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One Section

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Our 4th Year 26th Issue  
Thursday, July 3, 2025

# KWCB Awards presented



All of the award recipients at Keep Wakulla County Beautiful's 'Just Imagine' dinner on Friday night.

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN  
Editor

There was a big crowd on hand at the community center on Friday night for Keep Wakulla County Beautiful's award dinner.

Incoming KWCB president Steve Cushman presented his idea of "Just Imagine" – a new focus for the group away from Reduce, Reuse and Recycle to a reduction of waste. "Just stop," he said. He bemoaned the consumer culture of "Buy now" that produces enormous waste.

Cushman said the focus should be on "how much we as human beings consume... and where those products end up when we're done with them."

Speaker Kelli Keys, an adjunct professor at FSU, echoed that sentiment as well noting that the promise of recycling – especially plastics – is largely greenwashing. "Less than 9% of all plastics ever produced have been recycled," Keys said, adding that 8 to 11 million tons of plastics go into the ocean every year.

Cal Jamison, formerly Wakulla Springs Ambassador who has extensive knowledge of the local sinkholes, spoke about the recent effort of removing a car from a local sinkhole. The car, a 1970s Datsun, had been in the sinkhole



The Don Henderson Award recipient for last year, Steve Cushman, with Hanna Henderson and this year's recipient Erica Morse.

since before 1980.

Awards were presented to numerous KWCB community partners:

- Adopt-A-Road was presented to the American Legion.
- Community Pride award went to Kristina Peeples of Shell Point.
- Community Roots award went to the Wakulla County Garden Club.
- Eco-friendly Education was

presented to Wakulla 4-H.

- Eco-Excellence went to Panacea Waterfronts.
- Green Alliance went to Wakulla County Road and Bridge Department.
- Green Trailblazer award went to Caden Gruebel, the youngest member of the KWCB board.
- Green Spark was presented to Ileana Howard.
- Heart of Service award was

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## OFFERING SERVICE TO VETERANS



# VFW Post's 'Salute to Veterans' held

Services for local veterans were offered on Friday and Saturday at the community center as part of VFW Post 4538's Salute to Veterans. The event was open to all veterans and their families and offered access to medical, dental and eye care, as well as veteran services, counseling and financial assistance. Clockwise from above: Bob Sehnke and Linda Rhodes stopped to get information from Jacqueline Jordan of the State Veterans Service Center Division of Veterans Benefits Assistance; Bear McCombs and Erin Bennett visited the table for the FSU Network for Clinical Training & Community Engagement College of Medicine; and Bill Lamb gets a haircut from Savannah Williamson with the Savvy on Fifth salon in Tallahassee. (Photos by Lynda Kinsey)



# Scallop season opened July 1 in Wakulla waters

From FWC News

The 2025 recreational bay scallop season from Franklin County through northwestern Taylor County (including Carrabelle, Lanark and St. Marks) as well as portions of Levy County and all of Citrus and Hernando counties (including Cedar Key, Crystal River and Homosassa) opened July 1 and will remain open through Sept. 24.

The daily bag limit in these areas is 2 gallons of whole bay scallops in the shell or 1 pint of bay scallop meat per person, with a maximum of 10 gallons of whole bay scallops in the shell or 1/2 gallon (4 pints) shucked bay scallop meat per vessel per day.

Throughout the season and region-wide, vessel limits do not allow an individual to exceed their personal bag limit.

Harvest of bay scallops is permitted only by hand or by using a landing or dip net. Commercial harvest is prohibited.

For information on bay scallop regulations, visit MyFWC.com/Marine and click on "Recreational Regulations" and "Bay Scallops" under the "Crabs, Lobster and other Shellfish" tab

Although bay scallop season dates can vary by region, regulations do allow the direct and continuous transit of legally harvested bay scallops through closed areas. When transiting, boaters may not stop their vessels in waters that are closed to harvest and instead must proceed directly to the dock or ramp to land scallops in a closed area.

Recreational harvesters need a Florida saltwater fishing license to harvest bay scallops unless they are exempt from needing a license or have a no-cost shoreline fishing license and are wading from shore to collect scallops (i.e., feet do not leave the bottom to swim, snorkel, or SCUBA and harvesters do not use a vessel to reach or return from the harvest location).

To purchase a Saltwater Fishing License, visit GoOutdoorsFlorida.com, call toll-free 888-FISH-FLORIDA (888-347-4356), or purchase through the Fish | Hunt FL app on Apple and Android devices.



## WEEKLY ROUNDUP

# Attention is on alligators, ICE

By JIM TURNER  
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — Amid what Gov. Ron DeSantis called the "sauna stage of Tallahassee weather," attention shifted this week to a proposed migrant detention center in the Everglades and speculation about what the governor will redline from the state's 2025-26 budget.

During an appearance Thursday in Boca Raton, DeSantis downplayed the Legislature's \$115.1 billion spending plan as not delivering "any type of sea change" while later acknowledging "there's a lot to go through" as he preps his veto pen.

The state budget (SB 2500), along with a tax package (HB 7031) and various implementing and conforming bills, were delivered to DeSantis on Friday. The next fiscal year begins on Tuesday.

"There obviously will be vetoes," DeSantis said Thursday. Other unsigned bills will be handled "over the next three or four days," the governor added.

"And at that point we will have the fiscal year 2025-26 budget in place, and people can go and do their thing," he said.

ALLIGATOR ALCATRAZ II

Intensifying an escalating controversy about a  
Turn to Page 9



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The Wakulla Sun

Readers' Choice Winners 2024

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Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park

Skyflower

By LYNN ARTZ, DAVID RODDENBERRY, and SANDY TEDDER



The brilliant blue flowers of skyflower (Hydrolea corymbosa) stand out in summer. Clusters of 5-petaled, somewhat cup-shaped flowers face skyward early in the day, then fade as the day progresses. Anthers covered with bright orange pollen and long filaments add to the beauty of the blooms. Bees are the main pollinators though a few butterflies may visit. Skyflowers grow 1-2 feet tall in full sun and wet to moist organic soil. This wetland wildflower spreads slowly through underground rhizomes. It occurs naturally in freshwater marshes, swamps, ponds, ditches, and wet pine flatwoods. Found almost exclusively in Florida, skyflower is common to Florida's peninsula and a few panhandle counties including Wakulla. Few notice the plant until the stunning blooms appear. Skyflower is blooming now in the pond at Sopchoppy Depot Park.



Horseman's Association celebrates successful season

The Wakulla County Horseman's Association held its 2025 Awards Banquet recently and congratulates all members on their 2024-25 show season! Our shows are generally every 3rd Saturday from September through May at the Wakulla County Equestrian Park on Lawhon Mill Road, taking the summer months of June, July, and August off. Our shows offer a 4D Cloverleaf Jackpot barrel race, followed by our regular club classes, which are cloverleaf barrels, pole bending and an arena race. With multiple classes divided by age, along with a lead line and novice class, there is a class for everyone. We encourage beginners, children, and adults to come to our shows and join our club! It has given many horses and riders the experience to learn to become horsewomen and horsemen for well over 50 years and some have gone on to become champions in the horse world! Follow our Facebook page for show updates and information. We would like to thank our sponsors for the '24-25 season: Lilliston Grandparents, Revell Electric Inc, Shepard Accounting & Tax Service, Revell Tractor Worx, Willows Way, Mike's Feed Store, Pet Stop, Bart Corrington Reining Horses, Ovid Solutions, Prime Meridian Bank, Rocky's, Duke Energy, A New Look Painting, Diesel Barn, Abbot Construction, Root 319 salon, Harrell Hauling, Ashley's Feed Store. If you're interested in purchasing an arena sign to sponsor the club, please call Jessica Revell, you can find her on Facebook or Shepard Accounting & Tax Service in Crawfordville.

Post Office moving forward with blue ribbon idea for homes with dogs

My guys loved the article last week and all wore their Pam Rock shirts to help support as well! Pam Rock was a carrier in Florida who was attacked and killed while delivering on her route in 2022. Her family has fought to get an act passed in her name, which goes into effect on July 1, 2025, to protect the public from dangerous dogs by implementing stricter regulations like requiring owners to carry at least \$100,000 in liability insurance, keeping the dangerous dogs securely confined to a proper enclosure and annually registering the dangerous dogs with animal control. We also heard from our Safety office that we WOULD be representing the Florida 1 district with our idea in the Dog Bite Awareness Competition!



