



Stone Crab season opens/See Page 13



\$1
One Section

The Wakulla Sun

"It's a New Day"

WAKULLA

WeatherSTEM

Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mostly Sunny	Sunny	Partly Cloudy
Hi: 79° Lo: 50° 2%	Hi: 81° Lo: 54° 4%	Hi: 81° Lo: 62° 24%
Sunrise 7:45 AM Sunset 6:58 PM	Sunrise 7:46 AM Sunset 6:57 PM	Sunrise 7:46 AM Sunset 6:56 PM

Locally Owned
& Operated

Our 4th Year 42nd Issue
Thursday, October 23, 2025

Attempted murder

73-year-old arrested trying to kill two relatives, stabs himself in the throat

Special to The Sun

On Sunday, Oct. 12, the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office arrested Allison Hatton, 73, for attempted murder.

On that day, a 69-year-old relative of Hatton was awakened by him repeatedly stabbing her in the chest and neck with a kitchen knife.

Hatton was interrupted by a second adult relative, who managed to get the



Allison Hatton, 73, is charged with attempted murder.

knife away from him.

Hatton then retrieved a second knife and threatened to kill the second adult relative if she didn't allow him to slay his initial victim.

Hatton then stabbed himself in the throat.

Upon the arrival of deputies, Hatton reportedly said that he intended to kill the 69-year-old, the other adult relative, his dog, and then himself.

Hatton stated he was "trying to get 'em up to heaven."

Hatton and the stabbing victim were both transported to the hospital for treatment.

After being medically cleared, Hatton was transported to the Wakulla County Jail where he was charged with one count of attempted felony murder, aggravated battery on a person over 65 years of age, and one count of assault with the intent to commit a felony.

FDLE arrests 10 sexual offenders in Wakulla

Special to The Sun

Inspectors, agents and analysts with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement partnered with the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Investigations in the arrest of 10 sexual offenders and sexual predators for violations of Florida law.

The operation began in May when investigators determined that multiple sexual offenders appeared to have unreported accounts with OnlyFans. Registrants are required to report such accounts within 48 hours of usage.

Nine registrants were found to be in violation of Florida's registration requirements, including eight sexual offenders and one sexual predator. One additional target was found to have been present at an elementary school without properly notifying administrative staff.

WCSO arrested two of the identified suspects during the investigative phase of the operation. Arrest warrants were obtained for the remaining eight subjects.

On Oct. 7, members of FDLE's Enforcement and Investigative Support Bureau and the FDLE Tallahassee Regional Operations Center, in coordination with the WCSO and HSI served the warrants and apprehended five suspects in Wakulla County, one suspect in Tallahassee and one suspect who was confirmed to already be incarcerated in the Taylor County Jail. The remaining warrant was executed on Oct. 8th as the suspect was caught returning to Wakulla County from an alleged work trip.

Arrested were:

- Houston Bennett, 38, sexual offender;
- Charles Deese, 28, sexual offender;
- John Haynes, 41, sexual offender;
- Joshua Martin, 39, sexual offender;
- Richard Messer, 52, sexual offender;
- Sumanth Bala Rayapreddy, 41, sexual offender;
- John Sanders, 20, sexual offender;
- Spencer Tinson, 56, sexual offender;
- Carlton Willis, 63, sexual offender; and
- Shay Smith, 28, sexual predator.

The 10 suspects face charges including failure to properly report changes to vehicles, email addresses, and internet identifiers, and loitering or prowling in close proximity to children.

FDLE's Missing Persons and Offender Enforcement Division partners with sheriff's offices, police departments and federal law enforcement across Florida to verify compliance with Florida's registration laws requiring sex offenders and predators to report to their local sheriff's office and provide information including residential addresses, tele-

DOG COSTUME CONTEST



Bark-tastic

Wakulla 4-H held a Bark-tastic Halloween Costume Contest on Saturday at the livestock pavilion and 4-H Director Rachel Pienta announced the winner of Most Creative Costume were Christa Bingle and her dog Duncan dressed as a sea turtle and kelp. First place for cutest went to Rascal, at right, wearing the hard hat and safety vest. (Photos by Linda Ann McDonald)



FSU Medical Expo in Wakulla

Saturday's event was aimed at providing information and resources

Story & Photos By
LINDA ANN McDONALD
Correspondent

FSU Health hosted a community health expo called "Bridging Community, Health and Research" aimed at providing valuable resources to Wakulla and surrounding rural community.

The event was held on Saturday at the Wakulla Community Center in partnership with Department of Health-Wakulla and other healthcare providers and teams.

There were at least 59 tables sharing information about resources and networking opportunities in one localized area. Wakulla-based tables present at the event included Wakulla Health Department, Wakulla County Public



DOH's James Lewis with FSU's Ursula Weiss and Kimberly Mattox.

Library, Wakulla Senior Citizens Center, Wakulla County Sheriff's Office, Wakulla Veteran Services, Wakulla Animal Group, Wakulla Fire Rescue, and many more.

Hundreds of people filled community center and gymnasium to

receive health related information.

Health related fields such as asthma, chronic pain, asthma, chiropractic, vascular health, veterans' wellness, mental illness, women's health, children's health, counseling, dental, resources

for the aging, tobacco cessation, orthopedic, memory disorder, primary health, Alzheimer's disease, and more.

"This is an amazing event bringing community outreach and research in areas such as

Turn to Page 3

Lots going on Saturday in the county

Staff Report

If you're bored on Saturday, it won't be for lack of things to do. There are a lot of things going on Saturday, including:

• The library's annual Story Walk, trick-or-treat event at Azalea and Hudson parks beginning at 5 p.m. Typically, thousands of people attend this event with their children in costume.

• The Sopchoppy Opry is Saturday night at the Sopchoppy auditorium and will feature Danny Hood and Limited Edition in a Merle Haggard Tribute beginning at 7 p.m. Get there early and dinner is available. Tickets are \$15.

• The St. Marks Brewfest, hosted by the St. Marks Waterfronts committee, will be held in St. Marks from noon to 4 p.m. More than 30 local, regional, and national breweries and brands will be on hand, plus a bunch of local food trucks – and lots of seafood.

• Unfortunately, because of the shutdown of the federal government, the annual Monarch Butterfly Festival at the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge has been cancelled.

• The St. Marks Lighthouse Keepers' Quarters Open House for tours will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge. We believe that is still on.

• And Wakulla Environmental Institute will have a program on "Backyard Allies: Pollinator-friendly plants and practices for North Florida" at WEI from 10 a.m. to noon.

Installation Services:
Hardwood Engineered
Floating Flooring
Glue Downs Laminate
Nail Downs & Vinyl

FOR QUALITY
AND SERVICE
THAT WILL
FLOOR
YOU
Labig

Call Today for your
FREE Estimate

850745-8723 LHFQuality
LabigsHardwoodFlooring@Gmail.com

AIR-CON Of Wakulla
Heating & Air

Serving Wakulla & Franklin Counties
850-926-5592
Sales & Service
All Makes & Models

Turn to the Experts



3232 Crawfordville Hwy., Crawfordville
Owned and Operated by Gary Limbaugh Lic. # CAC1814304



Fresh-Mixed
MARGARITAS

SAN MARCOS
GRILL & CANTINA

Lunch Specials
Monday – Friday
11:00 – 3:00
850-962-8079
INDOOR & PATIO SEATING
DINE IN OR CARRY OUT

*We don't want ALL the Business
– but we want YOUR Business*
2000 Crawfordville Hwy.
Across from Wal Mart
Sun. – Thurs. 11-9
Fri. and Sat. 11-10
[Toasttab.com/SanMarcosCrawfordville](https://www.toasttab.com/SanMarcosCrawfordville)



**BLACKFOOT
ROOFING**
& CONSTRUCTION

3152 Crawfordville Highway
Crawfordville, FL 32327
(850) 251-9792
www.blackfootroofing.com



CCC1332583

Congratulations on Your Success! **850-926-4677**
The Mike's Feed Store family is
proud of you & knows that you
will do great things!
Proud Sponsor of Student of the Week...

Our current store address is
28 McCallister Road
www.mikesfeedstore.com
Monday-Friday 8-6:30 Saturday 8-5
**MIKE'S
FEED STORE**



Student of the Week

Lawson Creech of Crawfordville Elementary

Principal: Alena Crawford

Achievements/Reason for Nomination: Two words to describe Lawson would be considerate and dedicated. Lawson truly cares about others and wants to help in any way he can. If a classmate is in need of anything, Lawson is one of the first students to step in and assist. He puts others first, which is a rare quality to find. Lawson is also dedicated. Not only does he play soccer for the Rec Park, but he also works hard at his schoolwork. He desires to be successful in all aspects of his life. Lawson is such a joy to teach each day!

STUDENT OF THE WEEK FEATURES A DIFFERENT SCHOOL EACH WEEK.



Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park

October flower

By LYNN ARTZ, DAVID RODDENBERRY,
and SANDY TEDDER



Blue mistflower (Conoclinium coelestinum) stands out in the fall. Flat-topped clusters of bright blue to blue-violet or rosy-lavender flowers form eye-catching flowerheads. Tiny tubular florets with long protruding stamens form a fuzzy blue center that lacks petals. Blue mistflower grows 1-3 feet tall and prefers moist to wet soil in part shade to full sun. It is found throughout Florida along streams, rivers, ponds, and marshes and in moist meadows and roadside ditches. It can spread widely by rhizomes. Large masses are said to resemble a blue fog. Drier soils reduce spreading. Also called blue boneset, this perennial wildflower attracts skippers, butterflies, and long-tongued native bees. Because it resembles the non-native annual ageratum, it is sometimes called wild or hardy ageratum. Blue mistflower is blooming now at Sopchoppy Depot Park.



SCAN ME
for an
electronic
edition
of




**LEE TRAILER
SALES**

INVENTORY REDUCTION SALE

UP TO \$5,000 off Select Models

TRAILERS & MOWERS

*Too many to list but here's a few deals offered
Now is the time to come see us... AND SAVE!!!*

SURE TRAC
Sure Trac 7x20 Implement trailer 16K **\$8999.00 SALE - WAS \$10429.00**
Sure Trac Utility 5x8 2 units in stock **\$2099.00 SALE - WAS \$2489.00**
Sure Trac Telescopic Dump Trailer HD 12K 2' side 7x12 2 units in stock
\$9930.00 SALE - WAS \$11,109.00

DURA HAUL
GN7X14ROHS-7K-B GOOSE NECK ROLL OFF DUMP WITH 3 BINS 14K
\$26500.00 SALE - WAS \$32869.00

STEHL TOW DOLLY
ELECTRIC BRAKE **\$1849.00 SALE - WAS \$2069.00**
SURGE BRAKE **\$2199.00 SALE - WAS \$2499.00**

ALUMA
548S-TG 54" X8' TAILGATE ALUMINUM UTILITY TRAILER
\$2119.00 SALE - WAS \$2559.00
548S-BT 54" X8 BI FOLD TAILGATE ALUMINUM TRAILER
\$2269.00 SALE - WAS \$2749.00

ANDERSON
LST 7X14 TANDEM UTILITY TRAILER - 2 units in stock
\$4000.00 SALE - WAS \$4549.00
TA84010TWX TAGALONG 8X40 10T **\$17500.00 SALE - WAS \$21269.00**
G84012TWX GOOSENECK HYDRAULIC JACKS 12T
\$23500.00 SALE - WAS \$29279.00
GEN-Y BALL MOUNT PHANTOM X 2IN SHANK 7000 LB CAPACITY
4.5" DROP AND 7" DROP **\$100.00**

**WE REPAIR ALL MAKES AND MODELS OF
TRAILERS, TRACTORS & MOWERS!!!**

Locally Owned and Operated • **SALES • PARTS • REPAIRS**
850 878-0788
Family Owned & Operated Same Location for 41 Years
3922 Crawfordville Rd. Tallahassee, FL 32305
LEETRAILERSALES.NET



**Wakulla County
Tax Collectors
Office**
SPECIALTY TAGS
**\$15 - \$30 additional
to cost of tag.**



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.

