

Sum Neighbor Monthly

"The little paper"

Locally Owned & Operated VOL. 4, NO. 6 • JUNE 2025

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Serving Wakulla County, Alligator Point and St. Teresa

Donny Bennett

His Battle 14 ministry uses sports to bring people together

By LINDA ANN McDONALD
Correspondent

As Christian philosopher Dallas Willard put it, "Faith is commitment to action...based upon knowledge of God and God's ways."

Commitment then, to borrow from Willard again, "is simply a matter of choosing and implementing a course of action."

Donny Bennett is committed to ministering, impacting and helping others by means of his non-profit ministry Battle 14 and active involvement in the school-based Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA).

Battle 14 uses sports and events to draw people together to share the gospel and encourage and assist those in need. Battle 14 raises money for families in our community who need financial help and encouragement.



PHOTO BY LINDA ANN McDONALD

Donny Bennett with Battle 14 belts.

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Turn to Page 7

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Class of 2025 graduates from Wakulla High



Valedictorian Sydney Peddicord.



Grads Sophia Walden and Morgan Johnson



Time to turn the tassel.

PHOTOS BY LINDA ANN McDONALD

Summer Reading Programs
June 3rd– July 25th

Book Bunch Tuesdays 10:00-11:00am

This program for 2.5 yrs to preschool aged children includes stories, movement, and a craft designed to pair with our summer theme.

Book Babies Wednesdays 10:00–11:00am

An interactive themed story time and socialization designed for infants & toddlers up to 2.5 yrs, and their caregivers.

Hue Crew Wednesdays | 2:00–3:00pm

This program for children in grades K-2 and features stories and a crafts focused around the summer theme.

Shade Brigade Thursdays | 2:00–3:00

This program for children in grades 3-5 and features books with crafts/activities focused around the summer theme.

All Together Art

Thursday June 5th, 19th & July 17th 4–5:30PM

No matter your age or artistic medium, being creative is a balm for the soul.

- stay creative and work alongside like-minded individuals
- bring your own supplies and art, or enjoy one of our upcycling challenges.

Open to all ages (children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult caregiver).

Lego Club 1st & 3rd Tuesday | 4:00-5:30PM

Lego Club is designed to provide kids with an enjoyable activity that stimulates & develops spatial intelligence. You bring the imagination, we'll supply the LEGOS.

Middle & Teen Manga Clubs

See Calendar for dates/times

This club is intended for middle and high school aged young adults. We'll explore different topics such as manga and

Reading Challenge with
Beanstack online

Hours of Operation

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	9:00-8:00
Wednesday	9:00-6:00
Thursday	9:00-8:00
Friday	9:00-6:00
Saturday	9:00-1:00
Sunday	Closed

Summer Reading Prizes

Keep up with your summer reading using Beanstack to earn prizes! For every 10 hours read you will receive a small prize and an entry to the Grand Prize.

This years Grand Prize is a themed LEGO set!

Register here:
<https://wakullalibrary.beanstack.org/reader365>

Free Lunch with Summer Reading/BreakSpot

Summer BreakSpot will be providing FREE, nutritious meals to children aged 18 and under (adults can eat for a small fee). Every Tuesday-Thursday during our 7-week Summer Reading Programming. Tuesdays & Wednesdays from 11am-12pm and on Thursdays from 12:30pm - 1:30pm at our library between the dates of June 3rd - July 24th. No Registration required. Only children 18 and under eat for free. Adults may also eat for a small fee.

Our summer program includes programs and Tuesday night **performances** designed to encourage reading. The best part is that all of these wonderful programs are offered **FREE** to Wakulla County residents thanks to the **library** and the generous sponsorship of the

Friends of the Wakulla County Public Library.

Summer Reading with

A FREE Summer of Fun for Children and Families!

Jun 3rd – July 25th

4330 Crawfordville Highway
Crawfordville, FL 32327
(850) 926-7415
www.wakullalibrary.org
Questions? Email:
POwens@mywakulla.com
LHurst@mywakulla.com

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
JUNE 3 Book Bunch 10:00-11AM FREE Lunch for Kids 11:00AM-12PM Kick-Off 4:00-7 PM @ The Library	4 Book Babies 10:00– 11AM FREE Lunch for Kids 11:00AM-12PM Hue Crew 2:00-3PM	5 FREE Lunch for Kids 12:30-1:30PM Shade Brigade 2:00-3PM All Together Art 4:00-5:30PM	6
10 Book Bunch 10:00-11AM FREE Lunch for Kids 11:00AM-12PM Phil Meyer Magic 7:00-8PM @ The Community Center	11 Book Babies 10:00– 11AM FREE Lunch for Kids 11:00AM-12PM Hue Crew 2:00-3PM Middle Manga 4:30-5:30PM	12 FREE Lunch for Kids 12:30-1:30PM Shade Brigade 2:00-3PM	13 Mommy & Me Yoga 9:00-10AM
17 Book Bunch 10:00-11AM FREE Lunch for Kids 11:00AM-12PM LEGO Club 4:00-5:30PM Quite-A-Catch Ron Anglin Show 7:00-8PM @ The Community Center	18 Book Babies 10:00– 11AM FREE Lunch for Kids 11:00AM-12PM Hue Crew 2:00-3PM	19 FREE Lunch for Kids 12:30-1:30PM Shade Brigade 2:00-3PM All Together Art 4:00-5:30PM	20 Saturday Story Time <u>tomorrow</u> , June 21st 9:30-10:30AM *Therapy dogs will be here <u>tomorrow</u> 10AM-12PM
24 Book Bunch 10:00-11AM FREE Lunch for Kids 11:00AM-12PM Didgeridoo Down Under 7:00-8PM @ The Community Center	25 Book Babies 10:00– 11AM FREE Lunch for Kids 11:00AM-12PM Hue Crew 2:00-3PM Teen Manga 4:30-5:30PM	26 FREE Lunch for Kids 12:30-1:30PM Shade Brigade 2:00-3PM	27 Mommy & Me Yoga 9:00-10AM Family Game Night 4:00-5:30PM
JULY 1 FREE Lunch for Kids 11:00am-12pm NO CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS	2 FREE Lunch for Kids 11:00am-12pm NO CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS	3 FREE Lunch for Kids 12:30-1:30PM NO CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS	4 NO CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS
8 Book Bunch 10:00-11AM FREE Lunch for Kids 11AM-12PM Tally MoLab 7:00-8PM @The Community Center	9 Book Babies 10:00– 11AM FREE Lunch for Kids 11:00AM-12PM Hue Crew 2:00-3PM Middle Manga 4:30-5:30PM	10 FREE Lunch for Kids 12:30-1:30PM Shade Brigade 2:00-3PM	11 Mommy & Me Yoga 9:00-10AM
15 Book Bunch 10:00-11AM FREE Lunch for Kids 11AM-12PM LEGO Club 4:00-5:30 PM Animal Tales: 7:00-8PM @The Community Center	16 Book Babies 10:00– 11AM FREE Lunch for Kids 11:00AM-12PM Hue Crew 2:00-3PM	17 FREE Lunch for Kids 12:30-1:30PM Shade Brigade 2:00-3PM All Together Art 4:00-5:30PM	18 Saturday Story Time <u>tomorrow</u> , July 19th 9:30-10:30AM *Therapy dogs will be here <u>tomorrow</u> 10AM-12PM
22 Book Bunch 10:00-11AM FREE Lunch for Kids 11:00AM-12PM	23 Book Babies 10:00– 11AM FREE Lunch for Kids 11:00AM-12PM Hue Crew 2:00-3PM Teen Manga 4:30-5:30PM	24 FREE Lunch for Kids 12:30-1:30PM Shade Brigade 2:00-3PM	25 An Evening At Hogwarts 6:00-8 PM @ The Library

**HISTO-
RY
JUNE 1925**

- June 8, 1925 (Monday) The U.S. Supreme Court issued its decision in the landmark case of Gitlow v. New York, holding that the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution extended the First Amendment protections of freedom and speech and freedom of the press to individual state governments.

- *Walter P. Chrysler incorporates the Chrysler Corporation on June 6 after acquiring the assets of the defunct Maxwell Motor Company.*
June 27:

:- The first women's magazine "Ladies' Mercury" is published in London. The first color TV demo is performed by Bell Laboratories in NYC.

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Answer: Toxin or poison

They say, “You attract what you fear.”
Oh my gosh! I’m so afraid of 10 million dollars.

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Figure out why we drive on a parkway and park on a driveway!
“It’s OK if you dont like me, not everyone has good taste”. -Unknown
“Life is too short.” Smile while you have teeth. - Unknown
“Listen, smile, accept, and then do what you thought you would do anyway.”
-Unknown.

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Bla...Bla...

BLAH...Bla
~Word Origins~
IN THE GROOVE

Thomas Edison’s first talking machine was made of brass pipe which spiral grooves had been cut and patented in 1877. Everything went well as long as the needle stayed in the groove.

A modified apparatus using a wax cylinder came on the market. Every operator was cautioned to keep the needle “In the Groove” and in time it became the phrase representing any type of good performance.

BLACKMAIL-

Scotland - Farmers who had no cash were able to pay their tax with produce or black mail. Greedy landlords would often take advantage and squeezed out Black mail worth more than the cash amount.

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MISS INFORMATION FUN PAGE *By Lynda Kinsey*

Content contributors William Dickman

LEMON POSSET

1 pint Heavy Cream, 1/2 cup Sugar, 1.5 Teaspoons of Lemon zest 1/3 cup lemon Juice -mint & Vanilla extract. Mix, bring to soft boil. Simmer until about 2 cups in pan. Stirring often (about 12 - 20 minutes). Take off heat & stir in extracts. Rest at room temp 20 minutes. Strain mixture to remove zest. Fill mixture into scooped out lemon halves for serving. Garnish with berries, mint leaves or Nasturtium

GARDENING

June is a good time to plant your palms.
Herbs like basil, Mexican tarragon, and rosemary thrive in the heat of June.
Warm-season vegetables: okra, southern peas, sweet potatoes, and Malabar spinach.
Generally best to fertilize your lawn in the early morning or late evening.

Trivia WAKULLA

#1. What building in Crawfordville has a Mullet at the top?
#2. Are there more gas stations or more churches in Wakulla?
#3. Where does the Florida Trail cross in Wakulla County?
#4 Approx. how many people lived in Wakulla County in 1925?
#5 What does the name Sopchoppy mean?
#6. What animal used to swim in the Waula River but is now prohibited?

#1 Old Courthouse, #2 Churches #3. In St. Marks and crosses the river. #4 Approx. 5,300
#5 Creek Indian term, meaning “long and twisted river #6. Cattle

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- Punctuation -

I am, through learning.

I am through learning.

-John L. Lewis,
PhD. in
Adult Education

*Question:
Which 5 letter word is shorter when you add two letters to it.

Green is the rarest eye color.
Some say Coca-Cola was originally green, some say that is a myth. Does anyone know???