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The Wakulla Sun

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– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey with help from Gerald Brown


Polled at the VFW’s Salute to Veterans event:

What part of your service are you most proud of?




SGT. RYAN ATKINSON  
Served 8 years

“I did serve overseas but honestly, I’m most proud of when I came back home and helped after hurricanes and serving people who were in need. ”




LANCE LOVETT  
Served 26 years

“I served in Iraq but the most rewarding was when I came back to my home state of Florida and helped those who had nothing after the hurricanes, floods, fires. We also helped during the pandemic.”




BEAR MCCOMBS  
2 years, then an injury

“I’m most proud of the dedication of every man and woman who have supported this country, standing together. It is an honor.”



TERI SERAFINI  
Served 7 years

“Most proud of being able to defend our country for our freedoms.”



DAN WHEATCRAFT  
Served 8 years

“I’m proud we could safely do our job while working with missiles, in shipyards, radar, climbing the masts on the ships, and being in ever-changing environments.”

Wakulla Crossroads

By Verna Brock

Recently, I have had a number of folks comment on how well Ed’s pecan grove is doing. It’s true, many of the trees are beginning to look like actual trees, versus twigs with a smattering of leaves on top. His citrus grove is also growing well, having managed to evade death by freezing one more year. All of this takes a lot of effort on Ed’s part. Some of the trees have expired and been replaced. Weeding and watering are never ending chores.

While I was running errands in Crawfordville last week, I stopped by the Wakulla Home Extension Office. I was on a mission to pick up four soil sample kits at Ed’s behest. He has a few pecan trees that aren’t thriving,

and wanted to see if he could find any answers there.

Most of my readers who also garden will know how the quality of dirt, with all of its mysterious and varied nutrients, can affect the survival of plants. Soil pH, acidity and alkalinity, can make the difference in pink or blue hydrangeas. It makes the difference between having tasty blueberries or bushes that don’t produce. But trace chemicals, nutrients like copper and zinc, also mean the difference in healthy pecan trees and those that seem to wither. Fertilizer and water, in the correct amounts, help to keep them strong and healthy.

It seems so odd that two plants, in close proximity to one another, can have such marked differences in their growth and survival. But we see

it every day. People are like this too. How can two children from the same gene pool grow up to be so different? Resilient, or not. Happy-go-lucky, or anxiety ridden. As a parent, I always believe you need to meet each child where they are as unique individuals. No one answer serves every question. You just do the very best you can.



Child-rearing is such an exciting challenge! Watching personality and character emerge from the earliest moments of life is awe-inspiring. Helping to shape and guide growth in constructive directions can be both rewarding and frustrating. Thank goodness our kids arrive as adorable babies instead of headstrong toddlers and teens! But how amazing to watch them develop into adults we are proud to know.

As people grow into adulthood, the process of pruning and nurturing ourselves becomes our personal

task. Once we leave the haven of our parents’ protection, we become responsible for our continued growth and progress. Are you thriving in the garden? Do you test the soil in which you are planted? It takes courage to confront yourself and make change. In the long run, if you are able to do so, you will find deeper peace, greater joy, and an appreciation of who you are meant to be. I’m learning it can take a lifetime!

Independence Day is upon us with parades, festivals and fireworks displays all around. Have a safe and happy Fourth of July celebrating with friends and family. While enjoying barbecue and beaches, take a few moments to remember all who have come before us. I am so very grateful to those who have protected the liberty we enjoy today! May God bless America.

Palaver Tree hosts music events Friday, Saturday



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Palaver Tree hosted concerts Friday and Saturday night, with the Palace Rats, left, headlining on Friday and blew the crowd away with their original songs and high octane covers; and Saturday night featured Florida rock legend Daryl Hance with songs from his recent album ‘Devil’s Millhopper.’ (Photos by Gerald Brown)

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HOME ON THE RANGE

Four .380 Caliber Small Handguns



By MARJ LAW

Helen wants to purchase a .380. She is new to shooting and wants to be able to defend herself. She has talked to friends who have handguns. Most of them have told her the .22 doesn't have enough "take-down" power, so they have suggested a .380.

But which one? She wonders: "Which 380 shoots the best? Which one fits my needs? Which is easiest to load? Has the lightest slide? Easiest trigger pull? Least weight? The only way I'll know is to shoot some .380s first, but how do I do that?"

At the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office range recently, I took Helen to try out four .380 caliber handguns, some donated by friends, and a couple are our own. They are the:

- Sig Sauer P365 380,
- Sig Sauer P238,
- Ruger Security 380,

and The Smith & Wesson M&P Shield .380 EZ.

Helen looks at the four handguns. "Two of them are

substantially smaller than the other two," she says. "They're lighter, too. They would fit in my purse, and I could wear them in holsters. The 365 is 5.8" long and it weighs 15.7 ounces. The 238 is 5.5" long and it weighs 15.2 ounces. So, the 365 is a bit longer and heavier than the 238, but I can easily carry either one in my purse."

"The other two I could wear in holsters, but I wouldn't put them in my purse. The Ruger and the Shield are larger than the 365 or the 238. The Ruger is 6.52" long and it weighs 19.7 ounces. The Shield is 6.7" long, and it weighs 18.3 ounces."

"What about grip?" I ask her.

Keeping the muzzles pointing downrange, she picks up the four guns one by one. Thoughtfully, she feels the grips.

"Both the smaller guns have small grips. My small hands fit nicely in their grips. The 238's magazine is extended, which avoids my baby finger dangling. It holds 6 rounds. This 365 holds 12 rounds. It's a bit wider, but it has a great cut-out groove for the web of my hand. Both feel great in my hand."

"The other two larger guns have bigger grips. You have a 15-round magazine in the Ruger, so the grip is thicker and longer. The Shield's grip is also thicker and longer. Its magazine holds 8 rounds. What is this



thing on the Shield's grip that makes it so wide?" she asks.

"That's a grip safety," I reply.

"I thought all safeties are levers on the frame," she questions.

"No, some are built into the grip, some in the frame or slide, and some into the trigger," I tell her. "So, which of these guns have safeties?"

Helen looks them over.

"I see the 365 has a lever safety on its frame. The 238 does, too. The Ruger does as well, plus I see it has a trigger safety too, but the Shield only has that grip safety. Is a grip safety good enough?" she questions.

"Yes. The grip safety is a neat feature. If your hand is not high and firm in the grip, the gun won't be able to fire."

"So, is it better to have a safety, or not to have one?" Helen asks.

"Personally, I don't bother with a safety. If Mr. Bad is at the door, I don't want to have to worry if the safety is on or off. I'd probably be too scared to think clearly."

That's why I like the grip safety. It also promotes you getting a good grip. A firm grip helps you to control your gun."

"So, how many rounds do you want your gun to hold?" I continue.

"Well, the more the better. The purse-size 238 only holds 6 rounds. The 365, even though it is small, holds 12 rounds. The larger Ruger hold 15 rounds and the Shield holds 8. I'd rather have more rounds than the 238, but it is such a good size to carry in my purse that I'd have to think about it."

"Let's go ahead and load the magazines," I suggest. "You'll probably want to use the UpLula to put in each round. Otherwise, it's hard on your hands."

"But I notice that the Shield has a different style magazine," she continues. "This one has a button to push down as you plop each round in. That's supposed to make loading easier. However, after loading about 4 rounds, the spring makes it too hard to push that button down, so I end up using

the UpLula to put in the last 4 rounds."

"That's okay." I respond. "Now that you've loaded the guns, how hard is jacking the slide?"

"For the 238, I first pulled the hammer back. Then, the slide wasn't hard to pull at all. The 365 has a firmer pull. The Ruger's slide is really easy and the Shield's is equally easy, too. I'm really surprised at how easy they all are."

"How hard do you find trigger pull on all guns?"

Helen drops the magazine, racks the slide and pulls.

"They all seem to have equally easy and light trigger pulls," she responds.

"What do you think about the sights?"

"I like that the 365 has tritium night sights in the rear, and a very bright fiber optic front sight with tritium in the center, so day or night shooting should be easy. The 238 has 3 big white dot sights. They are very easy to see. The Ruger's front sight is fiber optic, but I see you painted orange on the rear sight."

"Yes. The rear sight wasn't easy to see, so we put orange paint on that sight to make it easier to acquire."

"Yes. The orange stands out. And last, the Shield has big white dot sights like the 238."

"Now for the test," I encourage her. "Shoot 4 rounds in each target, and let's see which gun works the best for you."

