22

Minor Times
2:37AM
2:58PM

Major Times
8:13AM
8:37PM

Friday 23

Minor Times
3:09AM
4:05PM

Major Times
9:02AM
9:27PM

Saturday 24

Minor Times
3:42AM
5:15PM

Major Times
9:54AM
10:21PM

Sunday 25

Minor Times
4:20AM
6:28PM

Major Times
10:50AM

Monday 26

Minor Times
5:05AM
7:43PM

Major Times
11:19PM
11:50AM

Tuesday 27

Minor Times
5:57AM
8:56PM

Major Times
12:22AM
12:54PM

Wednesday 28

Minor Times
6:58AM
10:01PM

Major Times
1:27AM
2:00PM

St. Marks River Entrance

Th 4:31 am ▼ 0.7 ft

11:02 am ▲ 3.3 ft

5:30 pm ▼ 0.8 ft

11:45 pm ▲ 3.1 ft

Fr 5:29 am ▼ 3.3 ft

11:43 am ▲ 1.3 ft

6:29 pm ▼ 3.8 ft

Sa 12:57 am ▼ 3.5 ft

6:20 am ▼ 1.3 ft

12:21 pm ▲ 3.8 ft

7:22 pm ▼ -0.4 ft

Su 1:57 am ▼ 3.5 ft

7:07 am ▼ 1.5 ft

12:59 pm ▲ 4.0 ft

8:12 pm ▼ -0.8 ft

Mo 2:52 am ▼ 3.5 ft

7:50 am ▼ 1.7 ft

1:38 pm ▲ 4.2 ft

9:02 pm ▼ -1.1 ft

Tu 3:43 am ▼ 3.5 ft

8:31 am ▼ 1.8 ft

2:17 pm ▲ 4.3 ft

9:50 pm ▼ -1.1 ft

We 4:32 am ▼ 3.4 ft

9:10 am ▼ 1.9 ft

2:58 pm ▲ 4.3 ft

10:38 pm ▼ -1.0 ft

City of St. Marks

Th 5:35 am ▼ 0.7 ft

11:38 am ▲ 3.1 ft

6:34 pm ▼ 0.7 ft

Fr 12:21 am ▼ 2.9 ft

6:33 am ▼ 0.9 ft

12:19 pm ▲ 3.3 ft

7:33 pm ▼ 0.1 ft

Sa 1:33 am ▼ 3.1 ft

7:24 am ▼ 1.1 ft

12:57 pm ▲ 3.5 ft

8:26 pm ▼ -0.4 ft

Su 2:33 am ▼ 3.2 ft

8:11 am ▼ 1.3 ft

1:35 pm ▲ 3.7 ft

9:16 pm ▼ -0.8 ft

Mo 3:28 am ▼ 3.3 ft

8:54 am ▼ 1.5 ft

2:14 pm ▲ 4.0 ft

10:06 pm ▼ -1.0 ft

Tu 4:19 am ▼ 3.3 ft

9:35 am ▼ 1.6 ft

2:53 pm ▲ 4.0 ft

10:54 pm ▼ -1.0 ft

We 5:08 am ▼ 3.1 ft

10:14 am ▼ 1.7 ft

3:34 pm ▲ 4.0 ft

11:42 pm ▼ -0.9 ft

Shell Point, Spring Creek

Th 4:55 am ▼ 0.9 ft

11:25 am ▲ 3.4 ft

5:52 pm ▼ 0.7 ft

Fr 12:09 am ▼ 3.2 ft

5:51 am ▼ 1.1 ft

12:03 pm ▲ 3.7 ft

6:50 pm ▼ 0.1 ft

Sa 1:17 am ▼ 3.4 ft

6:40 am ▼ 1.4 ft

12:40 pm ▲ 3.9 ft

7:41 pm ▼ -0.5 ft

Su 2:15 am ▼ 3.6 ft

7:25 am ▼ 1.6 ft

1:17 pm ▲ 4.1 ft

8:31 pm ▼ -0.9 ft

Mo 3:08 am ▼ 3.6 ft

8:07 am ▼ 1.8 ft

1:54 pm ▲ 4.3 ft

9:19 pm ▼ -1.1 ft

Tu 3:58 am ▼ 3.6 ft

8:47 am ▼ 1.9 ft

2:33 pm ▲ 4.4 ft

10:08 pm ▼ -1.1 ft

We 4:47 am ▼ 3.4 ft

9:26 am ▼ 2.0 ft

3:14 pm ▲ 4.3 ft

10:57 pm ▼ -1.0 ft

Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay

Th 4:42 am ▼ 0.7 ft

10:54 am ▲ 2.5 ft

5:41 pm ▼ 0.6 ft

11:37 pm ▲ 2.3 ft

Fr 5:40 am ▼ 0.7 ft

11:35 am ▲ 2.7 ft

6:40 pm ▼ 0.1 ft

Sa 12:49 am ▼ 2.5 ft

6:31 am ▼ 0.8 ft

12:13 pm ▲ 2.8 ft

7:33 pm ▼ -0.3 ft

Su 1:49 am ▼ 2.6 ft

7:18 am ▼ 1.1 ft

12:51 pm ▲ 3.0 ft

8:23 pm ▼ -0.6 ft

Mo 2:44 am ▼ 2.7 ft

8:01 am ▼ 1.2 ft

1:30 pm ▲ 3.1 ft

9:13 pm ▼ -0.8 ft

Tu 3:35 am ▼ 2.6 ft

8:42 am ▼ 1.3 ft

2:09 pm ▲ 3.2 ft

10:01 pm ▼ -0.8 ft

We 4:24 am ▼ 2.5 ft

9:21 am ▼ 1.4 ft

2:50 pm ▲ 3.2 ft

10:49 pm ▼ -0.7 ft

St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.