4-H Hay Bale winners announced

By **RACHEL PIENTA**
4-H Agent

Wakulla 4-H Agent Dr. Rachel Pienta announced the results of the 2025 4-H Hay Bale Decorating Contest last week:

- People’s Choice Awards
First Place: Keith Key Heating & Air
Second Place: Waggin’ Tails
Third Place: VCA Animal Hospital
Judge’s Choice Awards
First Place: Logan Roofing
Second Place: M & L Plumbing
Third Place: Family Funeral Home

Since 2021, Wakulla 4-H has invited the community to participate in an annual Hay Bale Decorating Contest during National 4-H Week.

There are two ways to win: through People’s Choice Facebook voting and through Judge’s Choice awards. People’s Choice awards are determined through likes on Facebook photos. For the Judge’s Choice awards, 4-H youth use the contest directions and a rubric to assess each design. They were looking for the key elements to meet the theme “Love Where You Live” and to include a 4-H element.

4-H For Good: In conjunction with National 4-H Week, 4-H has partnered with NBCUniversal to celebrate the release of Universal Pictures’ “Wicked:



Logan Roofing, above, won Judge’s Choice Award, and Keith Key Heating & Air, right, won People’s Choice.

For Good.” Through this partnership, NBCUniversal is supporting 4-H youth who show the world the powerful impact that young leaders can make when they act with purpose - and a little green.

From hay bales to peanut butter collection drives and road clean ups, Wakulla 4-H youth work to exemplify #4HForGood. Youth members work to engage and serve the community through events, partnerships, and projects.

This year, Future Leaders of Wakulla President Caden Gruebel has asked members to take the



#4HForGood Challenge, to do an act of good in the local community. “Doing good in our community exemplifies a way to show our love for where we live,” Gruebel said. “Through our actions, we are working to serve our community and make it a great place to live.”



Cerissa Fondo of Tallahassee State College helps event attendees.

Medical Expo

From Front Page

health care providers and resources,” said FSU’s Ursula Weiss, Director of Network for Clinical Research, Training and Community Engagement Senior Research Associate. “With this event, we can bring resources to the table, networking opportunities and empower lives within the community and with community partners to be able to give back.”

Kimberly Mattox, FSU Associate Director of Community Engagement said, “I live in and recently moved to Wakulla a year ago. Coming here, I realized that there were limited resources available by just talking to the people here in the community. I completed a survey prior to the event on Facebook asking what do you want to see? How can we help?”

There were presentations by Dr. Karen Bartley, MD, from TMH Physician Partners-Wakulla, speaking on Medication Safety. Bonnie Spring, Ph.D, a Krafft Professor in the Department of Behavioral Sciences and Social Medicine at FSU spoke on the Introduction of Florida Blue Rural Health Research and Policy.

Another speaker was Adam Hanley, Ph.D, a licensed Psychologist and an Associate Professor at the Complementary Health Innovation Lab in FSU’s College of Nursing. Hanley spoke on Chronic Pain Management.

THE CITY OF ST. MARKS NOTICE TO RECEIVE SEALED BIDS GULFSPRAY DRIVE, WILSON STREET, AND TERMINAL DRIVE SCOP - PROJECT # 50170227

The City of St. Marks will receive sealed bids from any qualified person, company or corporation interested in constructing the:

GULFSPRAY DRIVE, WILSON STREET, AND TERMINAL DRIVE SCOP

This project includes resurfacing Terminal Drive and a portion of Gulfspray Drive. There will be new construction on Wilson Street and the majority of Gulfspray Drive. Striping and signage will also be included, as well as drainage improvements.

Bid documents can be obtained at the St. Marks City Hall, 788 Port Leon Drive, St. Marks, FL 32355. The bid must conform to Section 287.133(3) Florida Statutes, on public entity crimes.

Completion date for this project will be 150 calendar days from the date of the Notice to Proceed presented to the successful bidder.

Liquidated damages for failure to complete the project on the specified date will be set at \$1,000.00 per day.

Please indicate on the envelope that this is a sealed bid for the “GULFSPRAY DRIVE, WILSON STREET, AND TERMINAL DRIVE SCOP”.

Bids will be received until 2:00 PM (EST) on November 17, 2025, at the City Manager’s Office in the St. Marks City Hall, 788 Port Leon Drive, St. Marks, FL 32355, and will be opened and read aloud at 2:00 PM (EST). All questions shall be submitted via email to tculpepper@dewberry.com by November 10, 2025, at 2:00 PM (EST).

The City of St. Marks reserves the right to waive informalities in any bid, to accept and/or reject any or all bids, and to accept the bid that in their judgment will be in the best interest of The City of St. Marks.

RESPONSIBLE VENDOR DETERMINATION

Respondent is hereby notified that Section 287.05701, Florida Statutes, requires that the County may not request documentation of or consider a vendor’s social, political, or ideological interests when determining if the vendor is a responsible vendor.

October 23, 30, 2025

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

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

For a complete copy of the RFQ, please email: pbell@cityofstmarks.com or visit the news section of cityofstmarks.com. Prospective firms/individuals should submit proposals on or before November 21, 2025, at 2:00PM Eastern Standard Time. The bid opening will occur after the 2PM deadline has passed on November 21, 2025, at 788 Port Leon Drive, St. Marks, FL 32355.

October 23, 30, 2025



NOTICE OF INTENT TO USE UNIFORM METHOD OF COLLECTING NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENTS

Wakulla County, Florida (the “County”) hereby provides notice, pursuant to section 197.3632(3)(a), Florida Statutes, of its intent to use the uniform method of collecting annual non-ad valorem special assessments throughout the unincorporated area of the County and within the incorporated areas of the cities of Sopchoppy and St. Marks, for the cost of providing fire protection, emergency medical services, solid waste, sewer, stormwater, road maintenance and improvements, clean energy and wind resistance improvements, property nuisance abatement, and broadband and other neighborhood improvements, facilities, and associated services commencing for the Fiscal Year beginning on October 1, 2026 and continuing until discontinued by the County. The County will consider the adoption of a resolution electing to use the uniform method of collecting such assessments authorized by section 197.3632, Florida Statutes, at a public hearing to be held at 6:00 p.m. on November 17, 2025 in the Wakulla County Commission Chambers, 29 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida. Such resolution will state the need for the levy and will contain a legal description of the boundaries of the real property subject to the levy. Copies of the proposed form of resolution, which contains the legal description of the real property subject to the levy, are on file at the County Administrator’s Office, 3093 Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville, Florida. All interested persons are invited to attend.

In the event any person decides to appeal any decision by the County with respect to any matter relating to the consideration of the resolution at the above-referenced public hearing, a record of the proceeding may be needed and in such an event, such person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the public hearing is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence on which the appeal is to be based. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation or an interpreter to participate in this proceeding should contact the County Administrator’s Office at (850) 926-0919, at least two (2) working days prior to the date of the hearing; Hearing & Voice Impaired at 1-800-955-8771; or email at ADARquest@mywakulla.com.

Oct. 23, 30, Nov. 6, 13, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICES:

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



LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

WAKULLA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REQUEST FOR QUOTES 2025-23

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE RETROFIT OF LIFT STATIONS 1, 3, 4, 5, 10 IN COASTAL PANACEA

ADVERTISEMENT BEGIN DATE: OCTOBER 23, 2025

RELEASE DATE: OCTOBER 23, 2025

PROPOSALS DUE TO BOCC: DECEMBER 2, 2025 @ 3:00 P.M.

Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Board of County Commissioners, 3093 Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville, FL 32327; until 3:00 P.M., Local Time, on DECEMBER 2, 2025, at which time the proposals will be opened and read aloud. Proposals received after said time will be returned unopened.

The principal features of this procurement by the County are known as: PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE RETROFIT OF LIFT STATIONS 1, 3, 4, 5, 10 IN COASTAL PANACEA. The specifications of this procurement are stated in RFQ 2025-23

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

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

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

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

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

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

October 23, 2025

Opinions

Help sought in efforts to preserve Donalson Cemetery

By LINDEARA JEFFERSON

The remarkable story of Nathan Donalson, born into slavery in 1840 before the Civil War near Fowlstown (now Donalsonville, Decatur County, GA), serves as a testament to resilience, Determination, and triumph over adversity. Now efforts are underway to honor his legacy and preserve the resting place of this inspiring ancestor and his family using modern technology.

Nathan’s journey from enslavement to independence is a powerful narrative of perseverance. Born to Lucindy and Amos Donaldson, Nathan endured hardships of slavery under the ownership of prominent enslavers, the Donaldson family. His life saw dramatic changes after the Civil War as he transitioned from being enslaved to becoming a free man. It is believed he fled in slavery and came to Wakulla County around 1865 at the age of 25. He married Tarry Hill in 1866 and became a farmer. They had 10 children. He died in 1906 at the age of 66 and Tarry died the same year at age 65. At the time they



were buried near what is now Council-Moore Road. The following is what we know about the cemetery.

LOCATION OF CEMETERY

The Cemetery is located off Council-Moore Road in Crawfordville and is a one-acre tract purchased on Dec. 18, 1919. This information is recorded in the Wakulla County deed book 9 page 584 which contains the original 1919 deed from M. W. Moore and Nellie Moore to Adam Donaldson and Dave Donalson as trustees, specifically establishing this land for “burial purposes.” A title company has provided an opinion confirming the existence of a burial easement associated with this property.

The Cemetery contains the remains of the following family members:

1. Nathan Donalson 1840-1906 (66)
2. Tarry Donalson (Nathan’s wife) 1841-1906 (65)
3. Adam Donaldson (Nathan’s son) 1869-1939 (70)
4. Elsie Glover (Nathan’s daughter) 1865-?
5. Jessie Glover (Nathan’s son-in-law) 1870-1927 (57)
6. Aggie Reddick (Nathan’s daughter) 1859-1920 (61)
7. William Reddick (Nathan’s son-in-law) 1835-1920 (85)

As listed above, Nathan Donalson’s legacy extends to his descendants. However, only two grave markers have been located but unfortunate-



Nathan and Tarry Donalson, left, and their headstones.

ly have been moved from the original grade designation spot in the cemetery due to heavy farming and land clearing over the years. It is hoped that to preserve and protect these ancestral graves, ground penetrating radar (GPR) technology is needed to try to relocate all 7 graves for proper memorialization by the family. GPR may provide detailed insights into the barrier layout, ensuring the integrity of the site and honoring the family’s memory for future generations.

The family estimates the cost of this project to be approximately \$15,000 for ground penetrating radar, a small amount of fencing, surveying, and memorials if the graves are located.

If the graves are not located, the family plans to create a monument identifying the site and

those buried there.

“This initiative is not just about preserving graves, it’s about connecting with our past and ensuring that the legacy of Nathan Donaldson and his family continue to inspire future generations” said Lindeara Jefferson, Nathan’s third great granddaughter.

The effort underscores the importance of historical preservation and the power of ancestral connections. The family and the Wakulla County Historical Society call on supporters, historians, and organizations to join in this preservation project, helping to honor a lineage marked by resilience and achievement.

The Historical Society’s President Andrea Carter said “Our Mission is to preserve and protect these cemeteries and we have identified several more. We appreciate so

much Lindeara’s untiring tenacity to preserve this site. Nathan Donaldson’s descendants over many decades have contributed to the wonderful county that we live in today. We owe it to Nathan and Tarry Donaldson to make sure that they can rest in peace.”

