








# The Wakulla Sun

*"It's a New Day"*



Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		
PM Tunderstorms Hi: 88° Lo: 74° 67% Sunrise 6:36 AM Sunset 8:41 PM	PM Tunderstorms Hi: 91° Lo: 74° 65% Sunrise 6:36 AM Sunset 8:41 PM	PM Tunderstorms Hi: 89° Lo: 74° 34% Sunrise 6:36 AM Sunset 8:41 PM



\$1  
One Section

Locally Owned  
& Operated

Our 4th Year 24th Issue  
Thursday, June 19, 2025

## Property values up 9.5%

Wakulla County property value totals more than \$2.5 billion this year

By **WILLIAM SNOWDEN**  
Editor

Wakulla County property values increased some 9.54% over last year, according to Property Appraiser Donnie Sparkman

Sparkman released the preliminary numbers in a memo to county commissioners dated June 1.

The total estimated value of Wakulla property as of June 1 is \$2.50 billion, an increase over last year's \$2.28 billion – an increase in value of more than \$220 million over the year.

Sparkman noted that more than half of that total, or some \$125 million, is from new construction.

Another \$90 million is from increased value of existing property.

The matter was discussed at a county commission budget workshop on June 2. At the current rate of 7.9 mills, the estimated ad valorem property tax would be \$19.7 million this coming year, where it produced just over \$18 million last year.

A millage rate of 7.9 mills represents a tax of \$7.90 per \$1,000 of value. For a \$100,000 home in



Property Appraiser Donnie Sparkman

Wakulla, that would \$790 – not including any homestead exemption or any other ad valorem levies from other government agencies like the Wakulla County School Board or the Northwest Florida Water Management District.

County commissioner Ralph Thomas floated an idea at the workshop to go with the rollback rate of 7.5 mills, and look at increasing the one-cent sales tax and/or public service tax and/or communications service tax to cover the budget.

"I just want to look at the num-

bers to explore that," Thomas said.

Thomas' comments were prompted by discussion of Gov. Ron DeSantis and the Legislature's desire to cut or do away with property taxes and/or sales tax.

Wakulla, like many small counties, is dependent on property taxes to pay for services.

Basically, Wakulla's ad valorem property taxes cover the budget for the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office.

Among other discussion items, county budget staff recommended a slight rate increase for garbage service of \$214 per year, a 4.9% increase over the current assessment of \$204.

It was noted that the current contract rate with Waste Pro is \$16.25 for Wakulla residential service, which is cheaper than surrounding counties: Leon residents pay \$24.33 per month; Liberty County pays \$23.29; and Gadsden \$27.21.

It is proposed that Wakulla do away with its recycling program through Waste Pro as fewer than 20% of residents recycle – and the number is decreasing, according to a recent survey.



Volunteer gardener Lynn Artz addresses the city commission at their meeting on Monday, June 9.

## Honeysuckle cut at Depot Park in Sopchoppy

Volunteer gardeners were told that the vine was doing damage to park fence and historic Depot

By **LINDA ANN McDONALD**  
Correspondent

The Sopchoppy City Commission heard concerns that the wildflowers, native plants and foliage in the Depot Park are looking "ragged" while wisteria and honeysuckle vines are growing too large and heavy with the potential to bend and disfigure the \$12,000 decorative fence surrounding the park. Wasps' nests within the flowering vines on the pavilion columns were also mentioned as a concern for safety.

The Sopchoppy City Council took up the issue at its regular monthly meeting on Monday, June 9th.

Despite a great relationship with the city, the volunteer gardeners were told that all of the coral honeysuckle vines that adorn the front fence must be removed, and if they do not remove them, city staff will cut them down.

The volunteers felt they have no clear understanding of what the problem is, asking whether the directive is coming from one member city commission.

The volunteer gardeners told city commissioners about the benefits of Depot Park garden, explaining how the flowers bring positive publicity for Sopchoppy, awards and accolades from the Florida Native Plant Society and winning a grant award for Landscape Demonstration from Florida Wildflower Foundation.

The gardens also boost tourism, community education, community services, add downtown beatification and shade while supporting local birds, pollinators and agriculture.

(The Wakulla Sun runs a regular weekly column by some of those volunteers – Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park.)

City commissioner Lara Edwards asked the volunteers to address the issue, and the volunteers committed to do so within a few days, but before the volunteers could get to the garden to work the city staff had lopped off the top of multiple vines causing them to collapse on themselves and slide down the columns. An additional concern of the gardeners is that this is the wrong time of year to cut down the vines.

Volunteers Lynn Artz, David Roddenberry, Betsy Rudden, and Jeannie Brodhead spoke at the meeting.

"If you, the entire Council, is unhappy with the landscaping at Depot Park and believes that the majority of city residents are unhappy, then we need to discuss how to move forward. If that is not the case, then perhaps the City Council needs to affirm its support for the park's gardens and our volunteer efforts, and direct staff to work with us, not against us."

Council member Lara Edwards responded, "I've been on this garden project since the beginning, and we need to find the balance with the city park staff and the gardens. We love the wildflowers, but we have to maintain the park; there are birthday parties held at the park and the public likes to enjoy the paths – this is a city park."

City commissioner Leonard Tarrt offered to purchase trellises for the vines to offer a solution.

Seth Green, Director of Public Works said, "I'm interested in the fence line all around the park, we don't mind helping, I love native plants, but it comes down to the plants damaging the pavilion."

Green also shared his concern about the historic railroad Depot: "We need to get all the way around (trimming), you can't see off the porch from the Depot porch because of the plants, there are snakes, moisture and mildew on the wood we need to be concerned about, the wisteria is just a

Turn to Page 3

### UNDERWATER FRIEND



Photographer Perry Dissmore shared this underwater photo of a manatee, taken on the Wakulla River on Friday, June 13, with a GoPro. A reminder to look out for manatees in local waters when boating.

## Lawmakers' addresses could be shielded

By **JIM TURNER**  
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — As Minnesota reels from the murder of one state lawmaker and the shooting of another, Florida could shield from public disclosure the home addresses of legislators, other elected officials and their family members.

Florida lawmakers in April overwhelmingly passed a bill (SB 268) to create a public-records exemption that would prevent the release of home addresses and telephone numbers of

legislators and members of Congress. Also, the exemption would apply to the governor, lieutenant governor, state Cabinet members, county commissioners, property appraisers, elections supervisors, school superintendents, school board members, mayors and city commissioners.

The bill, which needs Gov. Ron DeSantis' signature to become law, drew relatively little attention during this year's legislative session.

But lawmakers said they have been threatened and harassed and have had people show

up at their homes.

"All of us here are public servants," House bill sponsor Susan Valdes, R-Tampa, said April 29, shortly before the House voted to give final approval to the measure. "We deserve to be protected. Our families deserve to be protected."

Rep. Michele Rayner, D-St. Petersburg, said safety is "paramount."

"A lot of us deal with this, we kind of deal with this in silence," she said.

The issue of lawmaker safety has drawn national attention after a gunman murdered former Minnesota Dem-

ocratic House Speaker Melissa Hortman and her husband early Saturday at their home and shot Democratic Sen. John Hoffman and his wife at their home. The Associated Press reported Monday morning that suspected gunman Vance Boelter had been arrested after a manhunt.

Florida law already provides public-records exemptions for home addresses and telephone numbers for a variety of people such as law-enforcement officers, judges, prosecutors, public

Turn to Page 3





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Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park

Joe pye weed

By LYNN ARTZ, DAVID RODDENBERRY, and  
SANDY TEDDER



Joe pye weed (*Eutrochium fistulosum*) impresses with its height and the size of its showy flower heads. In summer, huge domed clusters of mauve tubular flowers measure up to 18 inches across. Each plant has a single erect stem 4 to 8 feet tall or taller. This dramatic native wildflower is sometimes called Queen of the Meadow. It is also called hollow joe pye weed because the stout purplish stems are hollow. The nectar-rich, lightly fragrant flowers attract scores of pollinators including butterflies and honeybees. The seeds feed songbirds. Large leaves whorl around the stem and feed the caterpillars of several moths and butterflies. Joe pye weed grows in clumps and prefers full sun and moist soil. A long-lived perennial, it is blooming now in the meadow at Sopchoppy Depot Park.

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Robinsons honored

Jerome and Terri Robinson, owners of Lindy’s Fried Chicken in Crawfordville, were honored

on June 2 by the Wakulla County Commission for their commitment to supporting the community during their nearly 29 years in business. The Robinsons recently closed the business. (Photo by William Snowden)

Chamber ribbon-cutting for Wakulla Elite Cheerleading is held



The Wakulla Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon-cutting for Wakulla Elite Cheerleading

on Friday, June 6. (Photo by Lynda Kinsey)

Lawmakers’ addresses

From Front Page

defenders and tax collectors. The exemptions also generally apply to those officials’ spouses and children. But the new bill would go much further in applying exemptions to elected officials and their family members. It passed the House in a 113-2 vote, after getting approved by the Senate in a 34-2 vote. The bill, however, drew opposition from the

First Amendment Foundation, which said it would reduce “transparency.” As an example, disputes have arisen in the past about whether lawmakers live in their districts — which might become harder for reporters and members of the public to check if addresses are shielded. “While the bill will do little to deter bad actors, it makes it extremely difficult for people to check whether their elected officials actually live in

their districts,” the First Amendment Foundation said in a report on its website. Part of the bill includes a legislative finding that a “public necessity” exists for shielding addresses and telephone numbers. Under the bill, cities and ZIP codes where elected officials live would remain public, but not their actual addresses. The bill, which would take effect July 1, said “public officers and their families may receive threats, including, but not limited to, verbal threats, harassment,

and intimidation, while carrying out their official duties.” “Vulnerability to such threats may discourage residents of this state from seeking elected office in order to protect themselves and their families,” the bill said. “The Legislature further finds that the harm that may result from the release of such personal identifying and location information outweighs any public benefit that may be derived from the disclosure of the information.”

City of Sopchoppy

From Front Page

recipe for disaster.” The City Council agreed to have Green serve as a contact person to communicate with volunteer gardeners contact person Lynn Artz directly to address things as soon as possible. In other matters:

• The City of Sopchoppy reviewed the lease with Senior Citizens Thrift Store located in the old Sopchoppy City Hall. The lease states the tenant should be paying \$350 rent and utilities. The store is run by the Wakulla Senior Citizens Center, which is a tax-exempt entity. The lease states the Senior

Center is responsible for water, sewer, garbage, cable, maintenance, and property taxes. City Commissioner Lara Edwards, who is also Executive Director of the Wakulla Senior Center said, “The store brings in \$2,000 a month and \$350 is a lot for us, it would cause it to close. “We do so much for the community, so many benefits like driving

meals,” Edwards said. Edwards asked for all utility billings to be transferred immediately to Jim Davis, the Chair of the Senior Center. Rent for the Center will begin in 6 months. Edwards mentioned a possible new space for the store. • In another matter, City Attorney Dan Cox received his 20 year service award with the City of Sopchoppy.