Th 4:45 am ▼ 0.8 ft

11:06 am ▲ 2.7 ft

5:50 pm ▼ 0.7 ft

11:58 pm ▲ 2.4 ft

Fr 5:39 am ▼ 1.1 ft

11:35 am ▲ 2.9 ft

6:36 pm ▼ 0.1 ft

Sa 1:09 am ▼ 2.6 ft

6:26 am ▼ 1.4 ft

12:05 pm ▲ 3.1 ft

7:19 pm ▼ -0.4 ft

Su 2:10 am ▼ 2.7 ft

7:07 am ▼ 1.6 ft

12:37 pm ▲ 3.3 ft

8:03 pm ▼ -0.8 ft

Mo 3:05 am ▼ 2.8 ft

7:43 am ▼ 1.8 ft

1:12 pm ▲ 3.4 ft

8:49 pm ▼ -1.0 ft

Tu 3:59 am ▼ 2.7 ft

8:17 am ▼ 2.0 ft

1:51 pm ▲ 3.5 ft

9:36 pm ▼ -1.0 ft

We 4:53 am ▼ 2.6 ft

8:51 am ▼ 2.1 ft

2:34 pm ▲ 3.5 ft

10:26 pm ▼ -0.9 ft

Dog Island West End

Th 4:47 am ▼ 1.0 ft

11:07 am ▲ 2.4 ft

6:08 pm ▼ 0.6 ft

Fr 12:22 am ▼ 2.1 ft

5:51 am ▼ 1.3 ft

11:35 am ▲ 2.5 ft

7:00 pm ▼ 0.0 ft

Sa 1:54 am ▼ 2.3 ft

6:55 am ▼ 1.6 ft

12:08 pm ▲ 2.7 ft

7:47 pm ▼ -0.4 ft

Su 3:01 am ▼ 2.4 ft

7:45 am ▼ 1.8 ft

12:46 pm ▲ 2.9 ft

8:29 pm ▼ -0.8 ft

Mo 4:00 am ▼ 2.5 ft

8:24 am ▼ 1.9 ft

1:28 pm ▲ 3.0 ft

9:12 pm ▼ -0.9 ft

Tu 4:56 am ▼ 2.5 ft

9:06 am ▼ 2.0 ft

2:11 pm ▲ 3.1 ft

9:56 pm ▼ -0.9 ft

We 5:46 am ▼ 2.5 ft

9:28 am ▼ 2.1 ft

2:55 pm ▲ 3.0 ft

10:46 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

This week is National Safe Boating Week. The following article contains excerpts from Recreational Boating Safety – National Safe Boating Week By Bob Currie, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Recreational Boating Safety Specialist, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Station Galveston Flotilla.

Safe Boating Week is from May 17-23, 2025. The purpose of the Safe Boating Campaign is to promote boater education and safe operation so that all boaters get home safely. Getting home safely from a recreational boating outing is simply a matter of following some important good practices. Some of the good practices are required by law, some are recommendations from the Coast Guard, and some just make good practice. Although this is not a complete list, it is a good start to operating safely on the water.

GOOD PRACTICES FOR SAFE BOATING

If you remember and follow these good practices for safe boating, you will have a pretty good chance of getting

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

back home safely from a recreational boating outing:

1. Life Jackets Save Lives - Wear a Life Jacket
2. Safe Boats Save Lives – Obtain a Vessel Safety Check
3. Knowledgeable Boaters Save Lives - Take a Boating Course
4. Sober Boaters Save Lives – Never Boat Under the Influence

SELF-INFLATING LIFE JACKET TEST

If you depend on a self-inflating life jacket like me, just prior to your first trip of the season you should manually blow the life jacket up using the manual inflator to test it for leaks. Don't forget that the manual inflator is there in case the CO2 cartridge fails.

A note about boat charters: Boat operators who take passen-

gers for hire must be licensed by the Coast Guard. The entry level license is the Six-Pack Captain's license, officially known as the Operator of an Uninspected Passenger Vessel License. Captains with this license have to undergo extensive training and pass a Coast Guard licensing exam in order to receive this certification. They may take six paying passengers aboard, hence the name given the license. Many accidents involving deaths had unlicensed charter boat operators or had exceeded the number of paying passengers for which the captain was licensed. If you take a chartered trip, be sure to ensure that your captain aboard is licensed for the number of paying passengers on board.

For additional boating resources and tips,

please visit SafeBoatingCampaign.com. Thanks to Sherrie, we will always remember safe boating is no accident! Check back next week for more information from the 2025 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.

Underwater Wakulla

By Gregg Stanton

Toxic lakes in the Palau Islands. July 7, 2011

Imagine collecting sediment samples underwater in a tropical jungle on the other side of the world.