She shoots at the first target, which is about 7 1/2 yards away. That's about how far you'd need to shoot if someone were to break into your house.

Helen shoots. She gets 3 rounds in with the 365, 2 with the 238. She has 2 with the Ruger and 4 with the Shield.

"I shot the most accurately with the 365," she says happily. "The Shield did well, too. The Ruger even hit the x-ring once. Maybe if I practice more, I'll do well with the Ruger. And the 238 is the smallest and the lightest for my purse. Which would I choose?" She looks at me like I might have the answer.

"You must choose the gun you like the best. Which gun fits your needs best?"

"Okay. Let me think." After a moment she has the answer.

"I want the 238 for my purse."

"Well, that would work for you," I reply.

"And..."

"And what?" I ask.

"And I'd like the 365 for its accuracy and size. This rainbow slide is so pretty. Maybe I'd like that one for my purse."

"The Shield is accurate, too," she continues. "I'd like it for my bedside. Maybe I'd put the Ruger in my car."

"Drat!" she exclaims. "Looks like I want one of each!"

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

SERPENT STAR  
(*Ophioderma brevispinum*)

This distinctive sea star can grow to 3 inches. It lives in shallow subtidal sea grass areas. These starfish are predatory and scavenger both catching prey or eating detritus. They have a high tolerance for fluctuations in salinity. This sea star has an unusual life cycle. The larvae hatch, enter a plankton stage for a mere 4-5 days and then metamorphose to the nonswimming form. This adaptation allows them to survive in the unstable water conditions of shallow seas..

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WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO

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



Water Ways

a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences



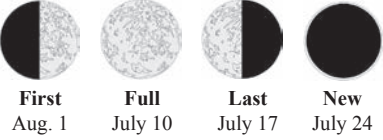


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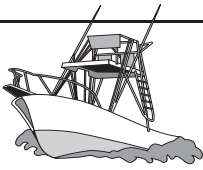
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Best hunting and fishing based on solunar times: **MAJOR** feeding periods are 2 hours long, centered on the solunar time. **MINOR** feeding periods are only 1 hour long, again centered on the solunar time.



Coast Guard Auxiliary Reports

By Carolyn Brown Treadon




On June 23, the Coast Guard Auxiliary celebrated its 86th birthday. This story can be found on the Coast Guard Auxiliary website:

Boating always has been one of America's favorite pastimes and entered the sport arena in the early 19th Century. Rowing and yachting races were among the most popular spectator sports through the 1930s. The wealth generated in post-Civil War America, along with the growth of railroads, spurred the development of resorts, country homes, and the suburbs, all places to go boating.


The Federal Government began to construct large dams, reservoirs, and lake systems during the Depression, adding waterways.

With the development of the single operator motorboat and the outboard engine at the turn of the 20th Century, the number of recreational boaters skyrocketed. In 1939, the Coast Guard reported that there were more than 300,000 boats operating in Federal waters.

In the previous year it had received 14,000 calls for assistance and had responded to 8,600 "in peril" cases, a record number. Boaters needed to be better trained in seamanship and Federal law. At the same time, civilian yachtsmen were pressing



Boating Emergencies



Coast Guard Station

Panama City ..... (850) 234-4228

Coast Guard Station

Yankeetown ..... (352) 447-6900

Coast Guard Auxiliary

Apalachee Bay (Flotilla 12) ..... (850) 942-7500

or ..... (850) 284-1166

the Coast Guard to establish a volunteer arm of the service.

As a result of these demands, on June 23, 1939, Congress passed legislation that established the Coast Guard Reserve, its volunteer civilian component, to promote boating safety and to facilitate the operations of the Coast Guard. Groups of boat owners were organized into flotillas and these into divisions within Coast Guard Districts around the country. Members initially conducted safety and security patrols and helped enforce the provisions of the 1940 Federal Boating and Espionage Acts.

Then in February 1941, a military reserve was created and the volunteer Reserve was renamed the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Following the war, by 1950 the four traditional Auxiliary cornerstone missions of public education, operations, vessel examination, and fellowship had been established.

The public educa-

tion program yearly trains tens of thousands of boaters in seamanship, piloting, rules of the road, and weather, among other topics. Specially qualified coxswain and crew members conduct search and rescue missions in their own boats and support Coast Guard missions.

Auxiliary pilots and air observers search for boaters in distress, floating hazards, pollution spills, and ice-locked vessels. Communications watchstanders handle distress calls at Coast Guard and Auxiliary radio stations. Vessel Examiners conduct Vessel Safety Checks under which recreational vessels are examined for properly installed Federally required equipment and systems.

Over the years, Auxiliary programs also have kept pace with boating trends. Members helped implement the provisions of the 1958 Federal Boating Act. In the 1970s, they formed flotillas in sole-state waters to meet local demands for water

safety. They introduced new courses such as those for sailors and personal water craft operators as their numbers increased.

The U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is the largest volunteer marine safety organization in the world and has fostered similar ones in foreign countries.

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

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).*



Underwater Wakulla

By Gregg Stanton

Life Support Investigations. August 18, 2011

As the Life Support Investigations teams coordinator, I am the one who gets the call that there has been another unfortunate diving incident.

The U.S. Coast Guard or sheriff's office has someone's diving equipment that needs inspection to determine if it has malfunctioned.

Over the years, our team of volunteer professionals that also dive Closed Circuit Rebreathers (CCR), have perfected protocols to evaluate diving equipment and the incident that surrounds them in the hope we may find ways to avoid diving injuries.

Our team came out of a Divers Alert Network (DAN) meeting to evaluate CCR fatalities. Since 1960 there have been around 180 deaths while using these life support platforms, but very little was investigated at the time, so there was little known about the cause.

The outcome of the meeting resulted in my invitation to create a protocol to investigate future incidents.

I started with what authorities were currently using. Because the list was extensive, I invited several colleagues to join me in sorting out what may work and what may not. I invited Dr. Joerg Hess (a frequent contributor to this column), who is an engineer, and Dr. Jon Conard, M.D., who practices Emergency Medicine and is a hyperbaric chamber medical officer.

Also asked to assist was Suzanne Floyd, a former Florida Department of Law Enforcement investigator, now teaching criminology at Gulf Coast Community College.

We sorted and debated every step. In the end, we compiled a multi-page document that begins at the dive site with steps to preserve data contained in the equipment, then advises the medical examiner on what to look for if there was a fatality, extends through a performance analysis of the life support technology and finally an analysis of the incident itself from police records.

We were then asked to test the protocols on an old case and found limited success.

After that, agencies began requesting our assistance. Today, our team is organized as a not-for-profit corporation with a few more investigative specialists, including an attorney and two-deep representation (in case of conflict of interest).

What began as research into a protocol to collect better data has developed into a pro bono service to law enforcement.

And what have we found?

As in most cases on land, the prevailing contributor to a diving incident is human error.

While there are many contributing factors such as distraction, complacency and poor judgement, one stands out more than the rest: Exceeding ones level of training.

The individual who dives beyond his depth limit faces more unknowns than he is prepared for, unfamiliar technology behaves in an unfamiliar way, and new places (like a cave) cause people to perform in an unsafe manner if you are not trained for it.

There is an old saying common to many high risk activities. There are old divers and there are bold divers, but there are no old, bold divers.

I have taken this experience into our classroom, and used it in lectures, training all levels from basic scuba all the way up to Advanced Rebreather Cave Diving.

We strongly believe in the National Association of Underwater Instructors motto: Safety Through Education.

All of our courses are longer so that we can expose our students to the greater volume of information available.

Diving is relatively safe if you know what you are doing!

