



War Eagles win at Fort Walton/See Page 14



\$1  
One Section

# The Wakulla Sun

*"It's a New Day"*

WAKULLA

WeatherSTEM

Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
PM Thunderstorms	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
Hi: 85° Lo: 63° 37%	Hi: 80° Lo: 62° 12%	Hi: 83° Lo: 59° 7%
Sunrise 7:36 AM Sunset 7:13 PM	Sunrise 7:36 AM Sunset 7:11 PM	Sunrise 7:37 AM Sunset 7:10 PM

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Our 4th Year 40th Issue  
Thursday, October 9, 2025

## Wakullans named to TSC Hall of Fame

Three of the 14 inductees have Wakulla ties – Rhonda Harvey, Jonathan Kilpatrick, Kevin Vaughn

### Special to The Sun

Fourteen leaders in education, business, public service, and community engagement have been named to the Tallahassee State College Alumni & Friends Hall of Fame, the College's highest honor for alumni and supporters. Three of those inductees have ties to Wakulla:

- **Rhonda Quigg Harvey ('71)** – Pharmacist and business owner who operated Panacea and Wakulla Pharmacies for more than 30 years. Harvey co-owns several local businesses and is a longtime civic leader and supporter of TSC.
- **Jonathan Kilpatrick** – Technology leader and CEO of Trulight LLC, former CIO for the City of Tallahassee, and Lieutenant Colonel in the Florida Air National Guard. He also serves as pastor of St. Marks Baptist Church.
- **Kevin Vaughn** – North Florida



This year's 14 inductees into Tallahassee State College Hall of Fame.

business leader and co-founder of Rogers, Gunter, Vaughn Insurance. A former TSC trustee, he continues to support the College through its Foundation and other civic roles. Other inductees include:

- Dr. Debra Dabney Austin ('09) – Retired higher education leader and the first Black woman appointed

Chancellor of the State University System of Florida, Dr. Austin served in leadership roles at TSC, FSU, and FAMU.

- Christian Caban ('13) – Leon County Commissioner representing District 2.
- Brittany Christie ('09) – A former TSC student-athlete and founder of

Christie's Sports and Philanthropy Strategy Group, she serves as Community Relations Manager at the Leon County Sheriff's Office.

- KeyannaShabar Kakia Clack ('05) – A Corrections professional with more than 25 years of experience, including service as a Warden with the Florida Department of Corrections.
- Dr. Thomas Alan Cox ('83) – Educator and former Assistant Superintendent for Leon County Schools, as well as founder of Alan Cox Aquatics.
- Chris Edwards ('94) – Tallahassee Market President for MidSouth Bank and Board President of the TSC Foundation, Edwards is a former TSC baseball player.
- Mark Fletcher ('79) – Managing Principal at Lanigan & Associates, specializing in tax and estate planning. A Certified Public Accountant, he has been a community leader in Quincy and Tallahassee for decades.

Turn to Page 3

## Microchip stations

Wakulla Animal Group has put up scanners to help return lost pets

MICROCHIP SCANNING STATION

Grab the scanner, press the button to turn it on. Run the scanner on the animal starting on their back, at the base of the skull. Slowly run the scanner in an s-pattern down to the base of the tail. Make sure you are close to the fur. If the scanner doesn't register a chip, run the scanner down each leg starting from the body and run it to the feet. It can take up to **TWO MINUTES** to detect a microchip.

**Microchip Found**

1. If the scanner picks up a chip, it will display the number on the screen.
2. Scan the QR code below with your cell phone camera and enter the 9, 10, or 15 digit microchip number to get a list of registries to contact for pet owner information.

**No Microchip**

1. Check the dog for tags, including a rabies tag. If the animal has a rabies tag, contact the clinic that issued the tag. They should have a record of the owner.
2. Report the animal found to Wakulla County Animal Services by calling 850-926-0902. Please include a description of the pet, the location found, and your contact number.
3. Post a picture of the animal on Nextdoor and on local Facebook groups to try to locate the owner of the animal.
4. You can keep the animal until the owner comes forward, or contact Animal Control. Please secure them away from your other animals.

**DO NOT LEAVE ANIMALS HERE!**

Your support of Wakulla Animal Group, Inc., a 501(c)3 nonprofit, allows us to continue offering essential programs for our community.

To make a donation, scan the CashApp QR code to the left or the Zeffy QR code to the right.

This station sponsored by: **FWC Officer's Association**



The Wakulla Animal Group unveiled a microchip scanning station at Azalea Park on Thursday, Oct. 2, in an effort to reunite lost pets with their owners. Clockwise from left: instructions on using the scanner; Teresa Brannan of WAG; an exhibition of how to scan for chips. In addition to this station, there are stations at CK Mart (Marathon) in Wakulla Station and Rocky's Wakulla across from the high school. (Photos by William Snowden)



Historical Society President Andrea Carter with Volunteer of the Year Jan Holtman.

## Historical Society holds its annual dinner

Story & Photos By  
**LYNDA KINSEY**  
Of The Sun

The Wakulla County Historical Society held its Annual Meeting and Dinner on Thursday, Oct. 2, at the Wakulla Shrine Club. Nearly 70 people were in attendance.

The historical society was founded in October of 1991 and current President Andrea Carter explained the group preserves Wakulla history through the museum and maintains the gift shop, as well as documenting the history of Wakulla families. Carter also noted the most recent project: the creation of Heritage Park on Zion Hill Road in Crawfordville.

"We have three lovely historical buildings on the property and will soon have an 8-foot wide walking trail," said Carter.

The society has also taken on projects locating and the cleaning of some of the forgotten cemeteries.

The Ann Quick Stewart WCHS Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Jan Holtman.

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Robert Manning spoke on history of St. Marks Powder.



Historical Society members serve themselves dinner, catered by Stacy Bunch.

## Blessing of the animals held

Story & Photos By  
**LINDA ANN McDONALD**

A Blessing of the Animals event was held at Christ Church Anglican on Sunday, Oct. 5, with retired Pastor John Spicer leading the event.

A wide variety of cats, dogs and a leopard gecko named Sunny, owned by Sarah Laughton received prayer and blessings from Spicer.

The blessing of the animals is traditionally held the week of Saint Francis' feast day (Oct. 6th). He is remembered for his generosity to the poor, his willingness to minister to lepers, and for his love for animals and nature. He is the church's patron saint of animals and the environment.

"I like to do this event because it's been an



Gary and Ann Allshouse, above, with their dogs Gary and Annie at Christ Church Anglican's Blessing of the animals ceremony on Sunday; Renee Mazy, right, with her cat Cheetoh Bandito.

ongoing early century tradition honoring St. Francis who had a tight relationship with birds, wolves and critters," said Spicer. "It is a blessing of God's creations, and

I share and bless these creations."

In addition to a blessing, animals at the event also received treats and a medal of St. Francis to

Turn to Page 3





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**MIKE'S  
FEED STORE**

**Student of the Week**  
**Cayman Sanders – 7th grader at Wakulla Middle**  
**Achievements/Reason for Nomination:** Cayman is an excellent example of a true Wakulla Wildcat. He is very kind and considerate to others. He is respectful to his teachers and peers and always volunteers to assist with any task asked of him. Cayman is a hard worker that always gives his best effort to everything he attempts.  
Cayman is a member of the WMS Broadcasting Crew. He is comfortable in all rolls from anchor to cameraman. Cayman is also very involved in acting and drama. He had a role in last year's production of Inn-Cognito at Wakulla Middle School. He participates in school spirit activities and is looking forward to this year's spirit week.  
Outside of school, Cayman performed in the play Matilda, Jr.: The Musical at The Quincy Music Theater last year. He has performed in at least eight productions in Wakulla County. This summer, Cayman had the opportunity to work on a movie set as a paid actor. He recently got to experience "green screen" technology in film.  
In addition, Cayman loves animals, water activities, Legos and puppets. We are proud to have Cayman represent WMS as our Student of the Week!



STUDENT OF THE WEEK FEATURES A DIFFERENT SCHOOL EACH WEEK.


**Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park**  
**Lopsided Indiangrass**  
By **LYNN ARTZ, DAVID RODDENBERRY,**  
and **SANDY TEDDER**




Lopsided Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum secundum*) is a unique bunch grass native throughout Florida. It produces tall, dramatic flower stalks in early fall. Every flower dangles off the same side of the stalk rather than encircling it. The tiny flowers are wrapped in soft hairy bronze bracts. Each has bright yellow anthers and a long reddish-brown bristle or awn. They appear to shimmer in the wind when backlit by the sun. Lopsided Indiangrass prefers full sun and moist to dry, well-drained soil. The plants grow 2-3 feet tall until the 6-foot-tall flower spikes emerge. They die back in winter. Found mainly in flatwoods and sandhills, this grass is a larval host for several grass skippers. Lopsided Indiangrass is blooming now and setting seed in the northwest garden at Sopchoppy Depot Park.

  
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**to cost of tag.**

  
Lisa Craze, CFC  
Wakulla County Tax Collector

**FLORIDA BREAST  
CANCER FOUNDATION  
LICENSE PLATE**



The Florida Breast Cancer Foundation (FBCF) was founded by 3 Miami women in 1993. Originally named The South Florida Breast Cancer Coalition, the organization began as a nonprofit, grassroots organization dedicated to ending breast cancer through advocacy, education, and research. With the introduction of the specialty End Breast Cancer license plate in 2002, a second organization was formed the Florida Breast Cancer Coalition Research Foundation - created to receive the funds from the sale of the plate. A few years later our official name changed to the Florida Breast Cancer Foundation, but our mission and vision remains the same.





# After Hours at Barn’s Spirits

Barn’s Spirits owner Niraj Patel held a Chamber After Hours event at the Panacea store on Sept. 18. Patel thanks those who attended, above; attendees included Kris Calloway, Angie Bozeman and Chris Russell, right. (Photos by Lynda Kinsey)



Robin Cave and her dog Spot at the Blessing of the animals at Christ Church Anglican on Sunday.

## From Front Page

display at home. Robin Cave brings her dog, Spot, to get blessed every year. “We are collecting St. Francis medals,” she said. Andy and Grace Keith who attend the church said, “We are helping with the event because it is great fellowship and great fun; we also think it’s a great outreach to the community.” Karlyn Langford brought a picture of

her dog, Bris, to be blessed by Spicer. Renee Mazy brought her kitten, Cheetoh Bandito, to the event. “I found Cheetoh at the church as a screaming kitten and I knew God brought be a blessing to love.” Both cat and dog gift baskets were raffled off for event guests. The Blessing of the Animals reminds us of our call to steward the earth-and the creatures of the earth, taking care of them as gifts from God.