“My third great grandfather literally has hundreds upon hundreds of descendants in Wakulla, Leon, Franklin, Gadsden, and throughout Florida and Southern Georgia. In Wakulla alone the Franklins, Greens, Donaldsons, Gavins, Harveys, Allens, Hills, and countless others. I’m asking all relatives and family to join me in donating to go fund me: <http://gofund-me/65337316>. I want to thank the Wakulla County Historical Society and especially the Council Family for supporting this project. We currently have \$690 in the fund. “PLEASE HELP US”

For more information about the preservation efforts or to support the project, please contact Lindeara Jefferson by email at Underthetree-gen@gmail.com or call 850-841-0154


On the Horizon

Calendar of events for the week of October 23


Thursday, October 23 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gentle Yoga and Stretching Class, every Thurday, 11:30 a.m. at First Baptist Church. Bring a mat. Come early to sign in. Chair Yoga participants welcome. \$2 per class.• The VFW Auxiliary Bingo Night will be held at 7 p.m. at 475 Arran Road in Crawfordville, every Thursday. There are concessions and raffles.• Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. every Thursday at 54 Ochlockonee St.• Gentle Yoga at First Baptist Church, 3086 Crawfordville Hwy., at 11:30 a.m. Chair participants welcome. \$2 donation per class. Bring your mat.	Friday, October 24 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Wakulla War Eagles host the Baker County Wildcats at J.D. Jones Stadium at 7 p.m. It’s also the NJROTC’s annual shrimp dinner fundraiser before the game.• Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon & at 8 p.m. every Friday at 54 Ochlockonee St.	Saturday, October 25 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Story Walk, the public library’s annual trick-or-treat event, will be held at Azalea and Hudson parks beginning at 5 p.m.• Sopchoppy Opry, featuring Danny Hood and Limited Edition in a Merle Haggard Tribute, will he performing at the Sopchoppy auditorium beginning at 7 p.m. Dinner is available before the show. Tickets are \$15.• A program on Backyard Allies: Pollinator-friendly plants and practices for North Florida will be held at Wakulla Environmental Institute from 10 a.m. to noon.• St. Marks Brewfest, hosted by the St. Marks Waterfronts committee, will be held in St. Marks from noon to 4 p.m.• St. Marks Lighthouse Keepers’ Quarters Open House for tours from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge.• Monarch Butterfly Festival is being held at the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge	Sunday, October 19 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wakulla Giving Hands holds a food giveaway every Sunday from 12: 30 to 2:30 p.m. at their facility across from Medart Elementary on Highway 98.	Tuesday, October 28 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Working Forests Week Workshop at Wakulla State Forest will be held at the Trailhead Pavilion on north side of Hwy. 267 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.• Sopchoppy community dinner is held every week at the Towles House at 6:30 p.m.• Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. at 54 Ochlockonee St.
	Monday, October 27 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Wakulla Respite Program is available for anyone with memory impairment at no cost from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Lake Ellen Baptist Church every Monday.• Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. every Monday at 54 Ochlockonee St.• Gentle Yoga and Stretching Class, every Monday, 11 a.m. Wakulla Community Center. Bring a mat. Come early to sign in. Chair Yoga participants welcome. \$2 per class.• Line Dancing Class is held at Wakulla			Wednesday, October 29 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yoga with Stacy at the community center at 11 a.m. \$2 donation per class.• A line dance class is held at 1 p.m. at the Wakulla Senior Center every Wednesday.• Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon and 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday at 54 Ochlockonee St.

"It's A New Day!"


The Wakulla Sun




Editor/Publisher:
William Snowden
editor@thewakullasun.com



Production Manager/IT:
Eric Stanton
estanton@thewakullasun.com



Circulation:
Krystal Sheppard
circulation@thewakullasun.com



Sales & Marketing
Lynda Kinsey
likinsey@thewakullasun.com

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/@TheWakullaSun

TWITTER: www.twitter.com/@TheWakullaSun

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

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


DISTRIBUTION
Jessi Smith

Subscriptions to The Wakulla Sun

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

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

To subscribe call (850)962-8019.



SUPPORT COMMUNITY JOURNALISM

You can support The Wakulla Sun with a tax-deductible donation to help us cover the stories that matter to you.

By donating, you help us keep citizens informed, hold officials accountable and cover the most important topics in our community.

Your contributions will equip our newsroom to better serve you and all our readers.

That means:

- More reporters on the street
- More local news about our community
- More local content on the environment and local businesses

A little bit goes a long way. With your help, we can keep the presses running through hard times.

We would very much appreciate your contribution.

William Snowden
Editor & Publisher
The Wakulla Sun

Are donations tax deductible?

Yes, the Florida Press Foundation is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization with its principal place of business in Florida.

The Florida Press Foundation is registered to solicit charitable contributions in Florida. Financial and other information about the Florida Press Foundation’s purpose, programs and activities can be obtained by visiting <https://floridapressfoundation.org> or by writing to Florida Press Foundation at 336 East College Avenue, Suite 304, Tallahassee FL 32301.

We accept donations by card or check. If by check, payment must be made to the Florida Press Foundation and write in the check memo line that you want the donation to go to The Wakulla Sun.

Send it to Florida Press Foundation at 336 East College Avenue, Suite 304, Tallahassee FL 32301

**If you are a business and want to be seen...
this is your spot to advertise!!!**

**Would you like to remind people that you are open for business,
have you moved, are you offering new products or services?
This is your spot to advertise!**

Contact Lynda Kinsey 850-962-8019 • LKinsey@TheWakullaSun.com

LEE TRAILER
SALES

850 878-0788

TRAILERS-MOWERS-TRACTORS

**3922 Crawfordville Rd.
Tallahassee, FL 32305**

Locally Owned Same Location
and Operated for 41 Years

LEETRAILERSALES.NET

- Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

Polled at Lynn Brothers Seafood on opening of Stone Crab season:

How much Stone Crab can you eat in one sitting?



DANIEL MCCULLERS
Plumber

“It depends on how much money I made that week.”



SAM GIBSON
Peek Construction

“I can eat 3 pounds easy.”



SEAN LADWIG
Seatow

“Two pounds maybe. They are rich.”



LUKE SEMBLER
Sembler Seafood

“The first time I ever had them I ate about 10 large claws.”



JOHNNY LYNN
Lynn Brothers Seafood

“I don’t eat that many. I’d say about four or five, they are rich.”

Wakulla Crossroads

By **VERNA BROCK**

As I sit here preparing to write another article, I am feeling very focused on our current trash situation. It’s been a couple of weeks now since the process of garbage disposal has been altered, and I’m not feeling the love.

Like many of you, my household receives a LOT of packages in the mail. That means we get a LOT of cardboard boxes and packing materials. Of course, all of that is now having to be carted to the recycling center at the dump, or added to the stream of materials flowing into the landfill.

Unfortunately, my one rolling trash receptacle is too small to accommodate everything we previously recycled. To get an extra green “can” will cost \$84 a year. I strenuously object to carrying garbage, even recycled garbage to the dump, every week, in my car. No matter how fastidiously I cleanse my cans and jars, my car will soon begin to stink. I spent years dealing with handling garbage, and I don’t want to start doing it again. I already pay for trash pickup!

I have spoken to the very kind James at Solid Waste, and the very helpful Cathy at the Wakulla BOCC administrative office. Both were extremely professional and sympathetic. But they really had no answers to offer, beyond speaking to Board members (I will!). A survey was mentioned, upon which the decision by the Board to discontinue recycling services in Wakulla County was apparently based. I don’t recall any kind of survey, formal or informal, being offered to me to answer. Exactly who all was surveyed, and with what instrument?

I don’t have many answers. But I sure do have some questions. For instance, what kind of cost analysis was done, comparing the added fee for recycling, versus the cost of an extra trash can, versus the value of my time packing, loading and unloading, and transporting my recycled trash every week to the dump? Not to mention the price of gasoline used on a weekly basis.

Are we to revert to the bad old days when trash littered every highway and byway of our County? How many man hours will it take to clean our ditches and woods from the messes created from litter blowing from trucks and trailers?

I realize this problem is bigger than me, or you, or Wakulla County. The planet is literally drowning in the detritus of civilization. The Great Pacific Gyre, that swirling mass of micro-plastics and debris the size of a small island, continues to grow. We have dug giant pits and built towering mounds of stinking garbage across the globe. It is past time we address our garbage problem, and begin to reverse the trend, lest we be buried in our own waste.

For waste is what it truly is. Waste of resources, waste of time, and waste of our one and only environment. To continue to pretend it doesn’t mat-

ter, doesn’t exist, doesn’t affect us, is to prolong the healing process for our planet. I know my small efforts to reduce, reuse and recycle barely made a dent. But at least it was SOMETHING!

If you also feel the decision to cancel recycling pickup was short-sighted, contact ALL the members of your elected Board of County Commissioners. They do not serve just one district, they are all elected as “at large” representatives for the entirety of Wakulla County. It was suggested to me that I contact “my” Commissioner (from my district). Be not deceived, you cast a vote in each of their elections, and they represent every single citizen and taxpayer in the county. Each and every one of them answers to each and every one of us.

Please continue to lift the family of Dale Peddie in your prayers. After a valiant struggle to overcome her injuries in a car crash, she has died. Her granddaughter, Ella Zak, continues to recover from her injuries while grieving the loss of a beloved grandmother.

Sopchoppy News

By **DJ BUTCH**

Hello from Sopchoppy! One thing about Sopchoppy is we are known for easy living, positive attitude and good times!

That’s how we roll here, bud. If you are from here then you already know. We are from the old school. Some of us been here for many generations. Some of us are more connected than you may know. We are all about respect. Sopchoppy is small. The internet is big. I try to keep a good attitude and show love everywhere I go. Sopchoppy raised me this way.

Well anyway... fish are biting! I went up the creek and caught a mess of fish. I took my boys and we caught bass and bream. They had a great time. I love the outdoors. I love the woods and river this time of year. If you get a chance go to the water and enjoy the beautiful scenery. It’s good for the soul.

I have been working in my music studio lately with some amazing artists. Solo Cupp and dazythegirl keep the hits coming. Check out “Devils Work” by dazythegirl. This is a song about a breakup and it is absolutely amazing.

You can feel the pain in the vocals. Solo Cupp did an amazing job on engineering this song. Also dazythegirl played the piano and sang her heart out on this one. The song is beautiful and heartfelt. I’m also also featured on the song. I’m proud that this came out of my studio in Sopchoppy! I’m also excited about what is next.

You know a lot of great music has been recorded in Sopchoppy from all kinds of great musicians. Tom T Hall the legendary country singer recorded in Sopchoppy. Art has always been around Sopchoppy. I don’t know what it is... Is it the dark water? Is it the woods? Is it that we are surrounded by water? I mean we got the Sopchoppy River, Ochlockonee River, the Gulf, the bay, creeks, ponds, lakes... Is it the low lying area? Is it the great soil? Could it be the amazing people? Or could it be the history? From the native Americans, the railroad, the settlers? I think it could be a little of everything.

One thing is for sure is it is an amazing place. The air, the woods and everything about it is special. Let’s keep it that way! Keep it clean, keep a good attitude and keep the Sopchoppy traditions alive. Regardless of your views, love your neighbors. Protect this beautiful land. Spread love! That is the Sopchoppy way....



Theatre competition

On Oct. 3rd Wakulla High School Theatre took 33 students to Bay High School in Panama City for this year’s District One Thespian Competition. On Friday, 10 schools across the panhandle competed with one-act plays with WHS performing Annie the Musical. Annie received a superior rating and was named Runner Up for the competition! Annie also won the award for having the Best Set. Luna Martinez was recognized as District One’s Best Actor in a Supporting role for her performance as Miss Hannigan and Logan Hand won the All Star Cast Award for his performance as Rooster. On Saturday, 18 schools competed in individual events, ranging from performance to technical events. Tate Reynolds received the Critic’s Choice Award for best Set Design and Aubrey Recks won the Critic’s Choice Award for her original play in the playwrighting category. 29 students came home with a superior in at least one or more events and will advance to State Competition in March. We would also like to recognize Logan Hand, Laurel Nichols, Tate Reynolds, Hannah Hall, Claire Blackwell, Lyra McClure and Levi Blakesley who all received perfect scores across the board in their events. Congratulations to the entire troupe for a very successful District Competition!

Coming in 2026!

Tablets & Cell Phones!

Recent changes to TASA law will allow FTRI to distribute FREE tablets and cellphones loaded with telecommunications apps.

Join the Waitlist!

To help us prepare for this new program, we are collecting information from Deaf, Deafblind, Hard of Hearing, and Speech Impaired Florida residents who are interested in receiving one of these new devices, when they are available.

Learn more: FTRI.ORG/WAITLIST

For Tablets, Cell Phones, & Apps*:

Qualifications for All Applicants:

- Florida resident, over the age of 3
- Have hearing loss and/or speech disability
- No income limit for legacy landline equipment

PSC proposed income limit: 250% of Federal Poverty Level
*** May be available mid-2026**

Image credit: Apple

Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc.

www.ftri.org
800-222-3448
RFFW25

HOME ON THE RANGE

Comparison of two 9mm Kimbers



By MARJ LAW

The Kimber R7 Mako 9mm is my favorite go-to handgun. This small gun came with a green “red” dot Crimson Trace sight. Target shooting with this little guy is comfortable. I’m not bragging about hitting the X-ring, because hey! We all get older and closer is good enough.