*Answer:
SHORT

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Lynda Kinsey
(850) 962-8019.
If you are reading this - so are others!

SPORTS-
What is the oldest Sport?
Wrestling - dating back 15,000 to 20,000 years in Southern Europe
Wrestling can be found in cave paintings

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Florida Motto is: In God We Trust - Part of the State’s seal in 1868. The First State motto was “ In God is Our Trust.”
In 2006 it was changed.

The first people to enter the Florida Peninsula around 14,000 years ago were nomads following big game animals upon which their survival depended.

Florida is the southernmost state in the continental U.S., though Hawaii is technically southernmost. -
-Jacksonville is farther West than Orlando.
-Key Lime Pie is the most popular food in Florida.
-Florida became the twenty-seventh state in the United States on March 3, 1845
-During the Civil War, Florida was not ravaged as several other southern states were. Indeed, no decisive battles were fought on Florida soil. While Union forces occupied many coastal towns and forts, the interior of the state remained in Confederate hands.

- One of the oldest and most renowned historical landmarks in Florida is Castillo de San Marcos. The construction of this structure was completed in 1695 and was built to serve as a fort to protect St. Augustine from enemy attacks.

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I answered...

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PHOTO ADOBE STOCK

Now is the time to prepare your family’s emergency supply kit. Be sure to include items such as nutritious snacks, canned goods, important documents, first aid kit, and other essential items.

Develop a family emergency plan for hurricane season



By SAMANTHA KENNEDY
Extension Agent

As hurricane season approaches, families in coastal and low-lying areas are bracing themselves for the possibility of devastating storms. While many people may think they are prepared, the reality is that many families are not equipped with a plan to deal with the chaos and destruction that comes with a hurricane. In this article, we will explore the importance of developing a family emergency plan and provide tips on how to create a comprehensive plan that will keep your loved ones safe.

A PLAN IS NOT A GUESS

Developing a family emergency plan should not be a guessing game. It is a proactive step that can mean the difference between life and death. A plan outlines what to do in case of an emer-

gency, including evacuation routes, safe meeting points, and communication protocols. Without a plan, families are left to fend for themselves, which can lead to confusion, panic, and tragedy.

KEY COMPONENTS OF A FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN

A comprehensive family emergency plan should include the following key components:

- **Safe Meeting Point:** Designate a safe meeting point outside the home in case you get separated. This could be a neighbor’s house, a landmark, or a specific location in your neighborhood.
- **Communication Plan:** Establish a communication plan that includes how you will stay in touch with each other, including phone numbers, email addresses, and social media accounts.
- **Evacuation Routes:** Identify evacuation routes and emergency shelters in your area. Make sure everyone knows the routes and shelters.
- **Emergency Contact Information:** Make sure everyone knows important phone numbers, such as your insurance company,

emergency services, and utility companies.

- **Important Documents:** Keep important documents, such as insurance policies, identification, and medical records, in a safe and easily accessible location.

TIPS FOR A FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN

- **Involve Everyone:** Make sure everyone in the household is involved in the planning process. This will ensure that everyone knows what to do in case of an emergency.
- **Practice Drills:** Practice your emergency plan with regular drills to ensure everyone knows what to do.
- **Stay Informed:** Stay informed about weather updates and emergency alerts from local authorities.
- **Review and Update:** Review and update your emergency plan regularly to ensure it is current and effective.

DON'T WAIT UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE

Do not wait until the last minute to develop a family emergency plan. The consequences of not having a plan can be dire. By creat-

ing a comprehensive plan, you will be better equipped to handle the challenges of hurricane season.

Remember, a plan is not a guarantee of safety, but it can significantly reduce the risk of injury or death.

SAFETY TIPS

- Stay away from windows and doors during a hurricane.
- Avoid traveling during a hurricane.
- Keep a first aid kit and emergency supplies with you at all times.
- Stay informed about the latest weather updates and forecasts.
- Follow evacuation orders from local authorities.

Developing a family emergency plan is a crucial step in ensuring the safety and well-being of your loved ones during hurricane season. By creating a comprehensive plan, you will be better equipped to handle the challenges of storms and reduce the risk of injury or death. Do not wait until it is too late – take action now and create a plan that will keep your family safe.

Samantha Kennedy is Family & Consumer Sciences Agent.

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Real Life personal responsibility



By GREG GAST

What is personal responsibility? In psychology it is an individual's ability to take ownership of their thoughts, feelings, actions, and reactions. It involves acknowledging one's role in shaping their life circumstances and ini-

tiating the needed changes to achieve personal growth and well-being. It is this understanding that choices and decisions have consequences. Part of this is recognizing the ways we aren't being responsible. Being self-responsible is being strong enough to recognize flaws, apologize when necessary, and own their own mistakes. Being able to create boundaries. Not overpromising and underperforming when it is required, and learn the necessity of saying no. Self-responsible people say what they

mean and mean what they say. There is no guesswork. If they promise something they follow through. They are not impulsive. They measure their words and think before they speak by considering their actions before taking them. They can be self-reflective and bravely acknowledge their misjudgments and mistakes. They recognize that success in any area of life requires hard work, persistence, and patience. They have what it takes to stay the course.

Self-responsibility is the cornerstone of personal growth and is essential for achieving success in life. It is acknowledging that we are the architects of our own lives. Our reactions and choices ultimately determine our paths in life. It doesn't mean self-criticism or guilt. It is about empowerment. It is taking responsibility and recognizing that we hold the power to improve ourselves and our situations. It is the mind-shift away from victimhood toward proactive problem-solving and per-

sonal growth. Some of the benefits are improved relationships, personal growth, empowerment, resilience, and the ability to achieve goals. Self-responsibility is a vital skill that empowers us to lead fulfilling lives. By embracing accountability for our actions, emotion, and decisions, we take control of our destiny and unlock our potential. While this may be challenging, the rewards – resilience, growth, and empowerment – are all worth the efforts. As we become more

self-responsible, we are not only changing ourselves but also inspiring those around us to do the same. In embracing self-responsibility, we shape our own futures. building stronger relationships, contributing to society, inspiring others to do the same. It is without a doubt a vital ingredient for a fulfilling and meaningful life. Let me know what you think... Gregory E. Gast is Real Life Counseling, 3295 Crawfordville Hwy., suite #4, Crawfordville FL 32327

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" THE FALL "

Seminary or cemetery? Eve ate an apple don't you know?
Feeding the flock rotten fruit
From the cursed tree that will never grow!

The serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field,
He seduced the woman, and took her at his will
And Adam he did the same,
He worked what was unseemingly,
They were naked and in shame!

And enmity was set between satan, and the woman,
Between the seed;the children of each,
And twins were born, as the scripture doth teach.
First came Cain, "and again" meaning Eve continued in labor,
And Able did come, two water sacs, not one!
THE FALL of man had begun!

And the son of satan, the murderer from the beginning,
Who we know as Cain, who slew in the field, righteous Able,
For evil in his heart did reign.

And Cain the vagabond, went to the land of Nod,
And there his wife he knew,
Read Genesis chapter one and twenty-six
And again verse seven of chapter two
Cain of the eighth day creation,
Took to wife. the sixth day creation
And this is nothing new.

The lineage and generations of Adam,
Does Not include Cain;
Genesis chapter five,
The truth it doth proclaim!

The Kenites, the descendants of Cain,
Are alive and well today,
Male and female, kind after kind on the Ark,
All flesh did come,
Noah obeyed,
God's will was done!

Chapter by chapter, verse by verse
It is written,
Rightly divide God's word.

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Donny Bennett

From Front Page

Running parallel with Battle 14, the vision of FCA is to see the world transformed by Jesus Christ through the influence of coaches and athletes.

“The beauty of being active in both ministries is I’m invited to come to different churches of all denominations and share the gospel,” Bennett says. “I think it’s cool to be able to go to any church.”

Battle 14. Believe, Accept, Testify, Together, Love, Encourage. Battle 14 was created on March 11, 2017 by Donny Bennett.

Back in 2014, two best friends were going through “stuff.” Donny’s son left for the military in September, and after that, his mother passed away.

Life was hard and he was in a dark place, but God took a hold of his life and Donny accepted Jesus Christ that year. Both Donny and his best friend Pete Sands soon realized that this new walk was a lot easier when they had each other to lean on. God prompted their desire to build Battle14 Ministries.

“In 2014 God was taking things out of my life,” Bennett says. “He (God) wants the dirty – He wants to move things out of my life, and I finally surrendered. Each time you fail does not mean it’s over.”

“I had to hit rock bottom before I surrendered. There is a difference between surrendering and believing. Surrendering is a relationship. I think a lot of us will miss the narrow door by not having that

relationship with God.” Walking by faith means moving forward based on our confidence in God, even when life doesn’t give us immediate answers or easy paths. It’s an invitation to align our lives with God’s promises and lean on His wisdom, putting His guidance above any fear or doubt we might have.

“I worked for the Florida Senate for seven years when FSU outstanding athlete Kez McCorvey of FCA told me there was an opening for an area representative for FCA. I told him I wanted to go home, talk to my wife, pray and think about it.”

Bennett made a solid decision to walk by faith.

“I left my paying job to go into ministry. I remember my wife looking at me and she said she supported me. After committing to the FCA position, I remember Kez telling me I don’t get a paycheck, you are a community servant. I heard God calling and it was the biggest faith jump I have ever taken.”

Bennett has been married to his wife Karen for 26 years now and they couple have three sons, Tyler, Cameron and Nolen. Two grandsons and two daughter-in-laws make the Bennett family complete.

Bennett is now the area Director for Fellowship of Christian Athletes for the Wakulla and Franklin area and impacts 400-600 students a week. FCA provides 60 pizzas a week for the high school lunches and ministers to the students.



Donny Bennett with BattleGolf champions Louis Lamarche and Connor Smith on Good Friday 2025. Below, junior champs from a Battleball tournament in 2023.



“Battle 14 is my passion,” he says. “It is what the Lord wants me to do. When you see your ministry working and when you see the ministry producing and touching others, it is the best feeling, God is making it work an it is growing.”

Battle 14 has had 17 events so far spreading the gospel and encouragement to families in need. When attending a Battle 14 softball game, be ready to expect a family-oriented atmosphere.

“We have Christian music playing, we salute the American flag and sing the National Anthem, we have Wakulla County Sheriff’s deputy on site to ensure no sideways stuff is going on, we have children playing on the junior side and

adults playing on the adult side, this way everyone can play and be involved in a safe, family-oriented environment.”

Bennett has also organized the BattleGolf event where golf is the sport played instead of the usual softball.

“The BattleGolf was a huge success and we will be doing more of these types of events.”

In the future, Battle 14 will be rolling out different events like gaining traction racing, which is similar to drag racing.

“I am a seed throw-

er,” Bennett says. “I like to throw God’s seeds and let God take the rest. If someone can hear the name Jesus through prayer, music or testimony, I have done the work God wants me to do. It’s like a domino effect, one person hears the good news of God and it just keeps growing from there.”