# Historical society

## From Front Page

The keynote speaker for the evening was Robert Manning III who worked at Olin Corporation, now known as St. Marks Powder. Olin opened its gunpowder manufacturing plant in June 1970 in Wakulla County and is the largest private employer in Wakulla. Manning told the crowd that in 1976 he was attending Tallahassee Community College when his cousins wanted him to drive them to fill out an application and take a test so they could go to work for this big company. Manning drove them there and then got talked in to taking the test too... and he passed. He wasn’t interested as he was going to TCC, but decided to work there over the summer and when he got his first paycheck he was pretty impressed. Now, 47 years later, he finds himself telling the history of the company. “They started out with 418 employees coming in

from many surrounding counties – they now have 275. The supply and demand varies, so the number of employees always fluctuates,” said Manning. Manning confirmed that St. Marks Powder is the largest gunpowder manufacturer in the U.S. when asked by a member of the audience. “They supply to the armed forces, you name it, they make it,” said Manning. Manning said that he worked in about every department of the company and spent the last 5 years before retiring in Research & Developmnet. “Overall it was a pretty good job, I’ve had a good life and got to participate in things my kids were involved in,” said Manning. The historical society’s Officers were elected: President Andrea Carter; Vice President Brent Thurmond; Secretary Arlene Vause; Tresurer Debbie Jay. Board of Directors are Cathy Frank, Cal Jamison, Lindeara Jefferson, Gayla Kittendorf, Mary Ann Laird, Ryan Laird, Tanya Lynn, Elena Myhre, Alaine Solburg, Rita Sparkman and Jeff Yarbrough. Associate Directors are Diane Curlee, Randy Lewis, Mark Perrin, Karen

Taylor and Susan Payne Turner. The meal was catered by Stacy Bunch of The Old South Cafe. If you have a passion for Wakulla History or would simply like to volunteer or join, contact the Wakulla Historical Society at (850) 926-1110. The group also sends out to its members a quarterly newsletter with submitted stories and local history.

## 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.

# NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING ADOPTION OF A LARGE-SCALE MAP AMENDMENT TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FUTURE LAND USE MAP

The Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners proposes to consider the following application and/or adopt the following by ordinance and has scheduled a Public Hearing before the **Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners on Monday, October 20, 2025, beginning at 5:00 PM**, or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard. All public hearings will be held at the County Commission Chambers located west of the County Courthouse at 29 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida 32327. Interested parties are invited to attend and present testimony.



AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING, REVISING, AND REPLACING IDENTIFIED PORTIONS OF THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP AS ADOPTED BY ORDINANCE NUMBER 2018-23, AS ADOPTED

BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ON JUNE 18, 2018, AS AMENDED; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY AND FOR FILING; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

## 1. Application for Comprehensive Plan Map Amendment: CPM25-02

Applicant: GGolden Construction Company, Inc.  
Agent: Edwin Brown & Associates, Inc./Wade Brown  
Proposal: Adoption of Amendment to Future Land Use Designation  
Tax ID Number: 00-00-059-000-10047-002  
Existing FLU Map: Agriculture (FLUE Policy 1.2.3)  
Proposed FLU Map: Suburban Transitioning (FLUE Policy 1.2.8)  
Current Zoning: PUD (Section 5-50, LDC)  
FEMA Flood Info: “A” zone on Panel 0250E  
Parcel size: 48.37+/- acres  
Location: 562 Dr Martin Luther King Jr Memorial Road, abutting the eastern boundary of Mallard Pond Subdivision and the southern boundary of Eastgate Subdivision

## Hearings Required: BOCC: Monday, October 20, 2025 @ 5:00 PM

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

October 9, 2025

# TSC Hall of Fame

## From Front Page

- Katy Jo Harrison (‘13) – Elementary school teacher in Liberty County, named District Teacher of the Year in 2025 and a finalist for Florida Teacher of the Year.
- James Light (’08) – Founder of Precision Building & Renovating and co-founder of Gulf Coast Additive Manufacturing & Design, which built Florida’s first permitted 3D-printed home. Known for his innovative approach and community service.
- Dr. Matthew Rasmussen – Board-certified periodontist and Diplomate of the American Board of Periodontology, Dr. Rasmussen teaches in the TSC dental program and volunteers weekly at the Kearney Center to provide dental care to those in need.
- Brannon Snead (’00) – Former Major with the Florida Highway Patrol and current General Manager of Peter Boulware Toyota.



# Local reporting connects communities

Local journalists foster a sense of belonging by highlighting stories that national outlets often overlook—stories about school board decisions, city council debates, neighborhood events, and local heroes.

## We can all support essential local journalism by

subscribing, donating, sharing stories, encouraging young reporters, and educating the next generation about media literacy and the importance of a free press.



October 5-11, 2025

National Newspaper Week

Embracing Local Journalism for a Better Future



## ADVERTISEMENT TO BID WAKULLA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Pre-qualified General Contractors are invited to bid on a General Contract for the ADA Sidewalk Additions in Crawfordville, Florida in accordance with Contract Documents. All bids must be a lump sum basis; segregated Bids will not be accepted.

PROJECT: ADA SIDEWALK ADDITIONS  
BID DATE: OCTOBER 24, 2025  
TIME: 2:00 p.m. local time  
WCS BID NO. 2025-26-01

A Pre-Bid conference will be held on **OCTOBER 2, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.** at 69 Arran Rd, Crawfordville, FL 32327, and all bidders or their representatives are encouraged to be in attendance. The Pre-Bid Conference date is subject to change.

The Wakulla County School Board will receive sealed bids until **2:00 p.m. local time on OCTOBER 24, 2025**. Bids received after this time will not be accepted. All qualified bidders are invited to attend the Bid Opening; Bids will be opened publicly and read aloud at the following location:

Wakulla County School Board Administration Building (Board Room) 69 Arran Rd., Crawfordville, FL 32327

Drawings and Specifications may be obtained by contacting: Emily Winston Clemons, Rutherford & Associates Phone: 850.385.6153 [ewinston@craarchitects.com](mailto:ewinston@craarchitects.com)

In accordance with the Instructions to Bidders upon receipt of \$50 (non-refundable) per digital set. All materials furnished and all work performed shall be in accordance with Drawings and Specifications. Each Bid shall be addressed to:

Mr. Michael Barwick  
Chief of Facilities and Maintenance  
Wakulla County School Board  
Post Office Box 100 Crawfordville, FL 32327  
and be marked:

1. Bids for ADA SIDEWALK ADDITIONS
2. (Name of Bidder)
3. (Address of Bidder)
4. (City, State, Zip Code)

All bids shall be delivered by a representative of the Bidder or by registered mail with return receipt requested. Bid security in the amount of five percent of the Bid must accompany each Bid in accordance with the Instruction to Bidders.

The Owner reserves the right to waive irregularities and/or informalities in any Bid and to reject any or all Bids in whole or part, with or without cause, and/or accept the Bid that in its judgment will be for the best interest of the Wakulla County School Board.

WAKULLA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD  
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CHIEF OF FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE

September 25, October 2, 9, 2025







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**Polled at Eastern Star community yard sale:  
What do you collect?**

*- Compiled by Lynda Kinsey*



**TAWANNA HAYS**  
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**“Clowns! A lot of people really hate them. I started collecting years ago when someone gave me an Emmett Kelly clown. I collect chickens too!”**



**RICHARD BUSHMAN**  
Retired Peace Officer

**“Miniature knives. I collected them from all over the country. A lifelong collection, they were all handmade made by craftsmen.”**



**ZOE MANSFIELD**  
Lee Trailer Sales

**“I collect everything Southwestern including succulent plants and cactus. I just love the desert look.”**



**EILEEN BRAMBLETT**  
Wakulla Senior Center volunteer

**“I do angels and owls. I started years ago collecting them. I love the angels because they are so elegant.”**



**JOYCE DEFIBAUGH**  
Retired Florida Dental Assoc.

**“I collect all types of things for beautiful seasonal décor.”**

# National Newspaper Week: Americans depend on newspapers to stay informed

**By BENJY HAMM**

Nearly 220 million American adults turn to their local newspapers regularly for news and information they need to stay informed, feel more connected to their neighbors and improve their lives and communities.

That readership number is based on a recent national study by independent research firm Coda Ventures for the America’s Newspapers organization.

Most likely, the number of readers is higher. Many people who say they receive news on their phone or from social media instead of newspapers fail to understand that the sources for those stories are often journalists at U.S. newspapers.

We sometimes take the work of journalists for granted, but those who work at newspapers are filling an important role in the health of our communities and country.

Everyone, even nonreaders, benefits from the work of journalists. News coverage has led to improvements in food safety, decreases in traffic and plane fatalities, better care for veterans and nursing home

patients, support for victims of natural disasters, and exposure of all sorts of wrongdoing.

I have long loved this quotation by Frank Batten Sr., a media visionary and former chairman of Landmark Communications, who said about journalists and newspapers: “Our calling was never more important. We have the capacity to inform, to enlighten, to awaken and to inspire. We have the opportunity to enrich the lives of thousands of people every day.”

Across the U.S., journalists and other newspaper employees are serving their communities and democracy every day by informing, enlightening, awakening and inspiring millions of readers.

The news they provide is accessed in many forms. Many people still use the word newspaper as the all-encompassing term for those various forms, but now news is delivered through websites, social media, electronic editions, email alerts and newsletters, in addition to the traditional printed paper.

Those delivery methods have changed significantly in recent years. But one thing remains con-

stant: Americans depend on the trusted news coverage provided by newspapers.

The study by Coda Ventures, based on surveys of 5,000 people, revealed that respondents ranked local newspapers and their websites as the most accurate sources of original news reporting. The results also listed the top five reasons Americans seek out local news – to stay informed, feel connected in the community, decide where they stand on local issues, find places and things to do, and talk to other people about community news.

Survey respondents consistently said they prefer newspapers in print and digital formats over TV, radio and social media as their main source for news and information important to them. They like the fact that newspapers use different ways to deliver their news stories to various audiences. The survey showed that people who are 39 and younger listed social media as the No. 1 way they prefer to access news, though they also like news websites and email alerts.

People in the 40 to 74 age group ranked news websites as their top

choice, followed by email alerts and the printed newspaper. Those 75 and older prefer the print edition but also like news websites and email alerts.

