



\$1 Two Sections

"It's a New Day"

Locally Owned & Operated

Our 4th Year 50th Issue
Thursday, December 25, 2025

Service of Remembrance

Family Funeral Home hosts the event, a benefit for Big Bend Hospice



Pastor B.B. Barwick and Friends from Panacea Full Gospel performing at the event on Tuesday, Dec. 16.



Pianist Jerry Evans plays Christmas favorites.



Pastor David Allen offers words of encouragement for those facing loss during the holiday season.



Wakulla County Christian Coalition members perform Christmas numbers as a chorus.



Big Bend Hospice music therapist Ashley Hall performs a ballad about remembering loved ones.

IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS



Visiting Mr. Christmas

Photographer Perry Dissmore visited the nearest thing to the North Pole in Crawfordville - 6 Cardinal Court - and got a picture of Mr. Christmas. (Jerry Boler), Lorelei, Shannon, Logan and Nick Chisler. Then he got a picture of his wife and him in Santa's sleigh. Merry Christmas! (Photos by Perry Dissmore)



Inmate charged with smuggling gun into jail

James Hollis is charged with smuggling contraband and possession of a firearm by a felon

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

Wakulla County Jail inmate James Hollis was charged last week with smuggling a handgun inside the secure area of the jail, and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

The Sun first reported on the situation a couple of weeks ago, but did not name the inmate under investigation because criminal charges hadn't been filed.

Hollis was presented with charges on Dec. 12 and given a first appearance on Dec. 13.

Hollis had been arrested in August on charges of aggravated assault with a firearm and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon for using a .22 revolver to shoot out the window of the woman's car. He was released after posting a \$2,500 bond, but was later arrested for misdemeanor charges of resisting without violence and violation of a domestic violence injunction and ordered held without bond.

According to a source who spoke with The Sun, the inmate was reportedly in possession of the handgun when he was arrested and the gun was not found when he was searched by the deputy making the arrest or by jail staff when he was processed into the facility.

Correctional staff became aware of the firearm in the jail when Hollis was taken out of the facility to receive medical treatment and another inmate reported it.



Inmate James Hollis is charged with smuggling a handgun into the jail.

Judge Flury is assigned the Mike Kemp case

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

Circuit Judge Ron Flury has been assigned to the case of former County Commissioner Mike Kemp after Wakulla Circuit Judge Layne Smith recused himself.

Kemp, who faces felony charges of using a public record to harass and tampering with a witness, has been set to go to trial in March.

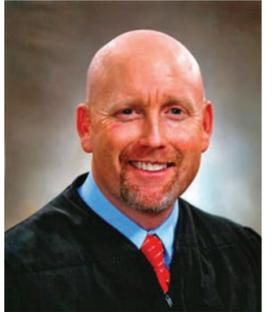
Judge Smith recused himself after some in-temperate remarks directed at attorneys in a civil case - asking if he should direct the bailiff in the courtroom to shoot the attorneys and expressing his frustration with them. One of the attorneys was Stephen Webster, who is Kemp's defense attorney.

Acting Chief Judge Stephen Everett signed the order appointing Judge Flury on Nov. 19.

Flury has been the circuit judge assigned to Wakulla in the past, and served as chief prosecutor in Wakulla before he was appointed to the bench in 2012. Flury is currently assigned to Gadsden County, which prompted some people on social media to post that Kemp's trial would be moved there, but that is not the case. There has not even been a motion filed for a change in venue in Kemp's case.

Kemp is charged with outing the wrong person in trying to name a social media troll who was a frequent critic. Kemp got the name from voting records, thus the public records part of the charge.

Turn to Page 9



Circuit Judge Ron Flury will oversee the Mike Kemp case.

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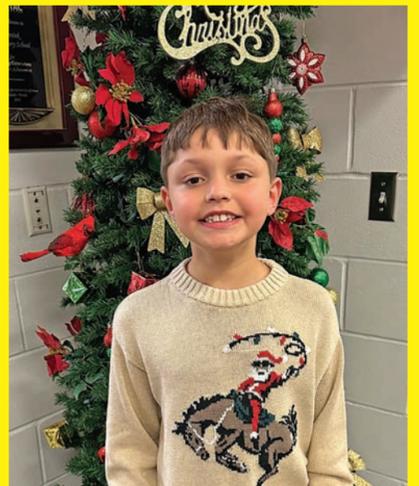


Student of the Week

Owen Heller – 3rd grader, Riversink Elementary

Principal: Louis Heller

Achievements/Reason for Nomination: Owen shows consistent effort and never gives up. He is a role model by following classroom expectations and shows leadership during group work. Owen goes above and beyond expectations daily!



STUDENT OF THE WEEK FEATURES A DIFFERENT SCHOOL EACH WEEK.

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Ribbon cutting held for STIX

The Wakulla Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon-cutting on Friday, Dec. 19 for STIX, Wakulla's brand-new state-of-the-art training facility! STIX brings top-tier athletic development to our community with professional batting cages, advanced training technology, and cutting-edge golf simulators designed for athletes of all ages and skill levels. It's what makes STIX a game-changer for baseball, softball, and golf training right here at home. (Photo by Lynda Kinsey)



ting-edge golf simulators designed for athletes of all ages and skill levels. It's what makes STIX a game-changer for baseball, softball, and golf training right here at home. (Photo by Lynda Kinsey)

The Wakulla Sun
Readers' Choice
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Wakulla County Tax Collectors Office

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Lisa Craze, CFC

Wakulla County Tax Collector

HOME OF THE BLUE ANGELS LICENSE PLATE



The revenue collected annually from the sale of the Blue Angels specialty license plate will be distributed to the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation, a Florida nonprofit, to fund the maintenance, programs, marketing, and projects of the foundation, including the National Naval Aviation Museum and the National Flight Academy in Pensacola.

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4-H Clover Gala fundraiser is Jan. 29

Volunteer, Business/Organization of the Year to be named for support of local 4-H

By **RACHEL PIENTA**
4-H Director

4-H agent Rachel Pienta announced that Wakulla 4-H will honor the 2025 Volunteer of the Year and Business/Organization of the Year nominees at the Clover Gala on Jan. 29.

This year's nominees for Volunteer of the Year are:

- Jennifer Counce, who has three children enrolled in 4-H, leads 4-H clubs, and volunteers at numerous 4-H programs.

- Jim Davishas grandchildren enrolled in 4-H, supports 4-H with time and resources, and mentors 4-H youth interested in environmental conservation through his work with Keep Wakulla County Beautiful.

- Novella Franklin: serves on the Wakulla 4-H Advisory Council and volunteers with numerous 4-H programs.

- Desiree Mosley began her involvement as a 4-H mom and continued her service after her son graduated. She serves on the 4-H Advisory Council, as well as volunteering with 4-H clubs and numerous programs.

- Amanda Murphy-Gruebel is a 4-H mom. She serves on the 4-H Advisory Council and leads multiple 4-H clubs. Murphy-Gruebel was recognized as the Volunteer of the Year at the 2025 Clover Gala.

- Mike Pearson raised three 4-H alumni. He has coached 4-H shooting sports programs in South Carolina and in

Wakulla County.

- Karen Zak is a 4-H parent with four children enrolled in the program. She also co-leads a 4-H club and serves on the 4-H Advisory Council. She supports multiple 4-H programs throughout the year.

The Business/Organization of the Year nominees are:

- The City of Sopchoppy invites Wakulla 4-H to present to commissioners each fall about 4-H programming. The commissioners support Wakulla 4-H as an annual sponsor.

- The Friends of Wakulla County Library partner with Wakulla 4-H to host the annual Wakulla Wonderful event. The 40-foot History Walk Timeline was sponsored by the Friends and built by Library staff and volunteers.

- Keep Wakulla County Beautiful has partnered with Wakulla 4-H on numerous service projects and supports 4-H with an annual sponsorship.

- The Wakulla County Chamber of Commerce partners with Wakulla 4-H to host historical tours during the Wakulla Wonderful celebration. Numerous Chamber members volunteer with 4-H and support the program with annual sponsorships.

- The Wakulla County Coalition for Youth partners with 4-H to support the Future Leaders of Wakulla club as well as numerous

service projects. The Wakulla County Coalition for Youth has supported 4-H with resource investments, including a purchase of equipment for the 4-H Skateboarding Club.

The 2025 Volunteer of the Year and Business/Organization of the Year nominees will be recognized at the Wakulla 4-H Clover Gala hosted by the Lodge at Wakulla Springs on Thursday, Jan. 29.

The event features a delicious buffet dinner, a silent auction, awards program, wine

toss game, and professional photography. Proceeds from the Clover Gala support 4-H programming.

What: Clover Gala with silent auction, dinner, award program, and dancing.

Time: 5:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Date: Jan. 29, 2026
Location: Wakulla Springs Lodge

Suggested Attire: Formal

Ticket Cost: \$75 individual/full table \$800/half table \$400

Ticket sales are open!
<https://tinyurl.com/WakullaCloverGala26>



City of Sopchoppy, Florida Notice of Adoption of Ordinances

The City Commission of the City of Sopchoppy gives notice of its intent to adopt the following Ordinances:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SOPCHOPPY AMENDING SECTION 14-1, CITY OF SOPCHOPPY CODE OF ORDINANCES TO CODIFY CHARGES FOR NEW MUNICIPAL FACILITIES, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

AND

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOPCHOPPY, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING CONNECTION AND CAPACITY FEES, FIRE HYDRANT AND FIRE SUPPRESSION REQUIREMENTS, DATA LOG POLICIES, AND ROAD BORE RESPONSIBILITIES; PROVIDING FOR DEFINITIONS, SEVERABILITY, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

A public hearing on the proposal Ordinances will be held on Monday, January 12, 2026 at 6:30 p.m., or as soon as can be heard in the City Hall, 105 Municipal Avenue, Sopchoppy, FL. A copy of either Ordinance may be obtained and persons wishing to comment may do so in person at the public hearing or by writing to the City of Sopchoppy, P.O. Box 1219, Sopchoppy, Florida 32358.

If an individual decides to appeal any decision made by the commission with respect to this meeting, a verbatim transcript may be required. If so, the individual should make provision for a transcript to be made at the meeting, (RE: Florida Statute 286.0105). Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodation to participate in this meeting is asked to advise the city at least 48 hours before the meeting by contacting Ashley Schilling at the above address or by phone at 850-962-4611.

December 25, 2025

ADVERTISEMENT TO BID

WAKULLA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Pre-qualified General Contractors are invited to bid on a General Contract for the Vestibule Security Upgrade for Wakulla County Schools, in Crawfordville, Florida in accordance with Contract Documents. All bids must be a lump sum basis; segregated Bids will not be accepted.

PROJECT: Vestibule Security Upgrade for Wakulla Co. Schools

BID DATE: January 23, 2026

TIME: 2:00 p.m. local time

WCS BID NO. 2025/26-02

A Pre-Bid conference will be held on **January 8, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. at 69 Arran Rd, Crawfordville, FL 32327**, and all bidders or their representatives are encouraged to be in attendance. The Pre-Bid Conference date is subject to change.

The Wakulla County School Board will receive sealed bids until **2:00 p.m. local time on January 23, 2026**. Bids received after this time will not be accepted. All qualified bidders are invited to attend the Bid Opening; Bids will be opened publicly and read aloud at the following location:

Wakulla County School Board Administration Building (Board Room)
69 Arran Rd, Crawfordville, FL 32327
Drawings and Specifications may be obtained by contacting:
Emily Winston
Clemons, Rutherford & Associates
Phone: 850.385.6153
ewinston@craarchitects.com

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

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

- Bids for Vestibule Security Upgrade for Wakulla Co. Schools
- (Name of Bidder)
- (Address of Bidder)
- (City, State, Zip Code)

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

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

WAKULLA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
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CHIEF OF FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE

Dec 25, 2025, Jan, 1, 8, 2026

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

Notice of Public Meeting:

The Wakulla County Historic Preservation Committee is holding a Public Meeting on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at 3:30p.m. in the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners Administration Conference Room, 3093 Crawfordville Hwy., Crawfordville, FL., (850) 926-0919.

Purpose of Meeting:

To review and make recommendations to the BOCC on matters related to the designation, regulation and administration of historical, cultural and architectural resources in the County based on the criteria set forth in Ordinance #13-04.

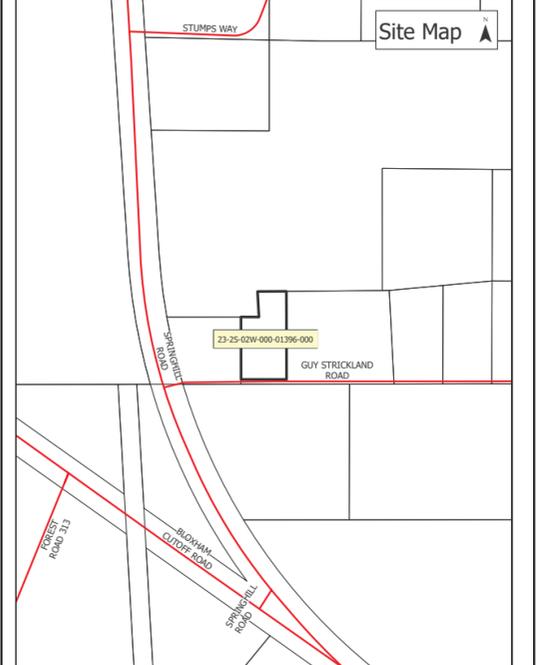
If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the board, agency, or commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Persons with a disability needing a special accommodation should contact the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners Administration Office at least two (2) days prior to the meeting at (850) 926-0919; Hearing & Voice Impaired at 1-800-955-8771; or email at ADARquest@mywakulla.com.

December 25, 2025

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS CONCERNING AN APPLICATION FOR LOCAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION

The Wakulla County Historic Preservation Committee and Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners propose to consider the following application for a local historic places nomination and has scheduled Public Hearings on this nomination. A Public Hearing before the Wakulla County Historic Preservation Committee on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, beginning at 3:30 P.M. to be held at the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners Administration conference room located at 3093 Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville, FL 32327. There will also be a Public Hearing before the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners on Monday, February 2, 2026, beginning at 6:00 PM, or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard. This public hearing will be held at the County Commission Chambers located west of the County Courthouse at 29 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida 32327. Interested parties are invited to attend and present testimony.



1. Application for National Register of Historic Places Nomination

Property Owner: Pearce Cemetery Corporation
Applicant: Debra Jay
Proposal: Pearce Cemetery
Tax ID Number: 23-2S-02W-000-01396-000
Existing FLU Map: Rural-2 (FLUE Policy 1.2.5)
Current Zoning: R-1 (Section 5-30, LDC)
FEMA Flood Info: "X" zone on Panel 0075E
Parcel size: 0.83 +/- acres
Location: Guy Strickland Road

Hearings Required: Historic Preservation Committee: Tuesday, January 20, 2026 @ 3:30 PM
BOCC: Monday, February 2, 2026 @ 6:00 PM

If an individual wishes to submit documents or other materials related to a matter before the Wakulla County Historical Preservation Committee for consideration by the Historical Preservation Committee at a public meeting, they are strongly encouraged to submit copies of all such documents or other materials to the Wakulla County Office of Planning and Community Development at least 3 days prior to the date of the meeting so that they can be provided to the Committee Members. If an individual wishes to bring documents or other materials for consideration by the Historic Preservation Committee that were not previously provided to the Wakulla County Office of Planning and Community Development in accordance with the preceding sentence, they must bring at least twelve (12) copies of each such document to the meeting. Copies of applications, draft ordinances, and any related public record files may be viewed at the County Planning Department located at 11 Bream Fountain Road, Crawfordville, FL 32327, 8 AM to 4:30 PM M/F; Phone (850) 926-3695. Any person desiring to appeal a decision of a County Board must ensure a verbatim transcript or copy is made of the testimony and exhibits presented at said hearings. Persons with a disability needing a special accommodation should contact the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners Administration Office at least two (2) days prior to the meeting at (850) 926-0919; Hearing and Voice Impaired at 1-800-955-8771; or email at ADARquest@mywakulla.com.