Through donation, Battle 14 now has its own office at the Dubreja plaza in Crawfordville.

“God brought this office to the ministry so we can grow and continue to be ‘seed throwers’ and fishers of men,” he says. The office has many lighthouses like Bennett’s mother used to have before her death. “I have them here with me so my mama is here with me still.”

Bennett has been called on two separate occasions to preach the sermon at a funeral.

“I was told I was called to do the funerals because I’m real.”

In response, Bennett says, “I am called to be Donny!”

Battle 14 has a page on Facebook. For more information on upcoming events, call 850-528-5019.



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2025 Disaster Survival Guide

Be prepared, get connected, stay engaged

The Wakulla County Sheriff’s Office Division of Emergency Management, is grateful for the opportunity to coordinate with the Wakulla Sun and Duke Energy in providing Disaster Preparedness and Survival information to our citizens. Our outreach mission is to foster the growth of a resilient community that can adapt and stand strong in the face of any disaster.

Despite tough economic times Wakulla County continues to see a steady increase in population and business growth. As we welcome new members to our community it’s important that we maintain the character and culture of our home town. We are still known as a community where people come together to support each other in times of need. It’s those relationships and that willingness to serve others that makes us strong and resilient, and that will ultimately help us recover when disaster strikes. Whether you are new to the county or have lived here for many years, it’s important that you understand your risk, develop a plan that meets the individual needs of your family, and take action when necessary. Having a strong and resilient community requires the involvement of our local businesses, faith-based organizations, volunteer agencies, and citizens. The general rules of preparedness have not changed and we believe they can be broken down into 3 main topics that can be implemented at every level from the individual citizen to the local business. If we all work together and make an effort to be prepared, connected, and engaged we will continue to grow the strength and resilience of our community.

BE PREPARED

Do you know what hazards our community is vulnerable to? The first step in making a plan is knowing the answer to that question. Our community is vulnerable to tropical cyclones, extreme storm surge, wild fires, severe weather, floods, pandemics, man-made disasters, and terrorism threats but your specific vulnerability may differ slightly based on where your home or business is located. There is power in knowledge, we don’t want you to be afraid, we want you to be proactive and prepared so that you have the peace of mind that comes with knowing you have a plan. It’s important to create a flexible plan that can be implemented in a variety of situations and addresses both what to do if you shelter in place as well as what you will do if you need to evacuate. As a coastal community every resident should have an evacuation plan and a basic understanding of how storm surge affects our community. Your plan should consider the dietary, medical, and mobility needs of each member of your house hold including any pets or livestock you are responsible for. It’s also important to build a disaster kit that can be utilized regardless of if you decide to stay or go. The first step is to choose a container that works for you. It can be a five-gallon bucket with a lid, a backpack or a plastic tote, the key is to make sure it works for your lifestyle and can be taken with you if you have to evacuate. Your kit should have



JENNIFER NAGY
Wakulla County Director of
Emergency Management

enough supplies to sustain you for a minimum of five to seven days. When an evacuation is ordered, citizens will be expected to know their zone and comply immediately. You should have a plan ahead of time for where you will go. It’s always better, if possible, to stay with a friend, family member or in a hotel. Shelters are designed for safety, not comfort and as such should be a last resort. If you choose to stay in a local shelter, be prepared to sleep on the floor of a common area. Snacks and water will be provided, but we recommend that you bring a sleeping bag or blanket, a pillow, snacks and all prescription medications. If you have special dietary needs, you will need to bring you own products to cover those needs. If you or a family member have a special medical need (electrical dependent, oxygen dependent, etc.) they should contact the Emergency Management Office for information on our Special Needs registry at (850) 745-7200.

If shelters are open in Wakulla County a pet-accessible shelter will be available. If you need to bring a pet, please bring an appropriate pet carrier, and any required food and medication. Pets cannot be left at the shelter without their owner. Your pets will be housed in a separate area from the people and you will need to be prepared to look after their needs.

GET CONNECTED

Do you know where to go for reliable local information and instructions? The internet is a valuable tool but sometimes it can be hard to find accurate information that you can count on. How to get and stay connected to the right information to help you and your family make important plans and decisions is vital. There are several good resources available that you can turn to for everything from a summer thunderstorm warning to evacuation orders and instructions. Local sources are always best for local information. The Wakulla County Sheriff’s Office has an app that can be downloaded to your smart phone. The app is available for download on the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store by searching “Wakulla County Sheriff, FL” The app gives users quick access to information being released by WCSO as well as features like shelter locations, evacuation information, and a portal to report damages after a disaster. You can also follow the Wakulla County Sheriff’s Office on Facebook. In addition to these resources when severe weather, a tropical storm or a hurricane threatens our area, you can stay informed by following the National Weather Service Tallahassee, The National Hurricane Center, and local news broadcasts. When conditions require evacuations, you will receive information via local news networks on radio and television, EAS broadcasts over Weather radios, and via our Alert Wakulla notification system. Wakulla County currently utilizes Alert Wakulla to provide emergency notifications. You must sign up for this service for both landlines and cell phones. You can sign up for the service at www.wcso.org/emergency-management/alert-wakulla/

STAY ENGAGED

It’s easy to become complacent and over confident when our community has escaped the direct impact of the last few storms that were headed our direction. However I remind you that it only takes one storm to do major damage, and I encourage you to stay vigilant. Community members and businesses must be active and engaged in making their community a safe place to live, work, and play. We all have a role to play and something to contribute. Please Consider volunteering with a local nonprofit organization, or contact Wakulla County Emergency Management at (850) 745-7200 for additional volunteer opportunities.

When disaster strikes local officials, first responders, and community partners will work around the clock to keep our community safe. We are all committed to the safety of our citizens and will continue to work together to face the challenges that future disasters may hold.

Our local businesses and members of our community are vital partners in preparedness, response and recovery. We again urge you to be prepared, stay connected, and be engaged, we know we are stronger together. #WakullaResilient

Wakulla County utilizes Alert Wakulla for emergency notifications.

Sign up for the service at
www.wcso.org/emergency-management/alert-wakulla/
or by calling (850) 745-7200.

You need to have a plan

Local officials and relief workers will be on the scene after a disaster, but they can’t reach everyone right away. Understanding your responsibilities and using the information provided by your local Emergency Management Office will help you better prepare for hurricane season and other emergencies.

To better cope with disaster, prepare in advance by working with your neighbors and local government agencies as a team.
Create a disaster plan for your family.
If you live alone talk to your neighbors and friends about developing a neighborhood response plan.
Being prepared is your best protection and your responsibility.

A good disaster preparedness plan provides a margin of safety protecting you, your family and your neighbors.
Having a disaster plan improves your communities’ ability to recover.
Emergency management is not one individual or government office, it is all members of the community working together to prepare, respond and recover from the effects of disaster.
If you have specific questions related to creating your disaster plan, call Emergency Management at (850) 745-7200.
Let’s work together and be prepared.

Being ready for an emergency is as easy as...

1

EMERGENCY KIT	
<p>In an emergency you need to be ready to make it on your own.</p> <p>What should you have in your disaster supply kit?</p> <p>One gallon of water for each person per day. You should have enough water for at least three days. If you have four people in your family, you should store one gallon of water – 4 people x 3 days = 12 gallons of water.</p> <p>Canned and dried food – food that is easy to prepare and doesn’t need refrigeration.</p> <p>Manual can opener</p> <p>Sleeping bags or cots</p> <p>Flashlight or lantern with batteries</p> <p>First-Aid kit</p> <p>Bathroom supplies</p> <p>Medicines</p> <p>Prescription drugs</p> <p>Emergency contact list</p> <p>Soap and hand sanitizer</p> <p>Face masks</p> <p>NOAA All-Hazards Weather Radio or battery-powered radio</p> <p>Credit cards and cash</p>	<p>Duct tape</p> <p>Heavy garbage bags or tarps</p> <p>Important documents</p> <p>Waterproof container</p> <p>Fire extinguisher</p> <p>Whistle or airhorn</p> <p>Tools</p> <p>Pet supplies</p> <p>Games</p> <p>Special needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Baby formula, diapers, bottles and other infant supplies• Extra eyeglasses• Hearing aid batteries• Special equipment for physically challenged• diabetic supplies• Serial numbers of medical devices such as pacemakers• Pet supplies such as a cage, leash, food and vaccination papers <p>Have two kits:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A large kit with three days of supplies.2. A smaller kit if you must evacuate.

Preparedness plans come in all sizes, as dictated by individual and collective needs. Do you know the basic safety rules? Would your children know what to do if they were home alone? Do you have plans in place to move elders or people with disabilities to shelter quickly?

2

MAKE A PLAN	
<p>Think ahead and create a family emergency plan.</p> <p>Plan how you will get together in different situations.</p> <p>Discuss what to do if you must evacuate.</p> <p>Practice your plans with your family.</p> <p>Have a contact list.</p> <p>If phones are down, pick two meeting places:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Near your home2. Somewhere outside the neighborhood	<p>Test smoke/carbon monoxide detectors monthly.</p> <p>Learn how to turn off gas, electric, water and heater systems at main breaker switches.</p> <p>Learn First-Aid and CPR.</p> <p>Discuss basic safety rules.</p> <p>Make sure children know what to do if they are home alone.</p> <p>Plan for elders or disabled family members and neighbors.</p> <p>Include pets in your family emergency plan.</p>

BE INFORMED

<p>Learn about the different threats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Severe Weather• Fire• Hazardous Materials (biological, chemical, explosive or radiological)• Nuclear <p>Discuss the different hazards with your family.</p> <p>Monitor TV, radio or trusted internet sites for information.</p>	<p>Stay calm, have plans ready and listen for instructions from local officials.</p> <p>If you have questions, call your county emergency management office.</p> <p>Visit www.FloridaDisaster.org.</p> <p>For kid friendly information and activities, visit www.KidsGetAPlan.com.</p>
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3

Prepare an all-hazards supply kit for emergencies

Having a basic survival kit on-hand to sustain yourself and your family after an emergency is an essential part of preparation.

Think first about basic survival needs: fresh water, food, clean air and warmth. Store your supplies in a portable container as close as possible to an exit and review the contents of your kit a few times a year (When the time changes from standard to daylight savings time is a great reminder!)

Start your kit by reviewing the lists below to see what you need. Don't let this list overwhelm you. Make it easy on your budget by picking up one or two items each time you shop.

- Food Service Needs**
Drinking water: 1 gallon per person per day: 3-7 day supply
Non-perishable food that meets your dietary requirements: 3-7 day supply
Manual can opener or pop top cans/containers and eating utensils
Juice/soft drinks/instant coffee or tea
Plastic wrap/zip-lock bags/garbage bags
Paper plates, cups, aluminum foil
Cooler for food storage and ice
Lighter/matches, pots/pans
Camp stove or grill - outdoor use only!