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

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# Let there be peace in America this July 4th



By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

When our Founding Fathers spent weeks drafting the Declaration of Independence, they ignited a war to secure America’s freedom from Britain’s control. In an interesting twist, the process of creating this groundbreaking

document also laid the foundation for a more peaceful society for the new nation. How can we integrate this core value of peace into our relationships today? Think back to the last time you and someone else were at war with each other. Remember how upset both of you felt when you desperately wanted to be heard? Yet your anger, along with your convictions that you were right, affected your hearing. Instead of listening to each other, you spoke harsh words. Angry words. Regrettable words. Before you re-

alized it, you both had said far more than you intended to. Far more than you should have. When we carelessly vent our feelings, we may feel better in the short term, but when the Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin, we feel worse than ever. Psalm 139:23-24 are excellent verses to help us gain the right perspective. “Search me [thoroughly], O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there is any wicked or hurtful way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting” (AMPC). What would happen

if each of us invited God to examine our heart and ways? And then listened for Him to speak words of wisdom, discernment and love into our hearts? Praying and obeying this week’s passage will help us reflect the same unconditional love we receive from God toward the person with whom we’re in conflict, even when we’re not “feeling the love” from them. More importantly, it will help us see our own actions more clearly. Which relationships in your life would benefit from praying these verses? Since we can’t change

the other person (but don’t we always want to?), we can benefit from asking God to show us where we’re wrong, reveal our own faults, and point out the areas we need to change. As challenging as this may be, we must choose (I emphasize “choose”) to do so if we want to have God-honoring relationships. As we commit to seeing each other – and ourselves – through Jesus’ eyes, consider how this would transform our marriages and families. Think how it would change our communities, including our churches. Imagine a July 4th

in America without any wars. I pray that we’ll refuse to let conflict disrupt our personal relationships or divide us as a nation. This July 4th, and every day thereafter, let’s see and love others the same way God sees and loves them. To borrow from a classic song, Let there be peace in America. And let it begin with me.

*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).*

# Walk with a purpose: Every step matters



By **CHERYL CRUCE**

What if the steps you take today are part of something far greater than you realize? For three summers during my youth, I had the opportunity to participate in a walk-a-thon – a 20-mile walk to benefit the March of Dimes. Different sponsors pledged to pay five, 10, or 20 cents for every mile completed. Along the route, there were checkpoints where our

progress was verified. After the event, we would carry our stamped forms to each sponsor, collect the donations, and turn in the money. Every mile mattered. Every step was accounted for. That walk was more than just exercise; it was a walk with a purpose, a clear, concise walk toward a goal. Our faith journey should carry that same intentionality. We don’t walk aimlessly without meaning. God calls us to walk for Him, every step guided by purpose, even when we don’t fully see the destination. Noah walked in obedience long before the rain. Abraham walked away from everything familiar, simply trusting God’s promise. Jacob wrestled, limped, and still moved forward. Joseph walked through

betrayal, prison, and waiting—but never lost sight of the One who walked with him. Their stories remind us that our steps, although weary, are never wasted (Genesis). God calls us to walk with purpose; the enemy works hard to pull us off course. Satan doesn’t always try to stop our walk outright. Sometimes he distracts, discourages, and causes us to question whether our steps matter at all. He whispers lies like “You’re not making a difference,” or “You’ve missed your chance,” or “You’ll never be enough.” Slowly, if we’re not careful, our purposeful steps turn into aimless wandering. Just as Satan convinced Eve to question God’s intentions (Gen-

esis 3:1-5) and tempted Jesus in the wilderness, twisting Scripture to shake His identity (Matthew 4:1-11), he still tries to detour our purpose through shame, fear, and delay. Yet our purpose is anchored not in our feelings but in the One who called us, for God remains with us even when we feel forgotten. So, what does it truly mean to walk with unwavering purpose? Jesus provides the perfect example. From the beginning of His ministry, He walked fully aware of where the road would lead. He set His face toward Jerusalem—not by accident, but with divine intention. Jesus knew Calvary awaited Him. Yet love, obedience, and sacrifice marked every

step He took. He walked for a purpose—ours. Even when the weight of what was coming pressed upon Him in Gethsemane (Luke 22:42), He did not turn back. Even when betrayal kissed His cheek (Matthew 26:48-50), He kept walking. Jesus chose Calvary with a heart full of mercy and a soul anchored in eternal purpose. Therefore, today, wherever you find yourself on your journey, remember this: every step you take matters. Don’t let the enemy steal your purpose or distract you from the path God has set before you. Like Noah, Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, and most of all Jesus, walk with intention, faith, and courage. Trust God completely.

In everything you do, invite Him to guide your steps, and He will lead you straight down the right path. Even when the road is hard and the destination uncertain, God is with you every step of the way—guiding, strengthening, and calling you onward. Your purposeful walk is part of a greater story, and it’s never without meaning. “He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” (Micah 6:8)

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

## OUT TO PASTOR

# Heat is not just a number, it’s an attitude



By **JAMES SNYDER**

Lately, the temperature in Florida has topped 100 degrees. I saw on the news that the Northeast is also hitting 100. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I have lived in Florida for over 30 years. We’ve enjoyed every single day, and we have no plans to leave. At first the heat was more than we expected, but within a short time we got used to it. Now we enjoy it. Just the other day, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage complained about how hot it was. “Oh, my,” she said, “where does all this heat come from?” I could have said, “It’s summer, the sun is out, and the heat comes from the sun.” But I knew that wasn’t the answer she wanted, so I held back.

At my stage in life, when I step out into the hot sun, I start sweating. That sweat drives me crazy. The sweat runs from the top of my head all the way to the bottom of my feet. Everything about me is soaked. Believe me, it’s not my favorite attitude. I walked into the house and The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage looked up and asked, “Did you take a shower with your clothes on?” Then she laughs. I did not respond. My recliner is next to our big glass door. I can see the sun shining and feel the heat. I sigh deeply because I’m glad to be on the cool side. I enjoy the heat outside while I stay cool indoors. One thing about this heat season that I have learned is, I avoid driving when it’s this hot—not because my A/C doesn’t work, but because other drivers have attitudes I can’t relate to. The other day, I was driving across town. I saw cars go by with drivers shaking their fists out the window. It’s like they thought that would fix anything!

If I shook my fist, it would only create more problems. I don’t think those drivers realized that shaking their fists out the window didn’t make the heat go away. I don’t want to drive among those people. After all, I love living. One great perk of being retired is that I can choose not to drive if I don’t want to. I am increasingly appreciating that. My body isn’t as strong as it used to be, so I avoid the 100 degree heat whenever possible. I respect my body, even if I’m not sure it respects me. That’s a different issue. In the late afternoon, the sun had been blazing all day and showed no signs of letting up. I was in my recliner drinking some ice tea when The Gracious

Mistress of the Parsonage sat down in the rocking chair and asked, “When will this heat go away?” I chuckled to myself, remembering about a month ago a cloudy day with rain. Back then, she looked out the window and asked, “Where in the world is the sun?” I wanted to respond, “My dear, the sun is in the sky, just above the clouds.” You have no idea how much I wanted to say that, but being a seasoned and successful husband, I kept it to myself. The heat is not about numbers; it’s about attitude. Some people’s attitudes make me uncomfortable. Shaking fists and yelling at the sky show an attitude not rooted in sanity.

One of the best things about a hot, sunny afternoon is, I can sit down and enjoy it in a cool atmosphere. I remember those days far, far away when I lived up north and had to look out the window and see white fluffy stuff fill up our yard and driveway. Maybe if I would’ve stood there and shook my fist at the snow it would have gone away. If only I knew that back then. Now that I have experienced both of these weathers, the hot and the cold, I have chosen the hot weather. And I am unanimous in that decision. While contemplating on this I thought of some scripture. “My brethren, count it all joy

when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing” (James 1:2-4). My attitude should not be based on what’s going on around me. The heat and the cold comes and goes, but my relationship with God is firmly rooted in God’s Word. Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, email [jamessnyder51@gmail.com](mailto:jamessnyder51@gmail.com), website [www.jamessnyderministries.com](http://www.jamessnyderministries.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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Tuesday and Thursday: Mass at 8:30 am.  
Wednesday: Mass at 7:00 pm  
1<sup>st</sup> Saturday: Adoration and Confessions at 8:30 am  
1<sup>st</sup> Saturday: Mass at 9:30 am.  
Every Saturday: Confessions at 4:30 pm  
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# Obituaries

## DEATH NOTICES

• **Ann Mickel Brooks**, 86, of Crawfordville, died June 24, 2025.

• **Clide “Gene” Osborn**, 70, of Crawfordville, died June 27, 2025.

• **Sidney Stringer**, 68, of Crawfordville, died June 27, 202

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

# Sheriff’s Report

This report is for activity June 20th to 27th. There were 1,572 total calls for service during the week.

### FRIDAY, JUNE 20

• Deputy Buckhalt responded to the area of Powhatan Street and Mohave Road in reference to a reckless vehicle complaint. Deputy Buckhalt observed the vehicle traveling near Croatan Street as he made contact with the complainant. Deputy Buckhalt observed the vehicle spinning out and initiated a traffic stop on the vehicle in the area of Spring Creek Highway. Contact was made with the driver, identified as Daquez Leroi Taylor, who only possesses an identification card and was subsequently placed under arrest for operating a motor vehicle without a license and reckless driving. Taylor was transported to the Wakulla County Detention Facility without incident and Quality Wrecker responded to retrieve the vehicle from the scene.