Around here the 100-plus degree surface weather makes diving the cooler caves difficult when we dress up for the cold water and faint from heat exhaustion before we get in!

But when I was asked to work with FSU chemical oceanographers to dive the bottom of a series of toxic lakes in the Palau Islands, I jumped in.

You may recall a National Geographic article on Jellyfish Lake, where the entire population of jellyfish migrates from one end of this enclosed island lake to the other every day. They follow the sun.

But below this happy migration is a body of toxic hydrogen sulfide water separating itself from above by a pycnocline or density layer holding colorful bacteria.

What we sought was on the bottom, sediment that has the predecessor of phosphate. Palau is near the equator, so it is naturally hot above and below the water. And the hydrogen sulfide is poisonous by penetrating the exposed skin of divers.

Sounds like a job for a robot, but no such option existed back then, so divers were deployed.

First we needed to build a portable raft capable of supporting an ample crew of divers in the middle of the lake.

We asked engineering students at the Academic Diving Program to design a platform made of locally (in Palau) available materials that had to be assembled in the water as there are no beaches. A prototype was built, deployed and tested right here in Wakulla County in Cherokee Sink.

Deploying divers in tropical waters dressed in gear to protect them from toxic hydrogen sulfide was a different matter.

We began with collaboration with the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and their chemical hazmat diving suit. NOAA trained us on this surface waterfied suit during our winter months since it required hot water. They reasoned that by pumping surface water into the suit, any toxic water at depth would be kept out, and being from the north, hot water also kept the diver warm.

We proposed to pump cold water down in the tropics. But somehow, with shifts in NOAA staffing the project, by the time we set up on station, that little detail was changed to pumping 90 degree surface water down to the diver.

This floor was no ordinary lake bottom. Imagine diving in a septic tank. The fluid above the floor is clear but the visual bottom is not the solid floor you might expect. The diver riding the core collector down had to tell the surface crew to stop before penetrating this optical fluid layer. Once through it, the density of the substrate increased slowly. He would then manually crank the core down until it would go no further.

I was asked to serve as the standby diver in full hazmat suit with no cooling water in my suit on the scorching barge deck (under an awning) while a young NOAA diver was lowered down.

Fortunately for us the diver was a biologist and keenly interested in the success of the project. Any exertion now meant overheating the diver. And I could hear this problem building in the diver's voice over the intercom as he struggled with the slow core driver's crank.

He finally reported to the anxious topside crew that he could go no further and was brought up. His umbilical became entangled in the core driver's cable resulting is a rush to pull everything up fast. With the open core spilling out just under the barge, they pulled the exhausted diver on deck and peeled him out of his suit. He was as red as a cooked lobster, exhausted, but smiling as he knew he made the difference.

Quietly, in the confusion of the recovery, I slipped over the side and swam under the barge and capped off the core.

A retired Marine participating on the project spent the rest of the day with this 4-inch core that was at least 10 feet long strapped to his back, climbing up cliffs to get the sample back to the lab on a different island.

The sample collected became so valuable since we could only get one that all efforts went into the lab sampling the core.

What we did find was that at the lake's floor, the water temperature was cooler than the surface by as much as 20 degrees. Fascinating!

WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO

On his weekly wildlife survey at Wakulla Springs last week, retired park ranger Bob Thompson took this photo of a green heron with a minnow in its beak.

I appreciate the solemnity of Memorial Day



By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

In the mid-1990s, when my son, Joshua, announced that he had enlisted in the Army, I felt nervous yet proud of his decision to serve his country.

When Kuwait was be-

coming increasingly unstable, Joshua called to say his unit was awaiting word on whether they would be sent to that region. I prayed earnestly for my son’s protection, holding my breath for his return. Thankfully, a few years later, Joshua came home unharmed, never having gone to Kuwait. Thousands of families of service members have waited for their husbands, wives, sons, daughters, sisters or brothers to return. But instead of receiving a warm hug, they received flag-draped caskets. Their dreams of cel-

ebrating joyful milestones, anniversaries, family weddings and children and grandchildren’s graduations, are buried forever. I appreciate the solemnity of Memorial Day. Imagine the courage it took for our soldiers to endure weeks, and sometimes years, of raw terror while they wondered what the future might bring. Their families, convinced that no feeling was worse than wondering if their loved ones were all right, realized how wrong they were when they heard that dreaded

knock on the door. These newest members of the Gold Star family (families of fallen service members) would gratefully trade the “not knowing” for the awful certainty they now face every day. God speaks highly of those who lay down their lives for others: “Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13 ESV). If your loved one died while serving our country, I grieve your heart-breaking loss. I pray we, as a nation, will be found worthy of the huge price you and your fallen sol-

dier paid. To the rest of us, I ask: Do we, as a nation, appreciate the sacrifices made by our service members – and the sacrifices of their families? Many, like my friend, Wanda Johnson, were “raised to love our country and honor and respect all the soldiers who preserved our liberty throughout their tremendous sacrifices.” If we were not raised to love our country and our military, we can begin now. On this Memorial Day weekend, let’s do something to honor those who gave their lives defending

our nation. I know I’m not alone in saying that I don’t pray for America nearly as often as I should. Therefore, to pay tribute to the fallen, let’s unite as a nation to intercede for our leaders in government, in churches and in our homes, so we can truly be the United States of America ... under God. *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 good father