- Personal Items**
Sleeping bags, pillows, blankets
Lawn chairs, folding chairs, cots
Personal hygiene items (toothbrush, soap, deodorant, denture care, etc.)
List of emergency contact information
Prescriptions & over the counter meds
Spare glasses, contacts, cleaning solution
Extra hearing aid batteries
Baby/infant needs (diapers, formula, extra clothes, etc.)

- Rain gear, hot and cold weather clothing
Closed-toe work shoes (no sandals)

- Sanitation/Clean up Supplies**
Water for cleaning
Unscented bleach to disinfect water
Rubber gloves
Wet wipes and waterless hand sanitizer
Toilet paper, paper towels, sanitary supplies
Filter face masks (Dust Mask)
Assorted cleaners and disinfectants
Brooms, mops, towels and rags
Bucket with tight fitting lid for emergency toilet

- Pets & Service Animals**
Water - 1 gallon per day for each animal: 7 day supply
Cage or carrier for each animal
Food and treats
Toys and comfort items
Clean up supplies
Immunization records and photos

- Basic Safety Equipment**
NOAA Weather Radio
First Aid Kit and Instruction Book
Landline telephone (does not require batteries or electricity)
Battery powered television, radio, clock
Flashlights
Extra batteries
Chemical Light Sticks (to replace candles)
Whistle (to signal for help if needed)

- Basic Tools**
Basic tool kit (hammer, wrenches, screwdrivers, pliers, etc.)
Specialized tools for water and gas valves, etc.
Plastic tarps with grommets or roll plastic sheet-

- ing
Assorted screws, nails or other fasteners
Duct tape
Canvas or leather work gloves
Miscellaneous Items
Spare keys (home, vehicles, boats, etc.)
Important papers
ID (driver's license, insurance cards, etc.)
Cash, credit cards, coins, checks
Prepaid telephone cards
Pens, pencils and paper
Maps and evacuation information
Keepsakes, significant photos, etc.
Books, games and other quiet entertainment

- Medical Equipment**
Medical equipment and assistive devices
Cooler with an ice pack if medications need to be refrigerated
Medical alert tags or bracelets to identify your disability-related need

- Disinfect Water with Bleach**
Use household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper: 9 parts water to 1 part bleach can be used as a disinfectant. Use 16 drops of bleach to 1 gallon of water can be used to treat water in an emergency (do not use scented, color safe, or bleaches with added cleaners).

This supply kit is a good start, but depending on your situation, you may need more or less items to survive after an emergency.
Another good idea is to use a container or suitcase with rollers to store and move your kit.

Emergency responders may not be able to get to you immediately after a disaster. Being prepared means you are choosing to be a survivor.

Develop your Emergency Disaster Plan

Each Spring the clock “springs forward” one hour, batteries get changed in smoke detectors and we scramble to file our taxes on time. This is also the time to make, or review, your Emergency Disaster Plan. Many of the same documents you use to complete your taxes are important to your Emergency Disaster Plan. Creating an Emergency Disaster Plan does not have to be an overwhelming, or time consuming endeavor.

On any ordinary day you may have some ideas about the hazards in your community that put you at risk, and how you would respond to those risks if they became actual emergencies. The key is to write down those hazards and your response plan(s).

Plan!

Every good plan starts with a hazard analysis. “What am I at risk from?” This depends on where you live – in the country, in the state, and in your county. As a Florida resident, your risks are primarily from naturally occurring incidents: thunderstorms, lightning, structure fire, tornados, fresh water flooding, drought, wildland fires and hurricanes.

Many of these risks are common and require small or minimal response on your part (e.g. staying indoors, clearing brush from around your home, or watering restrictions). A few however are not as frequent and when they occur, the effects are widespread and may even require you to evacuate to another building, or another area of the state.

Once you've made a list of the hazards you face, the next step is evaluate what you need in order to respond to those hazards. For the more common and “smaller” hazards this can be as simple as having a designated meeting place and phone number for family members to call should you become separated, an evacuation map of your home in case of fire, and a family/friend/

hotel/motel nearby you will stay at in case your home is damaged.

However, for the larger, less frequently occurring hazards you may encounter, a bit more planning will be needed because they also have the potential to affect your entire community. It is for these events that you need to have supplies (i.e. food, water, medicine, etc.) and copies of your important papers.

You will also need to consider where you will shelter out of the area, and if you have pets, whether they can shelter with you. It is also im-portant to plan for a place to temporarily call home in the event that your home is destroyed and resources are limited in your community afterwards.

Prepare!

Before you realize it, you have written your plan. Now that you have identified what you will need to survive the hazards you have identified, take a look around your home. Ask yourself: “Do we already have the supplies we need?” Check your pantry, is there enough food for 3 days that does not need to be cooked?

If you have food that needs to be cooked, do you have a gas or charcoal grill that you can use outside your home to cook with? As you go through your list of supplies, try to identify items that you can purchase in little amounts throughout the year in order to spread out the cost.

Pass It On!

You have a Plan. You have taken your inventory of supplies and are Preparing. Now you can Pass It On by sitting down with your family to talk through your Emergency Disaster Plan. Share the Plan for each type of hazard, the expected response, and where important documents, including the Plan,

and supplies are located. Make sure to include any family or friends located out of the area, which have a role in your Plan, in the conversation. Encourage co-workers, friends and other family members to take a little time out of their day to write down their Emergency Disaster Plan. Review your employer's Emergency Disaster Plan to ensure you know what is expected of you during an emergency, and if it may affect your Family Emergency Disaster Plan.

- Plan** ✓ (done)
Prepare ✓ (done)
Pass It On ✓ (on-going)

Now What?
Enjoy everything that North Florida has to offer each day, practice your Emergency Disaster Plan with your family at least once a year, and review your Emergency Disaster Plan at least once a year for any changes or additions. Then when there are events that are covered by your Plan, use it.

When there are hazards that threaten your community, listen to your local Emergency Management Agency and activate your Family Emergency Disaster Plan accordingly.

Most Importantly: Evacuate when ordered to do so by your Local Emergency Management Agency. Also check with your local Emergency Management Agency for Family Emergency Disaster Plan assistance, and ask if they have a fill-in-the-blank template you can use to make it even easier to complete.

If you have a family member living in an Assisted Living Facility, or Nursing Home, it is important to know what the Facility's Emergency Plan covers. Refer to page 11 for a list of questions you should be asking to ensure your family member's safety during an emergency.

Knowledge is not enough to protect you, your family and your home. You must put this information to work. Don't wait until the storm is nearly here, or it will be too late!