### SATURDAY, JUNE 21

• Deputies were first called to 1616 Coastal Highway shortly after 1 a.m. on June 21 for a disturbance involving Anthony Dinardi and Matthew Metcalf. Witnesses reported that Anthony Dinardi left briefly, returned with a baseball bat, and damaged Metcalf’s vehicle. Around 4 a.m., while Metcalf was leaning into his truck, he was stabbed in the lower back. Metcalf and mul-

multiple witnesses – who have known Dinardi for several years – positively identified Dinardi as the attacker. Metcalf sustained a serious laceration near his left kidney and was transported to the hospital for treatment. Case forwarded to the Criminal Investigation Division. [On June 24th, Detectives from the Criminal Investigations Division and the Crime Suppression Unit, located Dinardi in Panacea and took him into custody without incident following a coordinated surveillance operation. Dinardi was arrested and charged with one count of Aggravated Battery with a Deadly Weapon (Florida Statute § 784.045(1)(a)2), a second-degree felony and subsequently transported to the Wakulla County Detention Facility].

• Deputy Grove made contact with Florida Highway Patrol at the Sheriff’s Office who turned over a firearm for safekeeping. The FHP Trooper advised he worked a traffic crash earlier in the night which resulted in the driver being transported to the hospital and the firearm being located in the vehicle prior to it being towed. The firearm was submitted to property and evidence for safekeeping.

• Deputy Williams responded to 3010 Crawfordville Highway (The Black Cat Metaphysical) in reference to a criminal mischief complaint. Contact was made with the complainant who advised she was celebrating her two-year anniversary

at her business above. While inside her business, she stated she observed an individual park their vehicle close to her vehicle. Complainant stated the vehicle left a scratch on the front driver side fender to her vehicle. Complainant was sent an Evidence.com link to upload video in reference to the incident. Case forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division.

### SUNDAY, JUNE 22

• Lieutenant Pienta and Deputy Parker responded to a vehicle fully engulfed in flames at the Wakulla State Park entrance. Upon arrival, Wakulla County Fire Rescue extinguished the fire and deemed the vehicle a total loss. The owner stated he had traveled up to the corner store at U.S. Highway 319 and Bloxham Cutoff and upon returning to the park the car began to smoke. The fire was possibly caused by faulty electrical wiring.

• Deputy Buckhalt responded to Yuma Street in reference to a vehicle theft. Contact was made with the complainant who reported returning home from a weekend trip today and discovered her 2018 Ford Escape missing from her driveway. Complainant last saw the vehicle on June 20. The vehicle was entered into FCIC/NCIC as stolen. Case forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division.

### MONDAY, JUNE 23

• Deputy Sullivan responded to Publix located at 2343 Crawfordville Highway in reference to

a Retail Theft. Management reported a theft of food items. A subject passed all points of sale with unpaid merchandise valued at \$18.27. Case forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division.

### TUESDAY, JUNE 24

• Deputy Saba responded to Sea Breeze Drive in reference to a possible squatter. Upon arrival it was determined the home was being occupied by the previous owner’s house cleaner. The complainant provided documentation stating she was the executor of the estate and had filed the appropriate paperwork at the courthouse to have individual ejected. Complainant allowed the individual to remain on the premises in order for her to remove her belongings.

• Deputy Rivers responded to the Murphy gas station due to an infant being accidentally locked inside a vehicle. Wakulla County Fire Rescue made entry to the vehicle and it was determined the infant was OK.

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25

• Deputy Rivers responded to Parkside Circle in reference to a scam call. Complainant advised someone impersonating a deputy from the Sheriff’s Office called her requesting money for an active warrant she had. She did not provide any money to the caller and immediately called the WCSO. The deputy who she impersonated is requesting to press charges. Case forwarded to the Criminal In-

vestigations Division.

• Deputies responded to the area of Tickie Ridge Circle and Shadeville Road in reference to an armed person. Upon arrival, Deputy Rivers met with the complainant who advised an unknown male brandished a firearm while they were on Tickie Ridge. Deputies located an individual (later identified as Shaun Ryan Treltas) matching the clothing description on Tickie Ridge who refused to speak with deputies. The Criminal Investigations Division was contacted and drafted a search warrant for the residence which was approved by the State Attorney’s Office and County Judge. Crime Scene responded to the scene for processing evidence. The gun used in the crime was located in Treltas’ room and he was placed under arrest and transported to the Wakulla County Detention Facility.

### THURSDAY, JUNE 26

• Deputy Kittrell responded to the Sheriff’s Office lobby in reference to a fraud complaint. Contact was made with the complainant who reported she discovered some fraudulent charges to her Capital City Bank Account. Complainant stated she was contacted via telephone on June 24 at approximately 10 p.m. by an individual claiming to be a fraud investigator with Capital City Bank. The impersonator claimed her account had suspicious transactions and requested the last eight digits of her debit card. Shortly after, complainant began receiving text mes-

sages from her bank to authenticate transactions, and she believed she was confirming the transactions were fraudulent, but accidentally approved the transactions. The exact amount of lost funds is unknown at this time, but complainant believes the total is in the \$10,000 range. Case forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division.

### FRIDAY, JUNE 27

• Deputy Saba responded to Walmart in reference to a theft in progress. The suspect, Micheal Wayne Tanner, was located just outside of Walmart and ultimately placed under arrest. Tanner had prior theft convictions; therefore, he was charged with Petit Theft 2nd degree – felony and was transported to the Wakulla County Detention Facility.

• Deputy Saba responded to the Sheriff’s Office lobby and made contact with a citizen who reported someone used his debit card information to purchase a vehicle in North Carolina. The citizen sustained a total loss of \$2,025. Case forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division.

• Lieutenant Paul responded to McDonalds and made contact with a complainant who reported someone had hacked her Cash App account, changing the login information. Complainant stated Cash App. Corp. requested a report to unlock the account.

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

# Alligators, ICE

### From Front Page

plan to quickly open a detention facility for undocumented immigrants at an airstrip in the Everglades, DeSantis on Wednesday said the state is collaborating with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to launch a similar facility at North Florida’s Camp Blanding.

DeSantis said state Division of Emergency Management Director Kevin Guthrie is working on the plan for Camp Blanding, a 73,000-acre site used by the Florida National Guard for training, as an addition to an Everglades facility that Attorney General James Uthmeier dubbed “Alligator Alcatraz.”

“We have some capacity there, so Kevin Guthrie (and the) Division of Emergency Management are working on that,” DeSantis said during an appearance in Tampa. “So we’ll have a formal announcement on both of those very, very quickly.”

Meanwhile, Friends of the Everglades and the Center for Biological Diversity filed a lawsuit Friday in the U.S. District Court challenging the South Florida site.

The lawsuit accused DeSantis of having “plowed ahead” with plans to detain up to 5,000 people roughly two hours west of Miami without a federally required environmental review.

“This scheme is not only cruel, it threatens the Everglades ecosystem that state and federal taxpayers have spent billions to protect,” Friends of the Everglades Executive Director Eve Samples said in a release.

DeSantis on Thursday emphatically reiterated that there will be “zero” environmental impact on the land that is already used as an airport and training facility. He also shrugged off criticism from people he said “don’t want Florida assisting with the deportations.”

Speaking to report-

ers on Friday, state Sen. Carlos Smith, D-Orlando, called the detention plans “dangerous,” “inhumane,” and “a political stunt” intended to “grab headlines.”

The Republican Party of Florida quickly embraced the “Alligator Alcatraz” alliteration to promote T-shirts, caps, coffee mugs and beverage coolers.

**A RUSH TO NEW ACCREDITING**

Florida is working with university leaders from Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee and Texas to form a new higher-education accrediting body, DeSantis and officials from the other Southern states announced Thursday.

The new Commission for Public Higher Education, which will need federal approval, would be an alternative to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, a longtime accrediting agency often known as SACS that has clashed with Florida education

leaders in recent years.

“We want to focus on real, serious academic rigor. We want to focus on things that really matter, things that are enduring. We don’t want to waste someone’s education,” DeSantis said during an appearance at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton.

Accreditation plays a critical role in making schools eligible for students to receive federal financial aid.