**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.

**FLORIDA PUBLIC NOTICES**  
WWW.FLORIDAPUBLICNOTICES.COM

**WAKULLA COUNTY**  
In accordance with Section 121.55, Florida Statutes, Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners intends to designate the following position to the Senior Management Service Class in the Florida Retirement System: Director, Road and Bridge.

**WAKULLA COUNTY**  
**Notice of Public Meeting:**  
The Wakulla County Historic Preservation Committee is holding a Public Meeting on Tuesday, July 1, 2025, at 4:00p.m. in the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners Administration Conference Room, 3093 Crawfordville Hwy., Crawfordville, FL., (850) 926-0919.  
Purpose of Meeting:  
To review and make recommendations to the BOCC on matters related to the designation, regulation and administration of historical, cultural and architectural resources in the County based on the criteria set forth in Ordinance #13-04.  
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 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

**SOPCHOPPY WATER SYSTEM CITY OF SOPCHOPPY, FLORIDA WELL NO. 7 MODIFICATIONS**  
**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS**  
Sealed Bids for the construction of the Well No. 7 Improvements will be received, by the City of Sopchoppy, at the City Hall, 105 Municipal Avenue, Sopchoppy, Florida 32358, until 2:00 PM E.D.S.T. on July 10, 2025, at which time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read. The Project consists of installing two 1,000 gallon-per-minute wells, a 200,000-gallon ground storage tank, two 1,000 gallon-per-minute booster pumps, a mechanical / treatment building and associate yard piping and appurtenances to connect to the existing water distribution system.  
Bids will be received for a single prime Contract. Bids shall be on a lump sum price basis as indicated in the Bid Form.  
The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is Baskerville-Donovan, Inc., 449 West Main Street, Pensacola, Florida 32502, 850-438-9661, contact Jeffrey W. Jones, P.E. [jjones@baskervilledonovan.com](mailto:jjones@baskervilledonovan.com). Prospective Bidders may examine the Bidding Documents at the Issuing Office on Mondays through Fridays between the hours of 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM C.D.S.T. and may obtain electronic copies of the Bidding Documents from the Issuing Office as described above.  
Bidding Documents may be obtained from the Issuing Office during the hours indicated above. Bidding Documents are available as portable document format (PDF) files for a non-refundable charge of \$50.00. The date that the Bidding Documents are transmitted by the Issuing Office will be considered the prospective Bidder’s date of receipt of the Bidding Documents. Partial sets of Bidding Documents will not be available from the Issuing Office. **Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for full or partial sets of Bidding Documents, including Addenda if any, obtained from sources other than the Issuing Office.**  
A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at 10:00 AM E.D.S.T. on July 1, 2025, at City Hall, 105 Municipal Avenue, Sopchoppy, Florida.  
Bid security shall be furnished in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

**LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT**  
**WAKULLA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**INVITATION TO BID No. ITB 2025-13**  
**ALEXANDER ROAD LIFT STATION AND FORCE MAIN INSTALLATION**  
**ADVERTISEMENT BEGIN DATE: JUNE 19, 2025**  
**RELEASE DATE: JUNE 19, 2025**  
**BIDS DUE TO BOCC: AUGUST 5, 2025 @ 3:00 P.M. EST.**  
Sealed bids to **Alexander Road Lift Station and Force Main Installation** 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 **August 5, 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 the **Alexander Road Lift Station and Force Main Installation**. The specifications of this procurement are stated in **ITB 2025-13**.  
The ITB and any addenda issued will be posted to the County’s Website at [www.mywakulla.com](http://www.mywakulla.com) or can be obtained by contacting the County Procurement Office at 850-926-0919 or [bnowak@mywakulla.com](mailto:bnowak@mywakulla.com).  
All technical inquiries and clarification requests shall be submitted in writing to Berkleigh Nowak, Procurement and Contracts Coordinator, [bnowak@mywakulla.com](mailto:bnowak@mywakulla.com) in accordance with the ITB. Verbal clarifications will not be provided.  
**A MANDATORY PRE-BID CONFERENCE AND SITE VISIT** will be held on **July 1, 2025, at 10:00 A.M. EST. The meeting will be held at the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners Administration Office, 3093 Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville, FL 32327.** The meeting is **MANDATORY** for all contractors who plan to submit bids. Attendees must sign in at the pre-bid conference in order to be authorized to bid on the project. All question(s) asked at the pre-bid meeting will not be formally addressed via addendum unless provided to the County in writing.  
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 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).



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

Happy birthday, Cypress Rudloe, from your dad

**By JACK RUDLOE**

Happy birthday Cypress Rudloe, you are 42 years old today!

You are doing a marvelous job managing Gulf Specimen Marine Lab. When I started collecting marine specimens in 1961, my goal was to make a living selling them to schools and biological supply houses. I never dreamed that one day it would turn into a nationally known marine environmental education center. Twelve years ago, you took the reins of Gulf Specimen Marine Lab after your mom died of cancer. By then the lab and aquarium had grown and you had to ride the roller coaster of learning the finances, operating the complex facilities and dealing with permitting agencies. It was no small task overseeing the collection, of hundreds of species of marine invertebrates,



Cypress Rudloe with Jimmy Buffet at Gulf Specimen Marine Lab in 2011.

fish and algae, and then learning how to ship them so they arrived alive.

You rose to the task by assembling a great team of staff and interns who learned to deal with tens of thou-

sands of excited children coming from 250 regional schools, as well as on tour buses from central and south Florida. You’ve had to deal with hurricanes and FEMA, working with contractors to build

back our Living Dock and repair damaged facilities.

You now oversee all the pumps, protein

skimmers, blowers, ozone and ultra violet sterilizers that keep the place running, and by sharing your knowledge enable many young people working at the lab to get good paying jobs, and even two Ph.D. degrees. You created an AmeriCorps program that has helped nearly 30 young people over the past three years, while administering a large complex FDEP grant which involved building a high-tech greenhouse to grow seaweed. You’ve led teams rescuing cold stunned sea turtles, working with veterinarians to keep them alive, as well as removing hooks and treating boat strikes.

Over the past 60 years, generations have grown up visiting Gulf Specimen and returned with children, even grandchildren of

their own. You, with all the people who have worked here, are helping Gulf Specimen become what I hope will be an irreplaceable part of the community. The fact is that due to a fast-growing cancer, I will not be here to help you as I have in the past, but I know you’ll prevail and will keep Gulf Specimen up and running for future generations.

So Happy birthday Cypress, under your management Gulf Specimen has come a long way since I started it in a rundown shack with a leaky roof, a box of stationery an Airedale and a dream.

*Jack Rudloe is the founder and president of Gulf Specimen Marine Lab in Panacea, and the father of Cypress Rudloe.*

Something on your mind?

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

They walked at Saturday protest

**Editor, The Sun:**

It takes a lot these days to get my octogenarian self and husband to admit to what is happening in the world.

We can no longer save everything except one thing. And so we joined thousands in Tallahassee Saturday to support our Constitution.

The signs, the goodwill, the noise, the wild outfits were all there in front of Florida’s Capitol. We were in the

middle of peaceful, smiling people. From what I have seen, the protests around the United States and worldwide have been enormous. Estimates are that more than 11 million people demonstrated in the US.

I couldn’t be more proud of our willingness to get loud and stand up for what’s right.

**Madeleine Carr**  
Crawfordville

On the Horizon

Calendar of events for the week of June 19

- Thursday, June 19**

  - Rotary Club of Wakulla meets at Tallahassee State College 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, June 20**

  - Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon at 8 p.m. every Friday at 54 Ochlockonee St.
- Saturday, June 21**
- Sunday, June 22**

  - Wakulla Giving Hands is hosting a Family Fun Day at the Sopchoppy Gym, 159 Yellow Jacket Ave., from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Clothing, household supplies and more. Everything inside the gym is free; not everything outside is free.
  - Screening of the movie “Tate,” about Tate’s Hell, will be held at Palaver Tree Theater at 8 p.m. Doors open at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15.
- Monday, June 23**


  - Wakulla Giving Hands holds a food giveaway every Sunday from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.
  - 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.
  - Grief Support Group will be offered at Lake Ellen Baptist Church every Monday
- Tuesday, June 24**
- June 9 through July 14 from 7 to 8p.m. There is no cost. Contact Stan Mitchell at 850-728-3454.

  - The Wakulla Caregiver Support Group meets at Lake Ellen Baptist Church at 9:30 a.m every second Monday of the month.
  - Crawfordville Woman’s Club monthly meeting is the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at 64 Ochlockonee St., in Crawfordville. Call (850) 566-5727 for more information.
  - 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.
- Wednesday, June 25**


  - 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.
  - Chamber networking lunch will be held at Wakulla Springs Lodge from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is \$20 members; \$30 non-members. Register and pay by Friday, June 20, online at wakullacountychamber.com or call (850) 926-1848 .
  - 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.

*“It’s A New Day!”*


The Wakulla Sun




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William Snowden  
Editor & Publisher  
The Wakulla Sun



– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

Polled at Pioneer Baptist Church rummage sale:

Are you afraid of thunder and lightning?



ELAINA & WILLIAM BRIDWELL  
Stay at home mom

“No, I love it!”



PATTI ELSNER  
Retired

“I’m not, I like to watch it. I don’t like to be in it if I’m out walking my dog though.”



DEANA CRASS  
Legal assistant

“No, it doesn’t bother me. It’s good for sleeping too!”



AUTUMN MATHIS  
Stay at home mom

“No, but I do worry about it when I’m getting the farm animals in.”



CARON WILLIAMS  
Retired

“No, It’s just God and the Angels bowling. Someone told me that years ago.”

## Wakulla Crossroads

By Verna Brock

Good stormy morning, friends! As I write this, it has been thundering and rumbling all around us. The welcome rain has been coming and going all morning, refreshing the more recently parched landscape. It is a mixed blessing, in that the weeds, toadstools and grass are growing like Topsy now. But at least my garden isn’t withering on the vine.

This past winter we added a nice sized pond to the property, and it has been a real joy. It has also been an experimint in managing an artificial ecosystem. Ed glories in nothing more than learning a new skill, and has dedicated much of his efforts to balancing oxygen, blue dye, algicide and beneficial bacteria in this project.