Based on the frequent reports of struggles within the news business, many people might be surprised to learn that newspapers and their digital offerings reach so many readers. Those struggles, primarily financial, are real and affect many media companies, not just newspapers.

But the new ways of delivering news allow newspapers to reach even larger audiences.

Frank Batten might not have anticipated the widespread use of the internet and social media when he first made his comments in the 1980s, but his words remain true today.

Newspapers and their dedicated employees continue to inform, enlighten, awaken and inspire – enriching their communities and the lives of millions of people who benefit from their work every day.

*Benjy Hamm is Director of the Institute for Rural Journalism at the University of Kentucky.*

## Buckhorn News

**By ETHEL SKIPPER**

We can put our trust in God where all our help comes from. Proverbs 3:5-6 tell us to trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths.

We are in a world where a person’s word means very little. It is essential that the world see truthfulness and integrity in our church and community.

We should never hastily make promises, but when we do, we should make every effort to keep our promises.

The reputation of a church in a community should be one of honesty – otherwise, we damage our witness, hindering our ability to reach the lost.

There are times when bold faith is required, and we need to believe God will miraculously move.

We wish a happy birthday to Archie Simmons on Oct. 4; Rodney Smith on Oct. 5; Felicia Green on Oct. 6; Antonio Nicholas on Oct. 7; Charlene Skipper on Oct. 7; Solomon Mills Jr. on Oct. 14; Elder Frank Johnson on Oct. 17; Chinesta Smith on Oct. 18; Teresa Boger Rosier on Oct. 20; and Elder Andrew Morris.

We want to welcome our family member Elder Frank Johnson and his wife into our county and community. Frank was born here in Sopchoppy and lived in Seattle for more than 50 years.

Skipper Temple Church, 165 Surf Road in Sopchoppy, will be celebrating Pastor Ethel M.R. Skipper’s 37 years of pastoring. She is a preacher, teacher, a woman who prays for God’s people. To hear more about the servant of the Lord on Sunday, Oct. 12 at 4 p.m. with a celebration, singing, shouting, clapping and praising. The preacher for the occasion will be the Right Rev. Chris Burney from the Greater St. Mark Primitive Baptist Church in Tallahassee. Everyone is welcome.

Our prayers and concern go out to all the sick and shut-in, those in the nursing homes, hospitals, jails, the homeless, and world leaders, and all in need of help everywhere.

## Sopchoppy News

**By DJ BUTCH**

Reporting from Sopchoppy, Florida! I have had a crazy busy month. Jamboree, Sopchoppy Depot Days and Car Parade, Rotary Club’s Boots & Bingo, and the Panacea Blue Crab Festival. My goodness what a month full of exciting events!

I got cool footage and photos available on my Corey Benedict Facebook

page. Also DJ Butch on TikTok.

Speaking of social media the Sopchoppy page is still growing. I try to keep it about Sopchoppy and local stuff. Not a page full of advertisements or nonsense. Follow the Sopchoppy page on Facebook for news, history and more.

The Community Market is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 11th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be vendors with home-

made and homegrown goods. The Depot museum will be open. A food truck and children’s activities. If you would like to be a vendor contact Discover Sopchoppy at [Discoversopchoppy@gmail.com](mailto:Discoversopchoppy@gmail.com)

OK, enough with the business! Do you know Sopchoppy has been more than just a small town for me? It has been a family. Growing up in Sopchoppy I saw people help one another. Love one another. Take care of one another. Watch out for each other and their kids.

They say it takes a village and that

is very true. Sopchoppy is a family and has been that way for many years. If you are new here... or visiting, this is how we roll. We welcome you.

Please respect our city and keep it beautiful. Don’t litter. Drive slow. Stop at stop signs. Watch out for kids, pets, golf carts and scooters. Wave at your neighbors and say hello.

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Outdoors

outdoor sports

HOME ON THE RANGE

A gun for a new shooter



By MARJ LAW

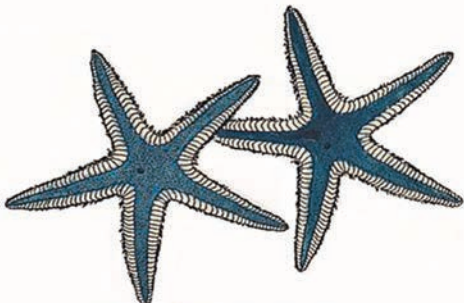
Let’s talk about a gun for a new shooter. Generally, it makes sense to begin with a .22. Most .22s have a small amount of recoil. Let’s get real. When Newbie expects the big bang, he’ll shut his eyes and turn his head at the noise and jerk his hands at the recoil. We call that “flinching.” Flinching is a bad habit to break, so you want to begin with a handgun that won’t make you flinch. And that’s one reason why most .22s are great beginner guns. But not all .22s. Not the .22 that Aunt Abigail’s husband kept in their bedside drawer for 43 years. Aunt Abigail asked me to come to her house and check out the gun. Since it hadn’t been used for those 43 years, Auntie called it a “new” gun. She didn’t know if it was loaded. I asked her not to touch it. When I arrived, I took it out of the drawer. It was loaded. Try as I might, I was unable to release the magazine which was fused to the gun after all these years.

I took it home to Joe, who has a plethora of tools, and he was finally able to pry out the magazine. And please don’t use any “free” gun that was packed away with its own ammunition. Old ammunition can be perfectly good, but you have to know where it came from. A friend gave me a Kahr to shoot. A friend of his had passed away, and my friend thought I’d like to shoot it. The Kahr fit my hand perfectly. I aimed that Kahr, shot, and half the gun blew apart in my hands. Come to find out, the person who had died used to load his own ammunition. He made “hot” loads, with too much powder for the gun’s ability. So don’t take a “free” gun with no pedigree. You want to know the gun’s past, and you certainly want name brand ammunition. And third, don’t take an old gun given to you by a “friend.” There’s probably a good reason why he gives it to you instead of keeping it for himself. My “gift” was a Saturday Night Special. I bought some new ammunition for it: 22 LR straight from a gun store. Sure, the Special fit my hand and the recoil was light. But the target didn’t have a mark on it after shooting all six rounds. I asked a deputy to shoot it. He aimed, shot, and missed the target entirely. He shot again and again until the gun was empty. The target was still pristine. He put the gun on



the shooting bench and walked away, completely disgusted. Since there are plenty of good .22s out there, borrow or purchase one for yourself. If you borrow one, make sure it’s fairly new and has new ammunition. We’re going to discuss some of the merits of three .22s which make great “beginner” guns. The Sig Sauer P322 is a small semi-automatic handgun. The S&W K22 Masterpiece is a revolver. And finally, the Ruger Mark III is a fine target gun. All three of these have almost no recoil, and their sound is not terribly loud. They are all quite different, and all can be useful for the new shooter. Let’s begin with the Sig P322. The 322 is a smallish handgun. It’s not quite concealable for most small-framed people, but it can make for a great bedside learner and car gun. If used in the car, you must learn how to transport it legally in any state you drive through. Of course, Sig is a reputable company and will stand by its products. The 322 actually comes with two magazines which hold 20 rounds each! That’s a lot! You push down a button and drop your rounds in the magazine. This sounds so easy, but after a few rounds, your thumb on the magazine button will become sore because the magazine’s spring will become tighter and tighter. I do recommend an UpLula to help you load the rest of the way. The 322 does have a plate so you can add a red dot later. New, you’ll find two small dots sights in the rear and one in the front. They are fiber optic, and though small, are quite easy to see. The 322 has a 4-inch barrel. It is 1.4 inches wide, 5.5 inches high, and is 7 inches overall. It weighs 17.1 ounces. The Ruger Mark III 22/45 is a great target gun. It is heavy at 2.15 pounds. That weight helps to hold the gun steady. This Ruger’s barrel is 5.5 inches long, 1.22 inches wide and 5.5 inches high with an overall length of 9 inches. We added a red dot sight and a Hogue grip, which has finger grooves. Like the Sig 322, it has a button on the magazine to push down as you plop in each round. And also like the Sig, after a few rounds are pushed against the magazine’s spring, you may want an UpLula to help you finish loading. The 22/45 is an excellent target gun. Its weight absorbs recoil and its long barrel aids in accuracy. Last, Smith & Wesson’s K-22 Masterpiece is also a long and heavy gun and about 40 ounces, and like the Ruger, it’s also a fine target gun. Unlike the other two handguns, this one is a revolver. It is 9 inches long, about 1.5 inches wide, and about 5.5 inches high. It holds six rounds in the cylinder. This particular one has a 6-inch barrel. Last Wednesday, about 10 a.m., Joe and I shot all three handguns. We agreed to shoot four rounds from each gun on 8-inch targets. The Sig is on the left, the K-22 is in the middle and the Ruger is on the right as you face the targets. Joe shot an immediate bull’s-eye with the Sig P322. Notice the tight groupings we shot. 1 bullet went wild. You can see that the Sig Sauer P322 is an accurate handgun. We shot the S&W K-22 Masterpiece next. All 8 bullets hit the target. 6 of the shots are close to the center and the other 2 are still on the target. Last, we shot the Ruger Mark III. 5 of the bullets hit the bull’s-eye and the other 3 bullets hit the target. I’m thinking that the red dot we placed on this gun really improved our accuracy. All three handguns are accurate. We had no failures to feed and no failures to fire. It does appear that adding a red dot helps us shoot more accurately. All triggers are light and travel of the triggers is light as well. There is hardly any recoil, and the slides on the semi-automatics are very easy to rack. The Sig, S&W and Ruger are all fine guns for new shooters. There are many other great .22s out there like the S&W Victory and the Brown- ing Buckmark. Look for a reputable manufacturer and purchase new ammunition. Now, with your new handgun, visit the Wakulla County Sheriff’s Office range. Check in with the deputy at the office. The deputies are knowledgeable and kind. Like the .22s, they won’t “flinch” when you ask beginner questions.

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



POINTED SAND STAR (Astropecten articulatus)

This brightly colored starfish is probably the most common one in sandy continental shelf waters of the south east Atlantic coast. It has five spiny jaws for eating anything that comes its way. It is so good at eating anything that scientists use its stomach contents to do species census of sandy ocean floor. It is often called the royal starfish due to its purple color with gold trim. Arms commonly grow to 3.5 inches.

Animalia, Echinodermata, Asteroidea, Paxillosida, Astropectinidae

Gulf Specimen Marine Laboratory  
www.gulfspecimen.org

WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO



Retired Wakulla Springs State Park Ranger Bob Thompson, on his weekly wildlife survey at the park, took this photo of a Great Egret.