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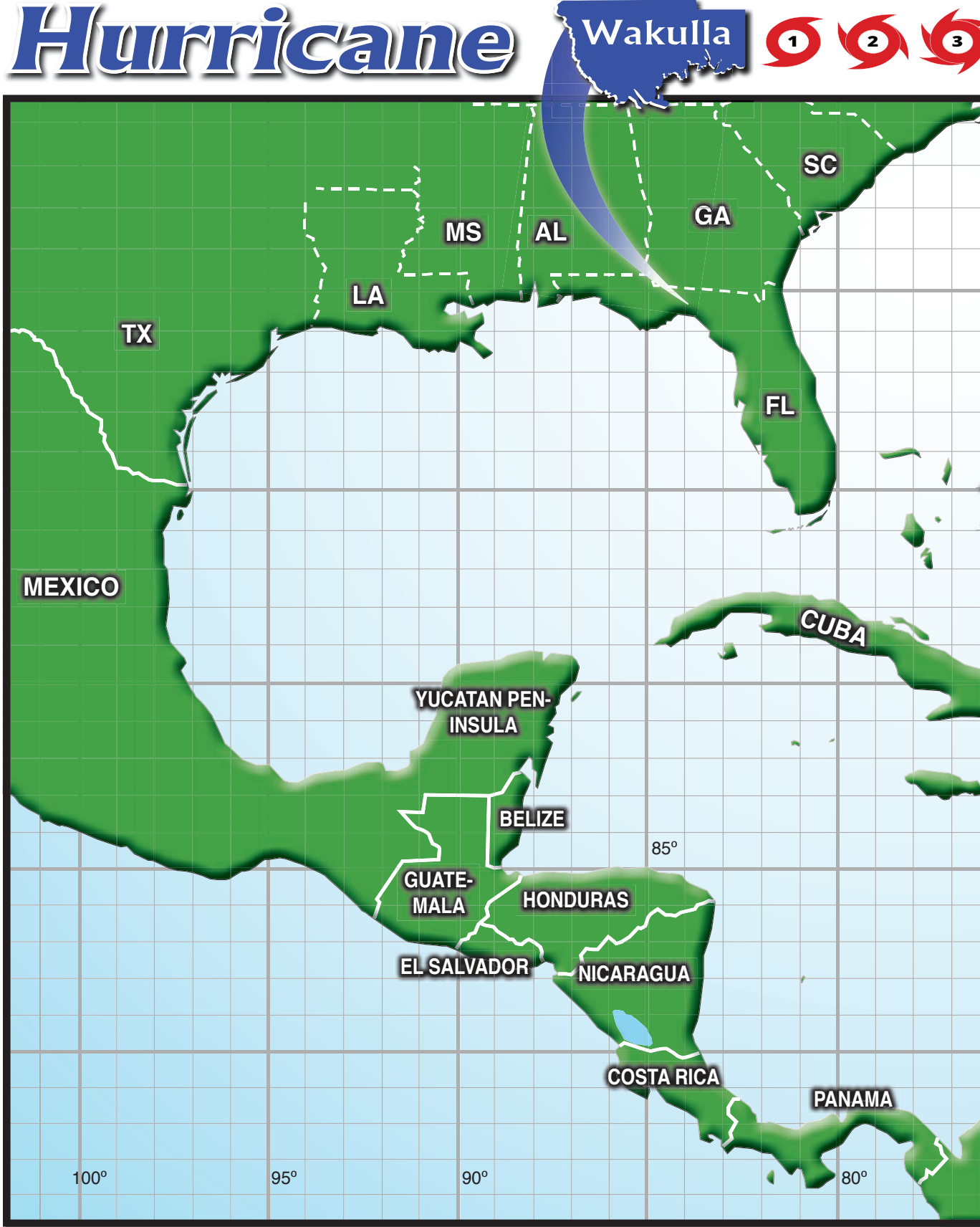
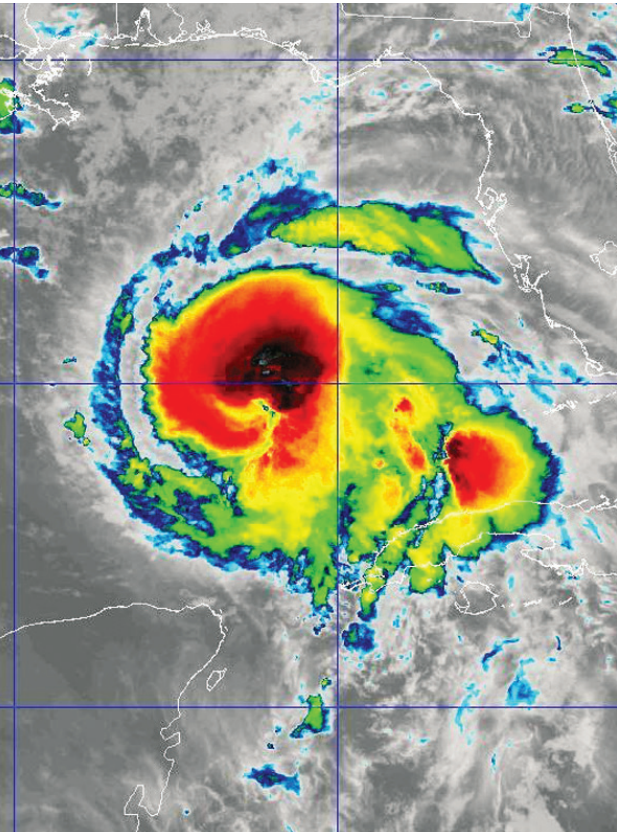
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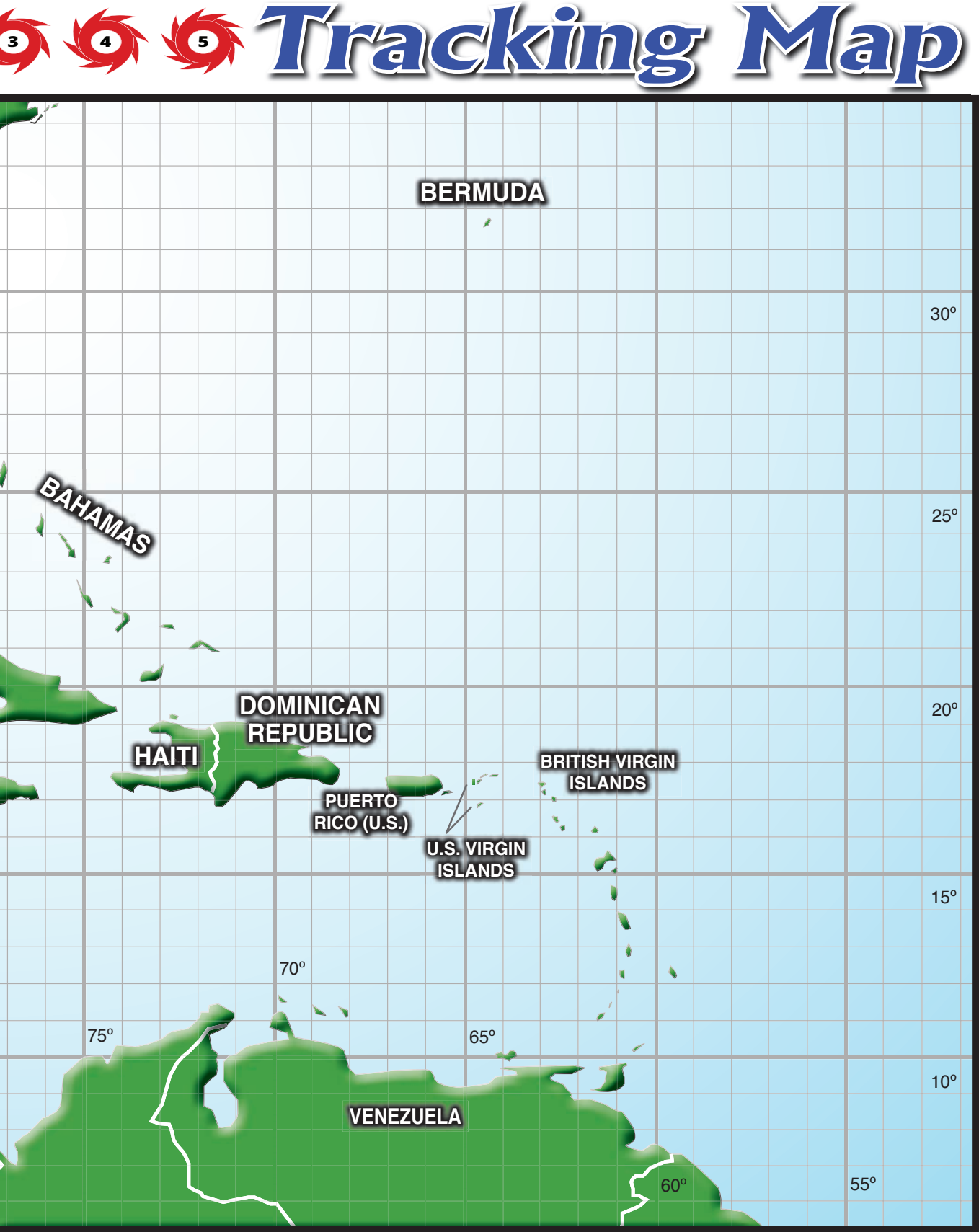
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WHAT TO DO...

BEFORE A HURRICANE

To prepare for a hurricane, you should take the following measures:

- To begin preparing, you should build an emergency kit and make a family communications plan.
- Know your surroundings.
- Learn the elevation level of your property and whether the land is flood-prone. This will help you know how your property will be affected when storm surge or tidal flooding is forecast.
- Identify levees and dams in your area and determine whether they pose a hazard to you.
- Learn community hurricane evacuation routes and how to find higher ground. Determine where you would go and how you would get there if you needed to evacuate.

- Make plans to secure your property.
- Cover all of your home’s windows. Permanent storm shutters offer the best protection for windows. A second option is to board up windows with 5/8” marine plywood, cut to fit and ready to install. Tape does not prevent windows from breaking.
- Install straps or additional clips to securely fasten your roof to the frame structure. This will reduce roof damage.
- Be sure trees and shrubs around your home are well trimmed so they are more wind resistant.
- Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts.
- Reinforce your garage doors; if wind enters a garage it can cause dangerous and expensive structural damage.

- Plan to bring in all outdoor furniture, decorations, garbage cans and anything else that is not tied down.
- Determine how and where to secure your boat.
- Install a generator for emergencies.
- If in a high-rise building, be prepared to take shelter on or below the 10th floor.
- Consider building a safe room.

Hurricanes cause heavy rains that can cause extensive flood damage in coastal and inland areas. Everyone is at risk and should consider flood insurance protection. Flood insurance is the only way to financially protect your property or business from flood damage. To learn more about your flooding risk and how to protect yourself and your business, visit the Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration (NFIP) website, www.floodsmart.gov or call 1-800-427-2419.

DURING A HURRICANE

If a hurricane is likely in your area, you should:

- Listen to the radio or TV for information.
- Secure your home, close storm shutters and secure outdoor objects or bring them indoors.
- Turn off utilities if instructed to do so. Otherwise, turn the refrigerator thermostat to its coldest setting and keep its doors closed.
- Turn off propane tanks.
- Avoid using the phone, except for serious emergencies.
- Moor your boat if time permits.
- Ensure a supply of water for sanitary purpose such as cleaning and flushing toilets. Fill the bathtub and other larger containers with water.

- Find out how to keep food safe during and after emergency.

You should evacuate under the following conditions:

If you are directed by local authorities to do so. Be sure to follow their instructions.

- If you live in a mobile home or temporary structure – such shelter are particularly hazardous during hurricane no matter how well fastened to the ground.
- If you live in a high-rise building – hurricane winds are stronger at higher elevations.
- If you live on the coast, on a floodplain, near a

river or on an island waterway.

If you are unable to evacuate, go to your wind-safe room. If you do not have one, follow these guidelines:

- Stay indoors during the hurricane and away from windows and glass doors.
- Close all interior doors – secure and brace external doors.
- Keep curtains and blinds closed. Do not be fooled if there is a lull; it could be the eye of the storm – winds will pick up again.
- Take refuge in a small interior room, closet or hallway on the lowest level.
- Lie on the floor under a table or another sturdy object.
- Avoid elevators.

AFTER A HURRICANE

- Continue listening to a NOAA Weather Radio or the local news for the latest updates.
- Stay alert for extended rainfall and subsequent flooding even after the hurricane or tropical storm has ended.
- If you have become separated from your family, use your family communications plan or contact FEMA or the American Red Cross.

FEMA has established the National Emergency Family Registry and Locator System (NEFRLS), which has been developed to help reunite families who are separated during a disaster. The NEFRLS system will enable displaced individuals the ability to enter personal information into a website database so that they can be located by others during a disaster.

The American Red Cross also maintains a database to help you find family. Contact the local American Red Cross chapter where you are staying for information. Do not contact the chapter in the disaster area.

- If you evacuated, return home only when officials say it is safe.
- If you cannot return home and have immediate

housing needs. Text SHELTER + your ZIP code to 43362 (4FEMA) to find the nearest shelter in your area (example: shelter 12345).

- For those who have longer-term housing needs, FEMA offers several types of assistance, including services and grants to help people repair their homes and find replacement housing. Apply for assistance or search for information about housing rental resources.
- Drive only if necessary and avoid flooded roads and washed-out bridges. Stay off the streets. If you must go out watch for fallen objects; downed electrical wires; and weakened walls, bridges, roads and sidewalks.
- Keep away from loose or dangling power lines and report them immediately to the power company.
- Walk carefully around the outside your home and check for loose power lines, gas leaks and structural damage before entering.
- Stay out of any building if you smell gas, floodwaters remain around the building or your home was damaged by fire and the authorities have not declared it safe.
- Inspect your home for damage. Take pictures of dam-


age, both of the building and its contents, for insurance purposes. If you have any doubts about safety, have your residence inspected by a qualified building inspector or structural engineer before entering.

- Use battery-powered flashlights in the dark. Do NOT use candles. Note: The flashlight should be turned on outside before entering – the battery may produce a spark that could ignite leaking gas, if present.
- Watch your pets closely and keep them under your direct control. Watch out for wild animals, especially poisonous snakes. Use a stick to poke through debris.
- Avoid drinking or preparing food with tap water until you are sure it’s not contaminated.
- Check refrigerated food for spoilage. If in doubt, throw it out.
- Wear protective clothing and be cautious when cleaning up to avoid injury.
- Use the telephone only for emergency calls.
- NEVER use a generator inside homes, garages, crawlspaces, sheds, or similar areas, even when using fans or opening doors and windows for ventilation. Deadly levels of carbon monoxide can quickly build up in these areas and can linger for hours, even after the generator has shut off.

WHAT TO DO...