He has loosed mosquito fish, which have promptly disappeared, and added beautiful water plants around part of the perimeter. We suspect these guppies are lurking in the concealment of plants and the cooler, safer depths of the water.

Part of the pleasure of the pond has been listening to the variety of frogs who have discovered it. Early every dusk the concert begins, with froggy voices ranging from soprano to tenor to bass. Now, hundreds of tiny black tadpoles are growing more and more visible in the shoreline. As they morph into full-fledged frogs with voracious appetites, they are scooping up mosquito larvae as fast as they can. The ones they miss emerge as starving little vampires.

But even these hardy survivors are fodder for the abundant dragonflies,

also appropriately dubbed mosquito hawks. Watching them zip and hover in the sunlight like tiny, bejeweled helicopters is very zen!

The pond has attracted all manner of birds, squirrels, and even some predators at night. We know this, because Ed has installed a couple of cameras that alert us if anything moves in the vicinity of the space. So far, the pond is providing non-stop entertainment and enjoyment (and a measure of work too).

I hope everyone was able to celebrate dad this Fathers’ Day. We all know someone who is a dad, someone who nurtured us, supported, taught and loved us. Here’s a shout out to all the men who mentor, teach, guide and father us!

Among other things, Saturday was Flag Day. Who among us has never felt a lump in their throat while

standing at attention for our national anthem, as the beautiful emblem of our country snapped in the wind, against a cerulean sky?

As often as I recite our Pledge, I am moved by the words. When we pledge allegiance to the flag, it is really pledging allegiance to the republic it represents. One nation. Under God. With liberty and justice for ALL.

Let us direct our efforts to fulfilling this message we memorized in kindergarten!

Please continue to remember Cindy Blackstock in your prayers, as she works on rehabbing and recovery from surgery. Also remember the families of Thelma Watts, Tom McClure, Mary Jane Thornton and John Johnson.

Wakulla County has lost a great force for good and kindness with the death of the Rev. Johnson.

## Library News

By Linda Oaks  
Library Director

Library News for June 19th to 25th:

**Thursday, June 19th**

- Creative Writing I 10am
- Veteran’s Meetup 11am
- Summer Breakspot Free Lunch 12:30pm
- Shade Brigade (Grades 3-5) 2pm

**Friday, June 20th**

- Quilting Guild 10am

**Saturday, June 21st**

- Saturday Storytime 9:30am
- READ Therapy Dogs 10am

**Sunday, June 22nd**

- Wakulla Youth Football/Cheer Association 10am

**Monday, June 23rd**

- No Programs

**Tuesday, June 24th**

- Computer Basics (Registration Required 5-week class) 9:30am
- Book Bunch 10am
- Summer Breakspot Free Lunch 11am
- Big Bend AHEC Tobacco free

**Wednesday, June 25th**

- Book Babies 10am
- Summer Breakspot Free Lunch 11am
- The Hue Crew (grades K-2) 2pm
- Knitting Group 4pm
- Summer Teen Manga 4:30pm

**5:30pm**

- Summer Performer at the Community Center Didgeridoo Down Under 7pm

## Weekly Roundup: Let’s make a deal!

By Jim Turner  
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — Weeks after talks imploded on a state spending plan for the next fiscal year, legislative leaders on Friday put the finishing touches on a budget proposal that should be ready for House and Senate votes on Monday.

A bottom-line total for the budget was not immediately available, though it is expected to be smaller than a \$115.6 billion spending plan proposed by Gov. Ron DeSantis.

“A lot of people have spoken to us about, you know, ‘you took a month away from here and nothing happened,’” Senate Appropriations Chairman Ed Hooper, R-Trinity, told reporters Friday. “Well, there was stuff happening and we knew that we had to come here, to get to where we are today. Because come July 1, nobody wanted a government shutdown. Nobody wanted employees to be without a paycheck.”

Hooper and House Budget Chairman Lawrence McClure, R-Dover, worked behind the scenes this week to iron out differences in the chambers’ spending plans.

Because of a required 72-hour “cooling off” period, lawmakers will not be able to vote on the budget before Monday.

House and Senate leaders also were working Friday to finish a tax-cut package and what are known as budget “conforming” bills — though those measures are not bound by the 72-hour requirement.

DeSantis would have about two

weeks to sign the budget and issue vetoes before the July 1 start of the 2025-2026 fiscal year. DeSantis will be in France early next week on a trade mission.

The annual legislative session was scheduled to end May 2, but the House and Senate could not reach agreement on a budget and tax cuts. That led to weeks of uncertainty before lawmakers restarted formal negotiations last week.

This year’s budget process came after the state stopped receiving a torrent of federal money linked to the Covid-19 pandemic. Also, lawmakers worked on the budget amid the prospect that future federal money is expected to slow under President Donald Trump.

The Legislature also struggled through several special sessions in January and February on immigration before getting to work on the state budget.

McClure said the special sessions were taxing on members and legislative staff.

“I’m not excusing that we’re delayed in getting this budget done, but there were contributing factors that largely were out of the control of either chamber,” McClure said. “I’m glad we did the work on immigration. It was important, but I am thankful that we were as thorough as we were.”

**BARGING AHEAD**

Negotiations over the budget roiled a decades-old fight about possibly tearing down North Florida’s Rodman dam and restoring the Ocklawaha

River.

Sen. Tom Leek, R-Ormond Beach, on Thursday pushed back against proposals that could lead to a plan for restoring the river, which was dammed to create a reservoir as part of the long-abandoned Cross Florida Barge Canal project.

“The Rodman Reservoir and Lake Ocklawaha (another name for the reservoir) are not abstract policy issues for us — they are lived experiences, tied directly to the identity, economy and future of Putnam County,” Leek stated in the letter.

Environmentalists have tried for decades to restore the river, but officials and businesspeople in areas such as Putnam County have contended that the reservoir, known for its fishing, is an economic engine. Leek’s district includes Putnam County.

The budget plan finalized Friday sets aside \$6.25 million for restoration of the river. Hooper told reporters that the project was a priority of Sen. Jason Brodeur, R-Sanford.

Work started in the 1960s on the Cross Florida Barge Canal, which was planned to create a waterway from Northeast Florida to Yankeetown on the Gulf Coast and included damming the Ocklawaha River. The federal government halted the barge canal project in 1971, leaving the Kirkpatrick Dam — named after the late state Sen. George Kirkpatrick, an influential lawmaker from Gainesville who worked to keep the dam — and reservoir in place.

Three Republicans on Tuesday won special legislative elections in Northwest Florida and Brevard County.

Veteran lawmaker Debbie Mayfield, R-Melbourne, will head back to the upper chamber after defeating Democrat Vance Ahrens in the race for Senate District 19. Republicans Nathan Boyles and Brian Rodgers are joining the state House.

Mayfield left the Senate in November because of term limits but remained in the Legislature because she was elected to the House.

Boyles defeated Democrat Dondre Wise in House District 3 in Okaloosa and Santa Rosa counties. Rodgers topped Democrat Juan Hinojosa and will replace Mayfield in Brevard County’s House District 32.

All three contests were in heavily Republican districts that were open due to reshuffling rooted in congressional special elections earlier this year.

**STORY OF THE WEEK:** Legislative budget leaders reached agreement on a state spending plan for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, setting the stage for House and Senate votes on Monday.

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK:** “My intention in using the abilities of that contract is to be able to not only excel with all the programs of the university but also to be able to go out there and continue to explore and raise more money.” — Education Commissioner Manny Díaz Jr., who will take over as interim president of the University of West Florida on July 14.

**RED RESULTS**



HOME ON THE RANGE

Good News About Cleaning Some Handguns

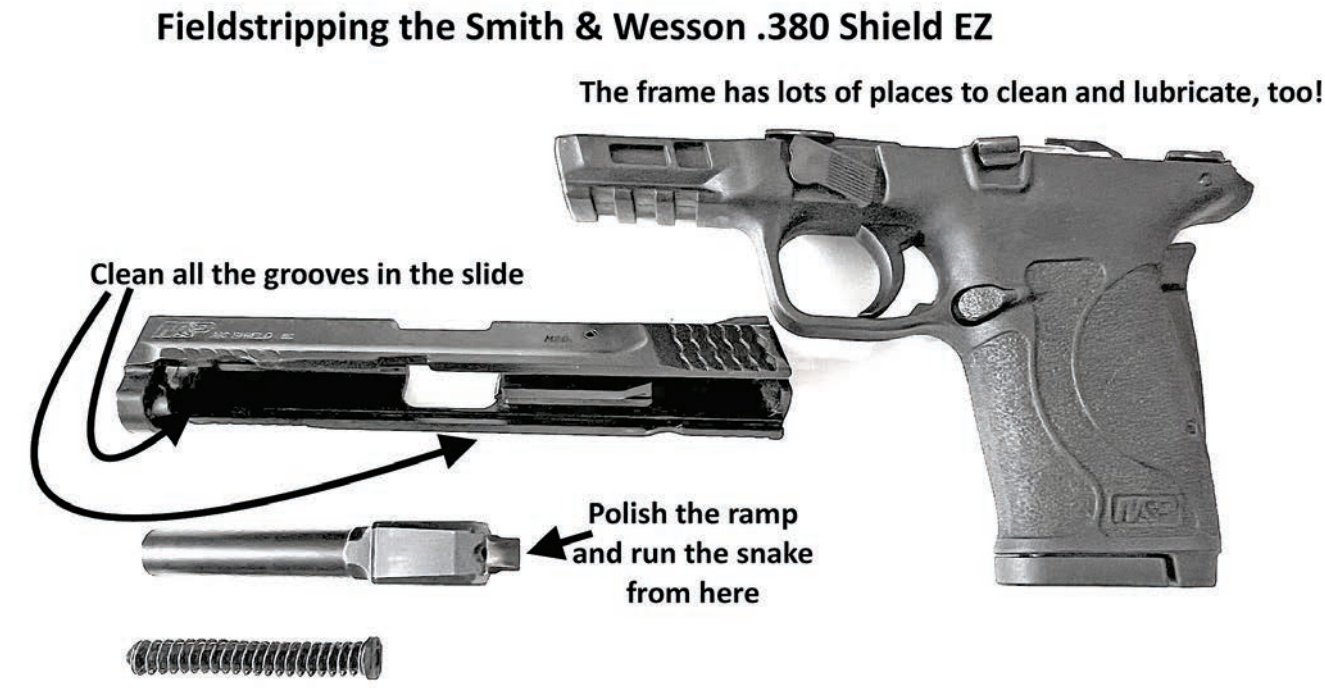


By MARJ LAW

“What?” Ellen shrieks, horrified. “You’re telling me that I have to clean my gun every 2-3 months? I heard I only have to clean it every 2 years or more!” She crosses her arms over her chest and glares at me for giving her such unwelcome news.