Unfortunately, when I’m travelling with Joe, the car seems to turn into almost every gun shop around.

Food shopping? There’s a gun shop nearby. Tallahassee trip? Oh, yes, there are gun shops along the route. That’s the way it usually goes. For instance, a week ago in a gun shop, we stop and happen to be “just looking.” We come across a gun that catches Joe’s eyes (of course).

It’s a Kimber Ghost CDS9 Shadow. The Ghost doesn’t have a red dot, but it does have a TruGlo red front sight, and other-colored fiber optic inserts are included with the gun.

When Joe asks to “see” the Ghost, he’s amazed at how this small gun fits in his hand. He passes it to me, and it fits my hand

too. Best of all, for him, it’s a hammer-fire gun.

And then he says: “It’s a Kimber like your Mako. But it’s not striker-fired like the Mako. It’s hammer-fired. It’s a better gun.”

We’re in trouble now. I bet you can guess what happens.

So, this Wednesday at 10 a.m., we’re at the Wakulla County Sheriff’s Office range with the Mako and the new Ghost.

These two Kimbers are similar in some ways. They are both 9mm handguns. They are both 6.2 inches long and are 1 and 1.1 inches wide. The Mako’s barrel is 3.37 inches and the Ghost’s barrel is 3.18 inches long.

The Mako is a bit lighter at 19.5 ounces, while the Ghost is slightly heavier at 21.44 ounces.

We put extended magazines into both guns. Even with the added length, Joe has some “pinky dangle” with Mako’s 12-round magazine. He has none with the Ghost, which carries 15 rounds.

We plan to compare these two guns. Now, don’t get me wrong. I don’t have any competitive feelings just because the Mako is my go-to striker-fire gun, while Joe thinks hammer-fire guns are better. We’re simply comparing. (ahem)

We shoot five rounds from each gun. The right target is the Ghost, and the left is the Mako. Nine bullets hit the Mako’s target, with six of them make a tight grouping on and around the X-ring. 8 bullets hit the Ghost’s target, with one on the



X-ring. Too bad that is Joe’s first shot with the Ghost. Drat.

On our 1-5 scale, with 1 being “easy” and 5 meaning “difficult,” we find both handguns to have light trigger pulls and short trigger pull travels. We rate trigger pull and travel on both guns at 1.5.

When it comes to recoil, Joe finds the Mako’s to be light. I feel it’s more substantial, but not difficult. Joe likes the Ghost’s recoil and gives it a 2 on the scale, while I give it a 2.5 which is exactly what I give to the Mako. Since he has a bigger build, I’d expect him to handle a bit more recoil.

When it comes to grip, Joe prefers the grip of the Ghost, because it’s longer than the grip of the Mako.

“With the longer grip, I have better control over the Ghost,” he says. “Better control gives better accuracy.”

Then he continues: “Also, having the green

dot sight on your Mako gives the Mako an edge with accuracy. Besides,” he says defensively, “you have to agree that the Ghost is new to us, and we haven’t practiced at all with it.”

“If it makes that much difference to you, maybe we should get a green dot for the Ghost,” I suggest. Joe looks plenty interested. I should learn to keep my mouth shut. But yes, a green dot on the Ghost may indeed give it the accuracy to equal or beat the Mako.

Bottom line for us is that both guns are excellent shooters with light trigger pull and travel, and recoil that is not difficult. People with larger hands may prefer the Ghost. People who believe hammer guns are the best will like the Ghost.

Of course, in my humble opinion, they’re wrong. I like striker-fire guns. But that’s just my opinion. And the targets do show better grouping

with the Mako. However, if Joe gets that green dot for the Ghost, all bets are off.

Are they reliable?

On The Truth About Guns site, an article called “Kimber’s “Fin-Less” R7 Mako,” the author says: “I am happy to report that the Kimber R7 Mako ran like a sewing machine. I never experienced a failure to feed through 400 rounds fired.”

An article on Hook & Barrel reported about the cut-out on the ejection port. “Most smaller pistols today have a full or partial cut-out on top of the slide through which empty brass is ejected. Not so the R7. Instead, Kimber built this pistol with a solid slide top and an ejection port on the slide’s right side. So, instead of brass popping generally up and to the side, R7 brass is flung right out of the slide to the, well, right.

This slide design means an optic mount-

ed on an R7 should experience fewer gases and gunpowder debris pushed up and into the face of that optic, for less potential visual distortion and a clearer sight picture.”

Since we do have the green dot on this Mako, I also believe this will keep less debris obscuring the green dot’s sight.

I also agree with this Hook & Barrel article where the author finds the trigger to fire at a 3.0-pound average, while the Kimber’s site says the factory setting ranges from 5.5 to 6.75 pounds. Joe and I find the trigger to be very light.

On the other side, (that hammer gun enthusiast side), a Guns & Ammo article called: Kimber CDS9 Concealed Carry 9mm: Full Review says of the Ghost: “This Kimber is a joy to shoot. The grip is wide enough and – thanks to the extended magazines – long enough so that the shooter’s hand has complete control of the gun under recoil.”

This is exactly what Joe reported as he shot the gun.

The Guns & Ammo article concludes that the Ghost “is an excellent defensive handgun, the rare concealed carry pistol that is at once fun to shoot and convenient to carry.”

Which is better: the Mako or the Ghost? I think if you shoot them both, you’ll conclude that if you like striker-fire guns, you’ll still prefer the Mako. If you think hammer-fire guns are best, you’ll still maintain the Ghost is best.

And you’ll be right either way.

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

GREEN SEA TURTLE
(Chelonia mydas)

Green sea turtles adults graze on the vast sea grass beds of the tropics. Florida’s coastal waters are an important feeding grounds. Juveniles hunt crabs jellyfish and sponge. Each year they will swim thousands of miles to return to their birthplace to mate and lay eggs. Artificial lights on beaches confuse them and prevent them from laying eggs. Sea walls block their path. This turtle is called “green” because it was favored for soup and the fat is greenish. Hunting for the turtle meat and eggs and habitat destruction means this turtle is now endangered. This is the one of the largest of the living sea turtles and can grow to 700 pounds.

Eukaryria, Anamalia, Chordata, Reptilia, Testunides, Cheloniidae

Gulf Specimen Marine Laboratory
www.gulfspecimen.org

BIRDING AT THE REFUGE

Mid-October at the refuge

By DON MORROW

By mid-October sunrise at St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge comes late and it was still nighttime as I carefully made my way down the levee under the pale light of a fat crescent moon sitting in a dark star-spattered sky. It was a cool morning, in the upper 50s, but I was still watching the levee surface for any dark shape that might be a gator. When I looked up again, the eastern sky was cut by a luminous wavy white band, which stood out starkly against the night sky.

Space X had launched a Falcon 9 from Cape Canaveral earlier that morning. Although dawn was still a half hour away, light from the sun, rising somewhere out in the Atlantic, was hitting the upper atmosphere, illuminating the rocket’s contrail. From the marsh around me, I could hear the squonk of baby gators and from the distant treeline, the hooting monkey call of a Barred Owl. I watched the high-tech pyrotechnics as the

contrail slowly shifted colors and faded as the sky lightened.

Mid-October is a transitional time in Fall migration. Transmigrants are still streaming through, but our wintering birds are beginning to arrive. Yellow Warblers are still passing through the refuge and will continue to do so into early November. I saw lots of Palm Warblers down from the boreal forests of western Canada, most are headed to the West Indies. Almost all of our wintering Palm Warblers are the “yellow” subspecies from eastern Canada. They will soon be arriving on the refuge.

A large flock of Blue-winged Teal had stopped on Mounds Pool 3. Most will continue on, a few as far as Brazil. With them were a handful of Northern Shovelers that will overwinter in the big islands of the Caribbean, perhaps Hispaniola or Cuba.

October sees not only transmigrants, but also the arrival of the refuge’s wintering species. Eastern Phoebe and Swamp Sparrows are suddenly

common and I saw my first Yellow-rumped Warbler of the season. Among the shorebirds arriving for the winter, I found Wilson’s Snipe and the first 50 Dunlin of the season. By next month there may be 2,000 Dunlin at St. Marks.

Our current drought has dropped the water levels on most of the ponds and pools, although Stony Bayou 1 still has water. There, I found a large flock of waders: Tricolored and Little Blue Herons, along with 20 dark ibis, a mix of Glossy and White-faced. These two ibis species are common at the refuge in winter. Glossy Ibis breed on the refuge and used to be a regular sight at the refuge in summer before the collapse of the big wading bird rookery on East River Pool. Nowadays, Glossy Ibis are scarce at St. Marks in the warmer months.

The dropping water on Lighthouse Pond is attracting birds. I had over 800 birds, mostly shorebirds. Of the 11 species of shorebirds on the pond, almost half were

Short-billed Dowitchers, but there were American Oystercatchers, Marbled Godwits, Willets, and a flock of over 100 Ruddy Turnstones. Black Skimmers, Laughing Gulls and both Royal and Forster’s Terns were also resting on the pond.

My last stop was at Headquarters Pond, which is now a mudflat spotted with lily pads. Carefully scanning the exposed mud, I found 26 Pectoral Sandpipers. These birds are coming from the Arctic, some even from the Siberian Arctic. They are headed to their wintering grounds on the Pampas of South America.

I ended up birding the refuge for 7 hours, starting in the predawn darkness and ending on a glorious blue sky Fall day. The government is still shut down, but the refuge is open.

Come down to St. Marks. Your very own glorious Fall day awaits you.

Don Morrow can be contacted at donaldcmorrow@gmail.com.

Wakulla Lawn Ranger

Gene Darby

850-251-9122

Mowing

Edging - Trimming

Sidewalk/Driveways

Pressurewashing

Landscaping

Licensed & Insured

Great Prices - Great Work

Water Ways

a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences







SEA TOW


24/7 PRIORITY ON-WATER ASSISTANCE

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



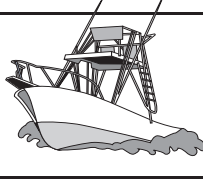
© 2023 "Sea Tow," including words, phrases and logos, are trademarks of Sea Tow Services International, Inc. All rights reserved.

<div><div>Thursday 23</div><div>Sun rise/set 7:45 AM 6:57 PM</div><div>Moon rise/set 9:42 AM -</div><div>Moon Illumination 4%</div><div>Friday 24</div><div>Sun rise/set 7:45 AM 6:56 PM</div><div>Moon rise/set 10:39 AM 8:02 PM</div><div>Moon Illumination 9%</div><div>Saturday 25</div><div>Sun rise/set 7:46 AM 6:55 PM</div><div>Moon rise/set 11:35 AM 8:43 PM</div><div>Moon Illumination 15%</div><div>Sunday 26</div><div>Sun rise/set 7:47 AM 6:54 PM</div><div>Moon rise/set 12:29 PM 9:30 PM</div><div>Moon Illumination 22%</div><div>Monday 27</div><div>Sun rise/set 7:47 AM 6:54 PM</div><div>Moon rise/set 1:18 PM 10:22 PM</div><div>Moon Illumination 31%</div><div>Tuesday 28</div><div>Sun rise/set 7:48 AM 6:53 PM</div><div>Moon rise/set 2:02 PM 11:19 PM</div><div>Moon Illumination 40%</div><div>Wednesday 29</div><div>Sun rise/set 7:49 AM 6:52 PM</div><div>Moon rise/set 2:41 PM 12:19</div><div>Moon Illumination 50%</div></div> <div><div>For tides at the following points add to Dog Island Listings:</div><div><div>High Tide</div><div>Low Tide</div><div>Carrabelle 28 Min. 25 Min.</div><div>Apalachicola 1 Hr., 53 Min. 2 Hrs., 38 Min.</div><div>Cat Point 1 Hr., 13 Min. 2 Hrs., 31 Min.</div><div>Lower Anchorage 1 Hr., 36 Min. 2 Hrs., 3 Min.</div><div>West Pass 1 Hr., 26 Min. 2 Hrs., 39 Min.</div></div><div><div>Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac</div><div>Oct. 23 - Oct. 28</div><div><div>Tide charts by tides4fishing.com</div><div></div></div><div><div>Best fishing days this month</div><div>BEST Oct. 21, Nov. 2 - 8, 12, 17 - 23</div></div><div><div>First Oct. 29</div><div>Full Nov. 5</div><div>Last Nov. 12</div><div>New Nov. 20</div></div></div><div><div>Thursday 23</div><div>MinorTimes 8:57AM 7:17PM</div><div>MajorTimes 1:16AM 1:39PM</div><div>Friday 24</div><div>MinorTimes 9:54AM 7:58PM</div><div>MajorTimes 2:03AM 2:27PM</div><div>Saturday 25</div><div>MinorTimes 10:51AM 8:45PM</div><div>MajorTimes 2:53AM 3:18PM</div><div>Sunday 26</div><div>MinorTimes 11:44AM 9:37PM</div><div>MajorTimes 3:44AM 4:10PM</div><div>Monday 27</div><div>MinorTimes 12:33PM 10:34PM</div><div>MajorTimes 4:36AM 5:02PM</div><div>Tuesday 28</div><div>MinorTimes ---- 1:17PM</div><div>MajorTimes 5:28AM 5:53PM</div><div>Wednesday 29</div><div>MinorTimes 11:34PM 1:56PM</div><div>MajorTimes 6:18AM 6:43PM</div></div></div>




Coast Guard Auxiliary Reports

By Carolyn Brown Treadon




As we head into the cooler months, hopefully, days are getting shorter and preparation needs to be greater to adjust to the cool mornings and warmer afternoons. We are also approaching duck hunting season. The following information comes from By Bob Currie, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Recreational Boating Safety Specialist, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Station Galveston Flotilla.