But Florida in recent years took steps to move away from SACS, and battled in federal court with the Biden administration about accreditation.

DeSantis, who has tried to reshape Florida’s higher-education system to become more conservative, emphasized a need Thursday to get the new commission approved while President Donald Trump is in office.

“The reality is if it doesn’t get approved and stick during that time, we can have a president come in next and potentially revoke it, and they could probably do that very quickly,” DeSantis said.

### DOZIER MONEY

Hundreds of men who were abused as children at two notorious state reform schools — Arthur G. Dozier School for Boys in Marianna and Okeechobee School in South Florida — are in line to receive more than \$21,000 as part of a \$20 million reparations program approved last year by Florida lawmakers.

Jeremy Redfern, a spokesman for Attorney General James Uthmeier, said Thursday that the state Department of Financial Services is processing an initial round of checks in the amount of \$21,253.98 to 926 applicants who were approved for payments.

A group of Dozier survivors known as the “White House Boys” — a moniker derived from the white concrete building where boys were beaten and raped by school workers — for over a decade traveled to Tallahassee to share their traumas with state lawmakers.

“Let’s remember that although there isn’t enough

money in the world to compensate us for the abuse, this is at least an acknowledgement of the abuse by the state, which we doubted could ever happen,” Charles Fudge, one of the group’s leaders, posted on Facebook.

**STORY OF THE WEEK:** Florida plans to expand immigration detention beyond a remote air strip in the Everglades that is now the subject of a federal lawsuit.

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK:** “These men are dying every day, and we need to get something in their hands, the state of Florida, to say ‘I’m sorry for what you’ve suffered and what you went through at the hands of state employees.’” — State Sen. Darryl Rouson, a St. Petersburg Democrat who was instrumental in the passage of a 2024 measure that created a \$20 million compensation program for survivors of abuse at the Arthur G. Dozier School for Boys in Marianna and the Okeechobee School in South Florida.



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Located at 2343 Crawfordville HWY., STE 107, PMB #121, Crawfordville 32327 In the County of Wakulla

Intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporation of the Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida.


Published on July 3, 2025




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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF TRACIE ANN DIEHL, DECEASED

DIVISION: PROBATE

CASE NO: 2025-CP-86

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the Estate of Tracie Ann Diehl, deceased, File 2025-CP-86 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 July 3, 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: Jonathan Jacob Diehl 30 Shawnee Trl. Crawfordville, FL 32327

July 3, 10, 2025

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION

IN RE: ESTATE OF WALTER STEVEN BROWN, DECEASED

DIVISION: PROBATE

File No. 65-2025-CP-000055

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against 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 July 3, 2025.

Attorney for Personal Representative: /s/ Norm D. Fugate Attorney Florida Bar Number: 044458 Post Office Box 98 Williston, FL 32696 Telephone: (352) 528-0019 Fax: (352) 528-4919 E-Mail: [norm@normdfugatepa.com](mailto:norm@normdfugatepa.com) Secondary E-Mail: [Liliya@normdfugatepa.com](mailto:Liliya@normdfugatepa.com)

Personal Representative: /s/ Kathie Ann Brown

July 3, 10, 2025

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

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF FRANK MAXWELL LAWHON, JR., DECEASED.

CASE NO. 2024-CP-98

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of FRANK MAXWELL LAWHON, JR., deceased, whose date of death was March 12, 2025, is pending in the Circuit Court for Wakulla County, Florida, Probate Division, whose address is Wakulla County Courthouse, 33056 Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville, FL 32327. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's Attorney are set forth at the end of th is Notice.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against the decedent's estate on whom a copy of th is 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 OATS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

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

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN F.S. 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 DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this Notice is July 3, 2025.

WILLIAM H. WEBSTER Attorney at Law (FBN- 0195393) P.O. Box 4 Hosford, FL 32334 850 443-5901 [billwebsterlaw@yahoo.com](mailto:billwebsterlaw@yahoo.com) ATTORNEY FOR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

LORI W. LAWHON P.O. Box 224 Sopchoppy, FL 32358 PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

July 3, 10, 2025



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**NOTICE OF ACTION**  
**0703-0724 TWS NOA**  
**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
**CASE NO.: 65-2025-CA-000063-CAAM**  
KATHIEANN BROWN,  
PLAINTIFF,  
AND  
RONALD ROBERTS, J.B. FRENCH, ET AL.,  
DEFENDANTS.

**NOTICE OF ACTION**  
**TO: JB FRENCH (DECEASED)**, and his unknown spouses, heirs, devisees, grantees, creditors, and all other parties claiming by, through, under, or against him; and **RONALD ROBERTS (DECEASED)** and his unknown spouses, heirs, devisees, grantees, creditors, and all other parties claiming by, through, under, or against him.

**LAST KNOWN ADDRESSES:** JB FRENCH: 2756 Cora Dr., Columbus, GA 31906 RONALD ROBERTS: C/O Polly Roberts, PO Box 46, Hamilton, GA 31811

**YOU ARE NOTIFIED** that an action to quiet title and establish prescriptive easements has been filed against you and others in the above-styled Court. You are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to the action on Sean W. Gellis, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 2931 Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville, Florida 32327, sean@gellislaw.com, and file the original with the Clerk of the above-styled Court within thirty (30) days of the first publication of this notice; otherwise, a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

**THE ACTION** involves the following described real property in Wakulla County, Florida:

**Parcel 03-6S-02W-03S-03744-000:** All of Lot No Twenty-one (21) in Block "E" in Surf, a subdivision lying in Fractional West Half of the Southeast Quarter, and Fractional East Half of the Southwest Quarter of Section Three, Township Six South, Range Two West, in Wakulla County, Florida.

**Parcel 03-6S-02W-03S-03745-000:** All of Lot Number Twenty-two (22) in Block "E" of Surf, a subdivision in the East Half of the Southwest Quarter and West Half of the Southeast Quarter of Section Three (3), Township Six (6), South, Range Two (2) West, Wakulla County, Florida. The nature of this proceeding is an action to quiet title and establish prescriptive easements for ingress and egress across the above-described properties.

**WITNESS** my hand and the seal of this Court this **June 25, 2025**.

{{County Court Seal}}



Greg James  
As Clerk of the Circuit Court  
By: /s/ **Michelle Christensen**  
As Deputy Clerk

**Published July 3, 10, 17, 24, 2025**

**0626 - 0717 TWS NOA**  
**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
**CASE NO.: 24000148CAAXMX**

ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS INC.,  
PLAINTIFF,  
V.

THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES AND ALL OTHERS WHO MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST IN THE ESTATE OF RONALD KWIATKOWSKI, DECEASED; MARY BETH MCCOY, AS POTENTIAL HEIR OF RONALD KWIATKOWSKI, DECEASED; ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING INTERESTS BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST A NAMED DEFENDANT TO THIS ACTION, OR HAVING OR CLAIMING TO HAVE ANY RIGHT, TITLE OR INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY HEREIN DESCRIBED,  
DEFENDANT.

**NOTICE OF ACTION**

To the following Defendant(s):

THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES AND ALL OTHERS WHO MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST IN THE ESTATE OF RONALD KWIATKOWSKI, DECEASED (RESIDENCE UNKNOWN) MARY BETH MCCOY, AS POTENTIAL HEIR OF RONALD KWIATKOWSKI, DECEASED  
372 SPRINGDALE DRIVE ALTAMONTE SPRINGS FL 32714

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for **Foreclosure of Mortgage** on the following described property:

**LOT 8, BLOCK 17, WAKULLA GARDENS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE(S) 39 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.**

**a/k/a 137 Choctaw Rd, Crawfordville, FL 32327**

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, upon Kelley Kronenberg, Attorney for Plaintiff, whose address is 10360 West State Road 84, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33324 on or before, **July 19, 2025**, a date which is within thirty (30) days after the first publication of this Notice in The Wakulla Sun and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiffs attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.

This notice is provided pursuant to Administrative Order No. 2.065.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to provisions of certain assistance. Please contact the Court Administrator at 3056 Crawfordville Hwy, Crawfordville, FL 32327, Phone No. within 2 working days of your receipt of this notice or pleading; if you are hearing impaired, call1-800-955-8771 (TDD); if you are voice impaired, call1-800-995-8770 (V)

(Via Florida Relay Services).

Dated in Wakulla County, Florida this 26th day of June, 2025.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court this **June 19, 2025**.