“Besides,” she adds defensively, “It doesn’t deserve to be cleaned more often than that. The bullets keep nose-diving on me. That’s what the guy next to me at the Wakulla County Sheriff’s Office range called it. He saw how I had to keep dropping the magazine. And I was careful to keep the muzzle pointed downrange while I did it, too. Then I had to jiggle the gun upside down so the bullet would fall out of that hole.”

“The bullet never even got into the barrel! So, that’s why my .380 doesn’t deserve to be cleaned. It keeps jamming up on me! Maybe I’d clean it more often



if the darn gun worked better.”

“You really do have a great gun,” I assure her. “And the good news is you’ve done just the right thing in remembering to drop that magazine first because you noticed something has gone wrong.”

“And keeping the muzzle pointed downrange? Yes, it sure is kind of a trick to remember to do that as you’re trying to shake the cartridge out of the ejection port. But you remembered to do both things.”

“The bad news is that your gun has been crying out for a good cleaning! Sometimes there’s so much shooting residue on the ramp that the nose of the bullet is unable to slide up the ramp. Since it can’t go up the ramp, it stays cock-eyed in the ejection

port. Its nose is now at the bottom of the ramp, and its hiney is sticking upwards.”

“Yes,” agrees Ellen. “That’s exactly it. Sometimes the casing is jammed at the top of the hole, and sometimes the whole cartridge is just skewed inside. Either way, the gun doesn’t fire.”

“Now for the good news, Ellen.”

“I don’t see much good about that.”

“Well, the good news is that you have one of the easiest handguns to take down when you want to clean inside.”

“I thought it would be hard. That’s another reason I haven’t wanted to clean my gun.”

“Yes, some handguns do require know-how, special tricks, and effort to take down. But your Smith & Wesson .380 EZ is not difficult at all. The Sig Sauer 365 and Sig 320 come apart in a similar fashion as does the Springfield XDM. The Heckler and Koch P30L and the H&K .45 do, too. The Glocks 42 and 43 have different take down tabs, but they come apart about the same, too. You just have to remember on those Glocks to pull the trigger first before field stripping. Other guns, too, come apart in a similar fashion.”

“Truthfully,” says Ellen, “I don’t care about other handguns. I just want to learn to take mine down.” She still isn’t thrilled about learning to fieldstrip her gun. “But, while you’re here, can we take it out on the picnic table and will you show me how?”

The picnic table outside is a good idea.

Cleaning a gun involves using solvents that can ruin the top of your good dining room table. Trust me. My dining room table has had a cloud in its finish since I cleaned a gun 7 years ago. Someday, I’ll get to refinishing it. Some day.

First, I put down a cleaning mat on the picnic table and then place some wax paper over the mat to make cleaning up later easier. The wax paper isn’t necessary, but I like easy cleanup.

Then, Ellen makes a small tray out of aluminum foil to collect used cleaning materials. We have her collection of cleaning supplies at the ready along with some grease for the when the gun is finished.

“First, point the gun in a safe direction and dump the magazine,” I instruct her. “You already know how to do this. Push up the slide lock lever and lock back the slide. You know how to do this, too. Check the ejection port and chamber to make sure the gun is totally empty.”

“Now that the slide is locked back,” I continue, “locate the take-down lever. It is the lever closest to the muzzle of the gun. It has a few raised lines on it to give your finger some traction as you flip it downward so that it is now at a 90’ angle to the slide, whereas the lever was parallel before.”

Ellen pushes it down easily.

“Now you can push down on the slide lock lever to release the slide. At this point, you can pull the slide all the way off the frame of the

gun.”

Ellen pushes the slide off the frame. “It came right off!” she exclaims proudly.

“Now the gun is in two parts: the slide and the frame. Didn’t think it would come apart so easily, did you?” I tease. Ellen grins.

“Turn the slide upside down. Lift off the recoil spring and take it out along with the barrel.”

Ellen takes them apart.

“Look down the barrel. Notice all the black dots inside. That’s shooting residue. See the black tongue at one end of the barrel? That’s the ramp. It’s supposed to be shiny metal. The black is more shooting residue and has got to go, go, go.”

Ellen holds up the barrel and peers through it.

“I see the black dots,” she reports. “Can I use my snake to get rid of them?”

“Sure. Just remember to put the string side of the snake in first. Always enter the snake from the ramp side of the barrel. Make sure there are no knots in the snake.”

“Dampen the rough portion of the snake with solvent. Then, you’ll find it easiest to hold the barrel with one hand and drop in the string of the snake with the other, allowing gravity to help the snake slide through.”

“The snake doesn’t slide through all the way,” she informs me, and shows me that the stopped snake.

“Don’t be afraid to pull harder.”

Ellen tries again. This time, the snake passes

through all the way.

“How do we get the ramp clean?” she wonders.

We take solvent and rub the ramp with a cotton swab. After using several swabs, the ramp still has a black spot that hasn’t come off.

“This Maas metal cream should help.” We rub and rub until the ramp shines.

“Shooting residue is corrosive,” I tell her. “It ate away a small etch on the ramp. Next time you clean, pay particular attention to this spot, as dirt will tend to collect here.”

“Drat,” she contemplates. “Looks like salt making a pit on silverware. I sure will have to clean it more often now that the surface has been scored with the black stuff.”

“Yes, that’s an important place to scrub,” I agree.

“So, can we put the gun back together now?” she asks hopefully.

“No. We haven’t cleaned or greased the rest of the slide or the frame.”

“Aren’t we finished?” Ellen wants this done now.

“Soak a cotton swab in solvent. Now, run it through this groove in the upside-down slide. See the gunk it collected?”

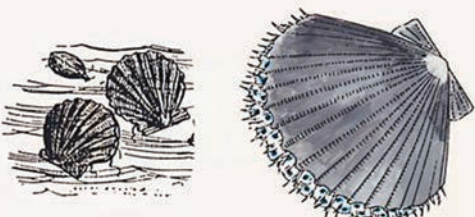
“Looks like mud,” she says.

“If you clean this EZ every 3 months or so, it shouldn’t get so dirty. Check your ammunition, too. Some ammo shoots cleaner than others. Once the EZ is cleaned and greased, it shouldn’t nose dive or jam any more. Next time, we’ll scrub out the rest of the gunk in the slide and the frame. Then, we’ll grease some important parts.”

“It’s not hard,” Ellen doesn’t sound so stressed now. “It’s like housework. Boring, but necessary. You can’t clean your house every two years, either.”

Note: We will finish the cleanup in next week’s article.


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



COMMON BAY SCALLOP  
(*Aequipecten irradians*)

This hermaphrodite 1-3” scallop lives a precarious life of 1-2 years spawning only once in early summer. They will often die in great numbers if some catastrophe, such as a red tide, hits and take years for their population to recover in a specific bay. Even so, scallops are widely distributed around the Atlantic coast. Harvesting of scallops is worth million of dollars annually. The scallops filter water to catch and eat tiny organisms and have highly variable shell colors.

Eukarya, Animalia, Mollusca, Bivalvia, Ostreoida, Pectinidae

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WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO



On his weekly wildlife survey at Wakulla Springs last week, retired park ranger Bob Thompson took this photo of a Juvenile Alligator.