December 25, 2025

WAKULLA SCHOOL DISTRICT

GED OPEN ENROLLMENT

Contact Leslie Kelly 850-926-1841
Wakulla Adult Education
<https://www.wakullaschooldistrict.org/o/ae>

In accordance with Section 121.55, Florida Statutes, Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners intends to designate the following position to the Senior Management Service Class in the Florida Retirement System: **Golf & Recreation Director**

December 18, 25, 2025

Notice of Public Meeting:

The Wakulla County Industrial Development Authority will hold a Public Meeting on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at 4:30p.m. in the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners Administration Conference Room, 3093 Crawfordville Hwy., Crawfordville, FL., (850) 926-0919.

Purpose of Meeting:

To Discuss Financing & Refinancing of Projects for Public Purposes, and for the Purpose of Fostering Economic Development Pursuant to Ordinance #2016-5.

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the board, agency, or commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Persons with a disability needing a special accommodation should contact the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners Administration Office at least two (2) days prior to the meeting at (850) 926-0919; Hearing & Voice Impaired at 1-800-955-8771; or email at ADARquest@mywakulla.com.

December 25, 2025

Opinions

THE FIRST AMENDMENT

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

Remembering Divemaster Gregg Stanton, who was honored by FSU Marine Lab

By **FRANK STEPHENSON**
Special to The Sun

One of most revered members of the worldwide scientific diving community and prominent Wakulla citizen and entrepreneur Gregg R. Stanton has been paid a lasting tribute by the FSU Coastal and Marine Laboratory.

Stanton, a Massachusetts native who settled in Wakulla County in the late 1970s, succumbed to a brief illness while living in Hawaii in 2024. He was 76.

In a quiet ceremony attended by his many friends and associates, a permanent plaque was installed in a unit of the marine lab that Stanton knew best. The plaque commemorates Stanton’s role in establishing the lab’s first academic diving program in 1975. Today, the program is widely recognized as one of the most successful advanced diving programs in the country, specializing in training divers to conduct technical and scientific diving operations in fields ranging from oceanography to law enforcement.

Specifically, Stanton’s name is now affixed to the lab’s dive locker, which houses a wide variety of specialized equipment available to qualified students and faculty. The Gregg R. Stanton Dive Locker is managed by Chris Peters who now directs FSU’s Academic Dive Program. Peters was instrumental in arranging the tribute.

“I met Gregg in 2016, just a few days after moving to Tallahassee to take the position as FSU’s new Diving Safety Officer,” he said. “He arrived at the marine lab overflowing with experience and confidence—two things he soon learned I was lacking. Fortunately, being the generous person he was, he was eager to share.”



Gregg Stanton, above, in an undated photo. At right, FSU Marine Lab Divemaster Chris Peters with Stanton’s son, Eric, at the naming ceremony of the dive locker at the marine lab being named for Gregg Stanton.



Peters credited William “Bill” F. Herrnkind, now retired director of the marine lab, with helping make the dedication possible. Herrnkind, a renowned marine biologist, hired Stanton to set up and run the lab’s dive program in 1975. During his 15-year tenure at the lab, Herrnkind said that Stanton “supervised training, equipment collection and safety

protocols that enabled thousands of FSU faculty, staff and students to explore the underwater world.”

Herrnkind said that in total, Stanton participated in over 300 student-driven aquatic projects and over 100 faculty projects. Those projects ranged from explorations of the complex underwater cave system of Wakulla County to diving under the

ice of Antarctica. In 2014, Stanton was awarded the prestigious Conrad Limbaugh Prize by the American Academy of Underwater Sciences for his contributions to diving science.

Aside from his contributions to academic diving, Stanton also was generous with his time, knowledge and energies in helping anyone interested in promoting public appreciation for and understanding of marine ecosystems. In the early 1980s he was instrumental in helping establish the Organization for Artificial Reefs, a Tallahassee-based nonprofit group that over the years has built dozens of permanent artificial marine habitats off the Wakulla and Franklin County coasts.

After retiring from FSU in 2004, Stanton established the Wakulla Dive Center which soon became a magnet for advanced students, faculty and government specialists drawn from all over the world. The center was recognized for its cutting-edge training in advanced diving techniques, particularly in the use of the latest rebreather technologies and cave diving.

Before he and his wife Ann retired and moved to Hawaii in 2019, Stanton had become a respected and regular columnist for The Wakulla News and later The Wakulla Sun. His “Underwater Wakulla” column was a popular element in the paper for 12 years.

“Gregg’s contributions to diving science extend far beyond FSU, but it’s here that I feel his impact,” Peters said. “Twenty-five years of ambition and a willingness to go where others had not gone before. I can only imagine how many wonderful stories he had and shared with the thousands of other divers he impacted along his way.”

Library News

By **LINDA OAKS**
Library Director

Library News December 25th– December 31st

Thursday, December 25th

- Closed Christmas Holiday

Friday, December 26th

- Closed Christmas Holiday

Saturday, December 27th

- Closed

Sunday, December 28th

- Closed

Monday, December 29th

- No Programs

Tuesday, December 30th

- No Programs

Wednesday, December 31st

- Closed New Years Holiday

On the Horizon

Calendar of events for the week of December 25

Thursday, December 25

- MERRY CHRISTMAS!
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. every Thursday at 54 Ochlockonee St.

Friday, December 26

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

Saturday, December 27

Sunday, December 28

- Wakulla Giving Hands holds a food giveaway every Sunday from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the facility across from Medart Elementary on Highway 98.

Monday, December 29

- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. every Monday at 54 Ochlockonee St.
- Gentle Yoga and Stetching 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 Dance Academy every Monday from 7 to 9 p.m. \$5 per person. Wear dance shoes or tennis shoes.

Tuesday, December 30

- 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.

Wednesday, December 31

- New Year’s Eve.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon and 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday at 54 Ochlockonee St.

Thursday, January 1, 2026

- HAPPY NEW YEAR!

“It’s A New Day!”

The Wakulla Sun



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- More local content on the environment and local businesses

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William Snowden
Editor & Publisher
The Wakulla Sun

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

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– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

Polled at Christmas in the Park, Part 2: What did you ask Santa to bring you this year?



CHASE COCHRAN
Medart Elementary

“An RC car (a remote control car).”



MAVERICK MARTIN
Riversink Elementary

“A big present.”



ZAR'REIYAH BROOKS
Crawfordville Elementary

“A big giant notebook with pens and a sharpener and markers.”



DAKOTA KYLLONEN
Riversprings Middle School

“A giant teddy bear.”



JACE KYLLONEN

“A remote controlled dinosaur.”

Wakulla Crossroads

By VERA BROCK

Well, friends, as I write, we are here on the shortest, darkest day of the year. Starting tomorrow, every day will be just a tad longer, with just smidge more daylight. Whew! I am so ready for lengthening days!

We are also four days from Christmas, and I (and you, I suspect) find myself casting back in my mind to a lifetime of Christmas holiday celebrations. So many happy moments filled with family and friends down the decades.

I have had snow-filled days in Michigan, sunny blue skies in Hawaii, and even snow in Florida! In 1960s Hawaii, where spruce and fir trees were difficult to come by, my family had the shiny aluminum version. All the rage back then, it came

with a rotating disc of many colors. Behind the disc was a light bulb and together they shined a multi-colored rainbow upon the silvery tree. I have no idea what became of that magical tree and its accompanying disc, but it seemed so sophisticated when I was 9 years old.

My winter wonderland Christmas-es were equally magical, whether in a lighthouse or on a strawberry farm. Snow would have already blanketed the landscape by December, leaving deep drifts sculpted by the wind. There were days when the blue sky practically vibrated in the blindingly bright reflection of glittering snow.

As far as the eye could see, the countryside seemed liberally sprinkled with tiny diamonds winking in the sunlight. Trees of every height and variety stood, limbs drooping

with the weight of inches of snow on every limb. The air was crisp, but silent, no birdsong or insects trilling in the frigid morning. Jack Frost left his handiwork across the windows, leaving prismatic fern designs etched on the windows.

Florida holidays can range from warm and idyllic, to cold and snowy. The advantage of celebrating in the sunshine state was the proximity of close family (not to be found in either Hawaii or Michigan!). Each year we would gather at one house or another and share the best of meals! So many excellent cooks, a bounty of fresh fruit and vegetables harvested in Florida, all enjoyed with a multitude of aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents. The memories warm me still.

I will never forget one Christmas morning in Wakulla Station, begun with a chilling church service in our ancient wooden sanctuary. It was so

old as to lack insulation and central heat and air. That morning we all shivered through the hymns and homily, our feet feeling like blocks of ice. Before the service drew to a close, the children in the congregation noticed it was snowing just beyond the drafty, single-paned windows. Suddenly the seeping cold was forgotten, as every eye was fixed upon the winter scene outside the building.

The pastor wisely wrapped up the sermon, gave the benediction, and everyone exited the building laughing in excitement. How rare an occasion to have actual snow falling on Christmas morning in North Florida!

But no matter where we celebrate, it is always home as long as we can share the joys with the people who matter most to us.

Here's to wishing each of you a happy and cozy Christmas, Hannahkah, Kwanzaa and a prosperous New Year!

Sheriff's Report

This report is for activity Dec. 12th to . There were 1,503 total calls for service during the week.

FRIDAY, DEC. 12

- No reports.

SATURDAY, DEC. 13

- Deputy Austin Rivers responded to Comanche Road where a motorcycle was located in the ditch, contact was made with the owner. The owner responded to the scene and signed an affidavit for prosecution. The area was canvassed for surveillance cameras, which were reviewed, but a potential suspect was unable to be identified. There was minimal damage to the motorcycle, which was documented with photographs. The owner took possession of the motorcycle on scene.
- Sgt. Heather Will and Deputy Zachary Munroe responded to Gopher Scuffle Lane in response to an attempted burglary. Upon arrival, the reporting person advised she heard someone walk up to her camper door before the dogs on the property scared them away. She stated her grandson saw

a shadow of the person at the door before the individual fled. A search of the area was done without any success on locating the individual.

SUNDAY, DEC. 14

- Deputy Aimee Hoagland responded to the 100 block of H.T. Adams Road and made contact with the reporting person, who stated someone drove around on his property during the night. The subject was identified and he was issued a trespass warning.

MONDAY, DEC. 15

- Deputy Joshua Parker conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for following too closely. Upon making contact with the driver, the odor of marijuana was detected coming from the interior of the vehicle. After discovering that neither occupant possessed a medical marijuana card, a probable cause search was conducted. During the search, 17.7 grams of marijuana was located, seized and submitted for destruction.

TUESDAY, DEC. 16

- Deputies responded to Center Street in reference to a theft complaint. Contact was made with the reporting person who advised she is the caretaker for someone who resides at the address. The person's morphine prescription was recently refilled on Dec. 14 and the caretaker could not locate the medication since yesterday. She advised a list of people who visited the residence the day before. At this time she does not wish to pursue charges.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 17

- Deputy Zachary Godwin responded to Sea Breeze and made contact with the reporting person, who stated someone entered his new construction home and stole several power tools valued at \$1,070. A possible suspect has been identified. Case forwarded to Criminal Investigation Division.

- Deputy Austin Rivers responded to ASAP Appliance and Smoke N Soul and made contact with the reporting person who stated an unknown subject forced entry into the rear of the business and attempted to enter the smoke shop via the interior partisan wall. Case forwarded to CID.

THURSDAY, DEC. 18

- Deputy Zachary Godwin responded to the Wakulla Station area in reference to a suspicious person. Contact was made with the subject, who was determined to be in possession of methamphetamine. Case closed by arrest

- Deputy Aimee Hoagland responded to Cara Trail and made contact with the reporting person, who stated her Amazon package was stolen from her front porch. She stated she did not wish to pursue charges and only requested an information report.

- Deputy Aimee Hoagland responded to Garner Circle and made contact with the reporting person, who stated representatives of Wakulla Animal Group came to her residence and threatened to call Law Enforcement on her if she did not relinquish her dogs to them. Possible suspects have been identified. Case forwarded to CID.

- Deputy Aimee Hoagland responded to Publix Pharmacy and made contact with the pharmacy supervisor, who stated they were missing some prescriptions and needed a report for information.

FRIDAY, DEC. 19

- Deputy Ashton Williams and Deputy Lexi Kreitlow responded to Walmart in reference to a theft complaint. Contact was made with Asset Protection Investigators, who advised an unidentified male and female entered the business on Dec. 18 and exited the business passing all points of sale with multiple Ninja products. The store officials advised they received an alert from one of the emergency exit doors and reviewed the surveillance footage from the time period. After reviewing the footage, the suspects can be seen exiting the business and fleeing in a black sedan.

- Deputy Lexi Kreitlow responded to Shelby Circle in reference to a theft complaint. Contact was made with the reporting person, who advised she recent-

ly relocated to the area from Wisconsin and utilized a moving company (Noble) to transport her personal items. The company is based out of New Jersey and picked up her items on Aug. 30 and transported them to Florida. The moving company delivered her items to her new residence on Oct. 18. On Nov. 2, she noticed some of her shoes were no longer with her delivered personal items. Upon review of her items, she discovered seven pairs of shoes were missing, totaling \$1,182. Some of the shoes appeared to be replaced with used unknown shoes. She attempted to report the incident to the moving company, but they have been uncooperative.

Report suspicious or illegal activity at 850-745-7200, or call 911 for emergencies.



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HOME ON THE RANGE

The Revolver: Old and New



By MARJ LAW

Many years ago, Joe and I visited the Fairgrounds in Tallahassee. Back then, the gun show was bursting at the seams, filling two of those huge buildings. I was new to handguns.

“What is that... thing?” I ask.

“It’s a revolver,” explains Joe.

“Unh, unh,” I reply, thinking he’s trying to trick me. “If it’s a revolver, where’s the cylinder?”

We are handed the gun.

“It’s got six holes in it!” Darn, but isn’t that the weirdest thing.

“This is called a Pepperbox,” says Joe, handing it to me. Yes, instead of having a cylinder to roll out, the barrel is made out of a hunk of hardened steel with six barrels drilled into it.

“I see why it’s called a Pepperbox. Pull the trigger and six shots come out all at once!”

“No, Marj. That’s not how it works.”

“Well, it has six barrels. Don’t you fill them up with ammunition and shoot? Otherwise, why would they drill out 6 barrels?”

“This is a very old per-

cussion revolver. See the date written on it? It says ‘Patented in 1840.’ It’s older than we are!”

“How does it work?” I wonder. “And what’s that rectangular bar on the top?”

“That’s the hammer.” “Really? Can you pull the trigger back, so I can see how it moves?”

“First, if I were to really fire this, I’d place a percussion cap on the nipple you see here. Now, I’ll pull the trigger slowly. You see the front of the bar rise up. As it rises upward, the metal holding the capped nipple rotates into position. Then, the hammer whacks onto the percussion cap. This sets off a spark which ignites the charge in the barrel.”

“Wait a minute. You haven’t said there was something in the barrel!” I accuse. “What will you put in there?”

“You pour a pre-determined amount of charge in the barrels. Then you take a ramrod and push a lead ball all the way into each barrel.”

“What keeps the ball from just falling out?” I wonder.