WHEN YOU LOSE POWER

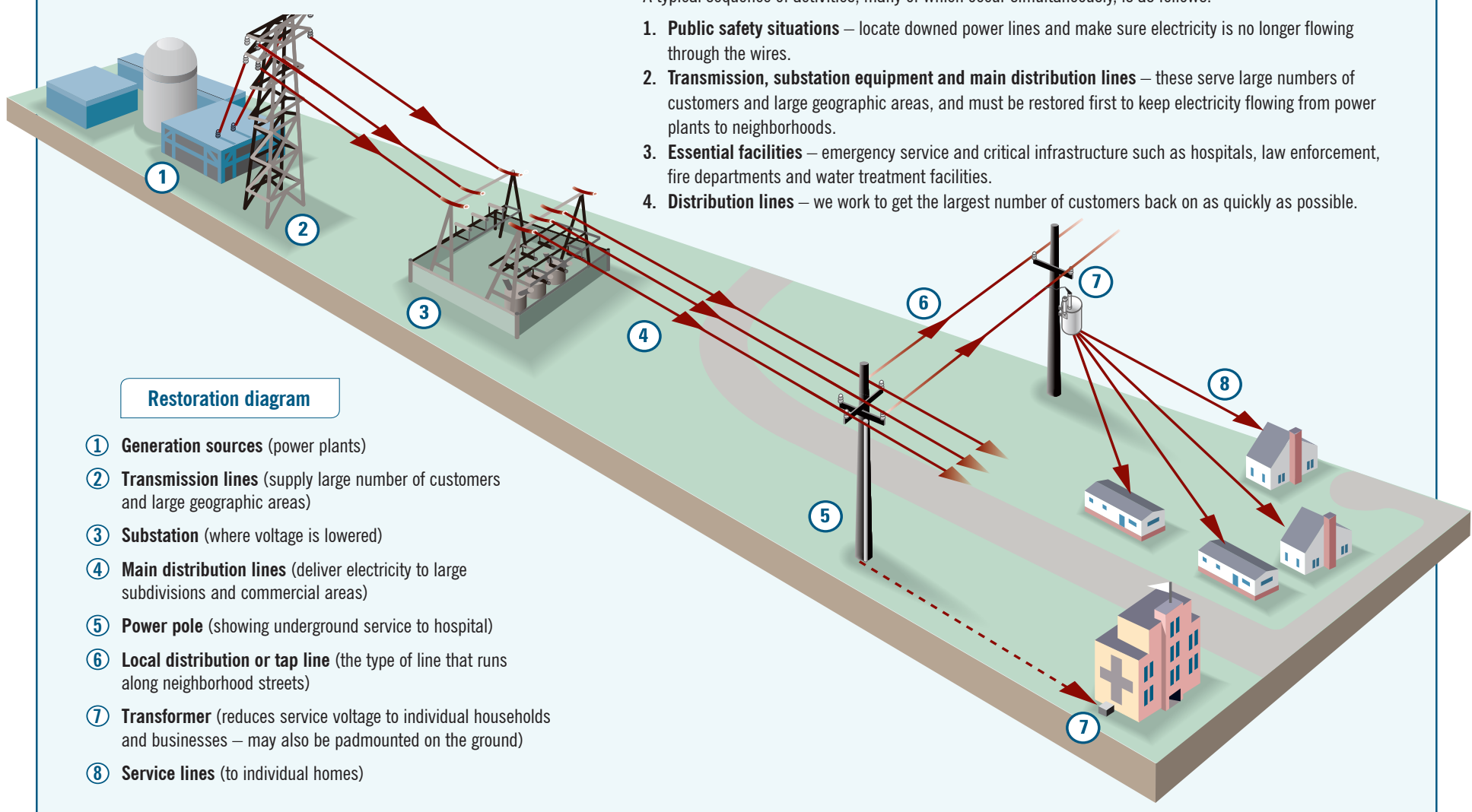
How Duke Energy Restores Power



Duke Energy focuses on restoring power in a sequence that enables power restoration to public health and safety facilities and to the greatest number of customers as safely and quickly as possible.

A typical sequence of activities, many of which occur simultaneously, is as follows:

- 1. Public safety situations** – locate downed power lines and make sure electricity is no longer flowing through the wires.
- 2. Transmission, substation equipment and main distribution lines** – these serve large numbers of customers and large geographic areas, and must be restored first to keep electricity flowing from power plants to neighborhoods.
- 3. Essential facilities** – emergency service and critical infrastructure such as hospitals, law enforcement, fire departments and water treatment facilities.
- 4. Distribution lines** – we work to get the largest number of customers back on as quickly as possible.



Restoration diagram


- 1 Generation sources** (power plants)
- 2 Transmission lines** (supply large number of customers and large geographic areas)
- 3 Substation** (where voltage is lowered)
- 4 Main distribution lines** (deliver electricity to large subdivisions and commercial areas)
- 5 Power pole** (showing underground service to hospital)
- 6 Local distribution or tap line** (the type of line that runs along neighborhood streets)
- 7 Transformer** (reduces service voltage to individual households and businesses – may also be padmounted on the ground)
- 8 Service lines** (to individual homes)

Talquin Electric Cooperative:

Powering Up After An Outage

When a major hurricane causes widespread damage, extended outages may result. Our line crews work long, hard hours to restore service safely to the greatest number of consumers in the shortest time possible. A single pole, if damaged beyond repair, can take anywhere between 8 and 18 hours to replace.

Here's what's going on if you find yourself in the dark:



- 1. High-Voltage Transmission Lines**
Transmission towers and cables supply power to transmission substations (and thousands of members), and they rarely fail. But when damaged, these facilities must be repaired before other parts of the system can operate.
- 2. Distribution Substation**
A substation can serve hundreds or thousands of members. When a major outage occurs, our line crews inspect substations to determine if problems stem from transmission lines feeding into the substation, the substation itself, or if problems exist further down the line.
- 3. Main Distribution Lines**
If the problem cannot be isolated at a distribution substation, distribution lines are checked. These lines carry power to large groups of members in our local communities.
- 4. Tap Lines**
If local outages persist, supply lines (also known as tap lines) are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers, either mounted on poles or placed on pads for underground service, outside businesses, schools, and homes.
- 5. Service Lines**
If your home remains without power, the service line between a transformer and your residence may need to be repaired. If you experience an outage, please contact us so we can isolate the issue.

WHAT TO DO...

TO PREPARE YOUR BOAT FOR A HURRICANE

The key to protecting your boat from hurricanes or any severe, threatening weather is planning, preparation, and timely action. The following precautions and checklists are meant as guidelines only.

Do Not Stay Aboard. Winds during any hurricane can exceed 100 mph, and tornadoes are often associated with these storms. First and foremost, protect human life.

1. Prior to the hurricane season, develop a detailed plan of action to secure your vessel in the marina. If permitted, remove your boat from the threatened area, or take your boat to a previously identified hurricane refuge. Before hurricane season, practice your plan to ensure that it works.

2. Arrange for a friend to carry out your plans if you are out of town during hurricane season.

3. Check your lease or storage rental agreement with the marina or storage area. Know your responsibilities and liabilities as well as those of the marina.

4. Consolidate all records, including insurance policies, a recent photo of your vessel, boat lease agreement with the marina or storage area, and telephone numbers of appropriate author-ities (i.e., harbor master, Coast Guard, insurance agent, etc.) and keep them in your possession.

5. Maintain an inventory of both the items removed and those left on board. Items of value should be marked so that they can be readily identified, if dispersed by the storm.

6. When a hurricane is approaching, and after you have made anchoring or mooring provisions, remove all moveable equipment such as canvas, sails, dinghies, radios, cushions, Biminis and roller furling sails. Lash down everything you cannot remove such as tillers, wheels, booms, etc. Make sure the electrical system is cut off unless you plan to leave the boat in the water, and remove the battery to eliminate the risk of fire or other damage.

Trailerable Boats

1. Be sure your tow vehicle is capable of properly and adequately moving the boat. Check your trailer: tires, bearings



The dock in Panacea during Tropical Storm Debby.

and axle should all be in good condition.

2. Once at a “safe” place, lash your boat to the trailer and place blocks between the frame members and the axle inside each wheel. Owners of light weight boats, after consulting with the manufacturer, may wish to consider letting about half the air out of the tires, then filling the boat one-third full of water to help hold it down. (The blocks will prevent damage to the springs from the additional weight of the water.)

3. Secure your boat with heavy lines to fixed objects. Try to pick a location that allows you to secure it from all four directions, because hurricane winds rotate and change direction. It can be tied down to screw anchors secured into the ground. Remember that trees are often blown over during a hurricane.

Non-Trailerable Boats in Dry Storage

When selecting a “safe” location, be sure to consider whether storm surge

could rise into the area. Never leave a boat on davits or on a hydro-lift.

Non-Trailerable Boats in Wet Storage

The owner of a large boat, usually one moored in a berth, has three options:

1. Secure the boat in the marina berth.
2. Moor the boat in a previously identified safe area.
3. Haul the boat.

Each action requires a separate strategy. Another alternative, running from the storm, is not encouraged except for large commercial vessels—unless there is enough time to get your boat beyond the storm’s projected path.

Boats Remaining in Marina Berth

1. Double all lines. Rig crossing spring lines fore and aft. Attach lines high on pilings to allow for tidal rise or surge. Make sure lines will not slip off pilings.

Inspect pilings and choose those that seem strongest and tallest and are properly installed. The longer the dock lines, the better a boat will be at coping with high tides. It is also essential to double up on all lines and use chafe protectors at any potential chafe points.

2. Install fenders to protect the boat from rubbing against the pier, pilings and other boats. Cover all lines at rough points to prevent chafing. Wrap with tape, rags, and rubber hoses, etc.

3. Assess the attachment of primary cleats, winches and chocks. These should have substantial back plates and adequate stainless steel bolt sizes.

Batteries should be fully charged and checked to ensure their capability to run automatic bilge pumps for the duration of the storm. Consider backup batteries. Cut off all devices consuming electricity except bilge pumps.

FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES & SPECIAL NEEDS

People with Disabilities

Estimates vary, but as many as one in four people live with some type of disability. Sometimes signs are obvious, a wheelchair, a guide dog or a cane. However, many times a disability is not obvious. Whether obvious or not, awareness and sensitivity toward persons with disabilities makes good sense.

People with disabilities must assume personal responsibility and be prepared for an emergency. The basic steps of a personal safety plan are the same for everyone.

Emergency Management has been an active participant in the a number of functional needs committees to gain insight into needs during a disaster. Every effort will be made with our partners to assure that functional needs are addressed. The American Red Cross operates shelters within Wakulla County and strives to identify and meet the needs of evacuees.

Practicing disability etiquette makes people with disabilities feel

more welcome and comfortable. Here are a few things anyone can do to make a person with a disability feel more at ease in any situation.

Remember, a person with a disability is a person first. Ask before you help. Don’t assume a person with a disability needs your help with a task. If you are asked for help, be sure to ask what kind of assistance is needed.

Be sensitive regarding personal space and physical contact. Respect personal space and remember that people often consider their equipment part of their person.

Think before you speak. Speak to the person, not their aide or companion. Converse with a person with a disability as you would any other person. Get permission from a parent or guardian before interacting with children.