Water Ways

a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences

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<div><div>Thursday 19</div><div><div>Sun rise/set</div><div>6:35AM 8:41PM</div></div><div><div>Moon rise/set</div><div>1:54AM 2:36PM</div></div><div><div>Moon Illumination</div><div>40%</div></div><div>Friday 20</div><div><div>Sun rise/set</div><div>6:35AM 8:41PM</div></div><div><div>Moon rise/set</div><div>2:25AM 3:43PM</div></div><div><div>Moon Illumination</div><div>29%</div></div><div>Saturday 21</div><div><div>Sun rise/set</div><div>6:35AM 8:41PM</div></div><div><div>Moon rise/set</div><div>3:00AM 4:52PM</div></div><div><div>Moon Illumination</div><div>19%</div></div><div>Sunday 22</div><div><div>Sun rise/set</div><div>6:36AM 8:41PM</div></div><div><div>Moon rise/set</div><div>3:40AM 6:05PM</div></div><div><div>Moon Illumination</div><div>11%</div></div><div>Monday 23</div><div><div>Sun rise/set</div><div>6:36AM 8:41PM</div></div><div><div>Moon rise/set</div><div>4:27AM 7:18PM</div></div><div><div>Moon Illumination</div><div>4%</div></div><div>Tuesday 24</div><div><div>Sun rise/set</div><div>6:36AM 8:42PM</div></div><div><div>Moon rise/set</div><div>5:24AM 8:26PM</div></div><div><div>Moon Illumination</div><div>1%</div></div><div>Wednesday 25</div><div><div>Sun rise/set</div><div>6:37AM 8:42PM</div></div><div><div>Moon rise/set</div><div>6:28AM 9:28PM</div></div><div><div>Moon Illumination</div><div>0%</div></div></div>	<div>For tides at the following points add to Dog Island Listings:</div> <div><div>High Tide</div><div>Low Tide</div></div> <div><div>Carrabelle</div><div>28 Min.</div><div>25 Min.</div></div> <div><div>Apalachicola</div><div>1 Hr., 53 Min.</div><div>2 Hrs., 38 Min.</div></div> <div><div>Cat Point</div><div>1 Hr., 13 Min.</div><div>2 Hrs., 31 Min.</div></div> <div><div>Lower Anchorage</div><div>1 Hr., 36 Min.</div><div>2 Hrs., 3 Min.</div></div> <div><div>West Pass</div><div>1 Hr., 26 Min.</div><div></div></div>	<div><div>Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac</div><div>June 19 - June 25</div><div><div></div><div>Tide charts by tides4fishing.com</div><div></div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div>First July 2</div><div>Full July 10</div><div>Last July 17</div><div>New June 25</div></div> <div>Best fishing days this month</div> <div>June 25-30</div>	<div>Thursday 19</div> <div><div>Minor Times</div><div>1:09AM 1:51PM</div></div> <div><div>Major Times</div><div>6:56AM 7:20PM</div></div> <div>Friday 20</div> <div><div>Minor Times</div><div>1:40AM 2:58PM</div></div> <div><div>Major Times</div><div>7:44AM 8:10PM</div></div> <div>Saturday 21</div> <div><div>Minor Times</div><div>2:15AM 4:07PM</div></div> <div><div>Major Times</div><div>8:37AM 9:04PM</div></div> <div>Sunday 22</div> <div><div>Minor Times</div><div>2:55AM 5:20PM</div></div> <div><div>Major Times</div><div>9:33AM 10:04PM</div></div> <div>Monday 23</div> <div><div>Minor Times</div><div>6:33PM</div></div> <div><div>Major Times</div><div>10:35AM</div></div> <div>Tuesday 24</div> <div><div>Minor Times</div><div>4:39AM 7:41PM</div></div> <div><div>Major Times</div><div>11:07PM 11:39AM</div></div> <div>Wednesday 25</div> <div><div>Minor Times</div><div>5:43AM 8:43PM</div></div> <div><div>Major Times</div><div>12:12AM 12:44PM</div></div>
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<div>St. Marks River Entrance</div> <div><div>Th</div><div>2:31 am 0.8 ft</div><div>8:58 am 3.4 ft</div><div>3:42 pm 0.9 ft</div><div>9:58 pm 2.8 ft</div></div> <div><div>Fr</div><div>3:29 am 1.3 ft</div><div>9:48 am 3.5 ft</div><div>5:00 pm 0.4 ft</div><div>11:35 pm 2.9 ft</div></div> <div><div>Sa</div><div>4:32 am 1.6 ft</div><div>10:40 am 3.7 ft</div><div>6:10 pm -0.1 ft</div><div></div></div> <div><div>Su</div><div>12:53 am 3.1 ft</div><div>5:34 am 1.9 ft</div><div>11:34 am 3.9 ft</div><div>7:11 pm -0.5 ft</div></div> <div><div>Mo</div><div>1:57 am 3.3 ft</div><div>6:33 am 2.0 ft</div><div>12:27 pm 4.0 ft</div><div>8:07 pm -0.8 ft</div></div> <div><div>Tu</div><div>2:51 am 3.3 ft</div><div>7:26 am 2.0 ft</div><div>1:19 pm 4.2 ft</div><div>8:58 pm -0.9 ft</div></div> <div><div>We</div><div>3:39 am 3.3 ft</div><div>8:15 am 2.0 ft</div><div>2:09 pm 4.3 ft</div><div>9:46 pm -0.9 ft</div></div>	<div>City of St. Marks</div> <div><div>Th</div><div>3:35 am 0.8 ft</div><div>9:34 am 3.2 ft</div><div>4:46 pm 0.8 ft</div><div>10:34 pm 2.6 ft</div></div> <div><div>Fr</div><div>4:33 am 1.2 ft</div><div>10:24 am 3.3 ft</div><div>6:04 pm 0.4 ft</div><div></div></div> <div><div>Sa</div><div>12:11 am 2.7 ft</div><div>5:36 am 1.5 ft</div><div>11:16 am 3.4 ft</div><div>7:14 pm -0.1 ft</div></div> <div><div>Su</div><div>1:29 am 2.9 ft</div><div>6:38 am 1.7 ft</div><div>12:10 pm 3.6 ft</div><div>8:15 pm -0.5 ft</div></div> <div><div>Mo</div><div>2:33 am 3.0 ft</div><div>7:37 am 1.8 ft</div><div>1:03 pm 3.7 ft</div><div>9:11 pm -0.7 ft</div></div> <div><div>Tu</div><div>3:27 am 3.1 ft</div><div>8:30 am 1.8 ft</div><div>1:55 pm 3.9 ft</div><div>10:02 pm -0.9 ft</div></div> <div><div>We</div><div>4:15 am 3.1 ft</div><div>9:19 am 1.8 ft</div><div>2:45 pm 4.0 ft</div><div>10:50 pm -0.8 ft</div></div>	<div>Shell Point, Spring Creek</div> <div><div>Th</div><div>2:56 am 1.0 ft</div><div>9:28 am 3.4 ft</div><div>4:13 pm 0.9 ft</div><div>10:30 pm 2.9 ft</div></div> <div><div>Fr</div><div>3:55 am 1.4 ft</div><div>10:16 am 3.6 ft</div><div>5:28 pm 0.4 ft</div><div></div></div> <div><div>Sa</div><div>12:02 am 3.0 ft</div><div>4:55 am 1.8 ft</div><div>11:06 am 3.8 ft</div><div>6:33 pm -0.2 ft</div></div> <div><div>Su</div><div>1:15 am 3.2 ft</div><div>5:55 am 2.0 ft</div><div>11:56 am 4.0 ft</div><div>7:31 pm -0.6 ft</div></div> <div><div>Mo</div><div>2:16 am 3.3 ft</div><div>6:50 am 2.1 ft</div><div>12:45 pm 4.1 ft</div><div>8:25 pm -0.9 ft</div></div> <div><div>Tu</div><div>3:08 am 3.4 ft</div><div>7:40 am 2.2 ft</div><div>1:34 pm 4.2 ft</div><div>9:16 pm -1.0 ft</div></div> <div><div>We</div><div>3:55 am 3.4 ft</div><div>8:28 am 2.2 ft</div><div>2:22 pm 4.3 ft</div><div>10:04 pm -0.9 ft</div></div>
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<div>Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay</div> <div><div>Th</div><div>2:42 am 0.6 ft</div><div>8:50 am 2.6 ft</div><div>3:53 pm 0.6 ft</div><div>9:50 pm 2.1 ft</div></div> <div><div>Fr</div><div>3:40 am 0.9 ft</div><div>9:40 am 2.6 ft</div><div>5:11 pm 0.3 ft</div><div>11:27 pm 2.2 ft</div></div> <div><div>Sa</div><div>4:43 am 1.2 ft</div><div>10:32 am 2.8 ft</div><div>6:21 pm -0.1 ft</div><div></div></div> <div><div>Su</div><div>12:45 am 3.2 ft</div><div>5:45 am 1.4 ft</div><div>11:26 am 2.9 ft</div><div>7:22 pm -0.4 ft</div></div> <div><div>Mo</div><div>1:49 am 2.4 ft</div><div>6:44 am 1.5 ft</div><div>12:19 pm 3.0 ft</div><div>8:18 pm -0.6 ft</div></div> <div><div>Tu</div><div>2:43 am 2.5 ft</div><div>7:37 am 1.5 ft</div><div>1:11 pm 3.1 ft</div><div>9:09 pm -0.7 ft</div></div> <div><div>We</div><div>3:31 am 2.5 ft</div><div>8:26 am 1.4 ft</div><div>2:01 pm 3.2 ft</div><div>9:57 pm -0.7 ft</div></div>	<div>St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.</div> <div><div>Th</div><div>2:42 am 0.9 ft</div><div>9:13 am 2.8 ft</div><div>4:13 pm 0.7 ft</div><div>10:23 pm 2.2 ft</div></div> <div><div>Fr</div><div>3:41 am 1.3 ft</div><div>9:52 am 2.9 ft</div><div>5:18 pm 0.2 ft</div><div></div></div> <div><div>Sa</div><div>12:02 am 2.3 ft</div><div>4:42 am 1.7 ft</div><div>10:33 am 3.0 ft</div><div>6:14 pm -0.2 ft</div></div> <div><div>Su</div><div>1:23 am 2.5 ft</div><div>5:39 am 2.0 ft</div><div>11:16 am 3.2 ft</div><div>7:06 pm -0.6 ft</div></div> <div><div>Mo</div><div>2:28 am 2.6 ft</div><div>6:28 am 2.1 ft</div><div>12:01 pm 3.4 ft</div><div>7:56 pm -0.8 ft</div></div> <div><div>Tu</div><div>3:24 am 2.6 ft</div><div>7:12 am 2.2 ft</div><div>12:48 am 3.5 ft</div><div>8:45 pm -0.9 ft</div></div> <div><div>We</div><div>4:13 am 2.6 ft</div><div>7:54 am 2.2 ft</div><div>1:37 pm 3.5 ft</div><div>9:34 pm -0.8 ft</div></div>	<div>Dog Island West End</div> <div><div>Th</div><div>2:39 am 3.6 ft</div><div>9:23 am 2.5 ft</div><div>4:35 pm 0.6 ft</div><div>11:03 pm 1.9 ft</div></div> <div><div>Fr</div><div>3:36 am 1.5 ft</div><div>10:00 am 2.6 ft</div><div>5:38 pm 0.2 ft</div><div></div></div> <div><div>Sa</div><div>1:02 am 2.0 ft</div><div>4:38 am 1.8 ft</div><div>10:38 am 2.8 ft</div><div>6:39 pm -0.2 ft</div></div> <div><div>Su</div><div>2:39 am 2.3 ft</div><div>5:49 am 2.1 ft</div><div>11:19 am 2.9 ft</div><div>7:34 pm -0.6 ft</div></div> <div><div>Mo</div><div>3:38 am 2.4 ft</div><div>7:09 am 2.2 ft</div><div>12:05 pm 3.0 ft</div><div>8:22 pm -0.8 ft</div></div> <div><div>Tu</div><div>4:27 am 2.5 ft</div><div>8:01 am 2.2 ft</div><div>12:58 pm 3.1 ft</div><div>9:06 pm -0.8 ft</div></div> <div><div>We</div><div>5:09 am 2.5 ft</div><div>8:40 am 2.2 ft</div><div>1:54 pm 3.1 ft</div><div>9:50 pm -0.8 ft</div></div>
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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

The following was shared by Tim Ashley and appeared on the US Guard Guard Newsfeed, unofficial.

The huge numbers of lives lost due to shipwrecks along the Atlantic coast resulted in the formation of the U.S. Lifesaving Service. On June 10, 1872 Congress ordered that Life-Saving stations were to be erected “under supervision of two captains of the revenue service.” An Act of Congress authorized government life-saving stations on Cape Cod and Block Island. The service replaced the Massachusetts Humane Society, which had maintained shelters along the coast in an effort to assist shipwrecked sailors.

The Lifesaver’s motto was: “You have to go, but you don’t have to come back.” While they were stationed on Cape Cod between 1872 and 1915, they earned them the name, Guardians of

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

were to be manned by the most expert surfmen and boat handlers to be found and the patrol of the coast at night and during thick weather by day was inaugurated. Provincetown men were actively recruited for their demonstrated ability in boat handling. The stations were manned ten months a year, from the first of August until the following June. The keeper remained on duty throughout the year.

Thanks to Sherrie, we will always remember safe boating is no accident!!

the Ocean Graveyard.

The lifesaving stations were simple buildings designed as a home for the crew and storage for the boats and other gear. They were set back as far as possible from the high-water mark and painted red so that they might be distinguished from a long distance at sea. There was a lookout or observatory from where the surfmen would keep track shipping traffic during the day and a sixty-foot flagstaff used to signal passing ships by International code.