Wakulla  
Lawn Ranger

Gene  
Darby

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Thursday 9		For tides at the following points add to Dog Island Listings:		<h1>Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac</h1> <h2>Oct. 9 - Oct. 15</h2> <div><div></div><div>Tide charts by tides4fishing.com</div><div></div></div>		<div><div></div><div>First Oct. 29</div><div></div><div>Full Nov. 5</div><div></div><div>Last Oct. 13</div><div></div><div>New Oct. 21</div></div>		Best fishing days this month October 3-9, 13, 18-24 - BEST Oct. 21	
Sun rise/set 7:35AM 7:12PM	Moon rise/set 8:56PM 10:26AM	High Tide 28 Min.	Low Tide 25 Min.			MinorTimes 9:41AM 8:11PM	Major Times 1:59AM 2:29PM		
Moon Illumination 91%		Carrabelle 1 Hr., 53 Min.							
Friday 10		Cat Point 1 Hr., 13 Min.							
Sun rise/set 7:35AM 7:11PM	Moon rise/set 9:50PM 11:40AM	Lower Anchorage 1 Hr., 36 Min.							
Moon Illumination 83%		West Pass 1 Hr., 26 Min.							
Saturday 11		2 Hrs., 31 Min.							
Sun rise/set 7:36AM 7:10PM	Moon rise/set 10:50PM 12:50PM	2 Hrs., 3 Min.							
Moon Illumination 73%									
Sunday 12									
Sun rise/set 7:37AM 7:09PM	Moon rise/set 11:55PM 1:53PM								
Moon Illumination 62%									
Monday 13									
Sun rise/set 7:37AM 7:08PM	Moon rise/set ---- 2:46PM								
Moon Illumination 51%									
Tuesday 14									
Sun rise/set 7:38AM 7:06PM	Moon rise/set 1:02AM 3:30PM								
Moon Illumination 40%									
Wednesday 15									
Sun rise/set 7:39AM 7:05PM	Moon rise/set 2:07AM 4:07PM								
Moon Illumination 30%									

St. Marks River Entrance				City of St. Marks				Shell Point, Spring Creek						
Th	3:18 am ▲ 4.2 ft	10:19 am ▼ -0.6 ft	4:59 pm ▲ 3.8 ft	10:08 pm ▼ 1.6 ft	Th	3:54 am ▲ 3.9 ft	11:23 am ▼ -0.6 ft	5:35 pm ▲ 3.5 ft	11:12 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	Th	3:39 am ▲ 4.3 ft	10:41 am ▼ -0.6 ft	5:15 pm ▲ 3.9 ft	10:27 pm ▼ 1.7 ft
Fr	3:48 am ▲ 4.3 ft	11:08 am ▼ -0.5 ft	5:51 pm ▲ 3.4 ft	10:39 pm ▼ 1.9 ft	Fr	4:24 am ▲ 4.0 ft	12:12 pm ▼ -0.5 ft	6:27 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	11:43 pm ▼ 1.7 ft	Fr	4:10 am ▲ 4.4 ft	11:31 am ▼ -0.5 ft	6:09 pm ▲ 3.5 ft	10:59 pm ▼ 2.0 ft
Sa	4:22 am ▲ 4.2 ft	12:03 pm ▼ -0.3 ft	6:52 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	11:14 pm ▼ 2.0 ft	Sa	4:58 am ▲ 3.9 ft	1:07 pm ▼ -0.2 ft	7:28 pm ▲ 2.8 ft		Sa	4:43 am ▲ 4.3 ft	12:27 pm ▼ -0.3 ft	7:11 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	11:35 pm ▼ 2.2 ft
Su	5:01 am ▲ 4.0 ft	1:11 pm ▼ 0.1 ft	8:10 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	11:58 pm ▼ 2.2 ft	Su	12:18 am ▼ 1.9 ft	5:37 am ▲ 3.7 ft	2:15 pm ▼ 0.1 ft	8:46 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	Su	5:21 am ▲ 4.1 ft	1:36 pm ▼ 0.1 ft	8:32 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	
Mo	5:49 am ▲ 3.7 ft	2:36 pm ▼ 0.4 ft	9:48 pm ▲ 2.6 ft		Mo	1:02 am ▼ 2.0 ft	6:25 am ▲ 3.4 ft	3:40 pm ▼ 0.4 ft	10:24 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	Mo	12:21 am ▼ 2.4 ft	6:08 am ▲ 3.7 ft	2:59 pm ▼ 0.4 ft	10:14 pm ▲ 2.8 ft
Tu	1:13 am ▼ 2.3 ft	7:07 am ▲ 3.3 ft	4:08 pm ▼ 0.6 ft	11:07 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	Tu	2:17 am ▼ 2.1 ft	7:43 am ▲ 3.1 ft	5:12 pm ▼ 0.6 ft	11:43 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	Tu	1:42 am ▼ 2.5 ft	7:26 am ▲ 3.3 ft	4:27 pm ▼ 0.5 ft	11:32 pm ▲ 2.9 ft
We	3:20 am ▼ 2.2 ft	9:38 am ▲ 3.1 ft	5:22 pm ▼ 0.7 ft	11:53 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	We	4:24 am ▼ 2.0 ft	10:14 am ▲ 2.9 ft	6:26 pm ▼ 0.6 ft		We	4:02 am ▼ 2.4 ft	10:11 am ▲ 3.1 ft	5:39 pm ▼ 0.6 ft	

Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay				St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.				Dog Island West End						
Th	3:10 am ▲ 3.2 ft	10:30 am ▼ -0.4 ft	4:51 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	10:19 pm ▼ 1.2 ft	Th	3:13 am ▲ 3.4 ft	10:16 am ▼ -0.5 ft	5:06 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	10:05 pm ▼ 1.7 ft	Th	3:31 am ▲ 3.0 ft	10:42 am ▼ -0.5 ft	5:50 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	10:23 pm ▼ 1.8 ft
Fr	3:40 am ▲ 3.2 ft	11:19 am ▼ -0.4 ft	5:43 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	10:50 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	Fr	3:45 am ▲ 3.5 ft	11:05 am ▼ -0.6 ft	6:05 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	10:32 pm ▼ 1.9 ft	Fr	4:02 am ▲ 3.1 ft	11:34 am ▼ -0.4 ft	6:49 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	10:47 pm ▼ 2.0 ft
Sa	4:14 am ▲ 3.2 ft	12:14 pm ▼ -0.2 ft	6:44 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	11:25 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	Sa	4:21 am ▲ 3.5 ft	12:01 pm ▼ -0.4 ft	7:15 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	10:55 pm ▼ 2.0 ft	Sa	4:37 am ▲ 3.1 ft	12:31 pm ▼ -0.3 ft	8:24 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	10:50 pm ▼ 2.1 ft
Su	4:53 am ▲ 3.0 ft	1:22 pm ▼ 0.1 ft	8:02 pm ▲ 2.0 ft		Su	5:01 am ▲ 3.3 ft	1:08 pm ▼ -0.1 ft	9:00 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	11:05 pm ▼ 2.2 ft	Su	5:15 am ▲ 2.9 ft	1:32 pm ▼ -0.1 ft		
Mo	12:09 am ▼ 1.6 ft	5:41 am ▲ 2.8 ft	2:47 pm ▼ 0.3 ft	9:40 pm ▲ 1.9 ft	Mo	5:51 am ▲ 3.1 ft	2:33 pm ▼ 0.1 ft			Mo	5:58 am ▲ 2.7 ft	2:50 pm ▼ 0.2 ft		
Tu	1:24 am ▼ 1.7 ft	6:59 am ▲ 2.5 ft	4:19 pm ▼ 0.5 ft	10:59 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	Tu	7:09 am ▲ 2.8 ft	4:09 pm ▼ 0.3 ft			Tu	6:53 am ▲ 2.5 ft	4:20 pm ▼ 0.4 ft		
We	3:31 am ▼ 1.6 ft	9:30 am ▲ 2.3 ft	5:33 pm ▼ 0.5 ft	11:45 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	We	12:46 am ▲ 2.3 ft	4:38 am ▼ 2.2 ft	9:24 am ▲ 2.6 ft	5:27 pm ▼ 0.4 ft	We	1:09 am ▲ 2.3 ft	5:26 am ▼ 2.0 ft	9:09 am ▲ 2.2 ft	5:34 pm ▼ 0.5 ft

Thursday 9		MinorTimes 9:41AM 8:11PM		Major Times 1:59AM 2:29PM	
Friday 10		MinorTimes 10:55AM 9:05PM		Major Times 3:00AM 3:31PM	
Saturday 11		MinorTimes 12:05PM 10:05PM		Major Times 4:03AM 4:35PM	
Sunday 12		MinorTimes 1:08PM 11:10PM		Major Times 5:07AM 5:38PM	
Monday 13		MinorTimes ---- 2:01PM		Major Times 6:08AM 6:37PM	
Tuesday 14		MinorTimes 12:17AM 2:45PM		Major Times 7:05AM 7:31PM	
Wednesday 15		MinorTimes 1:22AM 3:22PM		Major Times 7:56AM 8:20PM	

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



Coast Guard Auxiliary Reports


By Carolyn Brown Treadon



This week we were expecting heavy rains due to the tropical moisture entering the region. While we have been spared a tropical system so far, heavy rains are still something to monitor.

As water moves down stream, there is a strong possibility that it will carry debris with it. It is important to use added caution and be aware there may be obstacles in the water for several days following a storm. This can make navigating the shallow channels challenging for our region.

It is also important that when out on the water, you maintain



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

a good look out and slow down until there has been sufficient time for the debris to clear our waterways.

Thanks to Sherrie, we will always remember safe boating is no accident. Remain aware of your surroundings and report problems to local officials.

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 boat-

ing 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

**It is cold outside again.** December 15, 2011

But underwater on-shore (under Wakulla County lands) the temperature is still the same. Underground, Wakulla County temperatures remain a toasty 69 degrees year around until you reach sea water (which is warmer).

A current meter I placed in Wakulla Springs several decades ago measured flow rate changes that matched local marine tides. At other cave sites closer to the coast we routinely encounter a salt water lens at between 160 feet and 250 feet below the water table.

This warmer body of water intrudes northward in Wakulla based upon rain fall, water use and tides.

Knowing this constant temperature 30 years ago, I built my home underground. With a plus or minus 10 degrees fluctuation of the 69-degree ground temperature, I need only heat the entire house in the winter with a small wood burning stove and dry the summer air with a dehumidifier to be comfortable.