By **CHERYL CRUCE**

One of the most iconic images from old television is the opening scene of The Andy Griffith Show. Andy and Opie walk together down a dirt path, fishing poles in hand, heading toward their favorite fishing hole. Andy’s pant leg is tucked into his boot; Opie’s are rolled up above his bare feet. There are no distractions – just a father and son enjoying

time together. That scene always tugs at something in me, because I recall moments like that with my dad. He had his favorite fishing places, and when he brought the family along, they became our favorite places too. He had a way of making life feel full of wonder. I’ll never forget the time he was doing carpentry work on the local five and dime and came home with a cotton candy machine. That afternoon, every child in the neighborhood showed up in our yard for a taste of that sweet, sugary magic. Dad had a way of building memories that stayed with us. I have seen that same gift carried on in the

father of my children. Baseball games. Track meets. Basketball tournaments. He was always there. He made the moments matter. Fishing trips. Camping weekends. Afternoons spent under the hood of a car, working side by side. He taught our children not just how to fix things or build things, but how to live with purpose, how to accomplish something good, how to be present for the people you love. Thinking back on those moments, I can’t help but see the reflection of our Heavenly Father. He, too, walks beside us. He knows how to make ordinary moments extraordinary. He is present. Scripture reveals God as a Father – not just

any father, but a good Father. Jesus spoke of a good father who, when his child asks for bread, will not give a stone, or when he asks for fish, will not give a snake. If even an imperfect earthly father knows how to give good gifts, how much more does our perfect Heavenly Father delight in providing for His children (Matthew 7:9–11). The love of a good father is tender and attentive. He watches, listens, and provides – not out of obligation, but because it brings Him joy to care for His children. Our Heavenly Father is the ultimate expression of that love. We are reminded in Romans 8:15 that it is through Christ that

we have a relationship with the good Father. We are not orphans longing for a relationship. The Apostle Paul writes that we are the children of God through Christ. We are His sons and daughters! Our Heavenly Father is not a God of the distance, but a good, good Father. He is the One who sees us, hears us, and walks with us daily. Subsequently, if you’re weary today – if you’re missing your earthly father or never had a strong one – take heart. There is a perfect Father who loves you deeply. He never misses a moment to meet you in your quiet places with His peace. The God who created the stars also walks be-

side you, not because of what you can do for Him, but simply because you are His child. And unlike the fleeting sweetness of cotton candy, the Father’s love is eternal – tender, constant, and far more satisfying than anything the world can offer. So walk slowly today, knowing your Heavenly Father is right beside you, ready to share the journey. *Corinthians 6:18 I will be a Father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty. Cheryl Mixon-Cruce is Pastor of Ochlockonee Bay United Methodist Church and Sopchoppy United Methodist Church.*

OUT TO PASTOR

It’s not always what I don’t know



By **JAMES SNYDER**

I would be the first to admit one truth about myself: I don’t know everything. To quote a politician, “I don’t know what I don’t know.” One thing I don’t remember very well is names. For example, I know 10 people whose first name is George. They all look different, so I do not know what a George looks like. I think that’s the reason somebody invented the name “Buddy.” So confusing. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage does not have any memory failure. She can remember every day and what she has been doing since the day of her birth. Fortunately for me, I can count on her pristine memory. On my way to my office the other day, I walked through the kitchen where she was preparing lunch. As I walked through, she

said, “No, and I haven’t seen it in weeks.” I stopped, looked at her quizzically and said, “What?” She just smiled, so I continued to my office to begin work. As I began, I looked for my tape recorder, which I use Sunday mornings to record my sermon, and I couldn’t find it. I looked and looked and looked, but it was nowhere to be seen. After 30 minutes, I peeked into the kitchen and said, “Did you see...?” “Didn’t you hear me?” She said, “I said no.” I stood there a little stunned, and all I could say was, “What?” How did she know what I would ask her 30 minutes before I asked her? I sat in my office and thought about this for a moment. How could she know something like this before I even asked the question? What enables her to know ahead of time? Is she a prophet? While trying to process this, I found my tape recorder under some papers piled on my desk. A few days later as I walked through the kitchen on way to my office, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage looked at me and said, “It’s this Thursday at 9

o’clock.” I stared at her and said, “I didn’t ask you any question. What’s this all about?” She returned to her work, and I continued to my office. About an hour later, I was updating my schedule for the week. I wanted to know when my next doctor’s appointment was, but I didn’t have it on my schedule. I peeked into the kitchen and asked, “Do you know when my doctor’s appointment is?” She looked at me and said, “Don’t you listen to me? I said this Thursday at 9 o’clock.” I then remembered she said that, but when she said it, I had no idea what she was talking about. How did she know I wanted to know when my doctor’s appointment was? How did she know 45 minutes

before I asked her what I would ask her? It was a Monday morning, and as I went to my office The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage said, “They’re in your vest pocket in your closet.” I was hurrying to get to my office because I had a business appointment at the bank, so I didn’t listen very carefully to what she said. I looked around for my car keys and could not find them. Finally, I went to the kitchen and said, “Do you know...” “If you remember, I said earlier that they were in your vest pocket in your closet.” Thinking about it, I remember her saying that, but I had no idea what she was talking about at the time. How did she know I was going to look for my keys? When I returned home