In the 1870s, nine stations were built on Cape Cod. The stations

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](mailto: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](http://www.uscgaux.net) follow us on FaceBook @ Apalachee Bay Flotilla 12 or contact our Flotilla Commander Norma Hill at [njhill@ballstate.bsu.edu](mailto: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](http://www.cgaux.org).*

Report all wild turkey sightings between now and Aug. 31

**From FWC News**

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is asking Florida residents and visitors to report all sightings of wild turkeys between now and Aug. 31. This includes hens, poults (newly hatched wild turkeys) and gobblers.

Florida’s annu-

al summer wild turkey survey is part of a broader multi-state initiative aimed at better understanding the reproductive success and abundance of wild turkeys. This survey helps determine wild turkey nesting success, poult survival, and population distribution and abundance, which is crucial information

that FWC biologists need to manage and sustain healthy wild turkey populations for years to come.

Wild turkeys are abundant in Florida and are found throughout the state, and nests typically begin to hatch in late spring and continue into the summer. However, nesting success can vary each year

based on several factors, including weather conditions, predation and habitat quality.

By reporting wild turkey sightings, Floridians and visitors can help biologists estimate population metrics.

To learn more and start reporting, visit [MyFWC.com/Turkey-Survey](http://MyFWC.com/Turkey-Survey)

Underwater

Wakulla

By Nicole Stanton

**Three “Oh, Nos!” GO HOME.** August 4, 2011

Ever had one of those days when nothing goes right? A flat tire on your way to work, or the elevator being busted when you have to travel to the 13th floor.

In diving, these “Oh, no!” moments happen all the time. When you are diving shallow and there is a clear path to the surface, these moments aren’t very important. But when you are traveling deep into the bowels of the earth, you need to pay attention.

The rule goes something like this, if for any reason you have an issue that makes you say “Oh, no!” that counts as one. As you continue on, if you have to say “Oh, no!” three times, GO HOME. Crawl back into bed and watch re-runs until dinner and try again tomorrow.

In some regions, this is followed by the statement, “God loves you and wants you to live.”

Why would you drive two hours, put on a burning hot wet-suit and haul your equipment more than 200 yards to the dive site just to turn around and go home when you reach this magical number?

Well, you want to live don’t you?

The theory behind the three strike rule is that in any diving related death, no one problem will kill you. Usually it’s something like six or seven problems.

The average human can handle up to three major problems occurring at any time, after that it’s too much to balance. When you’re in trouble, all those other problems don’t just go away, they become even worse because as you divert your attention to managing the one failure, those others will begin to fail as well.

Years ago, a very good friend of ours was diving in a cave in Jackson County, let’s call him Bob. Bob was diving a Rebreather (when he exhaled, the exhaust was filled with oxygen and cleaned for reuse), one he had been fully trained and qualified to use. Bob’s dive buddy was diving open circuit (meaning that when he exhaled the exhaust was in the form of bubbles in the water).

Our friend Bob ignored the rule of three strikes. One, he drove all night to reach his dive site; he was exhausted and mentally compromised.

Two, his oxygen sensors were not showing the correct voltages and were malfunctioning.

Three, his oxygen injection system was rusting and needed replacement.

Those three factors were known to Bob before the dive began.

What was not considered before the dive was the following; One, Bob’s dive buddy was not briefed on what to do in an emergency.

Two, Bob had not invested in a bailout system that had been proven to save lives on Rebreathers during emergencies.

Three, when Bob cleaned his rusty oxygen injection system, he put it back in upside down.

Bob died because his oxygen injector (solenoid) was incorrectly installed. However, had his oxygen sensors been working, he would have known that his oxygen levels were too high.

Had he not needed a new oxygen injector, he would not have removed his. Had his buddy known how to help him during the emergency, he could have made a safe emergency exit. And with the improved bailout, Bob might have been able to save himself.

At any point, if Bob had called the dive at strike three, he would still be with us today.

The rule of three strikes is almost a mantra amongst technical divers because it shows how risk management is so important to coming home alive.

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



# When our faith is tested again and again



By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

You've noticed something different about yourself. Previously, when you faced obstacles, you'd give up. Now, you persevere and see the project or trial

through ...  
... even when it feels as if you've been "waiting on God" forever.  
Is it because, after years of lukewarm quiet times, you've become serious about growing in your relationship with your heavenly Father?  
If this doesn't describe you, and reading these words evokes a sense of envy that spills over into regret and wishful thinking, please keep reading.  
Psalm 1:3 (AMPC) tells us, "And he shall be like a tree firmly planted [and tended] by the streams of water, ready to bring

forth its fruit in its season; its leaf also shall not fade or wither; and everything he does shall prosper [and come to maturity]."  
Years ago, while meditating on this verse, I realized I wasn't in a healthy spiritual place. I often withered when a battle became difficult or when it seemed like God was taking too long to answer my prayers. The only aspect of my life that showed any signs of maturity was my aging body. (Sigh.)  
Something changed as I started praying this

verse. I could almost see my future self becoming the kind of person Psalm 1:3 describes: a solidly planted Christian who isn't easily distracted from whatever God calls him or her to do.  
One who doesn't become discouraged or cop out when they face uncomfortable or prolonged trials.  
The longer I prayed, the more my assurance grew. To this day, I continue to plant my roots. I'm determined never to stray from God's presence. I need His Spirit to teach, guide and re-

charge me. I depend on Him to mold and shape me so I will be ready to serve Him throughout my day, in every circumstance.  
This includes: respecting my husband, Bert, blessing my boss and clients, serving my church and community and representing the God I serve through my writing.  
Are you losing steam as you wait on God to bring the work of your hands (and dreams) to fruition?  
If you desire to grow sound roots that will yield a good outcome, dwell in

(and rest on) God's Word. His Holy Spirit will keep you strong and steadfast, even when you're losing steam. As we yield ourselves to Him, our heavenly Father will prosper and mature our labor – including endeavors we've yet to experience ...  
... right on time, in its season.  
  
*Sheryl H. Boldt is a sales executive for Wave 94 and author of the blog, [www.TodayCanBeDifferent.net](http://www.TodayCanBeDifferent.net). Connect with her at [SherylHBoldt.Wave94@gmail.com](mailto:SherylHBoldt.Wave94@gmail.com).*

# The name He knows



By **CHERYL CRUCE**

The ordeal of my name began in 1959 — long before computers and auto-correct.  
My older sister was named Olive after our mother, and the next, Pearl, for our grandmother. I was the seventh and last child born. Noticing the pattern — Olive and Pearl, fruit names tucked into honorifics — I would be the cherry on top: Cheryl (pronounced Cher-

ry-L).  
Nonetheless, with a simple misspelling on the birth certificate, I became Cheryl.  
Mom still pronounced it with the hard "ch" sound, like chew. But to Dad, I would always be Cherry-L — his caboose, the final addition to a family full of stories.  
He decorated birthday cakes and signed cards with the double r as if reclaiming something lost. Mom would gently (or not-so-gently) correct teachers who softened it to a "sh." Somewhere along the way, I learned to spell my name with two Rs everywhere except school.  
It took me years to realize that my name, misspelled or not, car-

ried more than family tradition. It was intentional and given in love. It became a stark reminder that our true identity is not defined by paper or pronunciation but by the One who knows us fully. My parents saw, loved, and claimed me. And even more, God sees me.  
This same loving gaze of the Father also rests upon you — a gaze that sees you deeply, even in your wilderness moments. Like Hagar, who felt lost and alone yet called the Lord El Roi, "the One who sees me" (Genesis 16), you are fully known and deeply loved. Our world can feel like an endless wilderness, filled with whispers or shouts of labels like outcast, failure, victim, or broken.

These names settle over us like shadows, shaping how we see our worth and future. Maybe you've heard some of these words in your story, softly spoken or harshly declared. But those names do not define who you truly are.  
Worldly labels cannot hold power over us. Scripture calls us redeemed, forgiven, and more than conquerors through Christ who loves us (Romans 8:37). We are the children of God, chosen by Him. We are given new names that proclaim hope. God does not see us as our mistakes or our scars. He sees us through the lens of grace, calling us by names that reveal who we truly are in Him.  
Our Heavenly Father

takes joy in renaming His children according to His blessings. Abram became Abraham — "father of many nations." Sarai became Sarah — "princess." Jacob became Israel — "one who struggles with God." Each new name marked a new identity and covenant with the Lord.  
And one day, God promises to give us a new name when all is said and done. Scripture teaches He will hand us a white stone, and on it will be a name known only to the one who receives it (Revelation 2:17). It is not a name from our past or our pain. It is a name spoken by the One who sees and loves us completely. A name that reflects who we are in

Him.  
So, no matter what the world has called you — or even what you've called yourself — take heart. Your Heavenly Father is still writing your story.  
And like Hagar, you can trust this: He is the God who sees you in the wilderness... and He already knows your true name.  
"You will be called by a new name that the Lord himself will give you. You will be a majestic crown in the hand of the Lord, a royal turban in the hand of your God." — Isaiah 62:2-3  
  
*Cheryl Mixon-Cruce is Pastor of Ochlockonee Bay United Methodist Church and Sopchoppy United Methodist Church.*

## OUT TO PASTOR

# To be or not to be, that's my confusion



By **JAMES SNYDER**

After many years of denial, I finally realized how easily I am confused. Why it took me so long to realize this, I will never know.  
If only I could go back to my wonderful teenage years when I knew everything and nobody could tell me what to do. Why do those days go by so quickly?  
Now, I'm at the stage where I'm looking at life a little more realistically than I did back in my teenage years.  
The main problem with this is not only can I get confused, but I rarely know when I'm confused. That in itself is confusing to me.  
I am not blaming old age because, as I look at my life, I've been confused throughout although I didn't know it at the time. I have no idea what old age contributes to my state of confusion each day.  
The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is the one person in our home

who is never confused. I'm not sure how she has done this all these years. It can't be easy living with someone like me, who's always confused.  
I'll be working in my office, she'll step in and say, "Are you ready to go?"  
A little surprised, I look up from my desk and say, "Go where?"  
She looks at me for a moment and says, "Don't you remember you have a doctor's appointment today?"  
What," I will say, "do I have a doctor's appointment for?"  
At that point, I am in a real state of confusion. But I had to ask, "It's not a psychiatrist, is it?"  
"Oh, I wish," she says and walks away.  
I could not remember my doctor's appointment for today. Do I really have a doctor's appointment? Or is she taking me to see her doctor?  
Surely, there must be some advantage to being confused. I'm going to search for it until I find it, and until then, I will operate in my confused mode.  
When I grab my truck keys and head for the door, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage often asks, "Do you know where you're going?"  
I don't think I would've been confused if she hadn't asked that question. Obviously she knows something I didn't know.