But when we locals dive (spending 100 minutes underwater on the average) in our caves, most of us wear dry suits.

Our Northern European and American visitors on the other hand, find our water like a bath tub and LOVE IT! Thus, our winters are their summers.

Off-shore, Wakulla County is a different matter. Off-shore we refer to surface and below the thermocline temperatures within recreational diving depths.

A thermocline is a rapid change of temperature over a few feet and usually defines a different body of water.

Surface waters are dependent on seasonal surface air temperatures, which in the winter can get down around 10 degrees. Wind mixes the exposed surface waters dropping the water temperature down around 50 degrees above the thermocline.

Our off-shore depths of the thermocline will vary depending upon storm intensity and ocean currents. Usually below the thermocline down to preferred recreational diving depths (around 130 feet) in the winter we find temperatures warmer than surface temperatures.

But upwelling and ocean currents can bring in very cold waters at our deeper recreational depths. Winter diving off-shore in our area is far less stable underwater than the conditions under our county.

Summer off-shore underwater conditions reverse the temperature regime. Warm surface conditions, down to the thermocline, heat up to the mid to upper 80 degrees.

In the Florida Keys, that temperature exceeds 90 degrees. No wet suit is required if you stay shallow off-shore. But below the thermocline temperatures are cooler even though they may be warmer than the winter months and wet suits are popular.

Cave divers routinely wear dry suits year round while ocean divers have a much larger wardrobe to stay warm underwater. And they both have seasonal interests and pressures to diving in Wakulla County.

Our store at Wakulla Diving Center shifts our inventory from thin wet suits in the summer, when the ocean divers dominate, to thick wet suits and dry suits in the winter, when the cave divers dominate our attention.

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

Coming in 2026!

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\* May be available mid-2026

Image credit: Apple



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# What if we didn’t pray for our pastors?



By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

What kind of impact does your pastor’s influence have on your church, your community, your family? On you? Sadly, many pastors are leaving their churches because they feel discouraged and sometimes unappreciated.

Or they believe they’re inadequate because they’ve lost the ability to influence the hearts of their congregation for God’s purpose and glory. Imagine the difference it would make if we let them know how much we appreciate their faithful service. If each of us, especially during October, Pastor Appreciation Month, took a moment to thank our pastors and their families for all they do, it would go a long way in encouraging them. Imagine how meaningful it would be if we sent a text, email or letter this

month and periodically throughout the year. One of the best ways to show our pastors we appreciate them is to tell them we’re praying for them – and then actually do it. Our pastors need our prayers. Like us, they need discernment to lead their families, encouragement when they feel emotionally beaten up and wisdom about their finances. Our ministers often feel lonely. They long for close friends with whom they can honestly share their struggles without risking their credibility as a spiritual leader. We

can pray that God will send them an encourager, like Barnabas was to the apostle Paul (Acts 9:27). Let’s pray that our pastors never forget how deeply God loves them and that they experience His love, grace, and mercy every day. Amid everything happening at home, in their church, and in their community, ask God to give them faith to trust their powerful, wise, and loving Heavenly Father with all of it. Pray that our spiritual leaders will be “filled with the knowledge of [God’s] will in all spiri-

tual wisdom and understanding” (Colossians 1:9 ESV). Then they’ll be better equipped to receive the direction and discernment they need to counsel married couples and single parents, comfort the grieving and advise those in difficult circumstances. Since the enemy would love to trip up our pastors, intercede for them to hold on to the very Word of God that has kept their faith strong. Ask God to help them continue standing against wickedness and never lose sight of what’s important. That as they cling to God’s Word,

they’ll never compromise their convictions or water down the gospel in order to increase church attendance. Our pastors are an integral part of our communities. They carry a huge spiritual weight. Consider how much greater this weight would be if we didn’t intercede for them. So let’s pray for our pastors. Often. *Sheryl H. Boldt is a sales executive for Wave 94 and author of the blog, www.TodayCanBeDifferent.net. Connect with her at SherylHBoldt.Wave94@gmail.com.*

# Passing the light



By **CHERYL CRUCE**

I couldn’t have been more than 5 years old. I’m not sure how sick I was, but I remember the comfort of sitting in Mom’s lap, her arms wrapped around me as my high fever left me restless. We were at the doctor’s office, though this one felt different from the familiar place we usually visited. The front door had a

diamond-shaped window at its top, and sunlight poured through, scattering into beams that danced with tiny specks of dust in the air. In my childlike mind, God’s glory shone through that window. I felt certain that if I could sit in that light, even for a moment, I would be well. So I climbed from Mom’s lap – against her protest – and rested on the floor, wrapped in the quiet glow of the sun. I’m not sure what I expected in that moment, or whether I was miraculously healed or still had to get a shot. What I do remember is the first time I sensed God’s glory – and that memory has stayed with me. Later, as I raised my children, I shared these moments

whenever rays of sunlight broke through the clouds, and I delighted in their excitement as they noticed the same light I had. Now a third generation – my grandchildren – notice the same marvels in the world around them. In these precious, fleeting moments, I am reminded that the gifts we pass down – of heart, soul, and spirit – carry a value far greater than anything monetary. These gifts shape who they become, leaving quiet, lasting legacies of love, faith, and devotion. These gifts of heart and soul – the seeds of faith, awe, and reverence – are meant to take root across generations. Yet Scripture shows how easily they can be lost if

not nurtured and passed on. Consider the story of Jonah and Nineveh: the people turned to the Lord in repentance at Jonah’s warning, and God showed them mercy. But that revival did not last, and generations later, the prophet Nahum would prophesy against Nineveh, revealing the consequences of failing to sustain faith. The story of Nineveh reminds us that our spiritual treasures require careful attention, teaching, and example to take root in those who come after us. Without intentionally passing down the practices of faith, even hearts that once burned with worship and love can grow cold. That is why every moment we model faith,

share wonder, and guide those who follow matters so deeply. As Paul instructed Timothy, we are called to entrust what we have learned to faithful people who will teach others, ensuring the faith continues to grow and multiply (2 Timothy 2:2). Through our care, example, and teaching, the light of God’s glory continues to shine, planting seeds that can flourish long after we are gone. To keep that light alive, we are called to actively share it. When was the last time we shared God’s Word, told His story, or pointed someone to His glory? Every story we tell, every moment of wonder we model, every act of faith we live becomes

a seed planted in those who come after us. Just as the psalmist urges us to tell the next generation about God’s mighty deeds and faithfulness (Psalm 78:4), we too are called to pass on what we have received. Let us be intentional in sharing faith, reverence, and love, ensuring that the light we carry continues to shine, inspiring those who follow us. Tell it to your children, and let your children tell it to their children, and their children to the next generation.” – Joel 1:3 *Cheryl Mixon-Cruce is Pastor of Ochlockonee Bay United Methodist Church and Sopchoppy United Methodist Church.*

## OUT TO PASTOR

# If she can’t fix it, it’s not broken



By **JAMES SNYDER**

Life has its many ups and downs. There are some weeks when there are more downs than ups. But if I didn’t have a down, I probably wouldn’t appreciate an up. This past week was one of those down weeks. One day, we lost our electricity for maybe 6 hours, my printer died on me and some scammer tried to get money out of me by telling me my daughter was in jail and needed bail money. I’m not sure if it can get any worse, but I’m going to keep my eyes open. Fortunately, the electricity came back, and the scammer, well, let’s say he didn’t get my money. The printer was the worst thing that happened. I’ve had my printer for about 6 years, and I use it just about every day. I nev-

er anticipated that it would just completely die on me one day. But, it did. I ordered a new printer, and it came on Thursday. My whole day was committed to that printer. It was a new printer with all of the latest upgraded gadgets. Personally, I don’t like new things with all the confusing gadgets they have. However, I needed to get a new printer, and so I did. I set up the printer with Wi-Fi, and it worked very well. The next step was to connect it with my computer. The printer isn’t worth anything unless it’s connected to my computer, so I can print out the work I’m doing. At the time, I thought the worst job would be to set up the Wi-Fi for the printer. I was in for a surprise. For several hours, I worked trying to connect my printer to my computer. I went through everything I could possibly think of to connect the two. If I can’t connect the printer to my computer, what good is it really? After several hours of unproductive work, I was at the point of giving up.

Just then, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came into my office and asked how my printer was working. “Well,” I stammered, “I can’t connect it to my computer. I’ve tried all morning and it’s not working at all. I don’t know what to do.” She looked at me and said something I wasn’t really expecting to hear, “Let me see, maybe I can fix it for you.” The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage has many identities, and one of them is Miss-Fixer-Upper. Everybody knows that there is not a problem she cannot fix. I recall about 5 years ago, the bumper on my truck was loose, and I couldn’t fix it. I was about to take it to the garage and have the mechanic fix it. I really didn’t want to spend a couple hundred dollars but I didn’t have much of a choice. As I was pondering this, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came out and said, “What’s the problem?” So I explained my problem to her and told her I was about to take it to the garage. She said, “Let me look at it and see if I

can help.” She looked at it for a few moments and then said, “I believe I can fix this, let me go and get something from my craft room.” In a few minutes, she came out with a large paper clip and put it under the bumper, hooking it to the truck. Then she said, “There, I fixed it so you don’t have to take it to the garage.” That was 5 years ago, and the paperclip is still working. I did not think she could fix anything with my printer. But, being the veteran husband that I am, I allowed her to at least look at it. She sat down at my computer, and I walked out to the kitchen to get a cup of coffee, knowing that there was no way she could fix it. Walking back in with my coffee, she said, “There, it’s fixed. Try and see if it prints.” I chuckled, knowing that there was no way she could fix that. I had my computer pull up a document and sent it to the printer. Wouldn’t you know, that document started printing. “I don’t think you will have any trouble with your printer now. But if you do just let me

know.” Every time I print something on that printer, I think about The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage who made it possible. This past year, we celebrated our 54th wedding anniversary. In all those years, I can’t think of one problem she hasn’t been able to fix. If she can’t fix it, then it’s not broken. If it’s broken, she can fix it. How she does that is above my pay scale. Pondering this, I came to one conclusion. The only thing she hasn’t been able to fix is me. Maybe one day she’ll fix me, but then people may not recognize me. As I was printing a few things, I thought of a verse of scripture. “He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds” (Psalm 147:3). There is no problem or difficulty in my life that God cannot fix, if I let him. That’s the

problem. I need to turn everything over to God and allow Him to do in my life what He is great in doing. Everything God fixes in my life reveals His amazing grace. *Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, email jamesnyder51@gmail.com, website www.jamesnyderministries.com.*



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**Sopchoppy United Methodist Church**

Pastor Cheryl Mixon-Cruce

**Sunday School**  
9:45 a.m.

**Worship** 11 a.m.

**Bible Study**  
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Deacon David Harris • E-Mail: dcdnc@comcast.net

Masses: Saturday 5:00 pm • Sunday 11:00 am

Monday, Thursday and Friday 8:30 am

Wednesdays at 7:00 pm

Rosary: Mon., Thurs. and Fri. - after 8:30 Mass

Wednesday 6:30 pm

Sunday 9:45 am

First Saturday: Mass at 9:00 am


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OUR LEAST ACTION, WHEN DONE FOR GOD, IS PRECIOUS TO HIM.