from the bank that afternoon, I pondered all of this. When I see something, I think of how to use it to my advantage. It then hit me. I think I’m going to ask her which horse is going to win the race this weekend. I figured out how to present it so she does not know what I am doing. I walked into the kitchen later, and she looked at me and said, “No, I am not helping you on the horse race.” Later, I thought about that and said to myself, “I did not know we were so intimately connected.” Sitting in my office, I thought about this and was reminded of what wise old Solomon said. “1 My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and

hide my commandments with thee; 2 So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding;” (Proverbs 2:1-2). My take is, I need to be proactive when it comes to knowledge. My knowledge will feed my wisdom, which in turn will apply my heart to understanding. I can’t take for granted what I hear and I must learn how to pay attention to all that is around me. *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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Obituaries



Steven Bart Blais

Panacea has lost a dear community member, neighbor and pool player. Steven Bart Blais, friend, fisherman, and foodie died suddenly on February 17th 2025. He was a gentle and loving person who cherished and respected all living things. Steve possessed a great sense of humor and was quick to laugh at a joke and always had a joke ready.

Steve was born on August 15th, 1959 in Troy, N.Y. and was a graduate of Keveny Memorial Academy in Cohoes, N.Y. He attended Plattsburgh State University and lived for many years in the Florida panhandle. Steve’s love of fishing and the outdoors led him to Panacea, where he and his dog Booker enjoyed outings in his boat, The Fish-in’ Magician.

Steve worked for many years as an electrician. He was a skilled and trusted colleague.

He was a communicant of St Elizabeth Ann Seton parish. Steve was a member of the Moose

Lodge in Panacea, and an avid pool player. He was a frequent actor in the lodge’s murder mysteries and often lent a hand in the kitchen at the lodge.

He is survived and missed by his wife of 25 years, Elizabeth; his siblings Gerard (Dianne), Constance (the late Brent), Roger (Rose), Christina (Daniel) and Mary (Thomas); and his in-laws Robert and Cathy Collins, Kim Wheaton (Troy) and Jim Collins (Joann). He leaves many nephews and nieces who appreciated his stories, jokes and magic tricks.

He was predeceased by his parents Gerard and Annette and by his older brother John.

A service will be held Saturday May 31 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Medart at 10:30. A reception will follow to share stories and memories at the Moose Lodge in Panacea at noon.

Donations in Steve’s memory may be made to the Panacea Waterfronts/Kids Fishing Derby.



David A. Thompson

David A. Thompson, 54 of Curtis Mill died peacefully at home with his family by his side. David was a Painter, Pipefitter, and a Landscaper in his last years. A hard worker in all he accomplished.

Survivors include his parents Mitchell and Susan Thompson, brother Daniel Thompson and his wife Michele, his son Cory Vaughn Thompson, Cory’s mother Amy Longboat, Cory’s sister Alexandria Martucci, several aunts, uncles, cousins’, nephews and one grandnephew.

Funeral service will be at the Apostolic Pentecostal Church in Curtis Mill, on Saturday, May 31, 2025, 2:00 pm and the family will receive friends from 1:00-2:00 pm. Final resting place will be West Sopchoppy Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers please make contributions to Big Bend Hospice. bigbendhospice.org; 850-878-5310; 1723 Mahan Center Blvd. Tallahassee, Florida 32308.

Skip and Trey Young along with Paula are assisting the family. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel.

DEATH NOTICES

- **Paul Armstrong**, 78, of Crawfordville, died May 12, 2025
- **Joseph Bevis**, 80, of Crawfordville, died May 15, 2025.
- **Linda Henderson**, 71, of Crawfordville, died May 10, 2025
- **Michael Lambert**, 84, of Crawfordville, died May 14, 2025.
- **Gregory Relyea**, 68, of Carrabelle, died May 12, 2025
- **Floyd D. Robertson**, 90, of Crawfordville, died May 14, 2025.
- **Willard Waldrop**, 76, of Crawfordville, died May 13, 2025.

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

Sheriff’s Report

This report is for activity May 9 to 16. There were 1,603 total calls for service during the week.

FRIDAY, MAY 9

- Deputy Kittrell responded to the Sheriff’s Office lobby in reference to a fraud complaint. Complainant reported recently taking on a remote job online and recently received an offer from Agilysis Inc on May 7. The company requested complainant fill out what he believed to be new employee paperwork. On May 8, he received a check for \$3,890.90 to purchase equipment to work remotely and deposited it to his banking institution. On May 9, complainant received a request from the recruiter to transfer \$1,000 of the money he received for a computer purchase. At this time complainant became suspicious, and contacted the company’s HR department directly. At this point he realized the offer was false, and advised his bank placed a hold on the check. Forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division.
- Deputy Carroll responded to the area of Dorothy Loop in reference to a fraud complaint. Complainant reported her son was recently arrested in Leon County and received a call from what she believed to be a “Deputy Frank Adams.” Adams requested the woman send \$900 via Cash App for her son’s ankle monitor. Upon complainant’s arrival at the jail, she had to pay additional fees and realized she had been scammed. Forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division.
- Deputy Smith responded Walmart in reference to a theft that already occurred. Asset Protection reported on May 7 they observed a black male and pregnant black female enter the business. Both parties grabbed shopping carts and proceeded to place