Special Needs Program

Some people have medical issues that cannot be accommodated in

a regular public shelter. For those people whose health would quickly deteriorate in a public shelter, and have no other safe place to go, there are Special Care shelters available. Some residents do not have transportation to get to a shelter. The Special Needs Program provides shelter and transportation to Wakulla County residents at no cost.

You must complete an application to see if your medical issues qualify for a Special Care shelter, or if you need transportation. Applications are available on our website (www.wcso.org) and can be submitted directly online. There are specific criteria and requirements to be eligible for the Special Care shelter. You must have a caregiver with you during your stay at the Special Care shelter. During an emergency we have very limited staff working in the shelters, so your caregiver is critically important for your health and safety.

As at any other shelter, you must bring the emergency supplies you

need to survive. In any emergency situation you should have a plan for where you will go if you cannot return to your home because of damage. Food and water will be provided at the shelter. It is a good idea to bring some drinks and snacks in case you get hungry between meals. If you require a special diet, you must bring that with you.

When Wakulla County enters the 5-day forecast cone for a hurricane or tropical storm, we stop processing Special Needs applications so we can prepare for evacuations.

Transportation

Wakulla Transportation will provide transportation for the Wakulla County Special Needs Program

At the point when the winds reach a sustained 40 mph, Wakulla County will pull all emergency vehicles from the road until the storm has passed. This includes ambulances, fire trucks, police vehicles and buses.

Contact Emergency Management if you have any questions.

WHAT TO DO...

TO HELP CHILDREN IN A DISASTER

Disasters strike quickly and without warning. These events can be traumatic for adults, but they are frightening to children if they do not know what to do.

During a disaster, children may have to leave their homes and have their daily routines disrupted. This may leave a child frightened, anxious and confused.

As an adult, you will need to cope with disaster and also give your children crucial guidance about how to respond and handle the situation.

Children depend on their daily routines: They wake up, eat breakfast, go to school, play with friends.

When emergencies or disasters interrupt this routine, some children have difficulty coping with these changes.

In a disaster, they will look to you and other adults for help and guidance. How you react to an emergency gives

them clues about how to act.

If you react with alarm, a child may become scared. They see our fear as proof that the danger is real. That is why it is important to have a plan for each hazard that threatens our community and to ensure that children are included in development and exercising the plan.

Children’s fears also may stem from their imagination, and you should take these feelings seriously. A child who feels afraid, is afraid. Your words and actions can provide reassurance.

Feelings of fear are healthy and natural for adults and children. But as an adult, you need to keep control of the situation.

When you’re sure that danger has passed, concentrate on your child’s emotional needs by asking the child to explain what is troubling them.

Your response during this “problem time” may have a lasting impact.

Be aware that after a disaster, children are most afraid that:

- The event will happen again.
- Someone will be injured or killed.
- They will be separated from the rest of the family.
- They will be left alone.

HOW TO DEVELOP A DISASTER PLAN

You can develop your family disaster plan by following these simple steps:

- Learn what hazards exist in your community. Here in Wakulla County we face many potential hazards ranging from fires or chemical spills to hurricanes. Some of your plans may be different for various hazards.

- Meet with all family members to discuss what you will do, as a group in each situation.
- Take steps to prepare your family for disaster such as: post emergency phone numbers, select an out-of-state family contact, assemble a disaster supplies kit for each member of your household and install smoke detectors on each level of your home.

Finally, practice your Family Disaster Plan so that everyone will remember what to do when an emergency or disaster does occur.

AFTER THE DISASTER

Keep the family together.

Calmly and firmly explain the situation to your children.

Encourage children to talk about how they feel.

Include children in recovery activities such as cleaning, shopping, etc.

SENIOR CITIZEN DISASTER PREP LIST

This hurricane season, local senior care experts are encouraging families to prepare their senior loved ones for severe weather emergencies and the possibility of evacuation.

“We know that a disaster can be deadly for some seniors because of physical and other limitations,” said Scott Harrell, owner of the Home Instead Office serving Leon, Gadsden, Jefferson and Wakulla counties, as well as the panhandle. “It’s important for families to talk with their senior loved ones and begin preparing in advance for any kind of emergency that could threaten their health or safety. Consider this checklist as you help your older adult get ready.”

Home Instead Senior Care’s Disaster Prep Checklist For Seniors:

- Tune in. Contact the local emergency management office to learn about the most likely natural disasters to strike your area. Stay abreast of what’s going on through your local radio or television.
- Take stock. Decide what your senior can or can’t do in the event of a natural disaster. Make a list of what would be needed if a disaster oc-

curred. For example, if your loved one is wheelchair-bound, determine an evacuation strategy ahead of time. Prepare for whatever disaster could hit the area.

- To go or to stay? When deciding to evacuate, older adults should go sooner rather than later. By waiting too long, they may be unable to leave if they require assistance.
- Make a plan. Schedule a family meeting to develop a plan of action. Include in your plan key people – such as neighbors, friends, relatives and professional caregivers – who could help.
- More than one way out. Seniors should develop at least two escape routes: one to evacuate their home and one to evacuate their community. The local emergency management office can tell you escape routes out of the community.
- Meet up. Designate a place to meet relatives or key support network people outside the house, as well as a second location outside the neighborhood, such as a school or church. Practice the plan twice a year.
- Get up and “Go Kit.” Have an easy-to-carry backpack including three days non-perishable

food and water with an additional four days of food and water readily accessible at home. Have at least one gallon of bottled water per person per day. Refresh and replace your supplies at least twice a year. And don’t forget the blanket and paper products such as toilet paper.

- Pack extras and copies. Have at least a one-month supply of medication on hand at all times. Make ready other important documents in a waterproof protector including copies of prescriptions, car title registration and driver’s license, insurance documents and bank account numbers, and spare checkbook. Also take extra eyeglasses and hearing-aid batteries. Label every piece of important equipment or personal item in case they are lost.
- Your contact list. Compile a list of important contacts, including the senior’s support network, doctors and other important health-care professionals. The information can be recorded and kept in a free Home Instead Senior Emergency kit, available at www.senioremergencykit.com.
- If you can’t be there. If you’re not living close by to help your loved one, enlist the help of family or friends, or contact a professional caregiving company.

TO PREPARE FOR YOUR PETS

Only 38 percent of U.S. households have children, but 43 percent have pets!

Take time now to plan how you will protect yours during a weather emergency.

IF YOU PLAN TO EVACUATE

All pet owners should make arrangement for their pets if they plan to evacuate.

If Crawfordville Elementary School is opened as a risk shelter it will be a pet accessible shelter. The pets will be kept at the same location but in a separate room where the owner can access them to care for them. There will be a volunteer working in the pet area to make sure that pets are only released to their owners.

If you can’t take your pets with you, arrangements should be made with a clinic or kennel that is outside of the evacuation area. These arrangements should be made well in advance because available spaces fill up quickly as a storm approaches.

If you plan to take your pets with you, you may want to ask your vet for a mild sedative (for the pet) and remember to take these items for their care:

A secure pet carrier of appropriate size
Food/water bowls
A one week supply of dry food
Water in plastic containers
Medications and health records
Leashes (muzzles if necessary)
Newspapers and paper towels for cleanup
A favorite blanket
Many hotels/motels will accept pets, especially in emergency situations.

If you plan to go to a motel, determine in advance if pets are welcome and what, if any, special rules are applicable.

It is also a good idea to photograph each of your pets and include these pictures with your health records.

All pets should have current immunizations and ensure that they have a collar with proper identification.

SERVICE ANIMALS

Though pets are not allowed in public shelters, in compliance with 28 CFR Part 36, supporting the

American Disabilities Act, service animals will be allowed in both general and special needs shelters.

IF YOU MUST LEAVE YOUR PET AT HOME

If you have to leave your pets at home try to secure them in a safe area of your home. Otherwise, your pets may escape and become disoriented as a storm could alter landmarks and scent trails. Make sure the pet is wearing a collar with proper identification.

Remember, don’t leave dogs and cats in the same space. Even if they normally get along, things may change as the storm approaches. Some other things to remember are:

- Place pets in ventilated safe rooms without windows.
- Leave at least a three day food supply.
- Leave plenty of water.
- Leave access to elevated spaces in the event of flooding.
- Pet stores sell slow-release feeders for fish tanks if you evacuate.
- After the storm, walk pets on a leash until they become reoriented to their home and surroundings.
- Downed power lines and other debris pose risks for you and your pets. Don’t let pets consume food or water which may have become contaminated.

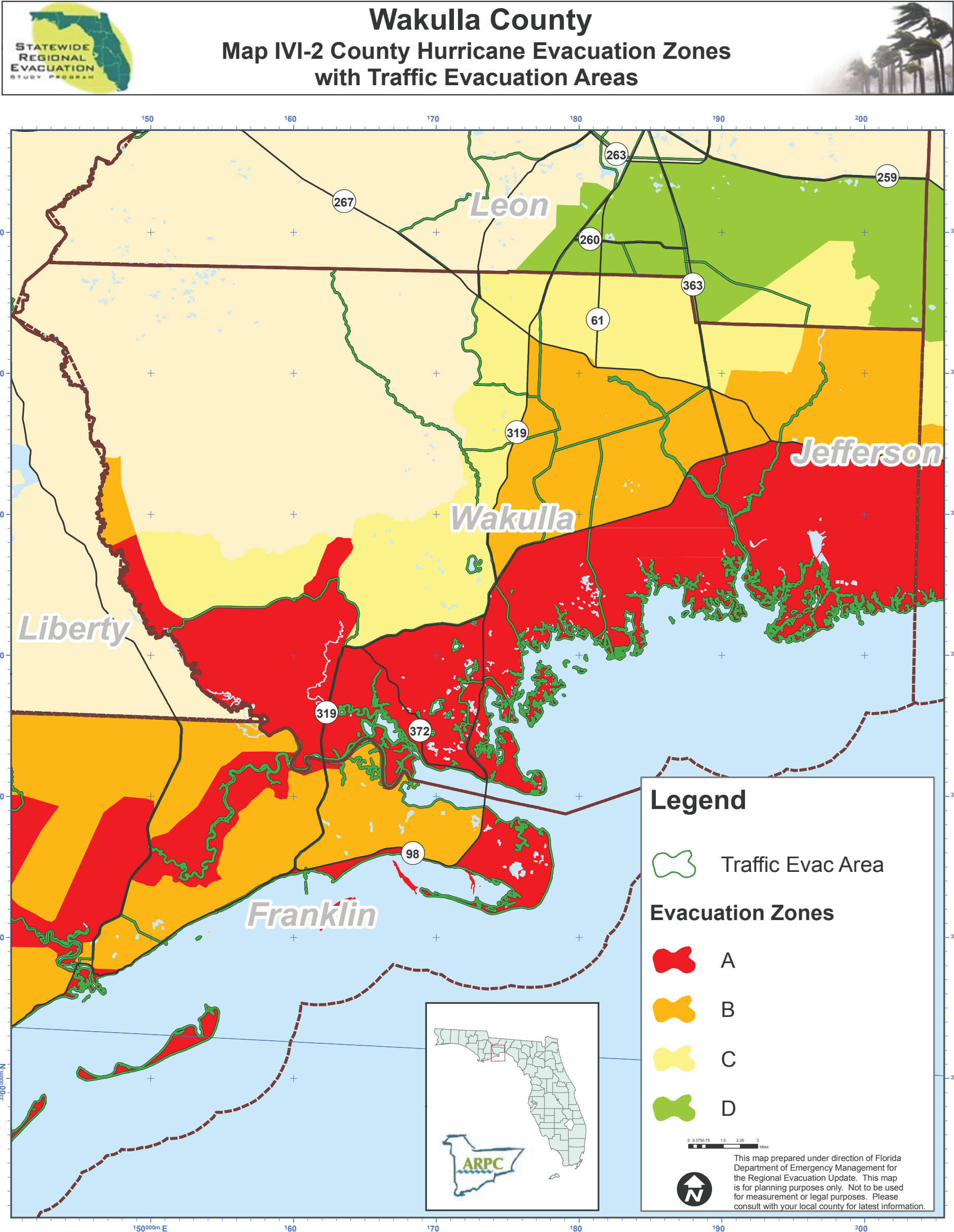
Do you know your Evacuation Zone?