# Obituaries



Earl Robert Dechant

Earl Robert Dechant, 87, of Crawfordville, passed away at home with his wife by his side on September 27, 2025.

Born in Philadelphia, he spent most of his early years in Newcastle, Pennsylvania. Earl earned his Bachelor of Science degree from

Bob Jones University in 1961 and was ordained as a minister in 1966. He devoted his life to sharing his faith and serving others with compassion and conviction.

An Eagle Scout in his youth, Earl was deeply committed to guiding and uplifting children and young people. He devoted himself to helping them grow in faith and character, leaving a lasting impact on countless lives. Over the course of his ministry, he served churches in South Carolina, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Texas, Colorado, Wyoming, and Florida. He also served as principal of three Christian schools, most recently at Providence Christian Academy in Crawfordville, where he continued his ministry and built lasting connections within the community. Earl was an amazing man – a devoted husband, a wonderful father, and a beloved, hard-working pastor who served thousands over his lifetime. His service to others touched countless lives through his ministry of mentorship and his unwavering example of faith and service to others and to God. He made the world a better place through his kindness, dedication, and deep love for people.

He was also an avid gardener, known for

the vibrant blooms that surrounded his home year-round. Whether tending to roses, azaleas, hydrangeas, or impatiens, Earl found joy and peace in nurturing life from the soil. His gardens were a reflection of his spirit – colorful, generous, and full of care.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 65 years, Phyllis Dechant; three children, David Dechant, Stephen Dechant (Tetyana), and Melodye Dechant Farrar (Jon); one sister, Maryann Sheppard (Scott); and eight grandchildren, all of whom he cherished deeply.

A funeral service was held on Saturday, October 4, 2025, at 11 a.m. at Central Baptist Church, 10 Powell Lane, in Crawfordville, with family receiving friends one hour prior to the service. Earl was laid to rest at New Testament Baptist Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the mission’s program at Central Baptist Church at centralbaptistcf.com

Skip and Trey Young are assisting the family, along with Paula and Amanda. Family Funeral Home, Crawfordville, 850-926-5919.

“Well done, good and faithful servant.” — Matthew 25:23

## DEATH NOTICES

- **Randy Braden**, 68, of Crawfordville, died September 30, 2025.
- **Michael Swift**, 61, of Crawfordville, died October 1, 2025.
- Family Funeral Home at Harvey-Young Chapel, 850-926-5919, www.familyfhc.com.

# Sheriff’s Report

This report is for activity September 26th to October 3rd. There were 1,278 total calls for service during the week.

### FRIDAY, SEPT. 26

- A citizen reported multiple transactions on her bank account that were not made by her. She advised the total amount taken was approximately \$2,244.55. A possible suspect has been identified in this incident. Case forwarded to Criminal Investigations Division.
- ### SATURDAY, SEPT. 27
- A citizen turned in a wallet she had located at Wakulla Springs. An attempt to locate the owner was made but unsuccessful. The wallet was submitted to property and evidence for safe-keeping.
  - Deputy Kory Smith and Deputy Rosa Sammons responded to Old Bethel Road in reference to a burglary complaint. Contact was made with the complainant who arrived at his deceased father’s property and discovered the residence had been burglarized. The citizen also discovered one of his father’s vehicles had been stolen from the property. On-Call crime scene responded to process the scene. The vehicle was last seen in Leon County near Oak Ridge Road, headed east bound.
  - Deputy Aimee Hoagland responded to the intersection of U.S. Highway 319 and Bloxham Cutoff due to an abandoned vehicle. The vehicle was partially in the roadway and was considered a hazard. The vehicle was towed using rotation tow.

### SUNDAY, SEPT. 28

- Deputy Rosa Sammons and Deputy Kory

Smith observed a vehicle with illegal tint traveling in the area of Sam Smith Circle and Bloxham Cutoff Road. A traffic stop was initiated on the vehicle and contact was made with the driver. The odor of marijuana was detected emanating from the vehicle. An active marijuana registry card was located for the driver; however, he did not have any current open orders. The driver admitted to having at least an “ounce” of marijuana inside the vehicle. A search of the vehicle produced 223 grams of suspected marijuana inside two vacuum-sealed packages. Post Miranda, he advised he obtained the suspected marijuana from a smoke shop in Miami. Subsequently, he was placed under arrest and transported to the Wakulla County Jail without further incident. The vehicle was removed from the scene by Quality Wrecker service.

- A citizen reported someone had attempted to break into her vehicle. She advised she found damages on her vehicle from what appeared to be someone trying to get in. During the investigation, she advised her vehicle was not parked in front of any video surveillance when the incident occurred and had already been inside the vehicle. Due to a lack of evidence and she already contaminated any possible evidence inside the vehicle, this incident was written for informational purposes.
- A citizen reported her package being delivered to the wrong address. After the delivery and not having the package, she discovered which neighbor had the package. She went to the neighbor’s house and retrieved the package only to discover items were missing and the package had been

opened. The neighbor admitted to taking the package inside his residence and opening the package. During the investigation, she advised she did not wish to pursue charges and sign a non-prosecution. Case Status: Closed

### MONDAY, SEPT. 29

- Deputy Zachary Godwin conducted a traffic stop for faulty equipment while near Woodville Highway and Ann Circle. The driver has never had a driver’s license issued to him. The driver was placed under arrest and transported to the Wakulla County Jail without incident.
- Deputy Zachary Godwin and Sgt. Heather Will responded to Royster Drive in reference to a stolen boat. Upon arrival a citizen advised his boat was stolen between the hours of 10:30 p.m. and 7:30 a.m. last night. Crime Scene responded to lift latent prints from the lift box at John’s dock. After a canvass of the neighborhood the boat was located shortly after – down the canal with no one on it. Case forwarded to CID.
- Deputy Jackson Kittrell responded to the WCSO front lobby in reference to a theft. He spoke with reporting party who advised he paid a down payment of \$300 to someone for a vehicle. The seller has continuously come up with excuses why the car has not been given to the reporting person. The seller has then stopped responding to the victim. Case forwarded to CID.

### TUESDAY, SEPT. 30

- Lt. Anthony Paul responded to the Medart Rec Park and made contact with a citizen who stated while backing into his driveway a neighbor drove by and attempted to strike his vehicle. He provided a video of the

incident, but it appeared as if the neighbor was only driving around the vehicle as he was backing into the driveway. Contact was made with the neighbor, who stated he did not attempt to strike the reporting person’s vehicle and was only driving around him.

- Deputy Dylan Buckhalt responded to Tropical Trader and made contact with a citizen who was bitten on the hand by a restaurant patron’s dog. She stated the dog was with the owner and it bit her as she attempted to pet it. She refused medical attention.
- Lt. Anthony Paul, and Deputy Austin Rivers responded to Newport Boat ramp in reference to a citizen reporting his employee going on a canoe midday, and had not returned. It was determined the employee had left a note on the reporting person’s RV stating he was going fishing. He had been on the St. Marks River for 12+ hours with no contact. On call CID was contacted and attempted to ping the person’s phone to no avail. FWC and Wakulla County Fire-Rescue launched boats and began searching for him. At approximately 10:30 p.m., WCFR located him approximately 5 miles downriver asleep in his canoe, safe and unharmed. WCFR towed his canoe and transported him to the Old Fort boat ramp. The reporting person responded to the area and transported him back to their camper.

### WEDNESDAY, OCT. 1

- An employee of Trulieve reported an unknown subject taking pictures of the property. When asked who he was and what he was doing, the man could not provide a straight answer. After speaking with the man, it was discovered that the statements

made by him did not match facts that were gathered. Due to inconsistent statements, this report was written for informational purposes.

- A citizen reported someone going in to his camper and stealing his TV and Roku. While speaking with him, he listed a possible suspect in this case. As the paperwork was being completed, He decided to take another look for the tv. He located the TV in his camper and advised it had fallen from its place. This incident was closed as unfounded.

### THURSDAY, OCT. 2

- Deputy Aimee Hoagland conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle in the 4600 block of Coastal Highway. The registered owner of the vehicle had a suspended license. Contact was made with the driver, who was identified. The driver advised she was enroute to the DMV in order to fix her license status and she was aware for over a month. There was also seize tag order for the vehicle. Subsequently, the driver was placed under arrest for Driving While License Suspended or Revoked (DWLSR) with knowledge. A search of the vehicle produced a grinder with suspected marijuana shake inside. The grinder was seized for destruction and the driver was transported to the Wakulla County Jail without further incident. The vehicle was removed from the scene by Quality Wrecker.
- Deputy Joshua Parker attempted a traf-

fic stop on a vehicle for impeding the flow of traffic and expired tag. The violator failed to stop after lights and siren were activated. FHP Sgt. Tallman responded and safely conducted a Pursuit Intervention Technique (PIT). After being evaluated for jail clearance, the driver was placed under arrest and charged accordingly.

- A citizen reported an unknown subject took her Google Nest doorbell camera off her residence. The mother-in-law had called wanting the video footage from the camera due to hearing noises outside the residence. Upon getting home from work, she noticed the doorbell camera had been taken from the outside wall. She thinks the neighbors may be responsible for taking the doorbell camera due to a previous burglary to a room where she keeps a lot of gaming equipment and electronics. Case forwarded to CID.

### THURSDAY, OCT. 3

- A citizen reported an unknown male standing in his driveway. This is the second incident of this happening with only one being reported to WCSO. The citizen requested this report be generated for information only.
- Report suspicious or illegal activity at 850-745-7100, or call 911 for emergencies.

## Church Briefs

• **New worship service at Seafarers’ Chapel in Shell Point**

A “contemporary” church service will be held at 11 a.m. every Sunday at the Seafarers’ Chapel at Shell Point, 1557 Shell Point Road, beginning immediately for

all who may be interested. The current 9:30 a.m. service will continue to be offered.