“The ball fits in snugly when you swage it into the barrel,” he replies.

“So, you fill up all the barrels, pull the trigger and six shots fly out?” I wonder.

“No. The Pepperbox is a double-action only gun. Do you remember what that means?”

“Yes. It means the trigger has to both cock the hammer, and then release it.”

“Good. Although the Pepperbox has six barrels, you pull the trigger



one at a time until all six lead balls shoot out. And because the trigger has to both cock and release the hammer, as well as rotate the cylinder, trigger pull on the Pepperbox is long and hard.”

“I don’t see any sights.” “The Pepperbox does not have sights.”

“Well, then, how to you aim?”

“The Pepperbox is not the kind of gun that you aim. It’s made to be a close-up gun. The shooter would aim at the critical mass and shoot.”

“I wouldn’t think it would be very accurate that way.”

“That’s true. It wasn’t terribly accurate. As our friends at Wikipedia say: ‘The flaw with the pepperbox design is that it becomes more front-heavy if the length and number of barrels are increased, making accurate aiming difficult.’” It continues: “it is almost impossible to aim beyond close range because the hammer is in the line of sight...”

Joe continues discussing the Pepperbox:

“The pepperbox had no rifling in its barrels. The Civil War had a lot of close-up shooting. It would probably just be used as a back-up gun, but at least you’d have 6 shots.”

“The barrel holes are kinda small. How big a ball do you use?”

“It takes a .31-caliber lead ball. And, yes, it is small. Mark Twain, in *Roughing It*, made fun of the Pepperbox. He wrote: ‘I was armed to the teeth

with a pitiful little Smith & Wesson’s seven-shooter, which carried a ball like a homeopathic pill, and it took the whole seven to make a dose for an adult. ... It only had one fault – you could not hit anything with it.”

Of course, revolvers have changed mightily over time. Today, Smith & Wesson makes the Governor.

The Governor is small and light for its size. It holds six rounds. It shoots .45 ACP, .45 Long Colt, and .410 shotgun shells. Pretty versatile!

The Governor’s barrel is 2¾ inches long and has a cylinder of 2½ inches. An article in *The Truth About Guns* points out the cylinder is “nearly the size of a can of Red Bull.” OK. Not pretty, but still versatile.

“Loading it with .410 shotgun shells, you can use it to kill snakes. If you load it with .45 ACP or .45 Colt, it is a great defensive handgun,” says Joe.

But still, it’s a .45-caliber revolver. Won’t recoil be heavy? So, one day we’re at the Wakulla County Sheriff’s Office range. We’ve brought a Governor with us.

I wonder how difficult it would be to pull the trigger. I aim. I squeeze. Then I squeeze some more.

“Cock the hammer first,” suggests Joe.

I cock the hammer, aim again and squeeze. Blam! In single action, trigger pull is very light, but that recoil is pretty darn stiff! OK. I can see

Joe using this as a defensive handgun, but it really has too much of a kick for me. I wouldn’t want to practice with it and if you don’t practice... Well, if you don’t practice then it won’t be much of a defensive weapon, would it?

It just so happens that Ellen, a newbie, comes to the range the following week. She has a Governor!

“Where did you get that?” I wonder as she shows me her new gun.

“I purchased it out of town,” she replies. “I want a gun for defense.

This man named Hank told me this is exactly what I need. He says: ‘It’s a .45. It’s a Smith & Wesson revolver and it’s called the Governor. All you have to do is point and shoot. Just put in .45 Colt ammunition, and it’ll take a man right down. It’ll even drop a bear!’

“You don’t want no wimpy little gun,” he continues. “This here Governor weighs 30.2 ounces. It’s a real man’s gun. Even has Tritium front sights, so you can aim in the dark. Carry this beaut, and you’ll never be afraid of anything. I’ll even throw in some ammunition!”

After my recent experience with a Governor at the WCSO range, I’m skeptical of Ellen’s luck shooting the Governor. But sometimes newbies can surprise me, so we discuss range rules and safety rules. She has safety glasses and hearing protection. We’re good to go.

Ellen lines up the groove in the back of the gun with the Tritium front sight.

“Get a firm hold,” I counsel her.

Blam!

“Ow! That’s an awful hard kick!” Ellen rolls her shoulders and shakes her hand. “I almost hit my head with the recoil!”

She sits down at the bench. “I think I’ve had enough for one day.”

When Ellen returns home, she looks up the Governor on the site *The Truth About Guns*.

“The Governor’s stainless-steel barrel and gaping muzzle together present an extremely intimidating image to anyone on its business end,” she reads.

“I bet that’s true,” she thinks. She reads further: “Recoil was snappier than a Schnauzer.”

“That’s sure true too!” She ponders for a while, then calls me.

“Hank was probably right when he told me this gun is a great defensive weapon,” she agrees.

“And I like that rolling out the cylinder to load the rounds is easy, and pushing the spent casings out is really simple with the ejector rod.

But it’s too much gun for me,” she adds ruefully. “I’ve read about the first percussion revolvers, and this Governor is much much easier to load and unload than they were. I like the Tritium front sights. They are really easy to see. I like the versatility of ammunition you can use in the Governor. Revolvers have changed in more than a century and a half!”

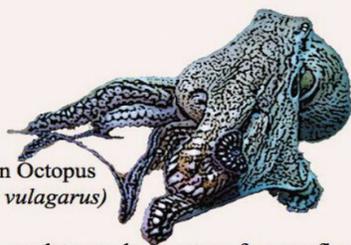
“But I want a gun for me,” she continues.

“Buy locally,” I caution. “Local merchants want to continue working with you. They understand the needs of those new to the range. You have a great gun but it’s not the one for you.”

When we hang up, I think about the Pepperbox and the Governor.

Revolvers have come a long way!

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



Common Octopus (*Octopus vulgaris*)

A fearsome predator and a master of camouflage, the common octopus grows to 3ft and lives 2 years. They hunt at dawn in coastal waters up to 350ft using a secreted nerve poison to paralyze prey and a hard beak to crack shells. They hide in crevices and can squeeze their bodies through tiny spaces and making then escape artists. They change color or squirt a cloud of black “ink” to confuse attackers. Females lay up to 500,000 eggs but most are eaten as plankton. Octopi can learn complex tasks like opening a jar. They are also an important protein source for humans.

Eukarya, Animalia, Mollusca, Cephalopoda, Octopoda, Octopodidae

Gulf Specimen Marine Laboratory
www.gulfspecimen.org

WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO

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



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Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

Dec. 25 - Dec. 31



Tide charts by
tides4fishing.com



Best fishing days this month
Best fishing day(s) is in the center of date ranges.
Dec. 31 - Jan. 1-6, 10, 15-21

Thursday 25	
Sun rise/set 7:31 AM 5:43 PM	Moon rise/set 11:20 AM 10:06 PM
Moon Illumination 28%	
Friday 26	
Sun rise/set 7:31 AM 5:44 PM	Moon rise/set 11:49 AM 11:06 PM
Moon Illumination 38%	
Saturday 27	
Sun rise/set 7:32 AM 5:45 PM	Moon rise/set 12:18 PM 12:06 AM
Moon Illumination 49%	
Sunday 28	
Sun rise/set 7:32 AM 5:45 PM	Moon rise/set 12:50 PM 1:08 AM
Moon Illumination 60%	
Monday 29	
Sun rise/set 7:32 AM 5:46 PM	Moon rise/set 1:25 PM 2:13 AM
Moon Illumination 71%	
Tuesday 30	
Sun rise/set 7:33 AM 5:47 PM	Moon rise/set 2:06 PM 3:22 AM
Moon Illumination 81%	
Wednesday 31	
Sun rise/set 7:33 AM 5:47 PM	Moon rise/set 2:55 PM 4:34 AM
Moon Illumination 89%	

For tides at the following points add to Dog Island Listings:
 High Tide Low Tide
 Carrabelle 28 Min. 25 Min.
 Apalachicola 1 Hr., 53 Min. 2 Hrs., 38 Min.
 Cat Point 1 Hr., 13 Min. 2 Hrs., 31 Min.
 Lower Anchorage 1 Hr., 36 Min. 2 Hrs., 3 Min.
 West Pass 1 Hr., 26 Min. 2 Hrs., 39 Min.

St. Marks River Entrance

Th	4:26 am ▲ 3.0 ft	11:18 am ▼ -0.2 ft	5:51 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	11:43 pm ▼ 0.9 ft
Fr	5:28 am ▲ 2.7 ft	12:02 pm ▼ 0.1 ft	6:30 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	
Sa	12:51 am ▼ 0.6 ft	6:50 am ▲ 2.5 ft	12:54 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	7:12 pm ▲ 2.9 ft
Su	2:07 am ▼ 0.3 ft	8:32 am ▲ 2.3 ft	1:54 pm ▼ 1.0 ft	8:01 pm ▲ 3.0 ft
Mo	3:25 am ▼ -0.1 ft	10:11 am ▲ 2.5 ft	3:01 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	8:55 pm ▲ 3.1 ft
Tu	4:35 am ▼ -0.6 ft	11:31 am ▲ 2.7 ft	4:09 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	9:54 pm ▲ 3.2 ft
We	5:38 am ▼ -1.1 ft	12:34 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	5:12 pm ▼ 1.6 ft	10:51 pm ▲ 3.3 ft

City of St. Marks

Th	5:02 am ▲ 2.8 ft	12:22 pm ▼ -0.2 ft	6:27 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	
Fr	12:47 am ▼ 0.8 ft	6:04 am ▲ 2.5 ft	1:06 pm ▼ 0.1 ft	7:06 pm ▲ 2.7 ft
Sa	1:55 am ▼ 0.6 ft	7:26 am ▲ 2.3 ft	1:58 pm ▼ 0.5 ft	7:48 pm ▲ 2.7 ft
Su	3:11 am ▼ 0.3 ft	9:08 am ▲ 2.2 ft	2:58 pm ▼ 0.9 ft	8:37 pm ▲ 2.8 ft
Mo	4:29 am ▼ -0.1 ft	10:47 am ▲ 2.3 ft	4:05 pm ▼ 1.2 ft	9:31 pm ▲ 2.9 ft
Tu	5:39 am ▼ -0.6 ft	12:07 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	5:13 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	10:30 pm ▲ 3.0 ft
We	6:42 am ▼ -1.0 ft	1:10 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	6:16 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	11:27 pm ▲ 3.1 ft

Shell Point, Spring Creek

Th	4:44 am ▲ 3.0 ft	11:45 am ▼ -0.3 ft	6:20 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	
Fr	12:06 am ▼ 0.9 ft	5:46 am ▲ 2.7 ft	12:26 pm ▼ 0.1 ft	6:57 pm ▲ 2.9 ft
Sa	1:13 am ▼ 0.6 ft	7:06 am ▲ 2.4 ft	1:13 pm ▼ 0.5 ft	7:37 pm ▲ 2.9 ft
Su	2:28 am ▼ 0.3 ft	8:46 am ▲ 2.3 ft	2:08 pm ▼ 0.9 ft	8:23 pm ▲ 3.0 ft
Mo	3:45 am ▼ -0.2 ft	10:27 am ▲ 2.3 ft	3:10 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	9:16 pm ▲ 3.1 ft
Tu	4:56 am ▼ -0.7 ft	11:49 am ▲ 2.5 ft	4:16 pm ▼ 1.6 ft	10:12 pm ▲ 3.2 ft
We	6:00 am ▼ -1.1 ft	12:54 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	5:20 pm ▼ 1.7 ft	11:11 pm ▲ 3.3 ft

Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay

Th	4:18 am ▲ 2.2 ft	11:29 am ▼ -0.2 ft	5:43 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	11:54 pm ▼ 0.6 ft
Fr	5:20 am ▲ 2.0 ft	12:13 pm ▼ 0.1 ft	6:22 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	
Sa	1:02 am ▼ 0.5 ft	6:42 am ▲ 1.8 ft	1:05 pm ▼ 0.4 ft	7:04 pm ▲ 2.2 ft
Su	2:18 am ▼ 0.2 ft	8:24 am ▲ 1.8 ft	2:05 pm ▼ 0.7 ft	7:53 pm ▲ 2.2 ft
Mo	3:36 am ▼ -0.1 ft	10:03 am ▲ 1.8 ft	3:12 pm ▼ 1.0 ft	8:47 pm ▲ 2.3 ft
Tu	4:46 am ▼ -0.4 ft	11:23 am ▲ 2.0 ft	4:20 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	9:46 pm ▲ 2.4 ft
We	5:49 am ▼ -0.8 ft	12:26 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	5:23 pm ▼ 1.2 ft	10:43 pm ▲ 2.5 ft

St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.

Th	4:29 am ▲ 2.1 ft	11:29 am ▼ -0.3 ft	6:18 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	
Fr	12:00 am ▼ 0.8 ft	5:37 am ▲ 1.9 ft	12:13 pm ▼ 0.0 ft	6:53 pm ▲ 2.1 ft
Sa	1:13 am ▼ 0.6 ft	7:02 am ▲ 1.7 ft	1:01 pm ▼ 0.4 ft	7:29 pm ▲ 2.1 ft
Su	2:28 am ▼ 0.2 ft	8:45 am ▲ 1.6 ft	1:58 pm ▼ 0.8 ft	8:09 pm ▲ 2.2 ft
Mo	3:39 am ▼ -0.3 ft	10:31 am ▲ 1.7 ft	3:04 pm ▼ 1.2 ft	8:53 pm ▲ 2.3 ft
Tu	4:41 am ▼ -0.7 ft	12:00 pm ▲ 1.9 ft	4:11 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	9:41 pm ▲ 2.5 ft
We	5:38 am ▼ -1.1 ft	1:07 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	5:10 pm ▼ 1.6 ft	10:31 pm ▲ 2.6 ft

Dog Island West End

Th	4:38 am ▲ 1.8 ft	11:41 am ▼ -0.3 ft	6:30 pm ▲ 1.8 ft	
Fr	12:26 am ▼ 0.8 ft	5:40 am ▲ 1.6 ft	12:18 pm ▼ 0.1 ft	7:02 pm ▲ 1.8 ft
Sa	1:38 am ▼ 0.5 ft	7:08 am ▲ 1.3 ft	12:56 pm ▼ 0.5 ft	7:38 pm ▲ 1.9 ft
Su	2:55 am ▼ 0.1 ft	9:24 am ▲ 1.2 ft	1:41 pm ▼ 0.9 ft	8:21 pm ▲ 2.0 ft
Mo	4:03 am ▼ -0.3 ft	11:29 am ▲ 1.3 ft	2:44 pm ▼ 1.2 ft	9:05 pm ▲ 2.1 ft
Tu	5:08 am ▼ -0.7 ft	1:30 pm ▲ 1.6 ft	3:59 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	9:50 pm ▲ 2.2 ft
We	6:10 am ▼ -1.1 ft	2:26 pm ▲ 1.8 ft	5:33 pm ▼ 1.6 ft	10:39 pm ▲ 2.3 ft

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



Donations collected by Coast Guard Auxiliarists for the Veterans Village in Tallahassee.



Underwater Wakulla

By Gregg Stanton

The blind crayfish.
March 8, 2012

As an animal with eyes, we are challenged to imagine a world without light.

For most of us, even poor eyesight permits a sense of security in the contrast of light and shadow. To imagine what a cave-dwelling creature must manage every day in the absence of light is nearly impossible.

For the past several years I have been working on a special research team in search of new (to science) species of crustaceans, found in the back reaches of underwater caves. And for the most part, they don't even have eyes anymore.

Creatures that live in underwater caves in the absence of light are usually related to creatures that evolved with light, so their ancestors once had eyes. But, over time, these creatures adapted to the dark, and those that survived over many generations, lost their eyes. Some fish that can be found in dark caves have eye stalks, with no eyes. And the list goes on.