The Boating Accident Fatality Rate is higher from November through March (the cold-water season) than it is from March through November (the warm water season). Heavily loaded small boats, severe frontal weather, fog, cold water and other factors combine to increase the risk of



Boating Emergencies



Coast Guard Station

Panama City (850) 234-4228

Coast Guard Station

Yankeetown (352) 447-6900

Coast Guard Auxiliary

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

or (850) 284-1166

late fall and winter boating.

Bob highlights the main safety considerations when operating the marshes vs the open water.

- Maintain safe speed in blind bends and waterway intersections
- File a detailed float plan with images of your boat
- Have reliable communications
- Have a basic ditch kit or survival kit
- Understand the cold-water shock re-

sponse

- Dress for immersion
- Wear a life jacket at all times
- If you exit your boat and wade, use a wading staff

Thanks to Sherrie, we will always remember safe boating is no accident. Being prepared for the day you plan is essential.

If you would like to learn more about vessel safety checks, please contact Steve Hults, Staff Officer for

Vessel Examinations at steve.hults@uscgaux.net

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

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



Underwater Wakulla

By Gregg Stanton

Exotic dive destinations. *January 5, 2012*

Exotic dive destinations exist around the world, from a tropical get-away with warm clear water teaming with marine life to shipwrecks in cold, but exciting historic sites.

Regardless of your diving get-away pleasure, travel usually involves airlines. I travel on airlines and assist visitors to our center who come from around the world on airlines. I find there are challenges that can be very distracting from that anticipated diving vacation.

To assure success, take out travel insurance, such that when flights are canceled or disaster strikes, you can at least recover your expenses. Be sure your home owner's insurance will cover lost luggage and personal diving equipment that may go missing when you get there.

And absolutely carry Dive Insurance to cover the remote chance you are injured and require medical transport and hyperbaric treatment while you are away.

Luggage restrictions have become a problem to divers who require quite a load of equipment to have fun underwater. Dive companies have developed ultra-light regulators, buoyancy compensators, fins and even wet suits that fit in your carry-on luggage. Tanks and weights can be rented at the local dive store.

Many of my clients bring their rebreathers, a practice for which we advise some caution. Our last client from Finland arrived recently but his check-in luggage did not. Several days later, his bag arrived empty of a \$10,000 rebreather. Fortunately, his travel insurance may have covered him.

My problem traveling with rebreathers was that the TSA inspectors were not familiar with the technology. Since I refused to check my rig for fear of theft, I faced the inspectors while loading the flight. I planned an extra hour when going through the line.

They would invariably pull me out of the line, take me and my bag to the back room and there I would provide a lecture on the rebreather. Most were just fascinated with the technology, but some told me it looked too much like a bomb, too many wires and blinking lights to safely take on an airline.

Those who had little time to learn, pressed their concerns by restricting my travel, taking components off the flight, or just diverting my rig such that it would arrive very late and often dismantled, missing parts or broken. I soon learned airline travel for the rebreather diver is not advised. I began driving to diving destinations whenever possible.

During the summer months, many of our Wakulla County divers drive to the Florida Keys, our tropical diving destination, where warm clear water beckons good spear fishing and underwater photography.

During the winter, many of those in South Florida reciprocate by heading northward to our clear, calm and constant temperature springs and caves. Diving destinations permit folks to travel and enjoy different cultures while pursuing their passion for exploring the underwater world.

And we have much to offer right here in Wakulla County.

Editor's Note: This is a repeat of a column from 2012.

WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO

On his weekly wildlife survey at Wakulla Springs, retired ranger Bob Thompson took this photo of a kingfisher.



FOLLOW THE SUN.

Your local source for news.

Feeling stressed and need supernatural help?



By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

Mr. Thomas cleared his throat. “I’m sorry to have to do this, Ellen, but I don’t have a choice.”

Don’t say it. Please, don’t say it! Ellen thought. She gripped

the chair’s armrests as she sat across from her boss.

“There’ve been a lot of budget cutbacks.” He looked down, fidgeted with papers on his desk, and cleared his throat again. “I’m going to have to let you go.”

In this fictional story, how do you envision Ellen handling this unexpected crisis? How would you respond to this – or an equally stressful event?

Do you think Ellen’s (or your) response would be influenced by whether she (you) had been spending regular

time with God?

Even when I have regular quiet times, I don’t always respond to difficulty the way I wish I would. But as I resolve to pray and read my Bible every day, my relationship with my heavenly Father grows deeper, and I have less anxiety in life’s stresses.

Why do I talk so often about spending regular time with God? For three main reasons.

First, we never know what our future holds. Even a moment from now, our lives could change in dramatic

ways. Second, we need strength and comfort when we’re struggling and counsel when we’re confused. Third, even in the good seasons, getting to know our Father more intimately will only enhance our lives and our relationships.

There’s no downside to pursuing God. He loves us more than anyone else ever could or will. He knows everything about us and our future. And He, Almighty God, longs to spend time with us!

Read Psalm 27:8 (ESV) and let these

words shape your mindset: “You have said, ‘Seek my face.’ My heart says to you, ‘Your face, LORD, do I seek.’”

What stressful events are you facing today? How are your responses to these events influenced by the time you spend (or don’t spend) with God?

Life is hard enough. With all the chaos the world throws at us, I cringe to think about how overwhelming it would be if we didn’t seek God’s presence in prayer and in His Word.

Beginning today, choose to seek God’s

face. Seek Him earnestly in your heart, beyond just seeking answers to your prayers. Try this for one full month and see how it transforms the way you handle life’s stresses.

Even better, watch how much more you fall in love with – and revere – Almighty God.

Sheryl H. Boldt is a sales executive for Wave 94 and author of the blog, www.TodayCanBeDifferent.net. Connect with her at SherylHBoldt.Wave94@gmail.com.

Staying in love



By **CHERYL CRUCE**

I often speak of those olWith a household full of children, rules were a way of life. Boundaries weren’t just suggestions – they were the guardrails that kept us safe. The boys had their set of rules, the girls had theirs, and being the youngest, I had a few of my own – though mine always seemed a little stricter, or so I thought.

I can still hear my

mother’s voice calling from the kitchen window, “Don’t go past the oak tree!” or “Be home before dark!” At the time, those words felt limiting. Why couldn’t I stay out a little longer or wander just a little farther? Now I recognize that those boundaries were her way of keeping me within her love’s reach.

At first, I obeyed mostly out of fear – not because I understood, but because I knew what would happen if I didn’t. The sting of correction had a way of reminding me to “think twice next time.” Then somewhere, something changed. I began to see that those boundaries weren’t there to hold me back, but to keep me from harm. My parents weren’t trying to

control me — they were trying to protect me. As the years passed, obedience grew into something deeper. It wasn’t fear that guided me anymore, but trust. Not duty, but love.

I believe our walk with God often follows that same path. In the beginning, we obey because we fear the consequences – we don’t want to step outside His will or face the pain that comes with sin. And as we grow in faith, we begin to see His heart more clearly. His commands are not burdens, but blessings. His boundaries are not walls meant to keep us out of something good, they are coverings of grace meant to keep us close to Him.

Adam and Eve

stepped beyond that covering once – not out of defiance, but because of deception – the cost was great. Yet even as they left the garden, God clothed them, reminding us that mercy still walks with us even when we stray (Genesis 3). Jonah ran from obedience, and the storm found him – not to destroy him, but to bring him back to the Lord (Jonah 1:1–4). And Peter, who denied knowing Jesus, was restored by three simple words: “Feed my sheep” (John 21:15–17).

Each of these stories reminds us that obedience is not about perfection; it’s about returning. Every time we come back to God after wandering, He meets us not with punishment

but with open arms. God’s commands aren’t chains meant to bind us, but safeguards meant to bless us.

Still, there are times when obedience can feel like an obligation – something we do because we’re told to. But when faith matures, it changes everything. We begin to trust that God’s commands are invitations, not restrictions. They are love’s way of saying, “Stay close to Me. It’s safer here. It’s better here.”

When obedience grows out of love, the journey changes. It’s no longer about rules and religion, but about relationship. No longer about what we can’t do, but about what God is inviting us into — peace,

joy, purpose, and longing.

So maybe today, take a moment to think back: Have you stepped beyond His covering in some way – maybe not in rebellion, but in weariness or distraction? The good news is, the path back is always open. His mercy still walks beside you, just as it did for Adam, Eve, Jonah, and Peter.

Because in the end, obedience isn’t just about staying in line. It’s about staying in love.

If you love me, keep my commands (John 14:15).

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

OUT TO PASTOR

Oh no, not another day



By **JAMES SNYDER**

I thought I got over the problems I had two weeks ago. I thought I stepped onto new ground and everything was going to be fine.

Very few times am I right, and this wasn’t one of them.

A couple of weeks ago, I had a terrible day. Our electricity was off for over six hours. My printer died, and I needed to get a new one. A scam artist called and said my daughter was in prison and I needed to give him \$2,500 for her bail.

What a day that was. I’m still not fully over it, but I’m slowly getting away from it.

While getting over it, I experienced another terrible day. I don’t believe in karma, but I do believe in coincidences.

It was a Sunday, and The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I did our ministry at an assisted living facility, and then on Sunday night, we went to an evening service at another church.

In the middle of the afternoon, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage got hit with one of her famous migraines. She has migraines, ugly headaches, and regular headaches several

times a week. For many years, I thought I was her only headache, but as it turns out, I’m not her headache. I guess I’m going to have to try harder.

I was getting ready to go to church, and my wife said that she could not go because she had a terrible migraine headache.

The problem was that when I went out and got in my truck to start it, it wouldn’t start. The battery had died on me. There was nothing I could do to get it started.

I sat in the truck for a moment, sighed deeply, and realized that I had only one other option.

I went into the house and told my wife about my truck, saying I would have to take her sissy van to church. I’m not sure, but I think I heard her giggling as I walked out the door with her sissy van keys.

There is nothing I hate doing more than driving that sissy van. After all, I am a fully grown man and that sissy van cannot handle a real man.

To get in on the driver’s side, I have to move the seat back as far as it can go. Believe me, it doesn’t go back far enough for me. Then, I have to wiggle and wiggle to get into the seat behind the steering wheel. That took almost forever to get seated there.

The next thing to do was move the steering wheel up as far as I could get it so I could sit in that seat. Then I had to adjust all of the mirrors so I could see

behind me and on each side. There are three mirrors, and each is very difficult to re-range.

It took me quite a while to get everything arranged so that I could drive that sissy van. Finally, after quite a while of frustrating twisting and turning, I got seated behind the steering wheel and was ready to start up the engine. The next challenge was buckling the seat belt.