I look back at her, smile, and ask, "No, where am I going?"  
On my way to the door, I thought I knew where I was going. I carefully planned everything out: where I was going and what I would do and when I would return home. But when she questioned me, all that came up in my fuzzy mind was confusion. Do I really know where I'm going?  
I wouldn't say this out loud, but I sometimes think she does that intentionally to confuse me. And boy, is she an expert at that. When I'm confused I'm easy to manipulate.  
When working on a writing project I am never confused. I know exactly what I'm doing and quite content and what I'm doing.  
My biggest problem is knowing if I should do something or not. I can never figure that out. "To do, or not to do?" That

seems to be my confusion.  
I get up early in the morning, take my coffee to my easy chair, and enjoy those few moments of quietness. During that time, I think of my schedule for the day.  
It's easy to think of what I could do, but my most demanding job is figuring out what I should not do. If I do everything I want to do, I'm never going to finish anything. I need to learn to manage my time so I don't sink into the swamp of confusion.  
Thinking along this line, it occurred to me that if I could figure out what not to do I believe I could get much more done. Differentiating between "do and don't" is very hard for me.  
If I do what I don't have to do, it takes away time to do what I should do. Oh boy, this is very confusing.  
I recently spent a week

observing The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, watching her every step. I wanted to see her aspect of "do and don't". The end result of that week was I couldn't find anything she didn't do. She is the Do Queen of the Parsonage. I could not find one thing she didn't do.  
I wish I could understand how that happens and differentiate between "do and don't". That would eliminate some of my confusion, I think.  
Perhaps that is why people get old and forget things. Maybe it's a good thing to forget some things. If only I could select the things to forget, my life would be a lot better and less confusing.  
Until then, I will wallow in my confusion.  
While pondering this I was reminded of a verse of Scripture in Philippi-

ans 3:13-14. "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."  
With all of the things in front of the apostle Paul, he boiled his life down to just one thing, "forgetting," and then "reaching forth." To know what to forget enables me to understand what to reach forward to. That certainly will simplify my life..  
  
*Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, email [jamesnsnyder51@gmail.com](mailto:jamesnsnyder51@gmail.com), website [www.james-snyderministries.com](http://www.james-snyderministries.com).*



**Sopchoppy United Methodist Church**


Pastor Cheryl Mixon-Cruce

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

Worship 11 a.m.

Bible Study Wed. 6 p.m.

850-962-2511



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Wednesday: Mass at 7:00 pm

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1<sup>st</sup> Saturday: Mass at 9:30 am.

Every Saturday: Confessions at 4:30 pm

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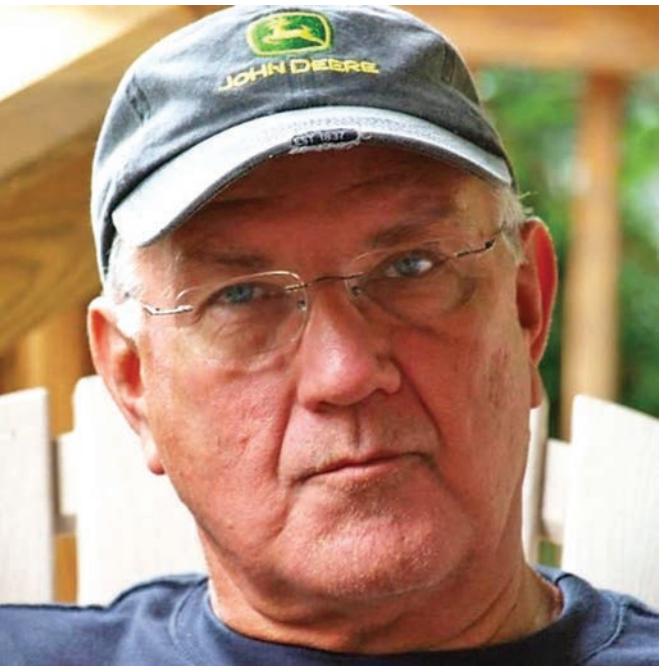
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# Obituaries



John R. Johnson

John Randol Johnson, 76, of Crawfordville, peacefully entered his heavenly home on June 12, 2025.

Born in Waycross, Georgia, John moved to Tallahassee where he attended school and graduated from Leon High School. In 1978, he made Crawfordville his home. Before answering the call to ministry, he worked in the



William A. Snowden III

William Avent Snowden III, 83, died on June 14, 2025 in Tallahassee.

cable television industry doing underground construction and he owned J&S Communications. He later became the founding pastor of New Life Ministries, where he faithfully served for 23 years. John had a heart uniquely made for pastoring – genuine, compassionate, and full of grace. He never met a stranger and could strike up a conversation with anyone, much to the amusement of his family. He was quick to offer encouragement, always ready with a scripture, and eager to share God’s love. Among his favorite verses was Jeremiah 29:11: “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord; thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.” John loved his family fiercely and unconditionally. Some of his happiest moments were spent on the water, taking his children and grandchildren boating, waterskiing, and tubing – often pushing the limits of fun as the family’s expert and enthusiastic tube driver. Known for his humor, John was the family jokester, always ready with a laugh and a kind word. If he was your friend, you had a friend indeed. John also loved to mow the grass, tinker in the barn and do woodwork; always coming up with ideas to make someone happy.

He will be remembered by his beloved wife of nearly 47 years (July 1, 1978), Paula Gaby

He was born in Tallahassee on what was known as Armistice Day, Nov. 11, 1941, the son of William Avent Snowden Jr. and Leona Marshall Snowden.

He graduated from Leon High School in 1959. He attended Georgia Tech in Atlanta and graduated first in his class. He worked as an architectural engineer for Delta Air Lines, based in Atlanta, on numerous facilities projects at airports around the country. Designing an aircraft maintenance hangar for Delta at Atlanta Hartsfield International Airport, he added a neon “Fly Delta Jets” sign to the design, which was approved and become an iconic landmark. After retiring from Delta, he was a project director on numerous airport projects, including the \$450 million construction of Terminal 1 at Kennedy Airport in New York, and later the \$250 million renovation and expansion of Logan International Airport in Boston. He retired to Fort Lauderdale and

Johnson; his children Kimberly Howells (Jeff), Michael Johnson (Annette), Jessica Langford (Ross), and Jennifer Johnson (Larry); his cherished grandchildren Dustin Taylor (Brittany), Audrey O’Keeffe (Colin), Hannah Paul (John), Maverick Stubbs, Parker Stubbs, and Ren-ny Langford; two great-grandchildren, Mason and Brayden Taylor; and his sisters, Georgi- anne Williams (Rick), Kim McCoy, and Brenda Harvey, along with many treasured nieces, nephews, and lifelong friends that he deeply loved and treasured.

He was predeceased by his parents Betty Freeman Crossman and Randol Johnson; and brothers Daryl Harvey and Roy Davis.

The family will receive friends for visitation on Tuesday, June 17, 2025, from 10 to 11 a.m., with a celebration of John’s life to fol- low at 11 a.m. at Family Funeral Home Har-vey Young Chapel. Burial will follow at Arran Cemetery.

A heartfelt thank you to Wakulla EMS, TMH Emergency Room and ICU, and the Center for Compassionate Care at TMH Big Bend Hos- pice for their care and support.

Skip & Trey Young are caring for and assist- ing the family. Family Funeral Home at Har-vey Young Chapel.

recently returned to Tallahassee to be close to family.

He was predeceased by his parents and a brother, Harry Marshall Snowden (Edie).

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Joan Jhonson Snowden; a son, William Avent Snowden IV (Meredith); a daughter, Dana Snowden (Steve Blalock); grandchildren, Dylan Snowden, Emily Snowden (Heath Fow-ler), and Harper Macgowan (Caleb); and five great-grandchildren, Raleigh, Baker, Estelle, Vera, and Clifton.

Memorial donations may be made to Big Bend Hospice, 1723 Mahan Center Blvd, Tal- lashassee, FL 32308.

An informal Celebration of Life will be held at William IV and Meredith’s home on Friday, June 20, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at 2114 Jen- ette St., Tallahassee FL 32308.

## Sheriff’s Report

This report is for ac- tivity June 6th to 13th. There were 1,759 total calls for service during the week.

### FRIDAY, JUNE 6

- Deputy Grove re- sponded to Tower Road in Panacea in reference to a Theft. Complainant reported someone had stolen a cooler from his property. Investigation has been turned over to the Criminal Investiga- tions Division.
- Deputy Marshall responded to Old Nails Road in reference to Lost Property. A citizen reported losing her tag and stated the tag had been on her vehicle for a majority of the day but on her way home from Leon County, a Leon County Deputy advised her she had no tag on her vehicle. The citizen stated she attempted to retrace her steps but was unable to locate the tag.

### SATURDAY, JUNE 7

- Deputy Smith re- sponded to Truelieve on Crawfordville Highway in reference to a tres- pass complaint. Con- tact was made with the manager of the business who reported an individ- ual was inside the store after having been previ- ously issued a trespass warning on May 8. The individual was not on scene upon deputies’ ar- rival. Surveillance foot- age was requested and a warrant request was submitted.
- Deputy Kittrell re- sponded to Gala Court in reference to a fraud complaint. Complainant reported her bank ac- count was recently com- promised, advising she

attempted to make a purchase on June 6 with her debit card. Com- plainant stated her So- cial Security check was recently deposited so the funds should have been available, but when she contacted her bank, she was informed there were two recent transfers from her account total- ing \$900. Complainant advised she did not au- thorize the transfers. Investigation has been turned over to the Crim- inal Investigations Divi- sion.

### SUNDAY, JUNE 8

- Sgt. Broxsie re- sponded to a Theft at Publix. An employee re- ported a male subject stealing two sandwiches from the store. Sgt. Brox- sie located the subject walking away from Pub- lix. The employee was able to positively identify Trevor John Cooley. Af- ter further investigation, Cooley was placed un- der arrest for Petit Theft and transported to the Wakulla County Deten- tion Facility.
- Deputy Parker re- sponded to a Theft on Parkside Circle. Com- plainant reported a per- son known to her was not returning antique furniture after being asked numerous times. Investigation has been turned over to the Crim- inal Investigations Divi- sion.
- Sgt. Trujillo con- ducted a traffic stop for unlawful speed at the intersection of Whid- don Lake Road and Crawfordville Highway. During the stop, Sgt. Trujillo detected the odor of marijuana com- ing from the interior of the vehicle. During the probable cause search,

56.3 grams of marijuana was located. The driver, Denzel Jkiah Lee Miller was placed under arrest for possession of mar- ijuana and was trans- ported to the Wakulla County Detention Facil- ity.