So how do they do it? How can they "see" in the dark? There are many explanations. Other sensory capabilities are enhanced, such as touch, taste (smell) and sound. But in the denser medium of water, 800 times denser than air, subtle changes are very useful.

Those of you who have visited our cave crayfish at the Center may have noticed minnows in the tank. Over time their numbers diminish as they are captured by the blind crayfish. I have watched when the hungry crayfish is fishing: It climbs up on a rock and raises its claws above itself. Eventually, a minnow swims between the jaws and the claws close rapidly.

The disturbing motion of the water is felt by cilia (little hairs on the claw) that inform the predator food is available.

Several weeks ago I found one of my favorite caves full of blind crayfish of all sizes. They are usually found scattered over the walls and ceiling rocks, but this day were concentrated on the mud floor. And there I found several who had "found" each other and were mating. Either the finding was a random act resulting from the denser concentration on the floor, or more likely, they gave off a smell or pheromone that permitted males to find females on the floor of the cave.

The beam from my bright cave light would not cause them any attention, but when I put my hand close by one, it would scurry off just like its relative, the colorful Florida Lobster found on the reefs in the Florida Keys. Yes, that's right, these cave animals have no reason to be colorful since sight is not in their world, so they are white or transparent.

Now there is the rub. An animal that is white on a black background is like a shining beacon when light is introduced. Open water fish (with eyes) have learned that divers carry the sun with them and will follow us in for the feast of their lifetime. We in turn, have learned to turn our lights off at the back of a cavern, to encourage these intelligent fish to return to the light. In January we found a starving open water fish lost in the back of a cave. As soon as it saw our light, we were its best buddy, following us out tucked in as closely as possible.

I often turn my light off when in a cave, trying to imagine what these creatures must feel. I feel the water flow past my face, touch contact with the walls, and hear sounds from others in the vicinity. I imagine my surroundings in my mind's eye, then to verify it with my light.

As part of training, I often get lost, requiring my students to find me. I am getting good at this game, but never as good as the residents because I know I can always flick a light switch and return to my world.

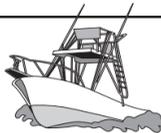
Find me if you can!

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



Coast Guard Auxiliary Reports

By Carolyn Brown Treadon



Thank you to Linda Olson for this article information.

This is the 4th year that the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 12 has collected items to donate to the Veteran's Village in Tallahassee. This year many of those who donated last year wanted to again show their support for our Heroes. Linda and Wade Olson collected donations and delivered them.

Donations included clothing, shoes, blankets, kitchen appliances, space heaters, and rugs. Each resident received new socks, undergarments, hats and scarves. Food items were also included along with some books, puzzles and sundries.

Upon arriving, several individuals assisted in unloading the items for the res-

Boating Emergencies

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 Yankeetown (352) 447-6900
 Coast Guard Auxiliary
 Apalachee Bay (Flotilla 12) (850) 942-7500
 or (850) 284-1166

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 unformed 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.

idents. Veteran's Village provides transitional housing and comprehensive supportive services for Veterans experiencing homelessness in Tallahassee, Florida. The program focuses on stability, recovery, and long-term independence by offering safe housing, case management, life-skills coaching, and access to behavioral health services.

Designed to support veterans as they rebuild their lives, the program offers

structured guidance, coordinated care, and individualized support. With a strong emphasis on housing stabilization, wellness, and readiness for independent living, the Tallahassee GPD Program helps veterans move from crisis to long-term success.

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

If you would like to learn more about vessel safety checks, please contact Steve

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Are you experiencing a prolonged spiritual dry spell?

By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

Has it been a while since you truly felt that God heard your prayers? Maybe you haven't even wanted to pray.

Do you feel unworthy? Insignificant?

Do you miss the warmth of God's presence?

If so, I'd like you to read Matthew 2:11 (ESV), paying special attention to the last part: "And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary, his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him."

Picture being one of the wise men who, despite all logic, knew that this young boy (probably around two years old) was the Son of God, the King of kings. Imagine how their lives would be forever changed. How their faith would be transformed in His presence.

Now, let's shift from the wise men's story to

our own. Try to remember what your life was like before you knew Christ – when you were still dead in your sins. Perhaps your heart was easily drawn toward things opposed to God, and you didn't yet realize how desperately you needed a Savior.

But you have since learned that you do need a Savior – that you always have – and you have come to appreciate Christmas all the more.

Why do we celebrate Christmas? Why did Jesus come to live among us?

Jesus came because of His amazing love for us.

And because we needed Him to.

When we enter His presence through prayer, Bible reading, or worship, we find the faith to trust His sovereignty in our trials. We discover His love for us – and His love for our enemies. In His presence, we find our compass. In Him, we grow in our faith as we bring our concerns, struggles, anger, shame, doubt, exhaustion, even our joy and hopes. In Him, we develop our character. We find significance.

In Him, we find rest. What circumstances or struggles are you fac-

ing today that make God feel distant?

Life can be frightening. In these challenging times, we must draw near to God, meditate on His Word and listen to (and sing) hymns and worship songs.

God loves it when we worship Him. We can practically feel His pleasure when we magnify His name in our trials and in our joys. Praising God reminds us that He is totally and powerfully sovereign. Worshipping Him will relieve our stress and is a beautiful way to express our happiness.

Revering our Savior

will also give us a hunger to spend more time in His Word and in conversation with Him. In the warmth of His nearness, we'll long to know Him more ... and to become more.

Just as the wise men experienced, our lives will be forever changed as our faith is transformed in the presence of the King of kings.

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

The holy hush of ordinary

By **CHERYL CRUCE**

They were just ordinary people, carving out a place on the outskirts of town where neighbors were few and gardens generous. A wooded area was cleared carefully, yet the grand oak trees were left standing – offering shade, beauty, and room enough for a house to be built and, over time, a home to be made. With three bedrooms and one bath, the

house often felt small, but beyond the front door stretched wide-open spaces waiting to be explored.

Dad worked two jobs to keep the family going, while Mom worked in town at the local dry cleaners. Growing up, I didn't realize how good we had it; looking back now, I see a wealth that money could not buy. Our parents were ordinary people, never making a grand stand in this world or joining the social elite. What they had was faith in a God who sustained them – a faith now fully realized, resting in His presence for eternity.

The Heavenly Father has a way of using the ordinary to accomplish the extraordinary. Gideon, the least in his fami-

ly and tribe, was chosen to deliver Israel, showing that God's strength often shines through human weakness (Judges 6-7). Isaiah, overwhelmed by his own unworthiness, was called to speak God's truth to a nation, and God equipped him for the task only he could do (Isaiah 6). David, a young shepherd boy, was overlooked by everyone but God. Samuel was reminded not to judge by outward appearances, for God looks at the heart, not what the eyes see (1 Samuel 16:7). David's faithful and courageous heart made him a man after God's own heart, loved for his devotion and obedience, rather than for his status or strength (1 Samuel 13:14).

Just as God worked

through these ordinary men, He chose humble shepherds to hear the greatest news the world has ever known.

The shepherds were the dedicated night-shift workers of the time – unnoticed, unimportant, and uninvited. Yet Heaven noticed and Heaven invited them to hear the good news of great joy for all people (Luke 2:10-11). That night, the overlooked became the honored. The message was not given first to the wealthy, the privileged, or the perfect – it came to the shepherds and was meant for everyone. Just as joy found the shepherds, it can find us too – in our kitchens, in our workplaces, in our late-night worries, and in the quiet, ordinary moments of our every-

day lives.

It is in our everyday lives that God sees our heart – our effort, our compassion, the way we care for one another. He doesn't ask us to be strong, only willing, and along the way He supplies the strength we need. Our Lord gently calls us into His purpose, shaping us through faith and trust rather than perfection. In the quiet moments of our days – through simple acts of kindness, prayer, and faithfulness – God is at work, present and attentive in the ordinary.

What ordinary things can we offer Him today? Every whispered prayer, every humble act of love, every silent moment of faith matters. Like the shepherds of long ago,

we are invited to carry God's message forward through unseen kindness, allowing Him to weave the ordinary threads of our lives into His extraordinary tapestry.

Even now, God meets us in the holy hush of ordinary.

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. Colossians 3:23-24

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

OUT TO PASTOR

Another Christmas down the chimney

By **JAMES SNYDER**

If I have counted correctly, this is my 74th Christmas. Believe me, I do not remember all of them. The only thing is how much money I spent on all of those Christmases.

I know Christmas is filled with rituals. As a young person, I grew up on rituals. Our best ritual was on Christmas.

For instance, the day before Christmas, my father would get a real Christmas tree. On Christmas Eve, we would all gather to decorate it. Then, on New Year's Day, we would take down the decorations, and my father would move the tree outside to the backyard. Our backyard was filled with Christmas trees.

The day before Christmas, my mother and I would go Christmas shopping from early morning until late afternoon. She knew every shop and exactly what to buy in each. She worked on that list for months and was excited to receive all the gifts on it.

I remember one Christmas, after a full day of shopping, our car was packed with presents. I don't know how much my mother spent, but it must've been a lot.

On our way home, my mother remembered

something she had forgotten.

She turned around and went back to a store for Christmas cards she had forgotten. We both went in, and my mother bought about 20 cards. As we left, she sighed and said, "Son, it's been a busy day – I'm glad it's over. I can't wait to get home." I agreed.

We would take these Christmas presents home, and when my siblings and I went to bed, my dad and mom would wrap all the gifts and put them under the tree.

As we approached the car, I noticed one of the back doors was not fully closed.

"Mom," I said, "did we leave the back car door open?"

Mother looked and said, "We sure did not leave any door open."

When we got to the car and opened the door, the inside was empty. All our Christmas shopping for the day had disappeared. My mother looked inside the car and could not believe what she saw. Or, maybe I should say she couldn't believe what she wasn't seeing.

Suddenly, my mother sighed, and tears ran down her cheeks. She looked at me and said, "Oh, what are we going to do?" It was too late to shop again, the stores closed early, and shopping time was over.

My mother stood just staring into that car for what felt like forever. I could feel her grief hanging heavily between us. I didn't know what to do. I felt helpless, wishing I could comfort her, but no words seemed

right. Someone broke into our car and stole all our Christmas presents, leaving us with nothing but shock and a deep, hollow ache.

On our way home, my mother was relatively quiet. Usually, she's quite the chatterer, but today she hardly spoke at all.

We got home, walked into the living room, and saw the Christmas tree waiting to be decorated. Dad greeted us and said, "Where's all the Christmas presents?"

Without saying anything, my mother walked in and sat down, and was quiet for a few moments. Then she looked at my father and said, "Someone stole all our Christmas presents while we were in the last store."

My father just stared at her, shook his head, and said quietly, "What are we to do now?"

After a relatively quiet dinner that night, we went into the living room and began decorating the Christmas tree. No one talked as usual; we just put together all the decorations.

That Christmas really

stands out in my mind because it was the only one with no presents under the tree. On Christmas morning, we woke up and sat around the tree as usual, but there were no Christmas presents under the tree.

That was the strangest Christmas our family ever had.

We celebrated Christmas as usual, and Mother had a wonderful Christmas dinner for us. We sat around the table trying to sing Christmas carols. It was hard, but we decided to move forward and celebrate our family rather than dwell on our missing Christmas gifts.

No matter how difficult the Christmases have been since that time, none of them has equaled the sadness of that Christmas.

Reflecting on that Christmas recently, an encouraging verse of scripture came to my mind.

"Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health

of my countenance, and my God" (Psalms 42:11).

Not everything turns out the way we plan. I haven't had a Christmas like this, but there have been times when I thought everything was going the wrong way. It's times like this that I need to focus not on what's going wrong but on God. My faith in God gets me

through every problem no matter how difficult.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, email jamesnyder51@gmail.com, website www.jamesnyderministries.com.



Sopchoppy United Methodist Church

Pastor Cheryl Mixon-Cruce 850-962-2511

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Obituaries



Helen Bernice Mullens Cotton Gamwell

Helen Bernice Mullens Cotton Gamwell passed away peacefully on Dec. 17, 2025. She was born on Feb. 12, 1948 in Oceana, West Virginia to the Rev. O.P. and Freeda June Cook Mullens.

She moved with her parents during her early teenage years to Cocoa Beach, where she spent her formative years. At the young age of 17, Helen met and married her first husband, Henry Lee Cotton. At the age of 18, the couple relocated to Americus, Georgia, where Helen would begin the next chapter of

her life and establish deep roots within the community.

In 1979, she relocated to Wakulla County where she would build a life rooted in faith, service, and love for others. Helen was a beloved servant of God, devoted family member, and treasured friend whose life touched countless hearts.

Helen retired from the State of Florida after 22 years of dedicated, faithful service. The final 12 years of her career were spent serving as the Deputy Director of Vital Statistics for Wakulla County where she was known for her professionalism, compassion, and commitment to the community.

A woman of deep faith, Helen loved God and her family above all else. She possessed a true heart of gold and was always willing to help anyone in need, never turning away those who sought her kindness.

Helen was a master seamstress, gifted with the ability to sew just about anything. Quilting was her favorite hobby, and through the years she created many beautiful quilts, each one a reflection of her creativity, patience, and love. She also had a profound love for gospel music and was a devoted member of The Heart Seekers, a passionate gospel group through which she joyfully praised God.

She found joy in simple pleasures, especially Saturday yard sales shared with her brother and sister – times filled with laughter, fellowship, and cherished memories.

Helen is survived by her daughter Tammy (James) Corley of Carrabelle; brother, Glen (Carolyn) Mullens of Crawfordville; sisters Kathy Holt of Tallahassee, and Wanda McReynolds of Cleveland, Ohio; four grandchildren, Anthony (Michelle) Jones of Athens, Georgia, Justin (Destiny) McCalvin of Sopchoppy, Mary Ellen Conlin of Hinesville, Georgia, and Buck (Kimberly) Corley of Crawfordville; eight great-grandchildren, Bryson, Bryce, Addie, Chance, Jack, Justin Jr., Toby and Aurora.

She was predeceased by her parents the Rev. O.P. and Freeda Cook Mullens; two husbands, Henry Lee Cotton Sr. of 31 years and John Moore Gamwell of 25 years; her son, Henry Lee Cotton Jr.; a great granddaughter Kenzlee Grace McCalvin; brothers, Roger VanOver and Paul Mullens; and a sister Shelia Wright.

Graveside services will be held on Saturday, Dec. 27th at 11 a.m., at White Church Cemetery in Woodville, 1900 Lawhorn Road, with Pastor Kevin Mullens officiating. Arrangements are being handled by Grace Funeral & Cremation Services, 2758 Coastal Highway; Crawfordville, 850-926-4407

Helen's legacy is one of faith, service, generosity, and love. She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her, but her spirit will live on in the many lives she touched.



James Michael 'Mike' Mason

James Michael "Mike" Mason, 81, passed away peacefully on Dec. 11, 2025, at Dozier House, Big Bend Hospice in Tallahassee, after an extended illness.

Mike was born Jan. 6, 1944 in Clearwater, first child for the late James S. Mason and Gertrude Rodgers Mason. He grew up on Susina Plantation, in Grady County, Georgia. When he was 10 years old the family moved to Thomasville where he attended local schools. He graduated from Darlington

School in Rome, Georgia and later from Valdosta State College where he received a degree in English.