Children’s church services will be held at 9:30 am and 11:00 am for those who are too young to participate in the regular services.

We look forward to seeing you and worshipping with you.



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USE THE NEWS

1. REMEMBERING JANE GOODALL

Jane Goodall was a famous scientist who spent her life studying chimpanzees in the wild. She began her work in Africa more than 60 years ago and was the first person to discover that chimpanzees use tools – just like humans! She watched how chimps raised their babies, made friends, and even had their own way of “talking” to each other. Jane gave the chimps names like Flo and David Greybeard and learned to tell their personalities apart. Her discoveries changed what scientists thought about animals and helped protect chimpanzees and their homes. Jane became known around the world for her kind heart, love of animals, and her exciting adventures in the jungle. She wrote books, spoke to crowds, and even helped start a program that teaches kids to care about nature. Jane hoped that every child would grow up wanting to protect animals and the planet. She passed away at age 91, but her work and kindness will never be forgotten. Write a short letter to Jane Goodall. In your letter, thank her for something she did that you learned about in the story. You can thank her for helping chimpanzees, teaching kids about animals, or showing the world how to be kind to nature. Then, tell her one way you want to help animals or the planet in your own life. Write your letter in complete sentences and be sure to sign your name at the end.

2. THE RETURN OF “READING RAINBOW”

After almost 20 years off the air, the beloved children’s show Reading Rainbow is back – this time with a new host, librarian and social media star Mychal Threats. The original show, which ran from 1983 to 2006 and was hosted by actor LeVar Burton, inspired generations of children to read by exploring books, meeting authors, and encouraging imagination. Now streaming on YouTube through Kid-Zuko, the reboot keeps the same heart but adds modern touches like celebrity guests and trivia segments. The classic theme song has even been rerecorded. Mychal Threats, known online as “Mychal the Librarian,” brings his love for reading and libraries to the show’s next generation. He began sharing videos online during the pandemic and gained a

large following by promoting joy, literacy, and kindness. Threats says he hopes to remind all kids that they are readers too – capable, worthy, and welcome in library spaces. The show returns at a time when funding for public media is shrinking, but producers say it’s more important than ever to make educational content free and accessible for young learners. While the faces may change, the mission of Reading Rainbow remains the same: to spark a lifelong love of reading. In a short paragraph, describe a show or story you loved when you were younger. Explain what it was about, why it was meaningful or fun for you, and what changes you would make to update it for today’s audience. Then, in one or two sentences, explain why you think stories and characters from the past can still be important today.

3. YOUNG PEOPLE PROTEST IN MOROCCO

In Morocco, a country in North Africa, thousands of young people have been marching in the streets asking their government to fix schools and hospitals. Many kids and teens say their classrooms are crowded, their teachers don’t have enough supplies, and hospitals don’t have enough doctors or equipment. They also say the government is spending a lot of money on soccer stadiums for the World Cup instead of on things people need every day. The protests started out peaceful but turned violent in some places after police clashed with crowds, and some people were hurt or arrested. Even so, the young protesters say they will keep speaking out until the government promises to make changes. Imagine you could send a kind message to the

young people in Morocco. In 3 to 5 sentences, write a short note to show you support their hope for a better future. You can encourage them to keep speaking up, tell them they’re not alone, or share what you care about in your own school or community.

4. TOURISM HELPS ENDANGERED GORILLAS

Mountain gorillas in Uganda were once in big danger, but now they are making a comeback. In Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, people used to hunt gorillas, but things have changed. Tourists from all over the world now pay money to see the gorillas in the wild. That money helps pay for clean water, health care, and jobs in nearby communities. Some people who used to hunt animals are now working to protect them, and even help stop others from setting traps. The rangers in the park know each gorilla by name and take care of them if they get sick or

hurt. Visitors must hike through the forest to see the gorillas, and local helpers—called porters – sometimes carry tourists who need help. Thanks to this teamwork between the community and the park, mountain gorillas are safer and their population is growing. People in Uganda are proud to help protect these amazing animals. In 3 to 5 sentences, write about one wild animal you would like to help protect. Why is this animal special? What could people do to keep it safe? Would you work in a park, raise money, or teach others about the animal?

5. TREASURE HUNTERS FIND SHIPWRECK OF LOOT

A team of treasure hunters in Florida made an exciting discovery this summer—more than 1,000 silver and gold coins from a shipwreck that happened over 300 years ago! The coins came from a group of Spanish ships that sank during

a hurricane in 1715 while carrying treasure from Central and South America. The ships went down off the coast of Florida, in an area now called the Treasure Coast. The coins are very old but still in great condition. Many have dates and markings that help experts learn where and when they were made. Most of them came from places like Mexico and Peru, and some were probably packed inside sacks and wooden chests. The discovery is like opening a time capsule from the past, and historians are excited to study the coins and maybe even display some in museums. The team says they hope to find more treasure when they search again next year. Pretend you are a news reporter covering the discovery of the sunken treasure. Write a short news report to tell others what happened. Be sure to include where the treasure was found, who found it, what they discovered, and why it is important. Don’t forget to give your report a headline!

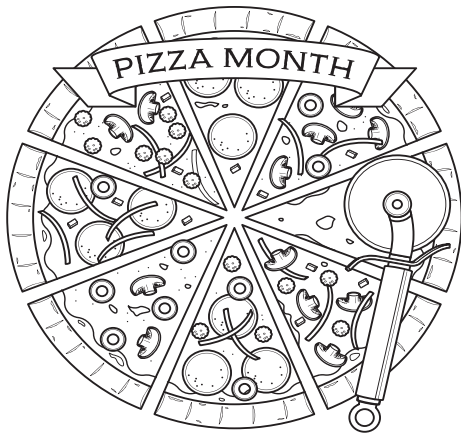


This food is one of the most popular comfort foods around the world.

Answer: Pizza

Creative Coloring

Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.



Double Word Puzzle

Unscramble the individual words to reveal letters for the phrase.

SBEIT

1	2	3		

CSAEU

4	5			

RZAEG

6	7	8		

HOSP

9	10		

L									
4	7	6	2	5	9	2	2	3	2

10	1	8	8	4	

Answer: Large cheese pizza

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1829: Stephenson's Rocket wins the Rainhill Trials, a locomotive race.

1939: Germany annexes western Poland.

1956: Don Larsen of the New York Yankees pitches the only perfect game thus far thrown in the World Series.

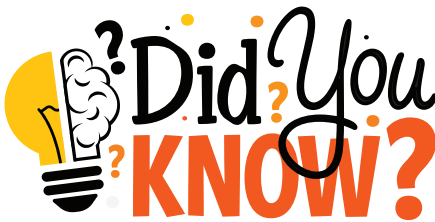


TOSS

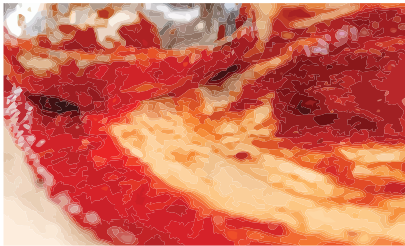
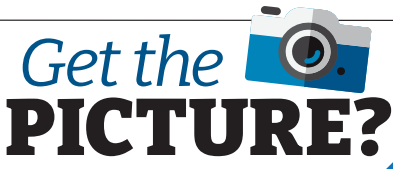
throwing dough up in the air when making a pizza



English: Dough  
Spanish: Masa  
Italian: Impasto  
French: Pâte  
German: Teig



The average American eats 46 slices of pizza per year. This is about 23 pounds of pizza annually.



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Putting sauce on dough







NOTICE OF SALE

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

MIDFIRST BANK, Case #: 24000042CAAXMX

Plaintiff,

vs.

MARIAH LEE HAYNE VERNON F/K/A MARIAH LEEHAYNE REVELL A/K/A MARIAH REVELL; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF MARIAH LEE HAYNE VERNON F/K/A MARIAH LEEHAYNE REVELL A/K/A MARIAH REVELL; CYNTHIA LEE WHITE A/K/A CYNTHIA WHITE; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF CYNTHIA LEE WHITE A/K/A CYNTHIA WHITE; UNKNOWN TENANT 1; UNKNOWN TENANT 2; CMH HOMES, INC. D/B/A CLAYTON HOMES, Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered on September 16, 2025, in this cause, in the Circuit Court of Wakulla County, Florida, the clerk shall sell the property situated in Wakulla County, Florida, described as:

LOT 14, BULL SINK SUBDIVISION, AS PER MAP OR PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2, PAGE 21, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

TOGETHER WITH A MOBILE HOME LOCATED THEREON AS A PERMANENT FIXTURE AND APPURTENANCE THERETO, DESCRIBED AS: A 2022 MANUFACTURER/MAKE: CLAYTON HOMES/CMH APPALACHIA MODEL: FARMHOUSE BREEZE 72 DOUBLEWIDE MOBILE HOME, SERIAL #CAP038807TNAB.

a/k/a 59 SINK DR, CRAWFORDVILLE, FL 32327-3577

at public sale, to the highest and best bidder, for cash, in the front lobby of the Wakulla County Courthouse located at 3056 Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville, FL 32327, on **October 23, 2025** beginning at 11:00 AM.

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim before the clerk reports the surplus as unclaimed.

DATED THIS 22ND DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2025.



{{County Court Seal}}

Greg James  
Clerk of the Circuit Court  
Wakulla County, Florida  
By: /s/ Rachel Howard  
As Deputy Clerk

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 the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Court Administration at Wakulla County Courthouse, 3056 Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville, Florida 32327-0337, 850-926-0905 telephone, within two working days of your receipt of this notice; if you are hearing impaired, call 1-800-955-8771; if you are voice impaired, call 1-800-955-8770.

Oct. 2, 9, 2025

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA  
PROBATE DIVISION

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF  
LOUIS TAYLOR, JR. a/k/a LOUIE TAYLOR, JR.  
a/k/a ALVIN LOUIS TAYLOR, JR.,  
DECEASED

FILE NO: 2025-CP-147

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of LOUIS TAYLOR, JR., deceased, whose date of death was August 29, 2025, is pending in the Circuit Court for Wakulla County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 3056 Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville, Florida 32327. The names and address of the Co-Personal Representatives and the Co-Personal Representatives' 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.

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 SO FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. THE CO-PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES HAVE 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, APPLIES, OR MAY APPLY, UNLESS A WRITTEN DEMAND IS MADE BY A CREDITOR AS SPECIFIED UNDER S. 732.2211.