- items inside. The male left his cart and exited the store before returning a short time later. Walmart Asset Protection located the original cart and returned the items to their proper locations. After the male returned and realized his cart was gone, he grabbed a new cart and began placing additional items inside. He then proceeded to register 7, where he only attempted to purchase some of the items in his cart. When questioned about payment of the rest, he advised he had already purchased the items in the self-check-out area. The male then exited the store with all the items. After a review of the surveillance video and receipts from the self-checkout, it was determined the male never paid for the additional items. Asset protection also observed the female who entered the store with the initial suspect exited the business with an unpaid car seat. All stolen items totaled \$710.88. Forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division.
- Lieutenant Spence conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle in the 5000 block of Coastal Highway. Due to prior knowledge of the registered owner’s license being suspended, a DL check was requested via Wakulla Communications. Ronald Gilbert Kemper’s license was confirmed suspended indefinitely on Jan. 13. Upon contact with the Kemper, he admitted he was aware of the suspension. Subsequently, Kemper was placed under arrest for driving while license suspended or reeoked (DWLSR) and transported to the Wakulla County Detention Facility.
- Deputy Kittrell conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for faulty tag lights on Coastal Highway and Isle of Paradise. Upon contact with the driver, Ashley Nicole Bowen, she admitted to having a suspended

- license. Dispatch confirmed Bowen had a suspended license as of August of 2024 with three prior convictions. Bowen was subsequently arrested and transported to the Wakulla County Detention Facility for knowingly DWLSR.
- **MONDAY, MAY 12**
 - Deputy Surrette responded to Jer-be-lou Boulevard and made contact with the complainant who reported someone used her photo on Facebook in an attempt to solicit money for a fraudulent show. Forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division.
- **TUESDAY, MAY 13**
 - Deputy Sullivan investigated a Fraud on Bert Thomas Lane. Complainant reported being scammed out of approximately \$10,000. Two subjects pretending to work for Wakulla County Sheriff’s Office scared her into believing she had active warrants for her arrest. Forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division.
 - Deputy Gray investigated a Fraud on Wakulla Arran Road. Complainant reported unauthorized charges on her account. Two charges had been refunded and two more are pending, but will be refunded. Forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division.
- **WEDNESDAY, MAY 14**
 - Deputy Carroll investigated a Fraud on Magnolia Ridge where complainant reported losing \$20,000 to a scam that involved a subject claiming to be a Federal Fraud Agent. Complainant advised she was told to close one of her accounts due to fraudulent activity and to put the money into a different account which was provided to her. Complainant advised after she complied, she realized she had just been scammed. Forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division.
 - Deputy Marshall investigated a walk-in complaint at the Sheriff’s Of-

- fice lobby. Complainant reported a scam he had received via email, where he had received a phone call from his financial advisor stating an unknown person had attempted to run his credit in an attempt to purchase a Thermo Scientific Nikon XL Analyzer. The transaction was denied, however he wished for a report to be taken for informational purposes.
- Deputy Carroll investigated a Theft on Edgewood Drive. The resident reported the theft of a skirt. The resident stated the skirt was bought from eBay for approximately \$25 and when the package arrived and she was able to retrieve it, she noticed the box had been opened and the skirt was missing. There were no known suspects at this time. Forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division.
- Deputy Grove took a fraud report at the Sheriff’s Office lobby. A citizen reported her electronics being hacked by an ex-boyfriend, and stated he is in control of her phone, email, and other items. Forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division.
- Deputy Sammons responded to Sanders Cemetery Road, in reference to a theft complaint. Upon arrival, contact was made with the complainant who reported someone has been stealing electricity from his property. Complainant recently resided at another home on Sanders Cemetery Road and swapped residences. Complainant has located an extension cord multiple times leading from his home to another home. Forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division.

- **THURSDAY, MAY 15**
 - Deputy Parker investigated a Fraud complaint on Pixie Circle. A citizen reported fraudulent activity through a bill-pay check. The citizen advised a check was submitted by a subject he did not know after the subject was able to obtain a phone number and address for her. Forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division.
- **FRIDAY, MAY 16**
 - Deputy Rivers responded to Ferrell Road in reference to a possible fraud. Upon arrival, he met with the resident who advised his padlocked closet door was unlocked and it had pry marks near it. Inside the closet was a filing cabinet with all his personal information. The approximate damage for the forced entry was approximately \$80. Forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division.
 - Deputy Saba responded to Publix in reference to a retail theft and met with the Manager who advised two unknown females stole \$275 worth of merchandise and left the store without paying. Forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division.
 - Deputy Cordoba responded to John David Drive in reference to someone stealing a kayak, fishing reel, and an electric pressure washer.