{{County Court Seal}}



Greg James  
As Clerk of the Circuit Court  
By: /s/ **Rachel L Howard**  
As Deputy Clerk

**Published June 26, July 3, 10, 17, 2025**

Bill Webster, Attorney

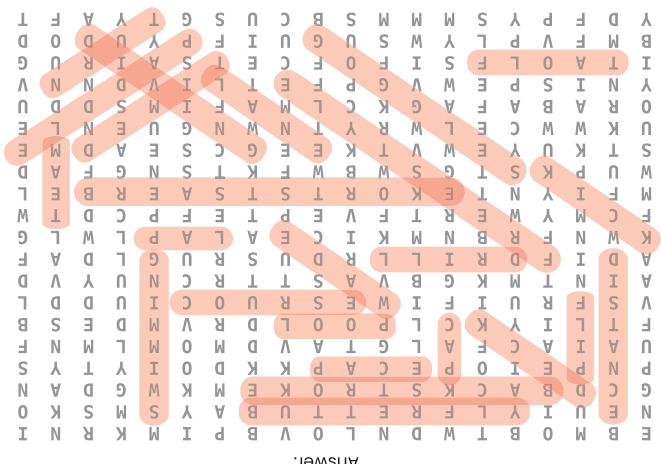
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- Norse god

**Home Improvement/Service**  
PROTECT YOUR HOME from pests safely and affordably. Roaches, Bed Bugs, Rodent, Termite, Spiders and other pests. Locally owned and affordable. Call for a quote or inspection today 1-833-542-1732 Have zip code of property ready when calling!

**Miscellaneous**  
Donate your vehicle to help find missing kids and keep kids safe. Fast free pickup, running or not, 24 hr. response. No emission test required, maximum tax deduction. Support Find the Children Call – Call 1-833-546-7050

**5. Home Improvement/Service**  
AGING ROOF? NEW HOME-OWNER? STORM DAMAGE? You need a local expert provider that proudly stands behind their

work. Fast, free estimate. Financing available. Call 1-833-889-1805 Have zip code of property ready when calling!

**Medical**  
ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS! Discover Oxygen Therapy That Moves with You with Inogen Portable Oxygen Concentrators. FREE information kit. Call 1-833-661-3729

**Home Improvement/Service**  
BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 1-833-754-2465

**Home Improvement/Service**  
NEED NEW WINDOWS? Drafty rooms? Chipped or damaged frames? Need outside noise re-

duction? New, energy efficient windows may be the answer! Call for a consultation & FREE quote today. 1-833-889-0953

**Wanted to Buy**  
CASH PAID FOR HIGH-END MEN'S SPORT WATCHES. Rolex, Breitling, Omega, Patek Philippe, Heuer, Daytona, GMT, Submariner and Speedmaster. These brands only! Call for a quote: 1-833-641-0211

**Wanted to Buy**  
We Buy Vintage Guitar's! Looking for 1920-1980 Gibson, Martin, Fender, Gretsch, Epiphone, Guild, Mosrite, Rickenbacker, Prairie State, D'Angelico, Stromberg. And Gibson Mandolins / Banjos. These brands only! Call for a quote: 1-833-641-6789

**SWIM TEAM**

**WORD SEARCH**

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

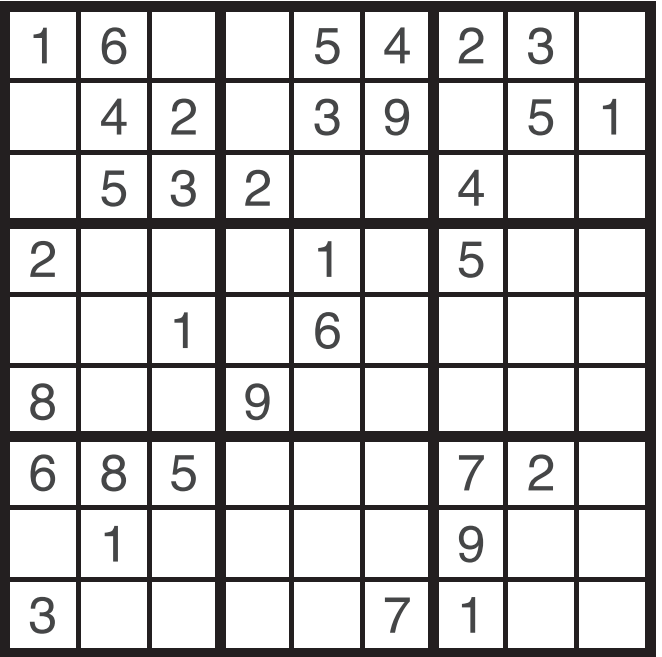
Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

**WORDS**  
BACKSTROKE  
BREASTSTROKE  
BUTTERFLY  
CAP  
COURSE  
DECK  
DISTANCE  
DIVING  
DRILL  
FLIP  
FLOAT  
FREESTYLE  
GOGGLES  
KICK  
LANE  
LAP  
PACE  
PADDLE  
POOL  
SWIMMING  
TEAM  
TIMED  
TURN  
WADE

- U.S. commercial flyer (abbr.)
- Merchant
- Peyton's younger brother
- Jungle planet in "Star Wars" galaxy
- Tree-dwelling animal of C. and S. America
- "Pollack" actor Harris
- Stuck around
- Put on
- Influential Norwegian playwright
- Christian \_\_, designer
- Fulfills a debt
- Style
- More (Spanish)
- A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- Remedy
- Disturbance
- "The Martian" actor Matt
- Express delight
- Brooklyn hoopster
- 1900 lamp
- Motionless
- One's mother (Brit.)
- Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- Compels to act
- Gardening tool
- Ancient country
- Frightening
- Wimbledon champion Arthur
- Popular plant

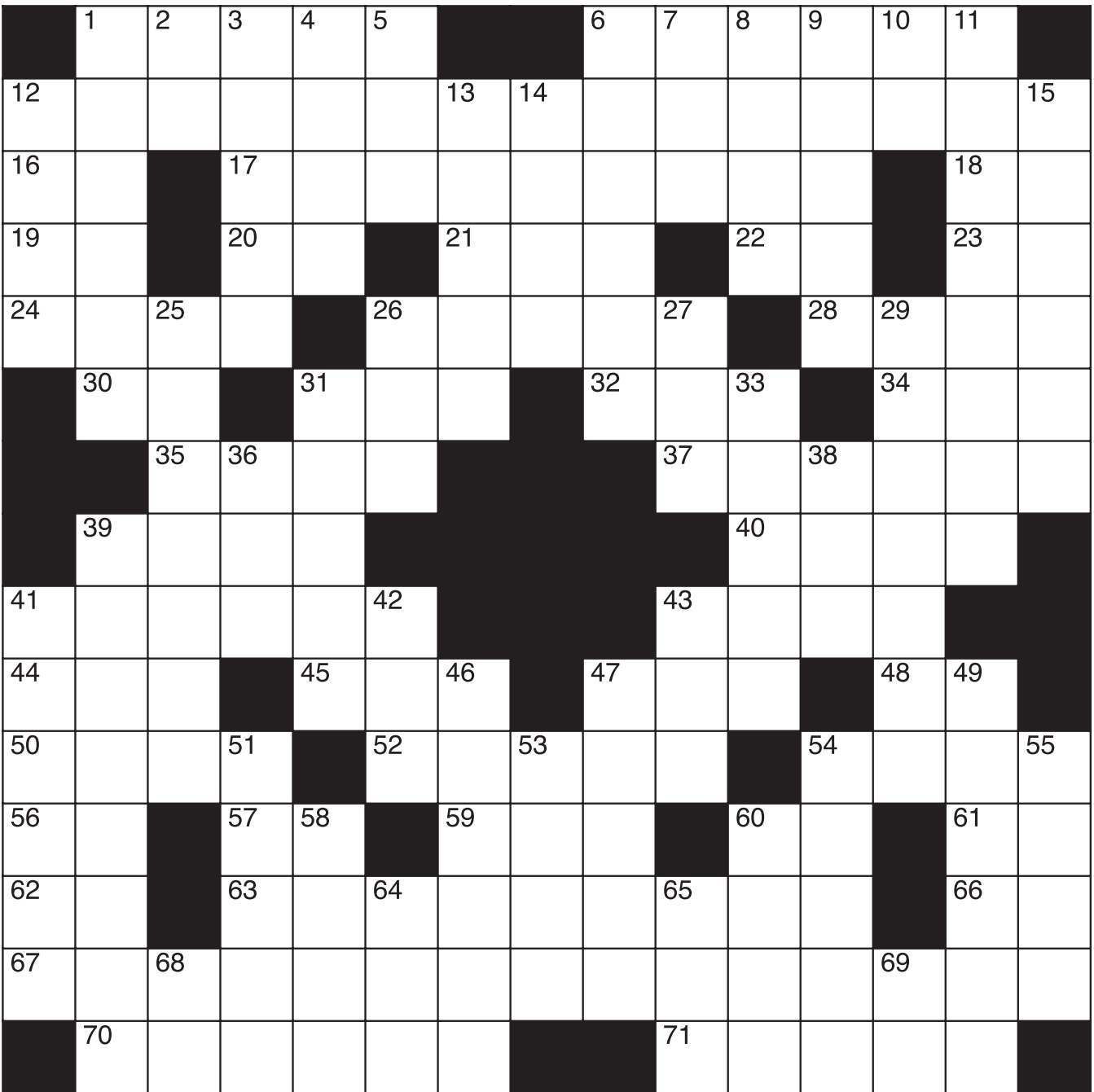
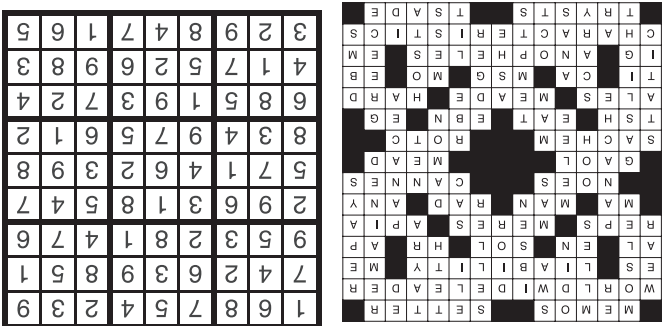
- Database management system
- Gasteyer and de Armas are two
- Where soldiers eat