Mike married Laura Reba Patten on June 13, 1965, and they enjoyed 60 beautiful years together. Mike began his career as a teacher at Cook High School in Adel, Georgia. In 1973 they relocated to Thomasville, where he worked as a juvenile probation officer. Later they moved their family to Quitman, Georgia, where they were the publishers and editors of the Quitman Free Press for the next 12 years. In 1989 they decided to change direction and relocated to Shell Point. Mike became an avid fisherman and sailor. He went back to teaching at Wakulla High School and transitioned into a teacher with Wakulla County Second Chance. He started a program for those students to learn a trade and taught them the basics of construction and woodworking, providing them with skills outside of the standard learning criteria. Mike retired from the Wakulla County School system in 2006. He enjoyed the beautiful and peaceful property that he and Reba purchased in Sopchoppy and loved every moment spent there. His love of the outdoors and nature deepened even more.

Mike was a man with many interests and talents. His love of hunting, fishing, sailing, golf and woodworking were some of his favorites. He loved to be outdoors and on the

Gulf. He was a big supporter of Reba and the Wakulla Community Theater, always volunteering with set designs for each show. He built his wife a beautiful master suite onto their quaint home in Sopchoppy transforming the entire home. Mike was a member of the Sopchoppy United Methodist Church, where he volunteered on many projects within the church.

He is survived by his wife, Reba Patten Mason, Tallahassee, FL, son James "Jay" Christian Mason (Dee Dee), Sylvester, GA, daughter Laura Amanda Mason Wallace, Crawfordville, FL, grandchildren, Talin Alysse Mason and Reilly James Mason, Sylvester, GA. Sister Eleanor Ann Dawson, Rockhill, SC, David Lafayette Mason (Jennifer), Albany, GA., his nephew Mason Dawson (Michelle) Great nephews: Camden Dawson and Jameson Dawson. He was preceded in death by his parents, James S. Mason and Gertrude Rodgers Mason and brother, Richard Rodgers "Dick" Mason and nephews Richard Robert "Dick-Bob" Mason and Ben Dawson.

Service was held Dec. 19, 2025, at Bevis Funeral Home, 200 John Knox Road, Tallahassee. Family received friends at 1 p.m. with the service at 2 p.m.

Memorial donations in his memory may be made to Sopchoppy United Methodist Church, PO Box 85, Sopchoppy FL 32358..

DEATH NOTICES

• **Karen Lee Busen**, 75, of Crawfordville, died December 13, 2025.

• **Ronnie Gray**, 82, of Crawfordville, passed away December 13, 2025

• **Philip Niswander**, 76, of Crawfordville, died December 19, 2025

• **Mattie Lee Raulerson**, 38, of Crawfordville, died December 17, 2025.

• **Roy West**, of Crawfordville, died December 19, 2025

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

Judge Flury assigned

From Front Page

The wrongly named individual and his wife were both shocked at the name being posted on Facebook – they were fairly recent residents of Wakulla, having moved here only a couple of years ago, and were only vaguely familiar with local politics. The victim and his family were also fearful of potential

repercussions since the wife had formerly worked at Illinois Department of Corrections directly with inmates.

Co-defendant Becky Whaley, former administrator of the Wakulla Citizens Page on Facebook, accepted a deferred prosecution agreement with the state which resolved her charges.

Kemp, a retired major

with the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office, indicated his reluctance to accept a plea offer and requested a trial.

A third defendant, Wakulla Deputy Don Newsome is charged with leaking information to Kemp. Newsome is represented by Tallahassee attorney Don Pumphrey, but that case has yet to be set for trial.

The events happened in the spring of 2024 and the investigation was com-

pleted in June 2024, but Wakulla Chief Prosecutor Andrew Deneen held back charging Kemp until after the Aug. 20, 2024 election because he did not want it to appear the state attorney's office was attempting to influence the election.

Kemp ultimately lost his bid for re-election to challenger Valerie Russell.

And then the state released the criminal charges.

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NOTICE OF ACTION

1218-0108 TWS NOA
IN THE COUNTY COURT IN AND FOR
WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 25-CC-267

CHARLES L. DUNLAP
POST OFFICE BOX 683, ST. MARKS, FL 32355
PLAINTIFF,
VS
MICHAEL AND LOUISE DECKER
500 N. CHERRY, FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS 78642
DEFENDANT(S).

NOTICE OF ACTION

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for establishment of ownership of personal property described as: SIMPLEX MOTOR CYCLE #H3517 has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Plaintiff, CHARLES L. DUNLAP whose address is: Post Office Box 683, St. Marks, Florida 32355 on or before **January 8, 2026**, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court this **Dec. 8, 2025**.

{{County Court Seal}}
Greg James
As Clerk of the Circuit Court
By: **/s/ Rachel Howard**
As Deputy Clerk



Published December 18, 25, 2025, January 1, 8, 2026

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

WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSBI, CASE NO. 24-CA-101
NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT
SOLELY IN ITS CAPACITY AS OWNER TRUSTEE
FOR OCWEN LOAN ACQUISITION TRUST 2024-HBI,
Plaintiff,

vs
THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES, GRANTEES,
ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES AND ALL OTHERS
WHO MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST IN THE ESTATE OF MARIE SHERMAN,
DECEASED, et. al.
Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF ACTION- CONSTRUCTIVE SERVICE

**TO: THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES, GRANTEES,
ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES AND ALL OTHERS
WHO MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST IN THE ESTATE OF MARIE SHERMAN,
DECEASED, and THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES,
GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES AND ALL
OTHERS WHO MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST IN THE ESTATE OF MARVIN
ANTHONY DAVIS, DECEASED,**

whose residence is unknown if he/she/they be living; and if he/she/they be dead, the unknown defendants who may be spouses, heirs, devisees, grantees, assignees, lienors, creditors, trustees, and all parties claiming an interest by, through, under or against the Defendants, who are not known to be dead or alive, and all parties having or claiming to have any right, title or interest in the property described in the mortgage being foreclosed herein.

TO: DONTANOUS ANTOWN DAVIS,
whose residence is unknown and all parties having or claiming to have any right, title or interest in the property described in the mortgage being foreclosed herein.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property:

**LOTS 31 AND 32, BLOCK "21", WAKULLA GARDENS, UNIT 1,
ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF RECORDED
IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 39, PUBLIC RECORDS OF WAKULLA
COUNTY, FLORIDA.**

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on counsel for Plaintiff, whose address is 6409 Congress Ave., Suite 100, Boca Raton, Florida 33487 on or before **January 3, 2025** (30 days from Date of First Publication of this Notice) and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition filed herein.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court at Wakulla County, Florida, this 26th day of November, 2025.

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



ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, AND
SCHNEID, PL
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF
6409 Congress Ave., Suite 100
Boca Raton, FL 33487
PRIMARY EMAIL: flmail@raslg.com
Dec. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2025

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

PAFFORD PROPERTIES & CONSTRUCTION, LLC, a Florida Limited Liability Company, CASE NO. 2025-CA-000138
Plaintiff,
vs
PAUL G. CROSS, if alive, and if deceased, unknown spouses, heirs, devisees, grantees, creditors, assigns, and all other parties claiming by through, under or against him,
Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: PAUL G. CROSS; if alive, and if deceased, unknown spouses, heirs, devisees, grantees, creditors, assigns, and all other parties claiming by through, under or against him

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that a Complaint for Quiet Title on the following property in Wakulla County, Florida:

**LOT 41, BLOCK 5 OF WAKULLA GARDENS UNIT 2, ACCORDING
TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE(S)
42, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.**
Wakulla County Parcel ID No. 00-00-034-009-08322-000
Address: Catawba Trail, Crawfordville, FL

has been filed against you and others, and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on **ANDREW J. POWER, ESQUIRE, SMITH, THOMPSON, SHAW, COLÓN & POWER, P.A.**, Plaintiff's attorneys, 3520 Thomasville Road, Fourth Floor, Tallahassee, Florida 32309-3469, no more than thirty (30) days from the first publication date of this Notice of Action, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorneys or immediately thereafter; otherwise, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.

DATED this 15th day of December, 2025.

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



Dec. 25, 2025, Jan. 1, 8, 15, 2026



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

PAFFORD PROPERTIES & CONSTRUCTION, LLC, a Florida Limited Liability Company, CASE NO. 2025-CA-000144
Plaintiff,
vs
LEON E. HANCOCK, if alive, and if deceased, unknown spouses, heirs, devisees, grantees, creditors, assigns, and all other parties claiming by through, under or against him,
Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: LEON E. HANCOCK; if alive, and if deceased, unknown spouses, heirs, devisees, grantees, creditors, assigns, and all other parties claiming by through, under or against him

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that a Complaint for Quiet Title on the following property in Wakulla County, Florida:

**LOT 8, BLOCK K OF MAGNOLIA GARDENS, ACCORDING TO THE
PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 37, OF
THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.**
Wakulla County Parcel ID No. 00-00-078-013-11120-000
Address: Lance Lane, Crawfordville, FL

has been filed against you and others, and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on **ANDREW J. POWER, ESQUIRE, SMITH, THOMPSON, SHAW, COLÓN & POWER, P.A.**, Plaintiff's attorneys, 3520 Thomasville Road, Fourth Floor, Tallahassee, Florida 32309-3469, no more than thirty (30) days from the first publication date of this Notice of Action, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorneys or immediately thereafter; otherwise, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.

DATED this 15th day of December, 2025.

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



Dec. 25, 2025, Jan. 1, 8, 15, 2026

NOTICE OF ACTION

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

21ST MORTGAGE CORPORATION, Case #: 2024 CA 105
Plaintiff,

-vs.-

CIARA DANIELLE ADAMS; UNKNOWN SPOUSE
OF CIARA DANIELLE ADAMS; LESLIE ERNEST
LYNCH, III; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF LESLIE ERNEST
LYNCH, III; MELANIE LYNCH; and UNKNOWN TENANT,
Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment dated December 03, 2025 entered in Case No. 2024 CA 105 of the Circuit Court in and for Wakulla County, Florida, wherein CIARA DANIELLE ADAMS, LESLIE ERNEST LYNCH III and MELANIE LYNCH are the Defendants, that Greg James, the Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller, will sell to the highest and best for cash, on **JANUARY 15, 2026 at 11:00 a.m.**, on the first floor of the Wakulla County Courthouse in lobby at 3056 Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville, FL 32327 on the following described real property as set forth in the Final Judgment:

COMMENCE AT AN OLD CONCRETE MONUMENT MARKING THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 25, TOWNSHIP 2 SOUTH, RANGE 2 WEST, WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA (AS MONUMENTED), THENCE RUN NORTH 87 DEGREES 47 MINUTES 01 SECONDS EAST ALONG THE NORTH BOUNDARY OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION (AS MONUMENTED) 165.06 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT (MARKED #2919) ON THE WESTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY BOUNDARY OF HILLIARDVILLE ROAD, THENCE LEAVING SAID NORTH BOUNDARY OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER RUN SOUTH 02 DEGREES 25 MINUTES 03 SECONDS EAST ALONG SAID WESTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY BOUNDARY 734.45 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT (MARKED #2919), THENCE LEAVING SAID WESTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY BOUNDARY RUN SOUTH 89 DEGREES 35 MINUTES 00 SECONDS WEST 402.36 FEET TO AN IRON ROD AND CAP (MARKED #7160) AND TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. FROM SAID POINT OF BEGINNING, THENCE CONTINUE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 35 MINUTES 00 SECONDS WEST 141.82 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT (MARKED #2919), THENCE RUN NORTH 06 DEGREES 30 MINUTES 20 SECONDS EAST 306.76 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT (MARKED #2919), THENCE RUN NORTH 46 DEGREES 32 MINUTES 28 SECONDS WEST 105.25 FEET TO AN IRON ROD AND CAP (MARKED #7160), THENCE RUN SOUTH 82 DEGREES 18 MINUTES 58 SECONDS EAST 170.07 FEET TO AN IRON ROD AND CAP (MARKED #7160), THENCE RUN SOUTH 02 DEGREES 24 MINUTES 59 SECONDS EAST 353.72 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; CONTAINING 1.00 ACRE, MORE OR LESS. TOGETHER WITH AND SUBJECT TO A 12 FOOT NON-EXCLUSIVE EASEMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF INGRESS AND EGRESS AS RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 282, PAGE 868 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

WITNESS my hand and seal of said court at Crawfordville, Florida 16th day of December, 2025.

{{County Court Seal}}

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



NOTICE IF YOU ARE A PERSON CLAIMING A RIGHT TO FUNDS REMAINING AFTER THE SALE, YOU MUST FILE A CLAIM WITH THE CLERK NO LATER THAN THE DATE THAT THE CLERK REPORTS THE FUNDS AS UNCLAIMED. IF YOU FAIL TO FILE A CLAIM, YOU WILL NOT BE ENTITLED TO ANY REMAINING FUNDS. AFTER THE FUNDS ARE REPORTED AS UNCLAIMED, ONLY THE OWNER OF RECORD AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MAY CLAIM THE SURPLUS.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Court Administration at Wakulla County Courthouse, 3056 Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville, Florida 32327-0337, 850-926-0905 telephone, within two working days of your receipt of this notice; if you are hearing impaired, call 1-800-955-8771; if you are voice impaired, call 1-800-955-8770. December 25, 2025, January 1, 2026

1218-1225 TWS NOFS

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

ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC F/K/A CASE NO. 24000148CAAXMX
QUICKEN LOANS, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS INC.,
Plaintiff,

vs.

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

AMENDED NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Final Judgment dated December 10, 2025 entered in Civil Case No. 24000148CAAXMX in Circuit Court of the 2nd Judicial Circuit in and for Wakulla County, Florida, Civil Division, wherein ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS INC., Plaintiff and THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES AND ALL OTHERS WHO MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST IN THE ESTATE OF RONALD KWIATKOWSKI, DECEASED; MARY BETH MCCOY, AS POTENTIAL HEIR OF RONALD KWIATKOWSKI, DECEASED are Defendant(s), Greg James, Clerk of Court, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash beginning at 11:00 AM at the Courthouse lobby at 3056 Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville, FL 32327 in accordance with Chapter 45, Florida Statutes on February 12, 2026 the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to-wit:

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

Property Address: 137 Choctaw Rd, Crawfordville, FL 32327

ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM BEFORE THE CLERK REPORTS THE SURPLUS AS UNCLAIMED.

THE COURT, IN ITS DISCRETION, MAY ENLARGE THE TIME OF THE SALE. NOTICE OF THE CHANGED TIME OF SALE SHALL BE PUBLISHED AS PROVIDED HEREIN.

Dated this 11th day of December 2025.

{{County Court Seal}}

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



December 18, 25, 2025

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
LENA ODESSA TERRELL,
DECEASED
DIVISION: PROBATE

CASE NO.: 2025-CP-189

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the Estate of Lena Odessa Terrell, deceased, File 2025-CP-189 is pending in the Circuit Court for Wakulla County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 3056 Crawfordville Hwy., Crawfordville, FL 32327. The names and addresses of the co-personal representatives and the co-personal representatives' attorney is set forth below.

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

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

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

The date of the first publication of this Notice is December 25, 2025.

Attorney for Personal Representative:	Co-Personal Representatives:
Frances Casey Lowe, Esq.	Vincent Faulkner, Jr.
Florida Bar No. 521450	29839 Catholic Hall Rd.
Frances Casey Lowe, P.A.	Hammond, LA 70403
68-A Feli Way	Brandon Berry
Crawfordville, Florida 32327	277 Tillis Ln.
(850) 926-8245	Crawfordville, FL 32327

December 25, 2025, January 1, 2026

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

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
Doris Denise Hart,
DECEASED
DIVISION: PROBATE

File No.: 2025-CP-000174

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of Doris Denise Hart, deceased, File Number 2025-CP-000174, is pending in the Circuit Court for Wakulla County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 3056 Crawfordville, Florida 32327. The name and address of the personal representative's attorney is set forth below.