As I looked at the key, the thought that danced in my head was, “This battery is going to die on me too.” Fortunately, that did not happen in the sissy van, which started up right away.

I took a deep sigh and backed out of our driveway and headed down the street toward the church. It’s about a 20-minute drive to our church, and so I was a little late, but I would get there in time.

Then I got there, and discovered another problem. Getting into that sissy van was difficult, but now getting out was even more difficult. I couldn’t get my

legs out under the driving wheel, and it took me a while, giggling and twisting. Finally, I got my legs out.

I stood up, shut the door, locked it, and walked into the church.

After the service, I went out to the sissy van with a heavy heart. I couldn’t let anybody see me wiggling and squirming, trying to get into that sissy van. I wasn’t quite sure what to do, so I went to the sissy van and unlocked the door.

I took a deep breath, opened the door, and then wiggled and twisted my way in behind the steering wheel. It took several minutes for me to drag my legs in at their proper position. Finally, I got in my seat, started the engine, and was ready to go home.

With a grateful heart, I drove out of the parking lot, thankful that I got this far. Then I remembered that when I got home, I had to get out of that sissy van one more time.

It took me a few minutes to wiggle my way out of that sissy van, but I finally did.

As I recovered from that trip I thought of a Bible verse. “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it” (1 Corinthians 10:13).

There is no problem or struggle in my life that God doesn’t make a way to escape. Praise the Lord.

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

Sopchoppy United Methodist Church

Pastor Cheryl Mixon-Cruce

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

Worship 11 a.m.

Bible Study Wed. 6 p.m.

850-962-2511

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

LUTHERAN CHURCH

MISSOURI SYNOD

SUNDAY SERVICE...

10:17 a.m.

850-926-7808 • 3254 Coastal Hwy., Crawfordville

In Medart Across from Wakulla High School

New Hours

Beginning: September 1, 2025

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Catholic Church

Pastor Michael Hartley • Dcn. Dave Harris Director of Music & Choir - Jeff Cook

3609 Coastal Hwy. Crawfordville FL 32327

850 745-8359

Office Hours: Mon./Wed./Fri. 9:00am – 3:30pm

Pastor: Rev. Michael Hartley: office@seas.ptdiocese.org

Deacon David Harris • E-Mail: dendoc@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

Confessions: Every Saturday 9:30am – 10:30am

Saturdays 4:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Or by appointment

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

Cemetery lots and

Cremain spaces available. 850-745-8359

850 509-7630

or the Church Office at:

Bill Webster, Attorney

General Law Practice

50 Years Experience

Since 1975

By Appointment Only

850-443-5901

Obituaries

DEATH NOTICES

• **Burgess Eugene Thaxton**, 84, of Crawfordville died 10/13/2025.

Sheriff’s Report

This report is for active October 10th to 17th. There were 1,150 total calls for service during the week.

FRIDAY, OCT. 10

• Deputy Zachary Godwin conducted a traffic stop for tag attached not assigned. The driver admitted to placing a Florida tag on a vehicle which was later found out to be stolen out of this agency. Detective Tiffany Spears arrived on scene questioning the driver and the other two passengers. Subsequently, the driver was placed under arrest for tag not assigned.

SATURDAY, OCT. 11

• Deputy Jonathan Kilbourn and Deputy Rosa Sammons responded to a residence in reference to domestic disturbance. Upon arrival it was found to be verbal only. Subsequently the male half left the residence for the remainder of the evening.

SUNDAY, OCT. 12

• No reports.

MONDAY, OCT. 13

• Deputy Aimee Hoagland responded to the front lobby and made contact with a citizen who wished to report her wallet and contents lost.

• A citizen reported damage to his air conditioning unit. The reporting party stated someone had stolen a circuit breaker from the unit. Due to no video footage and no suspect information, the case was closed.

• Wal-Mart Asset Protection reported a delayed theft. Taken was approximately \$30 worth of unpaid merchandise. Warrant requested.

TUESDAY, OCT. 14

• Deputy Zachary Godwin made contact

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

with a citizen who stated an unknown subject has been attempting to withdraw funds from her bank account. She made contact with her bank and cancelled her debit cards. She is not out any money at this time and requested this case be documented for information at this time.

• Deputy Zachary Godwin made contact with a citizen who stated someone known to her has continuously posted her personal information on social media, randomly drives by her residence honking her horn, and spreading lies about her which is causing her business to suffer financially. This case is being forwarded to Criminal Investigations Division for review.

• A citizen reported someone had broken into his shed and tampered with items inside. He advised the items belong to his son who is currently in jail. He was unable to advise if anything was taken due to his son being in jail. Case forwarded to CID.

• A citizen reported

unauthorized charges against her bank account. She stated \$620 was taken and she did not approve these transactions. Case forwarded to CID.

• A subject called from Guinevere Lane and advised a woman came to his home claiming she had been in a fight. The woman left prior to deputies arrival but was later located in the parking lot of Aldi. The female was identified. During the investigation it was discovered she had taken several packages from a residence on Trice Lane. Contact was made with the property’s owner who advised they wished to pursue charges. She was placed under arrest and transported to the jail.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 15

• A citizen reported an unknown suspect had broken into his lawn trailer and stole a copious amount of lawn equipment. He advised the equipment totaled approximately \$7,000 and were used for his

business. He listed his brother as a possible suspect but was not entirely sure. Case forwarded to CID.

• Deputy Arturo Corboba conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle due to an expired tag. During the stop it was discovered that the driver of the vehicle did not possess a valid driver’s license. The driver admitted to knowing he did not possess a license and was subsequently placed under arrest. He was transported to the county jail without further incident.

THURSDAY, OCT. 16

• A citizen reported people calling and texting her claiming they were from her mortgage company. She advised she had called her mortgage company to inform them of the calls to which they advised her that they were trying to scam her. She advised she was at no monetary or property loss but wanted this incident documented.

• A citizen reported an unknown subject taking gasoline from one of his machines on his property at Port Leon Drive. He advised he did not have any digital images or video surveillance of the incident occurring but

stated this was the third time. He advised there was a juvenile that rides the area but was unsure if it was him or not. He advised he will be placing video surveillance for any future incidents. Due to insufficient evidence and no witnesses along with the machine being tampered with by the complainant, this report was documented for informational purposes.

FRIDAY, OCT. 17

• A citizen came to the Sheriff’s Office at 15 Oak St. in reference to a fraud complaint. Upon arrival, contact was made with the reporting party who advised he received a Geico Insurance quote from a previous address he lived at in Minnesota. He stated he believes someone filed for the quote on his behalf. He notified Geico and they advised they would look into the matter. At this time He is not out of any money. He requested the incident be documented for information purposes.

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

Sopchoppy offers deal on park honeysuckle

By **LINDA ANN McDONALD**
Correspondent

Sopchoppy City Commissioner Mary Katherine Westmark offered a proposal to remove the coral honeysuckle from the city owned boundary fences within the Depot Park native garden.

Westmark made the proposal at the Sopchoppy City Commission meeting on Monday, Oct. 13.

The project would relocate the honeysuckle to designated cattle panels that will be placed in various spots within the park. This proposal also includes a plan to relocate the Caroline jessamine, passionflower and

American wisteria vines that are growing on the two pavilions inside the park boundary.

Several months ago, city staff expressed concern about damage the vines were doing to the Depot Park pavilion, which drew the ire of the native gardeners who planted the garden.

The plan calls for three City of Sopchoppy will purchase six cattle panels to be cut and used as “arches” for the vine relocations. The arches are to be located at designated spots within the boundary of Depot Park.

The Council moved forward and approved the first part of the proposal and scheduled a workshop for Nov. 3 at

3 p.m. to discuss the remaining part of the proposal, which is to safely remove and relocate vines from the city park fencing and pavilion posts and to discuss follow up and maintenance.

A proposed addendum from the Depot Park Volunteer Gardeners acknowledging that the city is to take full responsibility for maintenance of the park’s hardscape (paths, pavilions, playground, benches, fences, lighting, irrigation lines and faucets), as well as the turfgrass lawn and unplanted woods rests with City Staff.

The Depot Volunteer Gardeners requested that responsibility for maintaining the

award-winning native plant gardens continue to be entrusted to the volunteers who have maintained these gardens for 7 years.

Volunteers also agree to continue to refine the design of the gardens within the current footprint to select/install/move native plants within the current boundaries to collect/propagate/sow wildflower seeds to correctly prune planted trees and shrubs, and more on an ongoing basis as seasonally appropriate, including day-to-day activation of the irrigation system.

The total estimated budget is \$500 for the cost of the six cattle panels, posts, and muting hardware.



‘Tate’ screening held

The Wakulla County Historical Society held a screening of the locally produced movie “Tate” on Saturday night at the Sopchoppy auditorium. The movie is about the legend of Tate’s Hell and the event featured music by local musician Frank Lindamood, above. Filmmaker Stacy Brown, below, answered questions after the screening. (Photos by Gerald Brown)



‘No Kings’ protest held in Sopchoppy



Wakulla County had a “No Kings” protest in Sopchoppy on Saturday. Robert Seidler, one of the organizers of the event, reported about 35 people largely from Sopchoppy and Panacea attended. “Very peaceful, lots of great networking. Wakulla County Sheriff’s Office were incredibly helpful and thoughtful,” Seidler reported, adding: “Water and cookies were brought by volunteers.” There was a handful of counter protesters across the street. (Photos by Robert Seidler)



BRIAN C. ENGLISH

Financial Products / Services

Investments

Life Insurance

DROP Rollovers

401(k) Rollovers

926-7487

ChFC®

HIGHEST STANDARD OF KNOWLEDGE & TRUST

Chartered Financial Consultant®

The Chartered Advisor for Senior Living® (CASL®) designation is issued by The American College after acquiring specialized knowledge on advanced retirement and estate planning strategies.

CASL

RICP®

RETIREMENT INCOME CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL®

A-AAA

HARRISON

We've Moved

BAIL BONDS

850-926-2299

Franklin County 850-670-3333

Locally Owned & Operated by Mike Harrison Since 1995

3049 Crawfordville Hwy. • Across from Court House

www.wakullabailbonds.com



USE THE NEWS

1. A THIEF IN PARIS

In Paris, France, two thieves used a special electric ladder truck to climb into the world-famous Louvre Museum. It was early in the morning, and the museum had just opened. The robbers quickly broke a window and ran into a fancy room filled with royal jewels – necklaces, earrings, and even a crown once worn by an empress! In just 7 minutes, they smashed open glass cases, grabbed eight pieces of treasure, and escaped down the ladder to meet two more helpers on scooters. They left behind some jewels, including the crown, and tried to burn the ladder basket to cover their tracks. The museum was filled with visitors at the time, but no one was hurt. Police are now working hard to find the stolen items and catch the people who took them. France’s president called it “an attack on history,” and promised the jewels would be found. The Louvre is the most visited museum in the world, filled with important art and treasures—including the famous Mona Lisa. This theft reminded many people of a time over 100 years ago when even the Mona Lisa was stolen, and later returned. Create your own story or comic strip about the jewelry being stolen from the Louvre. Include at least three facts from the story.

2. THE CASE OF THE STOLEN LEGOS

Police in California recently solved a very strange mystery: someone had stolen thousands of Lego pieces! When officers searched a house, they found tubs full of Lego bricks, unopened Lego sets, and shelves lined with tiny Lego people – many with their heads popped off and sorted into neat rows. The police said a man had been running a Lego theft ring. That means he asked others to steal expensive Lego sets from stores so he could sell them for more money online. Some rare Lego sets can be worth hundreds or even thousands of dollars! Because Lego toys are small, popular, and hard to trace, they are sometimes stolen and sold by collectors looking to make money. Police are still investigating to find out where the stolen Legos came from and who else might be involved. Even though Legos are fun to build and collect, this story shows that stealing – even toys – is a serious crime. Some Lego sets are worth a lot of money because they are rare or part of a special collection. Think of a toy, game, or collectible you really like – maybe it’s Legos, trading cards, or stuffed animals. On

a sheet of paper, make a list of 3 things that would make a toy more valuable (for example: limited edition, hard to find, or in perfect condition). Then, write 2 or 3 sentences about why people should take care of their toys and never take things that don’t belong to them.