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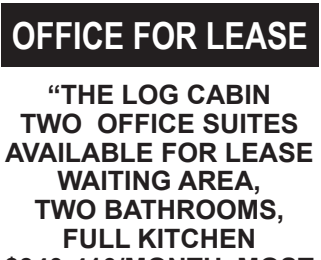
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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF RICHARD LEE WYANT, DECEASED
DIVISION: PROBATE

File No. 25000029CPAXMX

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of Richard Lee Wyant, deceased, whose date of death was July 13, 2024, is pending in the Circuit Court for Wakulla County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 3056 Crawfordville Hwy., Crawfordville, FL 32327. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against the decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF THREE MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN § 733.702, FLORIDA STATUTES, WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The Personal Representative has no duty to discover whether any property held at the time of the Decedent's death by the Decedent or the Decedent's surviving spouse is property to which the Florida Uniform Disposition of Community Property Rights at Death Act as described in ss. 732.216-732.228, Florida Statutes, applies, or may apply, unless a written demand is made by a creditor as specified under s. 732.2211, Florida Statutes.

The date of the first publication of this Notice is May 15, 2025.

Attorney for Personal Representative: Bruce A. McDonald
Florida Bar No. 263311
Suite B, PMB # 137
707 E. Cervantes St.
Pensacola, FL 32501-3286
(850) 346-7926
bamcdonald@pensacolalaw.com
kwston@pensacolalaw.com

Personal Representative: Joanie McDonald a/k/a Joni McDonald
3 Austin Drive
Palmyra, VA 22963

May 15, 22, 2025

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION

IN RE: ESTATE OF WENDY MARIE DIBONA
Deceased.

CASE NO. 2025-CP-61

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the Estate of Wendy Marie DiBona, deceased, File 2025-CP-61 is pending in the Circuit Court for Wakulla County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 3056 Crawfordville Hwy, Crawfordville, FL 32327. The name and address of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney is set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate including unmatured, contingent or unliquidated claims, on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate, including unmatured, contingent or unliquidated claims must file their claims with this Court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

This date of the first publication of this notice is May 15, 2025.

Attorney for Personal Representative: Frances Casey Lowe, Esq.
Florida Bar No. 521450
Frances Casey Lowe, P.A.
68-A Feli Way
Crawfordville, Florida 32327
(850) 926-8245

Personal Representative: Frances Casey Lowe, Esq.
68-A Feli Way
Crawfordville, Florida 32327

May 15, 22, 2025



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WORDS

P	Y	D	O	S	R	O	H	T	U	A	B	V	W	O	R	R	O	B	T
M	W	T	P	B	C	X	F	O	O	A	G	M	Y	R	K	A	K	V	I
R	F	I	S	B	E	A	K	O	N	B	X	C	W	R	B	N	O	O	E
N	N	Y	H	P	A	R	G	O	I	L	B	I	B	X	A	N	I	R	B
E	O	S	A	B	R	U	L	B	E	G	R	G	V	Y	S	O	O	L	B
O	T	I	G	T	P	Y	E	A	C	Y	R	V	E	E	V	R	B	K	E
A	A	H	X	C	D	P	D	D	A	E	M	L	V	N	S	T	I	I	S
B	K	P	P	P	I	L	B	P	L	V	K	L	F	K	R	P	I	P	S
H	B	V	S	E	P	V	N	L	O	P	E	G	O	S	L	E	B	V	I
A	V	I	N	B	N	F	E	S	D	H	R	O	N	U	I	F	A	N	U
R	N	P	V	D	Y	T	N	V	S	R	B	K	S	I	F	Y	T	X	O
D	K	X	B	R	I	D	O	O	E	R	H	T	N	A	D	E	R	G	G
C	T	H	O	G	D	I	I	T	N	O	I	O	B	V	R	A	M	L	N
O	V	F	D	U	F	N	P	X	S	A	R	P	A	E	E	G	E	D	O
V	V	T	A	U	H	A	G	K	T	T	I	L	S	G	D	C	S	R	E
E	S	Y	A	C	F	R	R	I	I	E	E	T	A	Y	A	P	W	I	G
R	D	X	H	R	H	M	O	D	E	H	M	V	U	F	E	A	M	A	A
I	Y	W	Y	C	F	N	E	B	O	V	E	O	H	A	R	N	Y	C	P
T	M	O	H	N	U	T	T	T	N	I	G	T	M	G	E	H	K	W	F
D	N	G	X	N	O	I	T	A	N	I	E	A	M	I	M	O	E	E	N

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

- APPENDIX
AUDIO
AUTHOR
BIBLIOGRAPHY
BINDING
BLURB
BOOKS
BOOKSTORE
BORROW
CHAPTER
EDITION
E-READER
GENRE
HARDCOVER
ILLUSTRATION
IMAGINATION
INTEREST
LIBRARY
NONFICTION
PAGE
READING
SHELVES
SPINE
STORYTELLER

CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

1. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
4. British thermal unit
7. Afflict
8. Refrain from harming
10. Galls
12. Leg bone
13. Rhine distributary
14. Recipe measurement
16. Chap
17. Useful book
19. Mountain Time
20. Snakelike fishes
21. Places where people live
25. US, Latin America, Canada belong to
26. Periodical
27. A type of sense
29. A way to get possession of
30. Everyone has one
31. Body art
32. Mr. October
39. Abba ___, Israeli politician

41. Head movement
42. Jeweled headdress
43. VCR button
44. A way to change color
45. Basketball move
46. Upright stone slab
48. Forest-dwelling monkey
49. Pulsate steadily
50. Negative
51. Sino-Soviet bloc (abbr.)
52. Unit of work
18. Digraph
19. Married woman
20. Peripheral
22. Northern Italy city
23. Klutz
24. Type of tree
27. Witnessed
28. Popular breakfast food
29. ___ Mahal
31. BoSox legend Williams
32. Professional drivers
33. Atom or molecule