- Sgt. Trujillo re- sponded to the area of Mohave Road in refer- ence to a vehicle driving recklessly and tearing up the roads. Upon ar- rival, Sgt. Trujillo lo- cated the vehicle and conducted a traffic stop after observing the vehi- cle spinning out. During the stop, the driver, Joshua Kyle Reams, ad- mitted to Driving While License Suspended or Revoked(DWLSR) know- ingly. Reams was sub- sequently arrested for DWLSR and was trans- ported to the Wakulla County Detention Facil- ity.

### MONDAY, JUNE 9

- Walmart Loss Pre- vention located a pilot’s flight training manual in the parking lot on Sat- urday. The manual was placed in a secure loca- tion in hopes of the owner would come retrieve the book. After waiting a day with no one com- ing to collect the book, it was submitted to prop- erty and evidence for safe keeping.
- Deputy Parker re- sponded to a structure fire on Lynn Circle. The complainant reported hearing an explosion while sitting in his liv- ing room. Complainant stated when he walked outside to investigate, he observed his neigh- bor’s camper trailer on fire. Wakulla County Fire Rescue responded and extinguished the fire. During the investi- gation, it was discovered the owners live out of state. Contact was made with the owners and in-

formed of this incident. The trailer was a com- plete loss.

- Deputy Cordoba re- sponded to Red Lake Road in reference to a Criminal Mischief. The resident reported some- one purposely damaging his gate and mailbox. Damages were estimated at approximately \$550.

### TUESDAY, JUNE 10

- Deputy Irvin re- sponded to Crum’s Mini Mall for a retail theft. The complainant report- ed a retail theft that oc- curred earlier in the day that she had not report- ed yet. She advised the golfcart that was used after the theft was lo- cated near Las Palmas Restaurant. Deputy Ir- vin located the cart and met with two possible suspects. Case has been forwarded to the Crim- inal Investigations Divi- sion.
- Deputy Godwin re- sponded to Catawba Trail in reference to a Battery. A resident re- ported an unknown sub- ject passed by his home and shot at him with an air soft gun. Investiga- tion continuing.

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11

- Deputy Weekes re- sponded to Smith Creek Hwy and made contact with a citizen who re- ported she had lost her prescription medication and has been unable to locate it over the past few days. She requested this incident be docu- mented in order to ob- tain a new prescription.

### THURSDAY, JUNE 12

- Deputy Marshall investigated a Lost/ Missing Firearm com- plaint on Feather Trail. The complainant report- ed losing his firearm in

Leon County. The fire- arm was entered into FCIC/NCIC.

- Deputy Marshall investigated a Crimi- nal Mischief at Wakulla Correctional Institution. The complainant report- ed someone damaging her vehicle at work, and stated while working at WCI, an unknown sub- ject had keyed her vehi- cle. Video surveillance was requested. Case has been forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division.
- Lt. Spence and de- puties Smith and Kittrell saturated the area of Autumn Woods Way af- ter receiving information a stolen silver Honda sedan was in the area. The vehicle was eventu- ally located by Lt. Spen- ce and a traffic stop was initiated. The driver, John Wesley McMahan, was detained and questioned. McMahan stated he recently pur- chased the vehicle in Leon County from two unknown individuals at the Circle K, located at South Monroe and Or- ange Avenue. McMahan

could not provide proof of purchase and was subsequently placed under arrest for grand theft of a motor vehicle. Tallahassee Police were notified and Quality Tow responded to retrieve the vehicle. McMahan was transported to the Wakulla County Deten- tion Facility.

### FRIDAY, JUNE 13

- Deputy Kreitlow re- sponded to Walmart in reference to a Retail Theft. Walmart Loss Prevention reported a subject in the store had stolen items by pass- ing all final points of sale. Loss Prevention was able to intercept the subject, later iden- tified as Logan Shea Wortwick. During the investigation, Wortwick was placed under ar- rest for Petit Theft and was transported to the Wakulla County Deten- tion Facility.

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

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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  
ROSCOE SAMS DARBY,  
DECEASED  
DIVISION: PROBATE

File No. 2025 CP 000051

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of Roscoe Sams Darby, deceased, whose date of death was March 11, 2025, 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 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 3 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.

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 written demand must be filed with the clerk.

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 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of the first publication of this Notice is June 12, 2025.

Attorney for Personal Representative:  
Kathryn A. Hathaway  
Florida Bar Number: 622125  
Hathaway Sprague Law, P.A.  
P.O. Box 3005  
Tallahassee, FL 32315  
Telephone: (850) 425-4700  
Fax: (850) 425-4704  
E-Mail: [ntices@hathawaylaw.net](mailto:ntices@hathawaylaw.net)

Personal Representative:  
Susan Silvey  
192 Revadee Spears Rd  
Crawfordville, Florida 32327

June 12, 19, 2025

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA  
PROBATE DIVISION

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF  
PAUL FLORENCE HENDRICK,  
DECEASED  
DIVISION: PROBATE

CASE NO: 2025-CP-48

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the Estate of Paul Florence Hendrick, deceased, File 2025-CP-48 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.

The date of the first publication of this Notice is June 19, 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:  
Dalton Keith Hall  
49 Richland Rd.  
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June 19, 26, 2025

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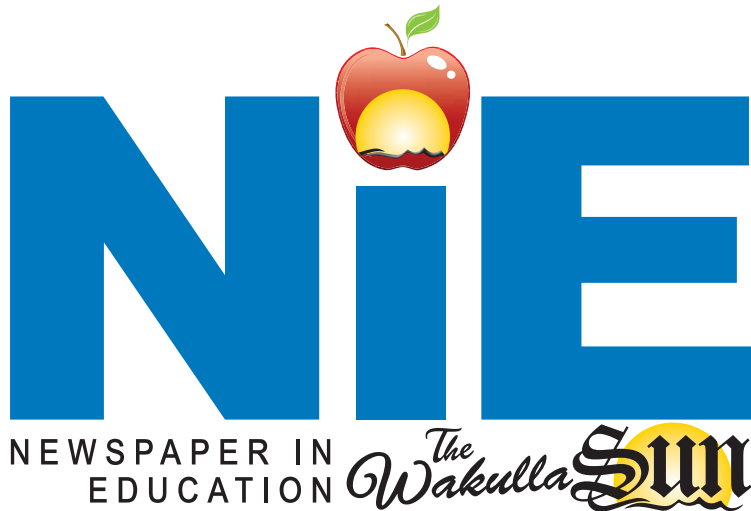


THE WAKULLA SUN









USE THE NEWS

1. TEMPERATURES  
RISE IN ALASKA

For the first time ever, the National Weather Service has issued a heat advisory in Alaska. The warning is for the city of Fairbanks, where temperatures are expected to reach 85 degrees. While this might not sound very hot to people in warmer places, it’s unusual for Alaska, where June temperatures are usually in the 70s and most buildings don’t have air-conditioning. In the past, Alaska used general weather alerts for warm weather, but now they’re using the official “heat advisory” label to make things clearer. This change is part of a new way to warn people about unusual heat. Along with the heat, the Weather Service also issued a flood watch in northern Alaska, where melting snow might cause rivers to overflow. After reading the article, write a 3-5 sentences explaining why the heat advisory in Alaska is important. Describe how this kind of weather is different from what Alaskans are used to and why it can be dangerous. Be sure to include why the Weather Service decided to change how they give heat warnings.

2. A BIG CRICKET WIN

South Africa just won a big cricket tournament called the World Test Championship for the first time in 27 years! They beat Australia, one of the best teams, in a very exciting match in London. The players worked together, stayed calm, and didn’t give up. One star player, Aiden Markram, played for more than six hours and helped his team win. Their captain, Temba Bavuma, said the team wanted to do something special for their country. Many fans were very happy and proud of the team’s hard work and big

win. Imagine you are a sports reporter in South Africa. Write a short news story about the team’s big win. Include who they played against, where the match happened, how the game ended, and how people in South Africa are reacting. Try to use exciting words to make your story fun to read, just like real news articles you see online or in newspapers!

3. PRARIE DOG PRACTICES

Prairie dogs are small animals that live in the grasslands. When they see danger, like a hawk or a fox, they bark loudly to warn others. Scientists just learned that a bird called the long-billed curlew listens to those barks! When the bird hears the warning, it hides by laying flat on the ground and blending in with the grass. This helps the bird stay safe from predators. Prairie dogs are not just good at digging burrows — they also help protect other animals by sounding the alarm! Draw a picture showing a prairie dog warning other animals about a predator. Include at least three animals in your drawing, including the long-billed curlew. Then,



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FWMA.org  
363-2351

write 2–3 sentences explaining what is happening in your picture and how the animals are reacting to the prairie dog’s bark.

4. A HISTORY OF BEDBUGS

Bedbugs have been living with humans for a very long time—about 245,000 years! Scientists recently discovered that these tiny bugs first started feeding on people when early humans shared caves with bats, which were the bedbugs’ original food source. When humans stopped moving from place to place and started building cities, the bedbug population grew quickly. Bedbugs only feed on humans and need us to travel to new

places. Even though they don’t spread diseases, they can be annoying because they bite while we sleep. They are also very good at surviving, even without food for a long time, and they can resist bug sprays. That’s why it’s hard to get rid of them once they show up. Bedbugs can spread quickly — just one pregnant bug in a suitcase can lead to thousands more! After reading the article, write a paragraph explaining how bedbugs became connected to humans. Include where they originally came from, how living in cities helped them grow in number, and why they’re so hard to get rid of. Try to use your own words and explain why scientists think bedbugs are one of the oldest pests that live with people.

5. THE LATEST ON LONG-NECK DINOS

Scientists have finally found real fossil proof that long-necked dinosaurs, like the sauropod, were plant-eaters. For a long time, people believed sauropods were vegetarians because of their peg-like teeth and slow-moving bodies, but there was no hard evidence — until now. In Australia, researchers discovered fossilized plant material inside the belly of a young dinosaur named Judy. This plant material, called a cololite, was found near fossilized skin, showing it likely came from the dinosaur’s last meal. The plants included leaves from tall trees and flowering plants. The leaves were whole, meaning the dinosaur didn’t chew its food but swallowed it

whole. Then, bacteria in its belly helped break the food down over time. This exciting find confirms what many scientists believed: that sauropods ate lots of different plants to fuel their giant bodies. Imagine you are a young sauropod dinosaur living during the Cretaceous period. Write a short story about a day in your life. Describe what you see around you, what kinds of plants you like to eat, and how you find your food. Think about how big you are, how you move, and how you stay safe from predators. Try to include some details you learned from the article, like the fact that sauropods didn’t chew their food but swallowed it whole.

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