3. WHEN KIDS RUN THE SHOW

Usually, adults who study art choose what goes into museum exhibits. But now, some museums are letting kids and teens help decide! In places like California, Colorado, and Boston, students have been picking paintings, writing labels, and even choosing wall colors for real museum shows. In California, 15 high schoolers helped create an art show called Piece of Me. They looked at lots of artworks, chose a theme, and built a whole exhibit about how

it feels to grow up with social media. In Denver, younger kids from a Native American tribe picked art that reminded them of their own family history and memories. One child even picked a painting because it looked like their favorite restaurant! The museums say letting kids help makes the exhibits more fun, creative, and real. Even if they’re not experts, young curators bring new ideas and stories to the art. Imagine your local museum asked you to help create a new art exhibit! On a piece of paper, draw one piece of art you would choose for your show. Then, write 3 to 5 sentences explaining why you picked it and what your exhibit would be about.

4. SECRET CODE

At the headquarters of the C.I.A. (a government agency that works with secret in-

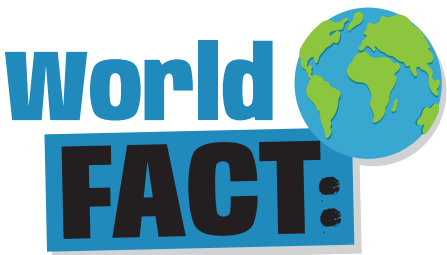
formation), there’s a big metal sculpture called Kryptos. It has four hidden messages written in code. The artist, Jim Sanborn, made it in 1990 to be a fun and tricky puzzle. Over the years, smart people figured out the first three messages – but the fourth one stayed a mystery for 35 years! This year, two friends found the answer by looking through old papers at the Smithsonian museum. They didn’t break the code using computers— instead, they used research skills and found clues in paper scraps that the artist had accidentally included in the museum’s files. They were surprised and excited to solve it! Now, people are wondering what will happen to the sculpture’s secret. The artist had planned to sell the answer in an auction to raise money, but now the secret isn’t a secret anymore! Codes and puzzles are used all over the world to keep information secret. Think of

a time when you wanted to keep something private – like a surprise, a diary entry, or a gift. On a sheet of paper, write a short story (3–5 sentences) about a secret message you might hide and who it would be for. Then, create your own simple code by making up symbols or changing the letters in the alphabet. Rewrite one sentence from your story using your secret code.

5. THE RAT HOLE MYSTERY

In Chicago, a funny-looking hole shaped like a squished animal appeared in the sidewalk. People started calling it the “Chicago Rat Hole” or even “Splatatouille.” Some thought a real rat had walked into wet concrete, got stuck, and left behind its shape. People visited the spot, took photos, and even left tiny gifts like candles and toy rats. But scientists recently studied the shape and size of the hole and discovered something

surprising – it wasn’t made by a rat at all! It was probably made by a squirrel. By looking at photos and measuring the hole using coins for size, the scientists found that the shape matched a squirrel’s body much better than a rat’s. They think the squirrel may have fallen from a tree onto wet concrete. Even though the truth has been found, people in Chicago still love the story. It didn’t matter if it was made by a rat or a squirrel – what mattered most is that it made people smile and brought them together. Imagine you are a scientist trying to solve your own mystery! On a sheet of paper, draw an animal footprint, tail mark, or body shape in pretend wet concrete. Then, write 3 clues someone could use to guess which animal made the mark. Finally, write one sentence explaining how scientists use evidence and observation to solve mysteries like this one.



This country is the largest auto manufacturer in the world.

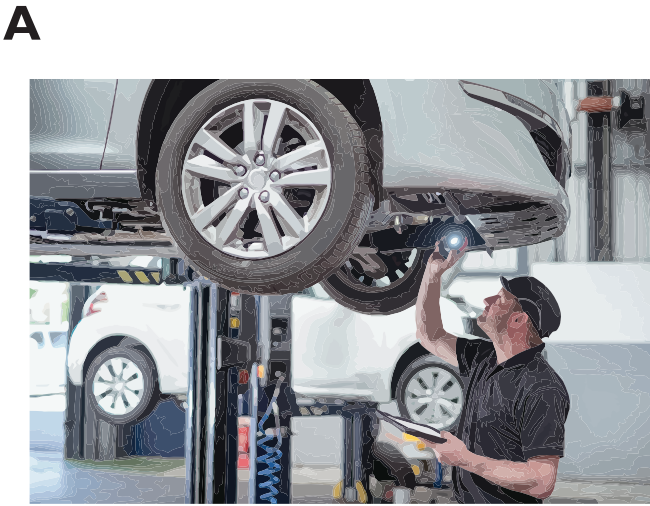
Answer: China



English: Steer
Spanish: Conducir
Italian: Guidare
French: Conduire
German: Etwas lenken

What’s the Difference?

Find the four differences between the two pictures.



Answers: Missing lug nuts 2. Tires stacked on right 3. Man on left 4. Missing clipboard/tablet



1803: The United States Senate ratifies the Louisiana Purchase.

1910: The British ocean liner RMS Olympic is launched.

1995: The Space Shuttle Columbia launches on STS-73.



IDLE

an engine runs slowly but the vehicle isn’t moving



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Car battery

CLASSIFIEDS

MARKET

HOME OF THE \$5 CLASSIFIED AD

UP TO 20 WORDS

SERVICES AD 2X2 FOR JUST \$12.50

DISPLAY ADS \$5 PER COL INCH

ADD WORDS FOR 25¢ PER WORD

Please call The Wakulla Sun at 850-962-8019
email classifieds@thewakullasun.com

SERVICES



Susan Schatzman

Broker Associate



Mobile: 850-519-2292

SchatzmanSusan@gmail.com



TOWN & COUNTRY REALTY
KELLER WILLIAMS





Massages, Facials,
Body Treatments

info@Sunraysspa.com
Easy Online Scheduling
www.SunraysSpa.com
2655-A Crawfordville Hwy.
Crawfordville FL 32327
850-745-6422

Relax Revive Rejuvenate

Follow us on 

MM43237



Land Clearing
Driveways
Ponds
Site Work
Demolition
Hauling

850-933-8505

FREE ESTIMATES



Gene Lambert

Agency Manager



FARM BUREAU INSURANCE
of Wakulla County

(850) 926-3425
GENE.LAMBERT@FFBIC.COM
2468 Crawfordville Hwy, Crawfordville, FL 32327



Licensed & Insured 30+ YEARS EXPERIENCE

850.273.9101

text or call

Skid Steer Mowing
Concrete Removal
Demolition

Land Clearing
Grading
Driveways



Listing Properties for
Sale or Manage!

Larson Park Realty

Commercial & Residential

Specializing in
Wakulla Co., Leon Co.
and Franklin Co.



Carol Ann Williams
Broker Associate, Realtor®

Local In-Person Service • Or email or text me
850-566-9293 CarolAnn@LarsonPark.com • LarsonPark.com



QUALITY RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL
REPAINTING
PRESSURE WASHING
LIFT AVAILABLE IN HOUSE
WOOD ROT REPAIRS
DECK RESTORATION
CABINET PAINTING



A NEW LOOK
PAINTING
WE WANT TO BE YOUR PAINTER!
ANEWLOOKPAINTING.NET
850-926-2400
SINCE 1993



Locally Owned & Operated
Serving Wakulla &
Surrounding Counties
Since 1993

Open to Serve You

Member of Chamber of Commerce and the Better Business Bureau BBB

Jim Porter & Todd Porter



Bonnie

THE LIFE COACH

It isn't about how
your life looks to others...

Its about how it feels to you!

Bonnie Holub
Certified Life Coach
850-570-8271
BonnietheLifeCoach.com

POOL SERVICE

Oasis Pool Services, LLC
Quality Pool Cleaning
Affordable Pricing
FREE ESTIMATES
772-486-8110
Locally Owned & Operated

STORAGE



Mini-Warehouses - Boats - RV's
519-5128 • 508-5177 - 3743 Crawfordville Hwy
2 MILES SOUTH OF THE COURTHOUSE

SERVICES

CRUM'S HOME DETAIL
Chris Crum
HANDYMAN & PRESSURE
WASHING SERVICES
Crawfordville & surrounding areas
850-694-4832

LEATHER REPAIR /
REFURBISH
850-766-4562
www.allcornleather.com
John Allcorn Leather

Bags, Belts, Holsters
Some work on Shoes and tack
Also – Custom Products

PAT GREEN'S
LAWN SERVICE

WE DO IT ALL!
20+ Years Experience
850528-2371 or
850926-7461
TREE TRIMMING,
TRACTOR WORK AND
LAWN MAINTENANCE

• LAND CLEARING
• LANDSCAPING
• IRRIGATION
• SOD • MULCHING
• BUSH HOGGING
• DRIVEWAYS
• CULVERTS INSTALLATION
• ROAD MILLINGS

FREE QUOTES!
Call us for all your
outdoor projects!
Locally Owned and Operated
Licensed and Insured

TREE TRIMMING

TREE TRIMMING
and REMOVAL
24 HOUR
EMERGENCY SERVICES
• Storm Damage
• Tree Preservation
Michael Mongeon
ISA Certified Arborist, FL-6125A
ISA Tree Risk Assessment
Qualified 850-421-8104



Please
Recycle



CLEANING & LAUNDRY
SERVICES, LLC

AMANDA STRICKLAND

(448) 666-3881

CALL/TEXT TODAY
FOR YOUR
FREE ESTIMATE!

Non-Judgmental
Reasonably Priced
Efficient
Lic & Insured



GELLIS LAW

PLLC

A CONCIERGE COUNSELOR

Local Wakulla Attorney ~ Resident & Neighbor ~

Sean W. Gellis, Esq
Founder & Managing Member

561-371-2848 / 2931 Crawfordville Hwy.
Next to DQ

Sean@gellislaw.com
www.GellisLaw.com

40 ACRES

FOR SALE

D. E. BILLINGSLEY

LIC. REAL ESTATE BROKER

850-510-3309

www.debillingsley.com



Gerald Brown
Photography

• Licensed Drone Operator
• Beach Portraits
• Special Occasions
• Events

Follow me on instagram:
[GeraldBrownFoto](https://www.instagram.com/GeraldBrownFoto)

850-545-4281
GeraldBrownPhoto@gmail.com

NOTICE OF SALE

1023 TWS NOS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:
Notice is hereby given that on Friday, November 7th, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. the following vessel may be sold at public sale at 85 Harbour Point Drive, Crawfordville, Florida 32327 for the amount owed on the vessel to satisfy the lien for storage charges and any administrative fees allowed pursuant to Florida Statue 713.585.
“Contagious” Sailboat 41’ Out-island.
The name, address and telephone number and public sale location of the marina claiming the lien for unpaid charges is Shell Point Harbor Marina 85 Harbour Point Drive, Crawfordville Florida 32327, 850-544-5658. The customer or person claiming an interest, or a lien may redeem the vessel by satisfying the amount due in cash on or before the sale date and time. The customer or person claiming an interest or lien on a vessel may file a demand for hearing with the Clerk of Court in Wakulla County where the vessel is held to determine whether the vessel has been wrongfully taken or withheld from him or her. At any time before the date of sale, a customer or person of record claiming a lien on the vessel may post a cash payment or Surety bond in the amount stated on the invoice with the Clerk of Circuit Court where the disputed transaction occurred.
October 23, 30, 2025

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE OF SALE
Notice is given pursuant to Florida Self-Storage Facility Act, Florida Statutes, Chapter 83, Part IV that Seminole Self Storage will hold a sale by sealed bid OCTOBER 30TH, 2025, at 11:00 am. at 2314 Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville, Florida 32327, of the contents of Mini Warehouse containing personal property of
CARSWELL WILLIAMS ,CHRISTOPHER DAVIS
Before the sale date of OCTOBER 30TH, 2025. The Owners may redeem their property by payment of the Outstanding Balance and cost by mailing certified funds to 2314 Crawfordville Hwy, Crawfordville, Florida 32327 or Paying in person at the warehouse location.
October 16, 23, 2025