CLUES DOWN

1. Island
2. Pittsburgh ball-player
3. Chemical compound
4. Indicates density of data (abbr.)
5. Mesas
6. Wild, long-legged sheep
8. Engine additive
9. "CSI" actor George
11. Stony waste matter
14. Thyroid-stimulating hormone

15. Pores in a leaf's epidermis
18. Digraph
19. Married woman
20. Peripheral
22. Northern Italy city
23. Klutz
24. Type of tree
27. Witnessed
28. Popular breakfast food
29. __ Mahal
31. BoSox legend Williams
32. Professional drivers
33. Atom or molecule type
34. The Constitution State
35. Chest to store clothes (Scottish)
36. Type of solution
37. Speaker
38. Specifying
39. Formerly (archaic)
40. Wiseman and Krom are two
44. The bill in a restaurant
47. Tennis shot

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to books.

TSXTE

--	--	--	--	--

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

[illegible]

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

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number will appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

GUESS WHO?

I am an actress born on May 31, 1965 in New York. I began modeling as an infant and continued through childhood. Modeling turned into an acting career, and my feature film debut was in a horror film. My second and third films caused controversy for risqué content considering my young age.

Answer: Texts

[illegible]



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SILENT AUCTION
KIDS GAMES
SNOCONES
HOT DOGS & HAMBURGERS

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MEMORIAL DAY
Celebration & Community Day

MONDAY - MAY 26TH, 2025 11AM - 3PM
VFW POST 4538 - EVERYONE IS WELCOME
475 ARRAN ROAD - CRAWFORDVILLE, FL

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A FREE Summer of Fun for Children and Families!
Jun 3rd – July 25th

4330 Crawfordville Highway Crawfordville, FL 32327 (850) 926-7415
www.wakullalibrary.org Questions? Email: POwens@mywakulla.com / LHurst@mywakulla.com

Summer Reading Programs
June 3rd– July 25th

Reading Challenge with
Beanstack online

Summer Kickoff Party Tuesday, June 3 | 4:00 - 7:00

Book Bunch Tuesdays 10:00-11:00am
This program for 2.5 yrs to preschool aged children includes stories, movement, and a craft designed to pair with our summer theme.

Book Babies Wednesdays |10:00–11:00am
An interactive themed story time and socialization designed for infants & toddlers up to 2.5 yrs, and their caregivers.

Hue Crew Wednesdays | 2:00–3:00pm
This program for children in grades K-2 and features stories and a crafts focused around the summer theme.

Shade Brigade Thursdays | 2:00–3:00
This program for children in grades 3-5 and features books with crafts/activities focused around the summer theme.

All Together Art
Thursday June 5th, 19th & July 17th 4-5:30PM
No matter your age or artistic medium, being creative is a balm for the soul.
-stay creative and work alongside like-minded individuals
-bring your own supplies and art, or enjoy one of our upcycling challenges.
Open to all ages (children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult caregiver).

Lego Club 1st & 3rd Tuesday | 4:00-5:30PM
Lego Club is designed to provide kids with an enjoyable activity that stimulates & develops spatial intelligence. You bring the imagination, we'll supply the LEGOS.

A Night at Hogwarts July 25 | 6:00 - 8:00

Middle & Teen Manga Clubs
See Calendar for dates/times

Hours of Operation

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	9:00-8:00
Wednesday	9:00-6:00
Thursday	9:00-8:00
Friday	9:00-6:00
Saturday	9:00-1:00
Sunday	Closed

Summer Reading Program

The library offers weekly age-specific programs designed to encourage a life-long love of reading.

Look for Special Guests and their locations on the calendar provided!

Join us at the library each week for a variety of summer activities! See Calendar of Events for dates and times.

Summer Reading Prizes

Keep up with your summer reading using Beanstack to earn prizes! For every 10 hours read you will receive a small prize and an entry to the Grand Prize.

This years Grand Prize is a themed LEGO set!


Register here:
<https://wakullalibrary.beanstack.org/reader365>

Free Lunch with Summer Reading/BreakSpot


Summer BreakSpot will be providing FREE, nutritious meals to children aged 18 and under (adults can eat for a small fee). Every Tuesday-Thursday during our 7-week Summer Reading Programming. Tuesdays & Wednesdays from 11am-12pm and on Thursdays from 12:30pm - 1:30pm at our library between the dates of June 3rd - July 24th. No Registration required. Only children 18 and under eat for free. Adults may also eat for a small fee.

Our summer program includes programs and Tuesday night **performances** designed to encourage reading. The best part is that all of these wonderful programs are offered **FREE** to Wakulla County residents thanks to the **library** and the generous sponsorship of the

**Friends of the
Wakulla County Public Library.**



This club is intended for middle and high school aged young adults. We'll explore different topics such as manga and anime art, influences (in literature, film & tv), classic Japanese manga vs. modern manga, and maybe try an Asian inspired snack.



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QUARTERLY MEETING

JUNE 19, 2025
AT 4 PM

Join us in person at
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