- Tenth month (abbr.)
- Illuminated
- Atomic #18
- Adults need one to travel

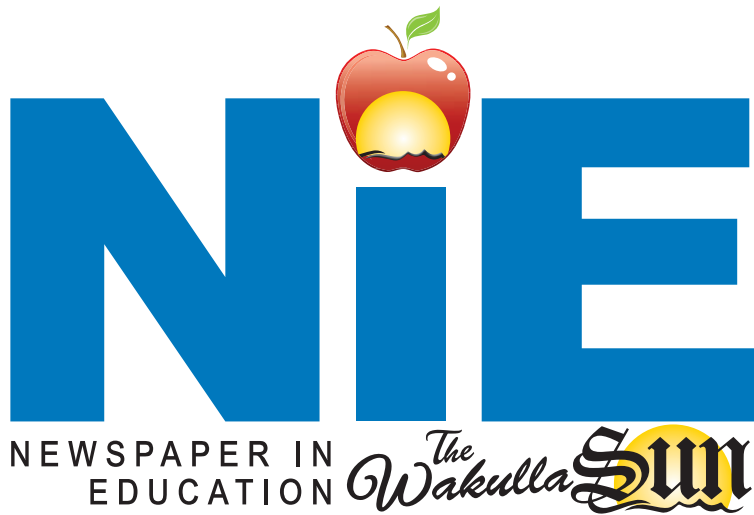


Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

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







# USE THE NEWS

## 1. ATTEMPTING A RECORD

Faith Kipyegon is a super-fast runner from Kenya. She has already won many gold medals and broken world records, but now she is trying to do something no woman has ever done — run a mile in less than 4 minutes! That’s very hard and would mean running faster than anyone thought possible. Faith has special shoes, helpers called pacers who run in front of her, and trains every day in Kenya. Scientists and coaches are helping her by testing how her body works best. They say she’s strong and tough, and if everything goes just right, she might make history. Pretend you are a sports reporter covering Faith Kipyegon’s big race. Write a short news story explaining who she is, what she’s trying to do, and why it’s exciting. Be sure to include how she trains and what makes her a strong athlete.

## 2. WARMING PLANET

The Earth is getting hotter faster than before, and this is mostly because of things people do, like driving cars and using factories that release gases into the air. These gases trap heat from the sun, like a blanket around our planet. Scientists have known for a long time that this would happen, but now it’s affecting people more every day. The heat causes stronger storms, more wildfires, and big floods. The ice at the North and South Poles is melting faster, which is making the ocean rise. Even though scientists are still learning more, they all agree that we need to take care of the Earth and stop polluting to help keep it safe. Imagine you are a weather reporter in the future. Write a short weather report explaining how the Earth is changing because of global warming. Include at least one extreme weather event, like a heat-wave or a flood, and explain what people are doing to help the

planet. Then, read your weather report out loud to a partner or your class.

## 3. SECRET MESSAGES

Scientists have found a new and fun way to write secret messages—using bubbles inside ice! When water freezes, tiny air bubbles get trapped. By changing how fast the water freezes and how the ice is tilted, scientists can make the bubbles into shapes like dots and dashes, just like Morse code. They used this bubble code to spell letters and numbers. This discovery could help in the future with things like studying glaciers, building things on

the Moon, or even making better ice for planes and power lines. Ice is more interesting than most people think, and now it might even be used to send secret messages! Pretend you’re a scientist using ice to send a secret message. On a piece of paper, draw what your ice message might look like using dots, dashes, or shapes for each letter. Then write a short note to a friend using your secret ice code and see if they can figure it out!

## 4. GREEN TEAM

The Vermont Green Football Club is a soccer team that also cares a lot about the planet. They play their games in Bur-

lington, Vermont, and they do things to help the Earth, like wearing uniforms made from recycled materials and giving prizes to fans who ride their bikes to the game. They even have vegan food and free ice cream at the stadium! The team teaches fans how to recycle and compost their trash, and they share information about how climate change is hurting nature. Many people come to the games to cheer for the team and also to help the environment. The players and fans believe that taking care of the Earth is just as important as scoring goals. Draw a picture of your favorite sport or game, and show one way people playing or watching it could help the Earth — like recy-

cling, planting trees, or riding bikes. Then write two sentences explaining what your picture shows and how it helps the planet.

## 5. VAULTING COMPETITION

Vaulting is a special sport that combines gymnastics, dancing, and horseback riding. In vaulting, athletes do tricks like handstands, spins, and jumps on the back of a moving horse. The horse walks in a big circle while being led by a helper called a lunger. Some vaulters perform alone, while others work in pairs or even in teams of six! Judges give scores based on how hard the moves are, how artistic the routine is, and how well the vaulter and

horse work together. This weekend, top vaulters from around the world are competing in a big event in Aachen, Germany. The athletes practice a lot to move smoothly with their horses and choose fun music to match their routines. Vaulting is always a team effort between the vaulter, the horse, and the lunger! After reading about vaulting, pretend you are a reporter at the big competition in Germany. Write a short news article about what you see, including a description of the horse, the vaulter’s moves, the music they use, and how the audience reacts. Be creative and try to make your reader feel like they are at the event with you!



## Holiday FACT:

What are the names of the two holidays that celebrate Canadian and American sovereignty?

Answer: Canada Day and Independence Day



- English: Parade
- Spanish: Desfile
- Italian: Corteo
- French: Parade
- German: Parade

## Math Blocks

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-20. The numbers in each row add up to the totals on the right. The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

	9	14	43
1		7	19
5	3		10
26	23	23	

2	3	5
7	11	1
14	9	20

Solution

## Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

REORWSKIF PSIDYLA

Answer: Fireworks display

## THIS DAY IN HISTORY



**1608:** Quebec City is founded by Samuel de Champlain.

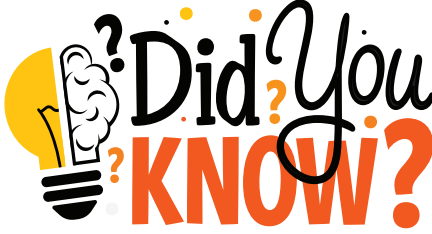
**1819:** The first savings bank in the United States opens. It is the Bank for Savings in the City of New-York.

**1973:** David Bowie retires his stage persona “Ziggy Stardust.”

## NEW WORD

### CITIZEN

a legally recognized subject of a state or commonwealth



Fireworks are mainly made of black powder and metal salts that create different colors when burned. Flash powder also is used to give bright flashes and loud booms.



## Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Barbecue skewers