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 October 9, 2025.

Attorney for Co-Personal Representatives: Marion D. Lamb, III  
Florida Bar No.: 0500951  
217 Pinewood Drive  
Tallahassee, Florida 32303  
Telephone: (850) 385-0501  
Facsimile: (850) 385-0376  
Email: m@lamb-law.com  
Attorney for Co-Personal Representatives

Co-Personal Representatives: DILLON ALEXANDER TAYLOR  
56 Moody Lane  
Crawfordville, FL 32327

ANTHONY LOUIS TAYLOR  
9144 Warbler Drive  
Tallahassee, FL 32305

October 9, 16, 2025

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NOTICE OF SALE

IN THE 2nd JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA

VANDERBILT MORTGAGE AND FINANCE, INC., Case #: 2025-CA-000057

Plaintiff,

vs.

MARYLYNN M. HARPER; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF MARYLYNN M. HARPER; BENNIE MAE MILLER; and UNKNOWN TENANT, Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment dated September 11, 2025, entered in Case No. 2025-CA-000057 of the Circuit Court in and for Wakulla County, Florida, wherein **MARYLYNN M. HARPER, BENNIE MAE MILLER, and UNKNOWN TENANT n/k/a Mike** are the Defendants, that **Greg James**, the Clerk of Court, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, in person at at the Wakulla County Courthouse on the first floor in lobby at 3056 Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville, FL 32327, on **November 13, 2025 at 11:00 AM**, the following described real property as set forth in the Final Judgment:

**Legal: BEGIN AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THAT CERTAIN TRACT OF LAND CONVEYED TO C. K. GREEN BY JOHN C. HODGE BY DEED DATED NOVEMBER 29, 1941 AND RECORDED CN PAGE 10 OF DEED BOOK 26 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND RUN WEST ALONG THE NORTH BOUNDARY LINE OF SAID TRACT OF LAND THE DISTANCE OF 50 FEET, THENCE RUN SOUTH PARALLEL WITH THE EAST BOUNDARY LINE OF SAID TRACT OF LAND THE DISTANCE OF 300 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE NORTH BOUNDARY LINE OF U.S. HIGHWAY NO. 319 (OLD STATE ROAD NO. 10), THENCE RUN EAST ALONG THE NORTH BOUNDARY OF THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF SAID U.S. #319 THE DISTANCE OF 50 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE EAST BOUNDARY LINE OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED TRACT OF LAND, THENCE RUN NORTH ALONG THE EAST BOUNDARY LINE OF SAID TRACT OF LAND 300 FEET, MORE OR LESS 10 THE POINT OF BEGINNING, BEING IN THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW 1/4 OF SW 1/4) OF SECTION FOUR (4), TOWNSHIP FIVE (5) SOUTH, RANGE TWO (2) WEST.**

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DATED THIS 26TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2025.



{{County Court Seal}}

Greg James  
Clerk of the Circuit Court  
Wakulla County, Florida  
By: /s/ Rachel Howard  
As Deputy Clerk

NOTICE: 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 the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Court Administration at Wakulla County Courthouse, 3056 Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville, Florida 32327-0337, 850-926-0905 telephone, within two working days of your receipt of this notice; if you are hearing impaired, call 1-800-955-8771; if you are voice impaired, call 1-800-955-8770.

Oct. 2, 9, 2025

CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

- Comedic actor Rogen
- Bits per inch
- Tire pressure measurement
- Angels great Mike
- Own (Scottish)
- Notable FI racing team
- Upper bract of grass
- Tax collector
- Electronic counter-countermeasures
- Informal loan clubs
- Skeletal muscle
- Popular fish type
- Salts of acetic acid
- Arriving early
- Worded
- Single Lens Reflex
- Amphibians
- Warm greeting
- Belonging to a thing
- Segmented worm
- Concerns
- Audacious
- Wings
- Type of drug

- Wind chill formula scientist Charles
- Island close to the U.S.
- "To the \_\_\_ degree"
- Daniel \_\_, French composer
- A way to march
- Where golfers begin
- Spiritual leader
- Of she
- Mental disorder concerning body odor (abbr.)
- Tall, slender-leaved plant

CLUES DOWN

- Engine additive
- Amounts of time
- Fragrant brown balsam used in perfume
- Color properties
- One who hands over
- Thieves of the sea
- Put in
- Nocturnal rodents
- Pouches
- Systems, doctrines, theories
- Greek alphabet letter
- Greek goddess of youth

12345678910

11121314

151617

18192021

222324

2526272829

3031

323334353637

3839404142

4344

4546

4748495051525354

55565758

596061

626364

12345678910

11121314

151617

18192021

222324

2526272829

3031

323334353637

3839404142

4344

4546

4748495051525354

55565758

596061

626364

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

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123456789

989687412

782914896

867892194

294791688

819846275

971468928

498279861

6281899574

123456789

989687412

782914896

867892194

294791688

819846275

971468928

498279861

6281899574

- Satisfy
- Partly digested food
- Dictator
- Parts per thousand (abbr.)
- The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
- A major division of geological time
- Angry
- St. Francis of \_\_\_
- Romanian monetary unit
- Stale
- Go quickly
- Commercials

- Canadian city
- One who slices
- Perform perfectly
- Nest of pheasants
- Tactile sensations
- Sword
- Climactic
- Adrenocorticotrophin
- Fisherman's tool
- Swiss river
- Plant that makes gum
- A French abbot
- One point east of northeast
- Get free of



# Do mistakes define FSU in 2025?

  
**By BOB FERRANTE**  
Editor The Osceola

Florida State didn't just lose because it committed three turnovers. The Seminoles lost because they also couldn't run for the first time in 2025. They lost because the Seminoles sold out to stop the run and couldn't pressure Carson Beck, who had four touchdown passes (including a few big-time downfield throws). And they lost because Mike Norvell made a decision to go for it on fourth-and-8 early in the game. Florida State lost in a perfect storm of mistakes. That and Miami has talent – all over the field but with a significant edge on the offensive line and defensive line. The scoreboard tells us one story. FSU lost to Miami 28-22 on



FSU quarterback Tommy Castellanos on the move.

Saturday night. But we watched what we watched and that game was far from 28-22 — it was a lopsided loss in a rivalry game at home. “We fell behind early. Whether it was just untimely penalties, some mistakes that we made that was just a little too much to overcome there in the end,” Norvell said. “Thought our guys battled in the fourth quarter. I believed throughout that we would get a spark, that we would start to put it together, and they did. Unfortunately, it was too little, too late.” FSU didn't quit, had a spark late and battled. Oddly, even with Danny Kanell in the house, this

didn't feel like a Choke at Doak, Part 2. The Seminoles trailed by 28-3 going into the fourth quarter, there were some impressive drives and fight. But it felt like the result wasn't really in doubt, even if Miami should be questioned for FSU scoring 19 points in the final quarter.

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# Next game:

## On Friday, Oct. 10

The War Eagles travel to Tallahassee to take on the Godby Cougars at 7 p.m.



# War Eagles beat Fort Walton Beach

By **WILLIAM SNOWDEN**  
Editor

The Wakulla War Eagles took care of business against the Fort Walton Beach Vikings on Friday night, winning 30-22.

And it wasn’t as close as the final score makes it sound: The War Eagles were up 30-7 in the third quarter when Head Coach Scott Klees decided to put the second string and some JV players in. The Vikings scored twice to narrow the margin, but the outcome was never in doubt.

The War Eagles improved to 4-2 (1-0 in district) as they prepare for the most anticipated game of the season: the district rival Godby Cougars at Gene Cox Stadium in Tallahassee.

Godby is 2-0 in the district with wins over Suwannee and Baker County. The winner of Friday night’s game is the likely district champ.

Godby “has a lot of players back,” Klees said. “They have really good talent at the skill positions. Our advantage might be upfront on the line of scrimmage.”

“It’s gonna be an interesting match up,” Klees said. “How defensive players match up with their skill players is key.”

**GAME STATS**

Defensive back/receiver Auvion Thomas was the MVP of the game with two touchdowns on offense on two receptions for 67 yards; and two interceptions on defense.



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**WEEKLY WAR EAGLE GAME HIGHLIGHTS**  
on the Wakulla Report, Wolf 103.1, ESPN 97.9 and WAVE 94.1!

Offensive Player of the Week was receiver Jayden Jean who had 8 catches for 104 yards. On defense he had 3 tackles.

Defensive Player of the Week was safety Andrew Nelson with 7 tackles and a sack.

Special Team Player of the Week was new kicker Sam Bruce who kicked a 35-yard field was 3-of-4 on extra points – one was blocked.

Quarterback Owen Klees ran 5 times for 91 yards and a touchdown; and was 21 for 26 passing for 222 yards and three touchdowns.

**VS. FORT WALTON BEACH VIKINGS**

Wakulla scored in the first quarter on a pass from Klees to Thomas. Extra point was blocked.

Vikings scored in second quarter on a reverse. Extra point gave a 7-6 lead.

Later, nifty scramble and run by Klees for 20 yard TD. Extra point makes it 13-7 Wakulla.

In the third, new kicker Sam Bruce nailed a 35-yard field goal to go up 16-7.

A 50-yard bomb to Thomas in double coverage and he comes down with it and walks into the end zone. It’s 23-7.

Onside kick recovered by Wakulla. Then Klees pass to Jayden Jean who takes it in for score. It was 30-7 in the third quarter.

Coach Klees then puts in young players, and Vikings get a couple scores.

Final: Wakulla 30, Fort Walton Beach 22.

## COACH'S CORNER

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**COACH Scott Klees**

### FROM THE COACH

Last week: Big win after 3 hour bus trip to Fort Walton Beach and playing a big school. It was great atmosphere.

Scouting: Godby has talent at the skill positions. Wakulla may have advantage upfront at the line of scrimmage. Defense has to match up with Godby's skill players.

Key to victory: War Eagles have to play with no turnovers. Be aggressive. Be physical.



War Eagle receiver Jayden Jean stiff arms a defender to get around him. He had 8 catches for 104 yards in the game.

PHOTOS THIS PAGE, AND FRONT PAGE CLUE-IN BY KEN FIELDS



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**AUVION THOMAS**  
DB/Receiver

**Offense**



**JAYDEN JEAN**  
Receiver

**Defense**



**ANDREW NELSON**  
Safety

**Special Teams**

No photo



**SAM BRUCE**  
Kicker

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