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE NOTIFIED THAT:

All persons on whom this notice is served who have objections that challenge the validity of the will, the qualifications of the personal representative, venue, or jurisdiction of this Court are required to file their objections with this Court WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is served within three months after the date of the first publication of this notice must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

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

ALL CLAIMS, DEMANDS AND OBJECTIONS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

The date of the first publication of this Notice is December 25, 2025.

Attorney for Personal Representative	Personal Representatives name:
/s/ Martha Mendez	Tamika Terrel Davis
Florida Bar No.: 126162	5156 Coloma Court,
Feinstein & Mendez	Indianapolis, IN 46235
2600 S. Douglas Road, Suite 506,	Danielle D. Graham:
Coral Gables, FL 33134	5115 Greenside Drive,
786-636-8938/ FAX: 786-636-8941	Indianapolis, IN 46235
Martha@fmpalawfirm.com	December 25, 2025, January 1, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
KYMBERLEE DENISE SHIELDS,
DECEASED

File No. 2025 CP 167

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of Kymberlee Denise Shields, deceased, whose date of death was August 3, 2023, is pending in the Circuit Court for Wakulla County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 3056 Crawfordville Hwy, Crawfordville, FL 32327. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

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

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

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of the first publication of this Notice is December 18, 2025.

Attorney for Personal Representative	Personal Representative:
John A. Grant	Keith Shields
Attorney	18 Shields Lane
Florida Bar Number: 0946532	Crawfordville, FL 32327
2121-C Killarney Way	
Tallahassee, FL 32309	
Telephone: (850) 702-9400	
Fax: (850) 702-9410	
E-Mail: John@johngrantlaw.com	
Secondary E-Mail: gracie@johngrantlaw.com	

December 18, 25, 2025

NOTICE OF ACTION

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

PAFFORD PROPERTIES & CONSTRUCTION, CASE NO. 2025-CA-000146
LLC, a Florida Limited Liability Company,
Plaintiff,

vs

HILDRED E. HIERS, if alive, and if deceased, unknown spouses, heirs, devisees, grantees, creditors, assigns, and all other parties claiming by through, under or against him,
Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: HILDRED E. HIERS; if alive, and if deceased, unknown spouses, heirs, devisees, grantees, creditors, assigns, and all other parties claiming by through, under or against him

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that a Complaint for Quiet Title on the following property in Wakulla County, Florida:

LOTS 5, 6, 7 AND 8, BLOCK 43 OF WAKULLA GARDENS UNIT 5, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 56, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

Wakulla County Parcel ID No. 00-00-034-012-09517-000

Address: Beeler Road, Crawfordville, FL

has been filed against you and others, and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on **ANDREW J. POWER, ESQUIRE, SMITH, THOMPSON, SHAW, COLÓN & POWER, P.A.**, Plaintiff's attorneys, 3520 Thomasville Road, Fourth Floor, Tallahassee, Florida 32309-3469, no more than thirty (30) days from the first publication date of this Notice of Action, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorneys or immediately thereafter; otherwise, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition. DATED this 15th day of December, 2025.

{{County Court Seal}}

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



Dec. 25, 2025, Jan. 1, 8, 15, 2026

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

FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION,
PLAINTIFF, Case No.: 65-2025-CA000117-CAAM
V.

THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS,
CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, AND ALL OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING
INTEREST BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST THE ESTATE OF LISA
M. MORGAN A/K/A LISA MARIE PAGE MORGAN A/K/A LISA MORGAN,
DECEASED; ET AL,
DEFENDANTS.

NOTICE OF ACTION - CONSTRUCTIVE SERVICE

To The Unknown Heirs, Devisees, Grantees, Assignees, Lienors, Creditors, Trustees, and all other parties claiming interest by, through, under or against the Estate of Lisa M. Morgan a/k/a Lisa Marie Page Morgan a/k/a Lisa Morgan, Deceased

Last Known Address: Unknown

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in Wakulla County, Florida:

LOT #4 OF AN UNRECORDED PLAT OF THE FIRST ADDITION TO KIRKLAND ESTATES, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS: COMMENCING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF LOT #59 OF THE HARTSFIELD SURVEY OF LANDS IN WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA, (MARKED BY A CONCRETE MONUMENT), THENCE RUN SOUTH 72 DEGREES 30 MINUTES 30 SECONDS WEST ALONG THE NORTH BOUNDARY OF SAID LOT #59 A DISTANCE OF 2365.0 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT, THENCE RUN SOUTH 17 DEGREES 52 MINUTES 45 SECONDS EAST 659.02 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT ON THE SOUTH RIGHT-OF-WAY OF STATE ROAD #61 (U.S. 319), THENCE RUN SOUTH 70 DEGREES 45 MINUTES 30 SECONDS WEST ALONG SAID SOUTH RIGHT-OF-WAY OF STATE ROAD #61 A DISTANCE OF 480.15 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. FROM SAID POINT OF BEGINNING RUN SOUTH 17 DEGREES 54 MINUTES 20 SECONDS EAST 375.37 FEET, THENCE RUN SOUTH 72 DEGREES 40 MINUTES 45 SECONDS WEST 160.0 FEET, THENCE RUN NORTH 17 DEGREES 54 MINUTES 40 SECONDS WEST 370.00 FEET, THENCE RUN NORTH 70 DEGREES 45 MINUTES 30 SECONDS EAST ALONG THE SAID SOUTH RIGHT-OF-WAY OF STATE ROAD #61, A DISTANCE OF 160.05 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, IN LOT #59 OF THE HARTSFIELD SURVEY OF LANDS IN WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS:

COMMENCE AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 59 OF THE HARTSFIELD SURVEY OF LANDS IN WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA AND RUN SOUTH 72 DEGREES 30 MINUTES 30 SECONDS WEST 2365.00 FEET, THENCE RUN SOUTH 17 DEGREES 52 MINUTES 45 SECONDS EAST 659.02 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT (MARKED #2919) LYING ON THE SOUTHEASTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY BOUNDARY OF STATE ROAD NO. 61 MARKING THE POINT OF BEGINNING. FROM SAID POINT OF BEGINNING AND LEAVING SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY BOUNDARY RUN SOUTH 17 DEGREES 46 MINUTES 33 SECONDS EAST 375.20 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT (MARKED #2919), THENCE RUN SOUTH 72 DEGREES 43 MINUTES 18 SECONDS WEST 159.54 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT (MARKED #2919), THENCE RUN NORTH 18 DEGREES 01 MINUTES 08 SECONDS WEST 369.70 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT (MARKED #2919) LYING ON THE SOUTHEASTERLY, RIGHT-OF-WAY BOUNDARY OF STATE ROAD NO. 61, THENCE RUN NORTH 70 DEGREES 45 MINUTES 30 SECONDS EAST ALONG SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY BOUNDARY 161.16 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. TOGETHER WITH 1999 ADMI MOBILE HOME IDENTIFICATION NOS. GMHGA1299820841A AND GMHGA1299820841B, TITLE NOS. 77429721 AND 77429724.

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Amanda Driscole, Esquire, Brock & Scott, PLLC., the Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 4919 Memorial Hwy, Suite 135, Tampa, FL 33634, within thirty (30) days of the first date of publication on or before **January 10, 2026**, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on the Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.

WITNESS my hand and seal of said court at Crawfordville, Florida 24th day of October, 2025.

{{County Court Seal}}

Greg James
As Clerk of the Court
Wakulla County, Florida
By: /s/ Ethan Brown
As Deputy Clerk



December 11, 25, 2025, January 1, 8, 2026

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WRESTLING

Wakulla wins Beast of the Beach

By **WALT JACOBS**
Correspondent

Fort Walton Beach is located on what is called the Emerald Coast. It is known for its white sand beaches, pristine coastline, and clear emerald waters. It's an image that depicts tranquility and relaxation.

However, the scene at Fort Walton Beach High School gymnasium was neither tranquil nor relaxing, it was more reminiscent of a battleground. On Friday and Saturday, Dec. 19th and 20th, the school hosted its annual Beast of the Beach tournament. The competition, a dual format tournament, attracted 21 teams from Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Tennessee, and Florida.

Coach Nate Litowsky and his War Eagles were among those who made the trip to lay claim to the title.

In the opening round of their bracket, Wakulla defeated Marianna 58-15. The War Eagles followed that up with a 63-6 mauling of Milton. Subsequently, Wakulla pummeled Fort Walton's B team 58-11. In their final match of the day, the War Eagles finished strong with a 55-25 drubbing of Niceville. Virtually unchallenged, Wakulla advanced to the next day's championship round.

On day two, the War Eagles faced Fort Walton Beach. Wakulla prevailed over their hosts 50-24. Next, Wakulla took on Collierville High from Tennessee. The Dragons gave the War Eagles their closest match of the tournament at this juncture, but Wakulla advanced to the championship match with a 43-36 victory.

In the championship, the War Eagles faced Tallassee from Alabama. Tallassee entered the contest on a 73 dual win streak, and like Wakulla, had cut through their competition at the tournament like a hot knife through butter. All signs indicated that it would be the most competitive match of the tournament. The champion-

PHOTO OF THE WEEK
SPONSORED BY
MYRA JEAN'S RESTAURANT



The boys wrestling team celebrates their win at Beast of the Beach.

ship dual started at 126 pounds, and William Harvey got the War Eagles going with a 16-0 tech fall over Dylan Price.

Tallassee's Karter Armstrong responded by winning a close 13-12 decision over Patrick Cooksey.

Wakulla's Brady Jackson answered with a 16-1 tech fall over Aiden Bridgman.

Aaron Robinson continued Wakulla's winning ways with a 30 second pin over John Creswell.

Troy Thaxton made it 19-3 in the War Eagle's favor with a decision over Tallassee's Avery Brantley.

Wakulla's Colt Sanders increased the lead by six, with a pin over James Mote.

At 165 and 175, Tallassee got back to back wins. Brady Adams pinned Clayton Manzi late in the first period and Tra'Mel McCoy got a 7-6 decision over Cole Manning, making the score 25-12.

Wakulla and Tallassee traded wins in the next two weights. At 190, Gavin Mitchell pinned Tallassee's Randal Morgan with one second remaining in the second period and Wakulla forfeited the 215 pound class. The score at this time was Wakulla 31 Tallassee 18.

Looking ahead, Wakulla knew that they would be forfeiting the 106 and 113 pound

weight classes as they had most of the tournament. With that in mind, the results of the impending 285 pound bout would be consequential on the final outcome of the dual.

Going into the final period of the bout, Wakulla's Lonnie Pearce was locked in a 3-3 tie with Tallassee's Vincente Diego. However, Pearce removed the suspense from the room when he pinned Diego just 30 seconds into the final period. War Eagle fans in the stands and teammates matside erupted in jubilation. Although there were three matches remaining, regardless of their outcome, Pearce's victory made the score 37-18 and drove the final nail in the proverbial coffin. Tallassee received forfeits at 106 and 113 and in the final match of the dual, Thomas Patterson won by decision 11-7 over Wakulla's Matthew Thaxton. The final score of the dual was 37-33.

Next, the War Eagles travel to Fort Lauderdale to compete in the Bobby Stanley Duals at Cardinal Gibbons on December 29th-31st.

GIRLS KNOCKOUT CHRISTMAS CLASSIC

The Lady War Eagles traveled to Kissimmee to compete in what is considered one

of the toughest in-season tournaments in the nation.

Julia Baggett and Kameron Easter, the only wrestlers to make the trip, both went 2-2 respectively over the weekend.

Coach Jon Sanchez said, "The girls wrestled well at Knockout. This was a good tournament to see where we're at against some of the best in the state. We just need to make some adjustments in different areas of our technique that will help them peak at the right time in the season."

Regarding his wrestlers' performances, Sanchez accentuated the positives. "Julia continues to keep pushing forward. She went 0-2 last year at this tournament. This year she improved to 2-2. She's putting in the work and she's starting to see some of the fruits of her labor."

Kameron Easter reached a milestone over the weekend winning her 100th career match. Sanchez commented, "Before the season started, Kameron had the goal of reaching her 100th win. She even had it down to which tournaments she would achieve this mark."

Next, the Lady War Eagles will compete at the Panhandle Championships in Lynn Haven on Jan. 3rd.

WRESTLERS of the WEEK

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WRESTLERS of the WEEK



LONNIE PEARCE
Boys Wrestler of Week



KAMERON EASTER
Girls Wrestler of the week

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1517 Crawfordville Hwy | Lic CCC1327357

PROUD SPONSOR OF
COACH'S CORNER

"We're not where we need to be yet by any means. We have a lot of work to do, but this group wants to win. Everyone is sick, beat up, and worn down, but that's part of wrestling season. What mattered was the ones who showed up for each other and found a way to win."

- Coach Nate Litowsky

HELP COMMUNITY JOURNALISM
MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TO
SUPPORT THE WAKULLA SUN THROUGH
THE FLORIDA PRESS FOUNDATION.



Your donation will help
keep the presses running.

Happy Holidays From Our Homes to Yours!

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LEGAL & TITLE

LoweLegalAndTitle.com 850.926.8245

FWMA

A Wakulla Wild Animal Rescue
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP?
We always need donations of these items:

- Bleach
- Paper towels
- Fruit cocktail
- Birdseed & nuts
- Pedigree wet & dry dog food
- Friskies wet & dry cat food

Florida Wild Mammal Association
198 Edgar Poole Road
Crawfordville, FL 32327
FWMA.org
363-2351

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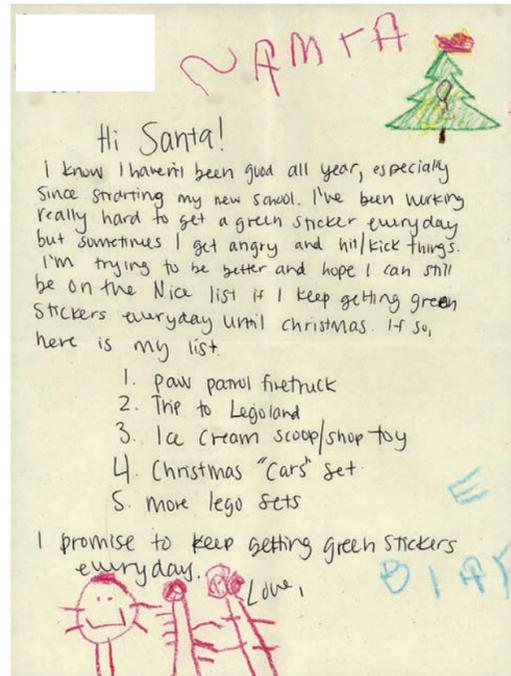
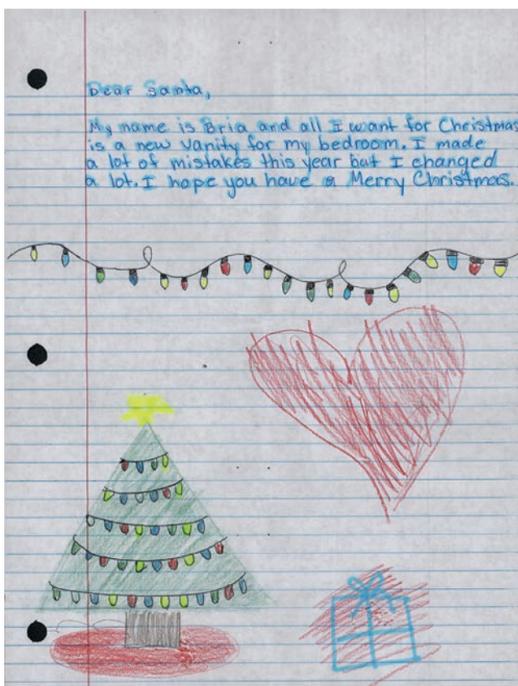
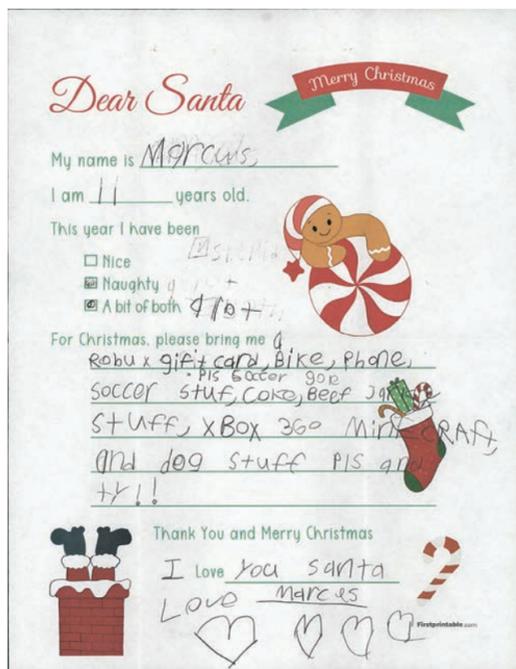
Section B

MERRY CHRISTMAS



PHOTO BY GERALD BROWN

Santa arrives in Sopchoppy for last week's Christmas celebration.