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
TAX DEED FILE NO. 2025 TXD 042
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that DUANE EVANS LLC The holder of the following tax certificate has filed the certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
Certificate #: 463 Date of Issuance: June 1, 2023
Parcel #: 03-6s-02w-035-03792-004
Description of Property:
Surf Block P Lot 4
OR 554 P 186, OR 834 P 668
DC OR 1197 P 440
Name in which assessed HEIRS OF ROBERT D WILLIX JR said property being in the County of Wakulla, State of Florida. Unless such-certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder in the Wakulla Co.Courthouseon: December 10, 2025 at 10:00 A.M. All bidders must pre-register in the OR Dept. prior to 9:45 P.M. to participate in the auction.
October 2, 2025
Signature: Greg James, Clerk
By: D. Dee, Deputy Clerk
Clerk of Circuit Court, Wakulla County, Florida
Published on October 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
TAX DEED FILE NO. 2025 TXD 043
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that DUANE EVANS LLC The holder of the following tax certificate has filed the certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
Certificate #: 464 Date of Issuance: June 1, 2023
Parcel #: 03-6s-02w-035-03792-005
Description of Property:
Surf Block P Lot 5
OR 554 P 174,
OR 834 P 666, OR 1197 P 440
Name in which assessed HEIRS OF ROBERT D WILLIX JR said property being in the County of Wakulla, State of Florida. Unless such-certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder in the Wakulla Co.Courthouseon: December 10, 2025 at 10:00 A.M. All bidders must pre-register in the OR Dept. prior to 9:45 P.M. to participate in the auction.
October 2, 2025
Signature: Greg James, Clerk
By: D. Dee, Deputy Clerk
Clerk of Circuit Court, Wakulla County, Florida
Published on October 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
TAX DEED FILE NO. 2025 TXD 044
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that DUANE EVANS LLC The holder of the following tax certificate has filed the certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
Certificate #: 484 Date of Issuance: June 1, 2023
Parcel #: 24-2s-01w-000-03964-002
Description of Property:
24 2s 1w p-4-2-m-65 in N 1/2 of SE 1/4
OR 49 P 101 OR 343 P 119, OR 348 P 18 OR 566 P 451,
OR 710 P 646 OR 782 P 685
Name in which assessed PATRICIA LYNN MCGEE/DOROTHY DICKSON ETAL said property being in the County of Wakulla, State of Florida. Unless suchcertificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder in the Wakulla Co.Courthouseon: December 10, 2025 at 10:00 A.M. All bidders must pre-register in the OR Dept. prior to 9:45 P.M. to participate in the auction.
October 2, 2025
Signature: Greg James, Clerk
By: D. Dee, Deputy Clerk
Clerk of Circuit Court, Wakulla County, Florida
Published on October 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
TAX DEED FILE NO. 2025 TXD 045
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that DUANE EVANS LLC The holder of the following tax certificate has filed the certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
Certificate #: 506 Date of Issuance: June 1, 2023
Parcel #: 29-2s-01w-000-04116-000
Description of Property:
29-2s-1w p-23-m-57
A parcel of land 150 X 100 ft
in N 1/2 of sec 29
OR 47 P 556, OR 1199 P 149
Name in which assessed DEBRA GAIL DAVIS said property being in the County of Wakulla, State of Florida. Unless suchcertificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder in the Wakulla Co.Courthouseon: December 10, 2025 at 10:00 A.M. All bidders must pre-register in the OR Dept. prior to 9:45 P.M. to participate in the auction.
October 2, 2025
Signature: Greg James, Clerk
By: D. Dee, Deputy Clerk
Clerk of Circuit Court, Wakulla County, Florida
Published on October 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
TAX DEED FILE NO. 2025 TXD 046
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that DUANE EVANS LLC The holder of the following tax certificate has filed the certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
Certificate #: 508 Date of Issuance: June 1, 2023
Parcel #: 29-2s-01w-051-04158-000
Description of Property:
River Sink Subd
Block B Lot 23, 24 Also a prcl
of land in the NE 1/4 of Sec 29
OR 41 P 829 & OR 48 P 61 & 62, OR 49 P 224
Name in which assessed DEBRA GAIL DAVIS said property being in the County of Wakulla, State of Florida. Unless suchcertificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder in the Wakulla Co.Courthouseon: December 10, 2025 at 10:00 A.M. All bidders must pre-register in the OR Dept. prior to 9:45 P.M. to participate in the auction.
October 2, 2025
Signature: Greg James, Clerk
By: D. Dee, Deputy Clerk
Clerk of Circuit Court, Wakulla County, Florida
Published on October 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025

Stone Crab season opens



Second boat arriving with the catch after a long day on the water.



Johnny Lynn and Luke Sembler after the claws have been boiled.



At left, sorting the Stone Crab claws by size – medium, large and extra large.

**Story & Photos By
LYNDA KINSEY**

The Lynn Brothers welcomed the newspaper to come and take photos of the opening day of Stone Crab Season on Wednesday, Oct. 15 and show the process.

Lynn Brothers sent two boats with a three man crew out to check and harvest the 5,000 traps that are allowed to be placed in the Gulf 10 days prior. A crew of about five were also on the dock to help process the catch. “We didn’t expect to do as well as we did due to the weather conditions, the full moon, northeast

winds and clear waters. We brought in close to 1,000 pounds today,” said Johnny Lynn.

The crabs are unloaded by the crew and helpers and dumped into a large vat to boil. When they have completed the boil, they are removed and cooled down. The vats are so large and heavy that the stainless steel drainer baskets has to be trolled on a mechanical hoist to lower in and out of the vats. They are then dumped onto a large stainless steel table where 4 to 5 people sort them according to size. They are then weighed and sold by the pound – medium, large,

and extra large. Some people like the floaters the best, some like the smaller and some think the largest are sweeter than the others.

Lynn, who has been in the business since the 1980s, was asked if he remembered a time when there was not a season for stone crabbing and he replied: “There has always been a season as far back as I can remember and the reason for the season is because the females start ‘egging’ in late March and by October all have hatched.”

Stone Crab Season is open until May 1, 2026. Bon appétit!



RMS Marine
SINCE 1985
FORMERLY AMS

Specializing in All of your Commercial Fishing, Crabbing & Scalping Supplies

850-926-3114 • 800-726-3104

3026 Coastal Hwy, Crawfordville FL
RMSMarineSupply.com

**If we don't have it...
We can get it!**



ALL PRO FENCE & DECK
Commercial, Residential, Decks, Gates & More
Locally Owned & Operated • 30 years experience • Licensed & Insured

Joey Olah **850-408-7709**



**Thanks to Mandana,
your secure connection
is guaranteed.**

We continually monitor our digital channels to safeguard your online and mobile banking experience. But your most secure banking experience is face-to-face, where we can better meet your ever-changing needs and serve you exceptionally well. ccbq.com.

 **Capital City Bank**
More than your bank. Your banker.

Member FDIC
03789_12.17.24




**CELEBRATING 20 YEARS
OF LEGAL EXCELLENCE**

*Thank You
Wakulla County!*

**LOWE**
LEGAL & TITLE

LoweLegalAndTitle.com 850.926.8245

OFFICES-CRAWFORDVILLE



WAYPOINT
PROPERTIES

850-926-9100


WPTPROPERTIES.COM

"Let Waypoint Properties help
you find your way home..."

Next game:

On Friday, Oct. 24

The War Eagles host the Baker County Wildcats
at J.D. Jones Stadium at 7 p.m.



War Eagles fall to South Walton

By **WILLIAM SNOWDEN**
Editor

It took a double over-
time to decide the winner
of the Wakulla War Eagles
vs. South Walton Sea-
hawks on Friday night.

Unfortunately, the War
Eagles were on the losing
end of a 38-35 score.

Tied at the end of reg-
ulation at 28-all, Wakulla
won the overtime coin
toss and elected to go on
defense first. The teams
set up at the 10 at the
southern end zone and
the Seahawks scored a
touchdown on a reverse
and kicked the extra point
to go up 35-28.

Facing a 4th down at
the 8, quarterback Owen
Klees rolled out and found
receiver Jordan Barnes for
a touchdown. Kicker Sam
Bruce added the extra
point to knot it at 35.

On the next overtime
series at the other end of
the field, the War Eagles
started at the 10. On first
down, a dropped pass;
on second down, Klees
scrambled to the 6; on
third down, incomplete
pass. On 4th down, the
War Eagles came out of a
time out lined up for a field
goal – but it was a fake, a
toss to a back but he was
tackled short of the goal.

The Seahawks came
out on their series, lined
up for a field goal and
kicked it to win the game
38-35.

"We just fell a little
short," said Head Coach
Scott Klees. "I'm proud of
the fight in our kids."

He praised the offensive
line for their hard fight,
and said they had a great



PRIME MERIDIAN BANK™
MEMBER FDIC



War Eagle quarterback Owen Klees runs for a touchdown. He had a big night: 22 carries for 151 yards and two touch-
downs rushing; and was 25 for 42 passing for 353 yards and two passing touchdowns.

night.

Defense had some
problems in the first half,
some missed tackles and
tackling high. But they
locked down in the second
half and played well, said
Coach Klees.

But the coach also saw
where the team "reverted
back a little bit to the
first of the year" when

they dropped a couple of
games. Klees took respon-
sibility for that and said
that's what they would
be working on in practice
this week.

The War Eagles also
came out of the game with
more injuries. Klees said
the team is going to have
to have a "next man up
mentality" with new play-

ers coming in to take over
for injured teammates.

With the loss, the War
Eagles fell to 5-3. It was
a non-district loss, so the
team remains at 2-0 in the
district.

GAME STATS

Owen Klees was named
overall MVP for the week.
The Seahawks had no an-
swer for his quarterback
draws, and Coach Klees
noted it was unusual to

rush his QB 22 times in a
game. Owen garnered 151
yards on those carries, in-
cluding two touchdowns.
Passing, he was 25 of 42
for 353 yards and two
touchdowns with only one
interception. "He had an
unbelievable night," said
Coach Klees.

Tight end Wyatt Brown
was offensive player of the
week and had a big night
with seven catches for 178
yards and a touchdown.

Defensive Player of the
Week was defensive back
Auvion Thomas who had
two interceptions on the
night and 3 tackles.

Special Team Player of
the Week was Jackson
Crowe, who was praised
by Coach Klees for having
good snaps all night.

NEXT: BAKER COUNTY WILDCATS

Up next is a chance
for the War Eagles to win
the district championship
as they face the Baker
County Wildcats, who are
4-4 overall and 1-1 in the
district.


Coach Klees said Bak-
er County's team is al-
most identical to Wakulla:
"Physical. Tough kids.
Quarterback runs the ball
very well. Good running
back. Defense is solid."

"We're going to have
to play our best game to
win," said Klees.


"We need to control the
line and scrimmage and
time of possession," he
added. "And of course no
turnovers."

COACH'S CORNER

Brought to you by:



**3Y OUTDOOR
EQUIPMENT**
850- 926- 3300
2219 Crawfordville HWY, Crawfordville
LET'S MOW DOWN THE COMPETITION





**COACH
Scott Klees**

FROM THE COACH


Last week: War Eagles lost a battle with the South Walton
Seahawks in double overtime. Kids kept fighting, though.

Scouting: Baker County Wildcats are a lot like Wakulla:
tough, physical, with a good running quarterback and a solid
defense.

Key to victory: War Eagles control the line of scrimmage
and time of possession. And no turnovers.

War Eagle defense played tough in the second half, as here, gang-tackling a Seahawk
runner.


PHOTOS THIS PAGE, AND
FRONT PAGE CLUE-IN
BY PERRY DISSMORE




DOD WALKER
Realtor
850-509-5301 Cell
DOD@WPTPROPERTIES.COM
WWW.WPTPROPERTIES.COM

**Proud sponsor
of players of
the week.**




MVP



OWEN KLEES
Quarterback

Offense


WYATT BROWN
Tight end


Defense


AUVION THOMAS
DB/Receiver


Special Teams


JACKSON CROWE
Long snapper

WAR EAGLES FOOTBALL



IS ON THE AIR



**ALL GAMES LIVE
ON 94.1 FM,
WAVE94.COM AND
OUR FREE APPS FOR
APPLE AND ANDROID**

**TUNE IN AFTER EVERY GAME FOR THE
TOTAL CARE DENTAL COACH'S SHOW!**