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
From Our Family to Yours!

The Wakulla Sun

William Snowden, Editor/Publisher
Eric Stanton, Production Manager/IT
Lynda Kinsey, Sales & Marketing
Linda Ann McDonald, Correspondent
Krystal Sheppard, Circulation
Jessi Smith, Delivery

My Letter to Santa.

Dear Mr. Kringle, Mr. Claus, the Man in Red,

I am 13 and am almost 14. At least I will be in 2 weeks on Dec. 13th. I am told that I am, in fact, NOT too old to write a letter to you. Anyhow, I have a list of wishes for you. Here it is:

1. Black All-Star Converse. (Size 7 in women.)
2. Volleyball Net.
3. Colorful ^{Flair} pens.
4. Faux Nails. (Preferable in light colors, preferably almond or box-shaped.)
5. Lavender Body Wash/ Shampoo/ Conditioner
6. Carter House Girls Series.
7. The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins (Bks 1-3)
8. Harry Potter Legos.
9. Sweaters. (In any color EXCEPT Yellow.)
10. Jewelry
11. A fuzzy blanket.
12. Perfume. (Light, clean scents. POT Strong.)
13. Earrings. (I'm getting my ears pierced for my b-day)
14. LED Lights.
15. Sticky-Notes.
16. Bath & Body Works Lotion.
17. Last one. Colorful High-Lights.

Dear Santa,
 Thank you for my gifts last year I enjoyed them so much. This year I have been good and helping around the House and School. If you would please send me: Five nights at Freddy's Scare Jump Figures, a Jazzware Fraf plushie, and meena Godzilla. Thank you. Hope you enjoy the cookies this year. I have been doing good with my reading and got to see and swim with dolphins this year. hope the reindeer get goodies also!

Fly Safe
 Wishing you all the little joys that make this season so good—because you bring a lot of goodness to every season, all through the year.

cody

Dear Santa,

I wonder what the elfs are making. Please put me on the nice list because I love you. I wonder how our Scout Elf, Jingles is doing. This year I would like a tablet and headphones. Also some squishmellows. And fuzzy socks. Give Rudolph an extra carrot.

Love Laney

Dear, Santa how is Mrs Clause doing? How are the reindeer doing? Am i on the nice list? these are some of the things i would like for christmas

1. Grinch and max Funko Pop 2 Pack
2. Millennium falcon lego set
3. Something else random

Love,
 Everett J. Zak

lego Hulk mini figure
 lego IRON MAN mini figure
 lego IRON patriot mini figure
 lego tony stark mini figure

Dear Santa, My name is Allegh I will like these stuff

- 1 Baby stuff, DVD player
- 2 tent for my room
- 3 new clothes
- 4 Kitchen
- 5 Bike

I thank you Santa for all you do and give you are very nice.

pocket knife
 Diary
 remote control car
 Bounce what do you want for Christmas

Dear Santa please bring snow ball back.

Snow ball

I hope you have a great Christmas,

Dear Santa,

I thank you for being so patient for the letter, stuff you know? Anyway, I think I've been good this year so here is what I want:

- Slime
- Fidgets
- marker airbrush sprayer kit
- Rc flying toothless 30" Dragon figure
- felt
- Lego angel set (angel as in stitch)

Expect cookies, sweet tea, canned for the reindeer, and loving kisses inside and out when you come

Sincerely, Alysa Francis

Dear Santa ♥ fram

- 1 Baby ~~stuff~~ STUFF
- 2 Makeup and nail polish
- 3 New bike New clothes
- 4 Makeup best white two chair
- 5 ~~heat~~ heat Strush Melo
- 7 Santa you are best ever.

I Love you Santa.



P.S. Say Hi to all of the elves for me will ya?



my cat Smokey you know him

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
LUTHERAN CHURCH
 MISSOURI SYNOD

SUNDAY SERVICE... 10:17a.m.
CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDELIGHT SERVICE
 Wednesday Dec. 24 - 7:00p.m.



850-926-7808 • 3254 Coastal Hwy., Crawfordville
 In Medart Across from Wakulla High School

CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDELIGHT SERVICE

CHRIST CHURCH ANGLICAN



Celebrate the birth of Christ with scripture, carols, communion, and candlelight.

Come Home to Christmas!
Wednesday, December 24
7:00 PM
 3383 Coastal Hwy
 (850) 745-8412

hi Santa what i would like for christmas is

- high heels ^{not 55 ones}
- glue on nails ^{long ones nutrix!}
- Led light for my room
- boy 3 girl silicone baby doll
- 2 cribs
- 2 high chair, 4L abubu
- 2 baby car seat baby blanket
- 2 stroller 2 seat
- 2 binkis
- 2 baby bottles cuttlenberg
- 2 baby toys
- 2 baby cloths
- hoop earrings
- perfume
- rings
- toothland

That's it



Fixed For SANTA
 Repaired For Mrs. CLAUS
 Wrecked by RUDOLPH

We Wish You A Merry Christmas ... And A Happy New Year!

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Sheldon, J, Devon, Mike, Chris, Alex, Mikey, Xan, and Sanchez

Dear Santa,

I've been good this whole year, so I would like for Christmas these things:

- 1) TABLET
- 2) PERFUME
- 3) KENETIC SAND
- 4) SANTA CUP
- 5) Jewelry

Love, EDEN SWAIN

Merry Christmas
 and
Happy Holidays

from the Wakulla County School Board
 Superintendent Rick Myhre,
 School Board Members - Cale Langston, Laura Lawhon, Angie Nichols,
 Joshua Brown, and Eddie Hand



Dear Santa, I've been very good this year. And what I want is a Bow and arrows. I hope you have had a good year.

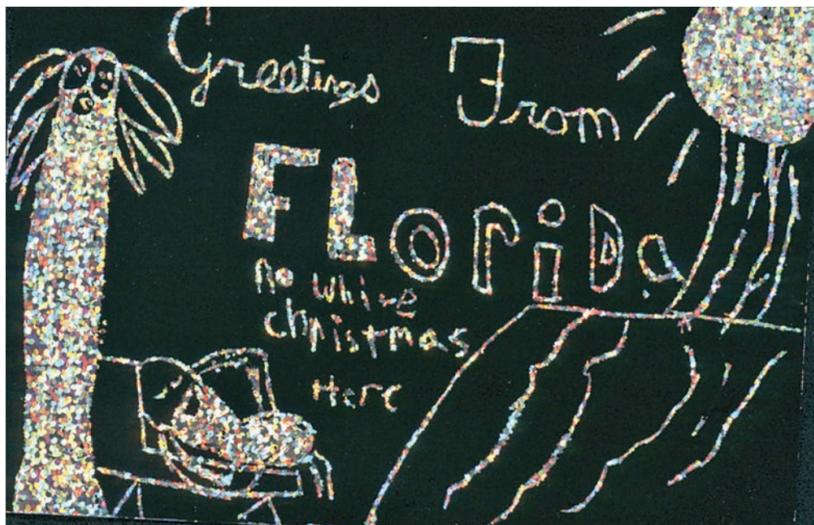
Sinceley Brady



Dear Santa, what I want for Christmas is a spider dino webs tree house or magnet tiles. I Love you Santa so I drew this picture for you. Thank you!

Sinceley, Bradley Albas

P.S I've been very good this year!



Dear Santa,

MY NAME IS Zoey Rain Beard

I AM 8 YEARS OLD

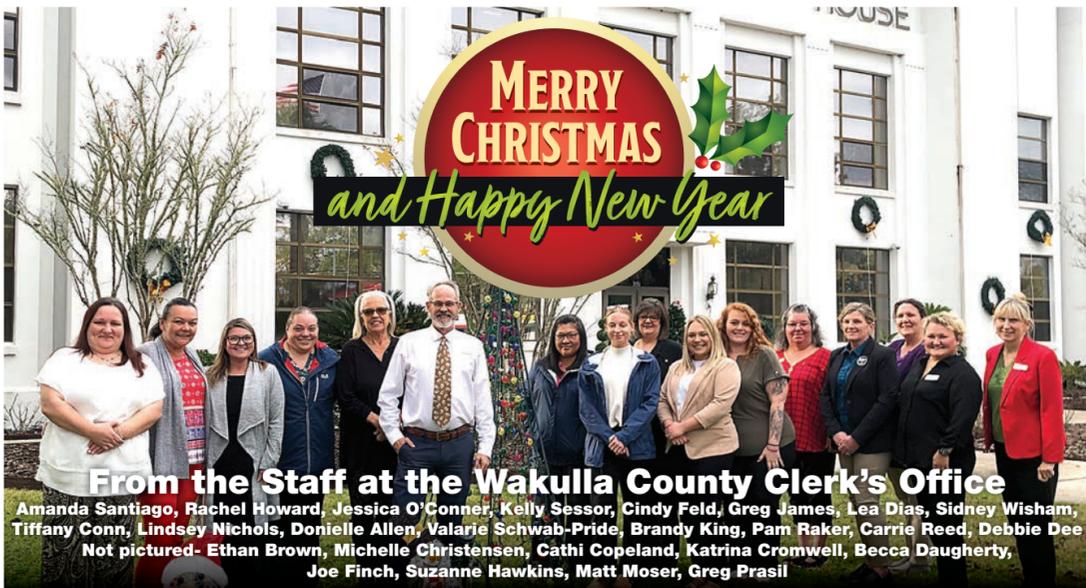
I LIVE IN Crawfordville, FL

THIS YEAR I HAVE BEEN: nice naughty

THIS YEAR I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE: Rock Et Book, Descender Barbie, 3pc Christmas bracelets, calendar for Christmas, bling bling hair stamp, gymnastics clothes, goggles, boots, pommel horse, beam, pottery kit for kids, Night Sky

THANK YOU, SANTA!
YOUR FRIEND,
Zoey

Merry Christmas!



From the Staff at the Wakulla County Clerk's Office
Amanda Santiago, Rachel Howard, Jessica O'Conner, Kelly Sessor, Cindy Feld, Greg James, Lea Dias, Sidney Wisham, Tiffany Conn, Lindsey Nichols, Donielle Allen, Valarie Schwab-Pride, Brandy King, Pam Raker, Carrie Reed, Debbie Dee
Not pictured- Ethan Brown, Michelle Christensen, Cathi Copeland, Katrina Cromwell, Becca Daugherty, Joe Finch, Suzanne Hawkins, Matt Moser, Greg Prasil

Dear Santa,

I've been good this whole year, so I would like these things for Christmas:

- 1) LIP GLOSS
- 2) PLAY DOUGH
- 3) CANDY
- 4) TABLET

Love, Riverley Swain



From the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners



Quincee Messersmith Ralph Thomas Josh Lawhon Valerie Russell Fred Nichols

Stan and the gang wish you a **Very Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and God Bless**

Thank You for 28 Years We look forward to seeing you all soon!

Come visit us and dine under our HUGE CHICKEE HUT

Riverside Cafe ON THE RIVER
850 925-5668

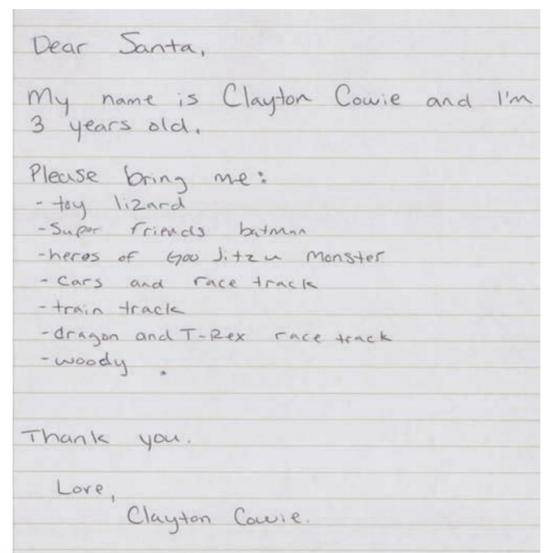
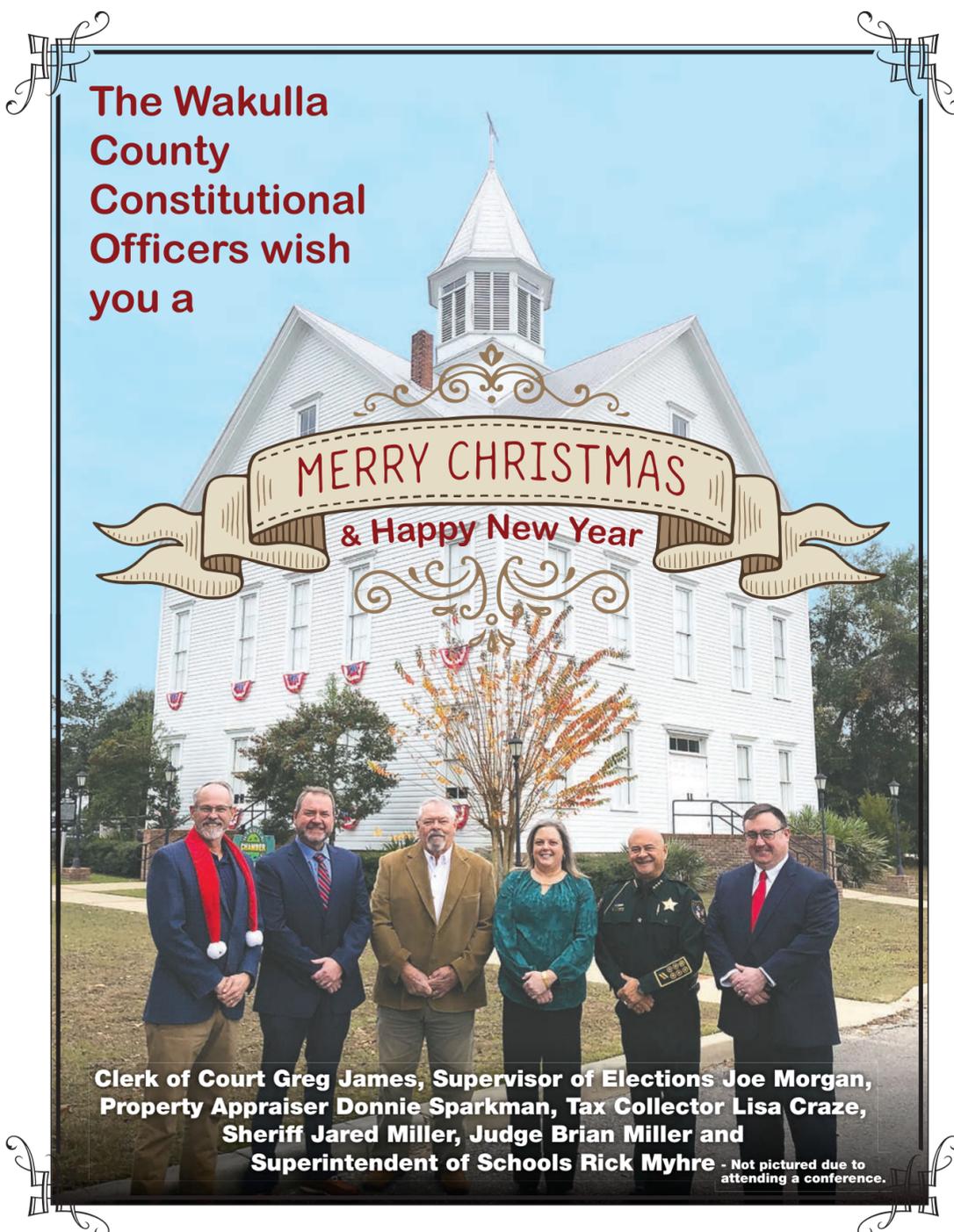
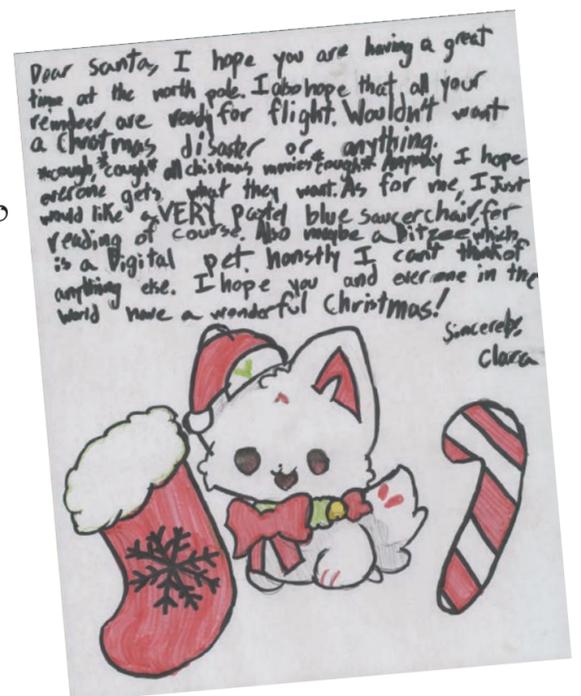
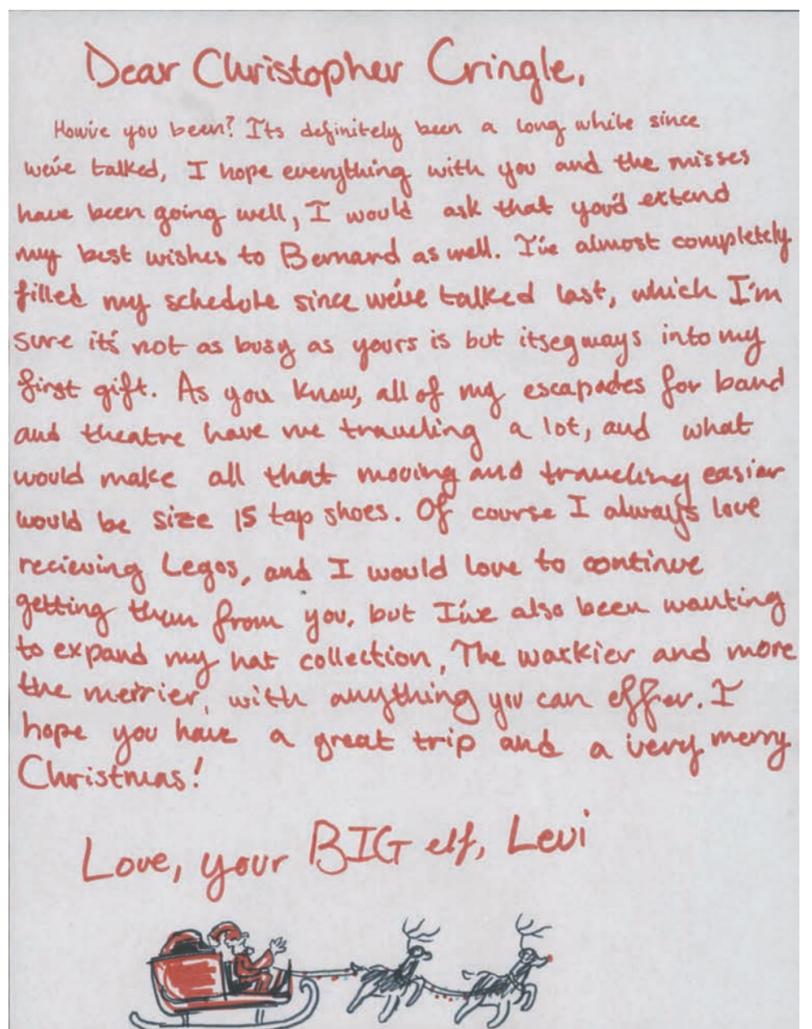
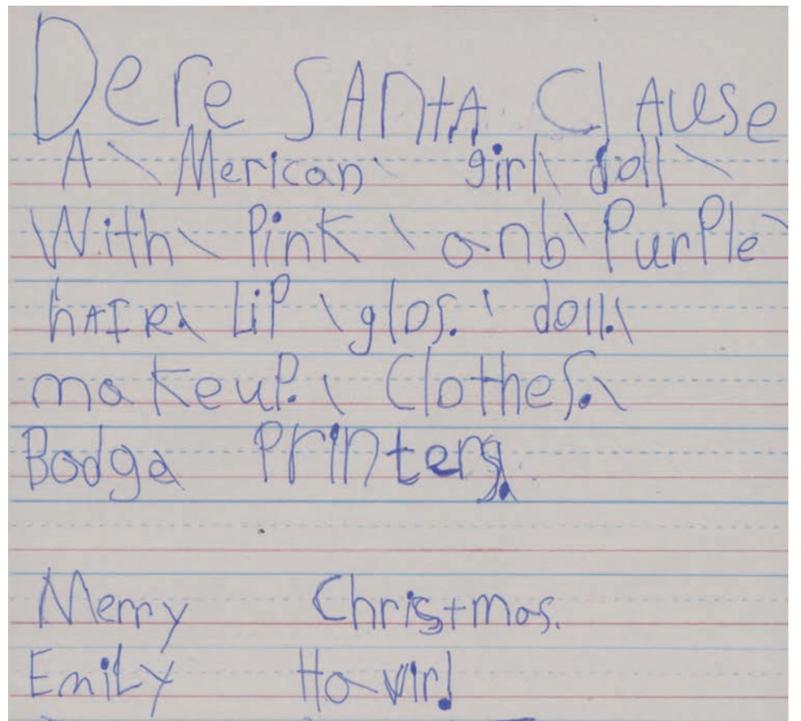
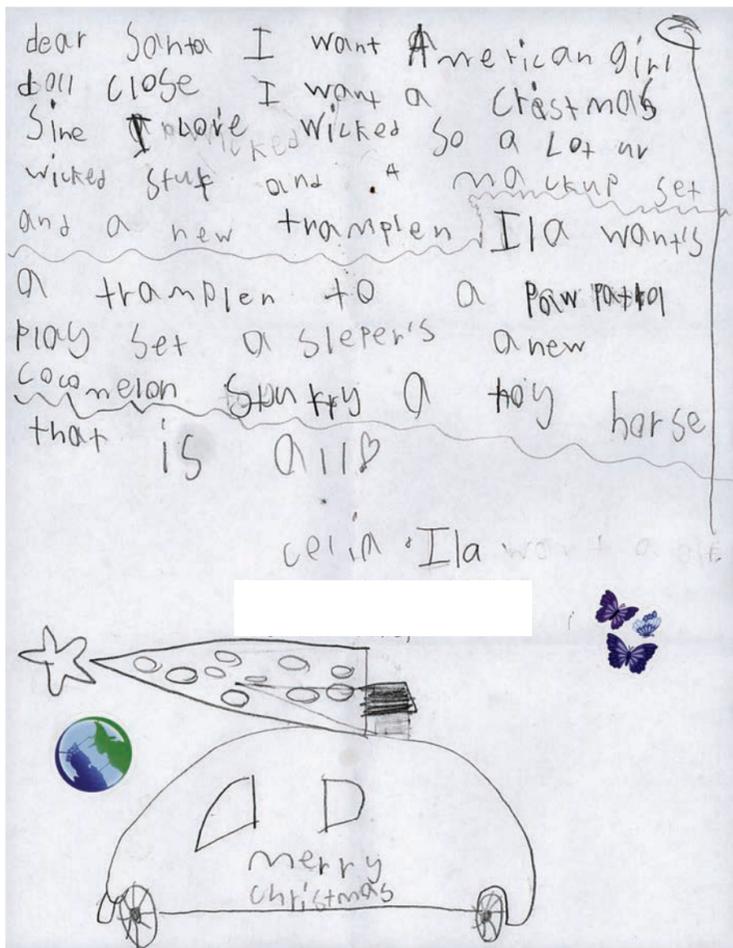
St. Marks
Any further south and you're all wet!

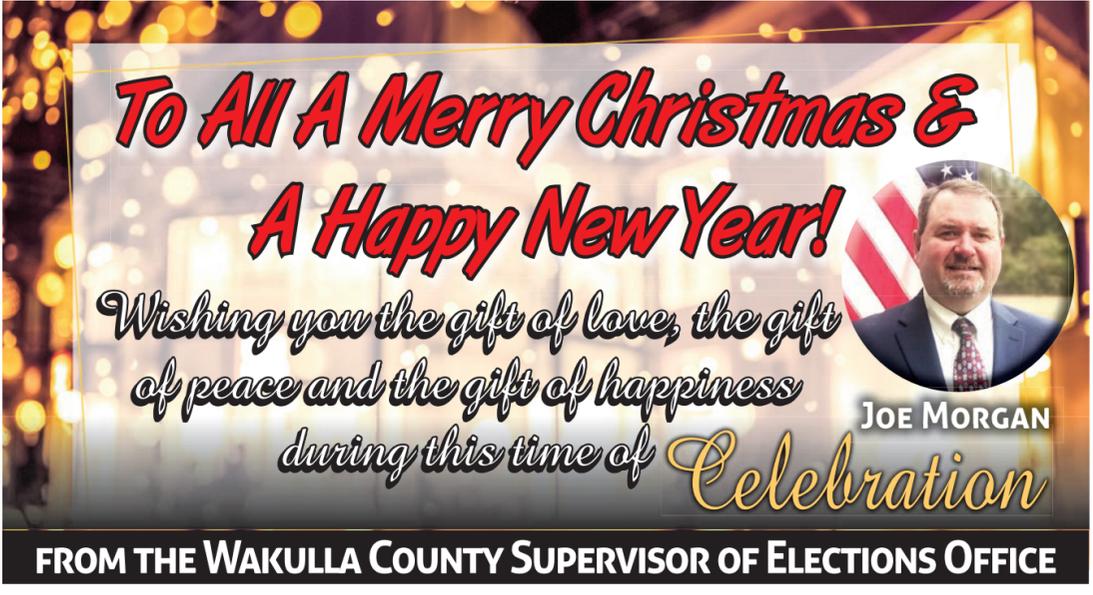
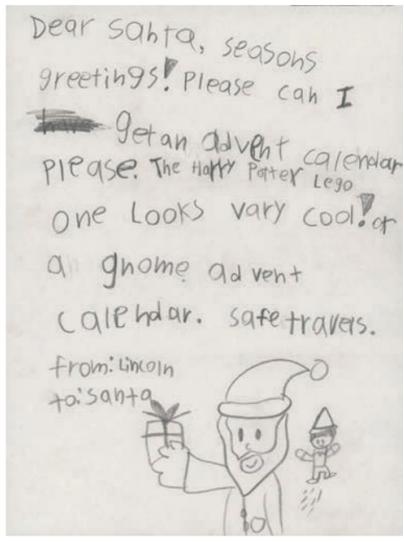
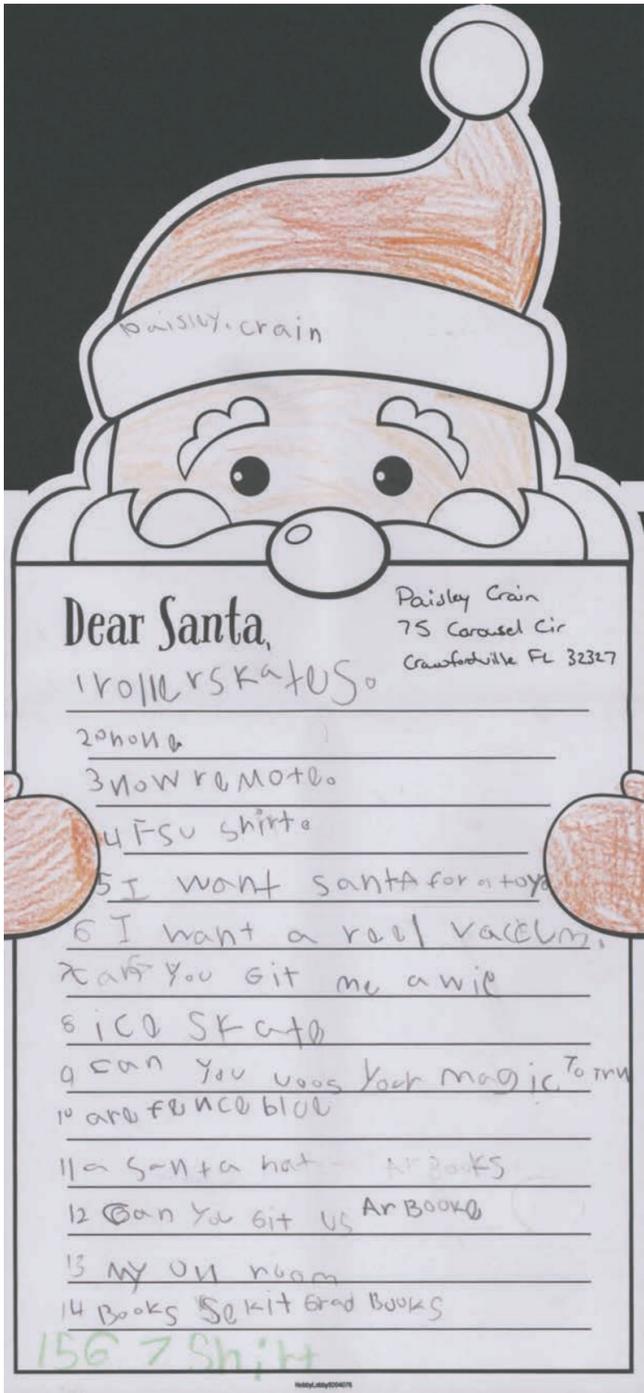
Come see us!
We'll be here during the holidays while you're on vacation.
Serving all your favorites from 11:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. (weather permitting)

Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year!

LISA CRAZE AND STAFF
WAKULLA COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

Lisa Craze, CFC
Wakulla County Tax Collector





Thank you for the continued support and friendship of our community. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

God Bless America



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FROM OUR PRIME MERIDIAN BANK FAMILY TO YOURS

MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND ENJOY A SAFE, PROSPEROUS, AND

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