Hurricane Evacuation Zones are no longer referenced by storm category, but are now named by Hurricane Surge Evacuation Zones A/B/C/D/E. We want you to Know Your Zone, and challenge your friends and family to do the same.

Why is it important to Know Your Evacuation Zone in Wakulla County?
We evacuate by zones for storm surge and wind, in a phased manner. This means we may order the evacuation of Zone A before you see any effects of the tropical cyclone.

How can I be better prepared?
1 Find helpful tips and links at www.wcso.org
2. Get a Plan and Print a copy of the Family Emergency Plan
3. Follow us on Social Media to stay informed

To get to the county GIS portal Hurricane evacuation map where you can find your zone as well as shelter information, go to <https://gis-portal-update-wakullaplanning.hub.arcgis.com/pages/hurricane-evacuation-map>





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On the Horizon

The calendar of events for June

Monday, June 2

- County commission meets at 5 p.m. in the commission chambers. A budget workshop will be held at 3 p.m.
- The Wakulla Respite Program is available for anyone with memory impairment at no cost from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Lake Ellen Baptist Church every Monday.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. every Monday at 54 Ochlockonee St.
- Gentle Yoga and Stretching Class, every Monday, 11 a.m. Wakulla Community Center. Bring a mat. Come early to sign in. Chair Yoga participants welcome. \$2 per class.
- Yoga 101 with Nellie at 6 p.m. Classes are \$12, packages available at New Posh on 3079 Crawfordville Hwy. RSVP to newposh3079@gmail.com or text/call at (850) 528-5838.

Tuesday, June 3

- Library Summer Reading Kickoff will be held at the public library from 4 to 7 p.m. and will feature games, music, raffles and more.
- Sopchoppy community dinner is held every week at the Towles House at 6:30 p.m.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. at 54 Ochlockonee St.
- Yoga Flow with Nellie at 6 p.m. Classes are \$12, packages available at New Posh on 3079 Crawfordville Hwy. RSVP to newposh3079@gmail.com or text/call at (850) 528-5838.

Wednesday, June 4

- Muffins with Moms Prenatal Support Group meets at 9 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 10 a.m. at the Wakulla County Health Department. Contact

Liz Neighbors at 850-888-6078 or elizabeth.neighbors@flhealth.gov for more information.

- Wakulla County Coalition for Youth meets at the Wakulla Public Library at 12:30 p.m.
- A line dance class is held at 1 p.m. at the Wakulla Senior Center every Wednesday.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon and 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday at 54 Ochlockonee St.

Thursday, June 5

- The Rotary Club of Wakulla County meets at the TSC Wakulla Center at 8:30 a.m. on Thursdays.
- Coastal Optimist Club meets at noon at Myra Jean's on the first and third Thursdays.
- The VFW Auxiliary Bingo Night will be held at 7 p.m. at 475 Arran Road in Crawfordville, every Thursday. There are concessions and raffles.
- Yin Yoga at 6 p.m. with Nellie every Thursday. Classes are \$12, at New Posh on 3079 Crawfordville Hwy. RSVP to newposh3079@gmail.com or text/call at (850) 528-5838.
- Gentle Yoga at First Baptist Church, 3086 Crawfordville Hwy., at 11:30 a.m. Chair participants welcome. \$2 donation per class. Bring your mat.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. every Thursday at 54 Ochlockonee St.

Friday, June 6

- Free or low cost mammograms will be available at the community center from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. To schedule a time, call (850) 926-0400. Walk-ins are also welcome.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon and 8 p.m. every Friday at 54

Ochlockonee St.

Saturday, June 7

- Rockin' Reds fishing tournament in memory of Gage Pitman will be held throughout the day at Panacea's Woolley Park.
- The Panacea Community Garden Farmer's Market will be held from 9 a.m. to 12 noon in Panacea.

Sunday, June 8

- Rockin' Reds fishing tournament will be held throughout the day at Panacea's Woolley Park.

Monday, June 9

- The Wakulla County Planning Commission meets at 6 p.m. in the commission chambers.
- The Sopchoppy City Commission meets at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.
- Grief Support Group will be offered at Lake Ellen Baptist Church every Monday June 9 through July 14 from 7 to 8p.m. There is no cost. Contact Stan Mitchell at 850-728-3454.
- The Wakulla Caregiver Support Group meets at Lake Ellen Baptist Church at 9:30 a.m every second Monday of the month.
- Crawfordville Woman's Club monthly meeting is the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at 64 Ochlockonee St., in Crawfordville. Call (850) 566-5727 for more information.

group meeting is for men and women, regardless of the type of cancer. Spouses, caregivers, and friends are welcome. For more information, call 850-926-6050.

Saturday, June 14

- FLAG DAY
- The Wakulla Caregiver Support Group will meet at the Wakulla County Public Library at 10 a.m. every second Saturday of the month.

Sunday, June 15

- FATHER'S DAY

Monday, June 16

- County commission meets at 5 p.m. in the commission chambers.
- School board meets at the district office at 5:45 p.m.

Thursdays, June 19

- JUNETEENTH
- Tobacco Free Wakulla quarterly meeting will be held at the Health Department, 48 Oak St., beginning at 4 p.m. For more information, or to join the meeting virtually through Teams, call (850) 888-6092.

Saturday, June 21

- Salute to Veterans, sponsored by the VFW Post 4538, will be held at the community center from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. All veterans and families can receive free medical, dental and eye care, veteran services, counseling, financial literacy and more. (Continues Sunday, June 22)
- Screening of "Tate," the locally made film about the legend of Tate's Hell, will be held at

Palaver Tree Theater, 59 Shadeville Road. Doors open at 7 p.m., movie at 8 p.m.

Sunday, June 22

- Salute to Veterans, sponsored by the VFW Post 4538, will be held at the community center from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Thursday, June 26

- Be in the Know: Clues to spotting a troubled teen and how to support them: A one hour talk that is fun and interactive to give parents the tools and resources to help you support your teen. It will be held at the Wakulla Public Library from 6 to 7 p.m. For more information contact Margaret Waldbauer at the Wakulla DOH 850-888-6101.



Florida Department of Health in Wakulla County

Invites parents and guardians of teens to

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Join us for a discussion about spotting the clues of troubled teens and ways to support them.

THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 2025

6 – 7 P.M.

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Crawfordville, FL 32327

Contact us for more information:
850-888-6101
Margaret.Waldbauer@FLhealth.gov
Wakulla.FloridaHealth.gov



The Fighting Butlers come south

By Elizabeth Smith, originally published in the February 1976 issue of The Magnolia Monthly

Two Irish immigrant families came into the port of Philadelphia in the 1740's and lived near each other in and near Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Whether they knew each other at the time is not likely, yet they started southward over nearly the same trails at the same time and a century later nearly all they did intertwined. They were the Jacksons and the Butlers.

Andrew Jackson's family left Lancaster and came down the Catawba Path to the Waxhaws in South Carolina and proceeded from there to Tennessee after the American Revolution. After 1800 Andrew Jackson came to Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia, and Florida, pursuing Indians, British renegades, and anyone else likely to cross his path and his temper.

And the Butler family, who this story is about, came from Cumberland County, Pennsylvania to Tennessee to Louisiana to Leon County, Florida with scarcely a deviation from the trail of Old Hickory. The story is somewhat confusing as pieced together from the Mary Lamar Davis papers, the research of Cathryn Wayman of Tallahassee, and the recollection of the Butler descendants in Leon County, but it is a moving and often typical saga of the America frontier.

It was during the American Revolution that the Fighting Butlers got their name. Robert Butler in a letter to President Zachary Taylor from his home on Lake Jackson in 1849, mentions it in his own words: "I find that my grandfather, Thomas Butler, who I personally remember, emigrated from Ireland in search of personal freedom at an early age, with his wife, and settled at a farm in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, where my father and I were born. They reared five sons and two daughters. Those sons were all in the service of this Republic at the same time and bore the appellation the Fighting Butlers from General Washington himself. They were General Richard Butler, Colonel William Butler, Colonel Thomas Butler (my father), General Percival Butler, father of William O. Butler of Kentucky, and Captain Edward Butler, the father of Colonel E.G.W. Butler of Louisiana. Richard was with General Anthony Wayne at the storming of Stony Point and was killed at St. Clair's defeat in November 1791, while my father, then a major,

received two wounds, one of which broke his leg, had two horses shot from under him and his plume shot from his hat. He was borne from the field by his youngest brother, Edward. He was also wounded at the Battle of Brandywine. They all left sons, one or more of whom served in the Army of Navey of his country."

After the Revolution, in fact, the Fighting Butlers went to engage in Indian Wars all along the Middle Border, which in the latter part of the 18th century meant the Appalachian cordillera from the Green Mountains south to the Horseshoe Bend in Alabama. There is a story about the reputation of the fighting Butlers that occurred in Feliciana Parish, Louisiana where Judge Thomas Butler had a rambling frame house of 14 rooms known as "The Cottage". (It is still there occupied by his descendants.) The occasion was a visit from Andrew Jackson after fighting the Creeks, who stopped overnight at the Cottage, where it was said the walls were made of elastic because the structure could hold so many people, and according to legend on this very night Judge Butler and his wife gave their room to Andy and slept themselves in the scullery. No less than eight of the staff officers were Butlers including General Robert Butler, Jackson's chief of staff, and brother of the host. The crowded condition reminded Old Hickory of an episode that occurred at the grand banquet held after the Battle of New Orleans which was attended even by the defeated British. A British officer, caught in the crush, by mischance jostled one of the hot-blooded Butlers.

"Do you mean to insult me?" the latter glowered, with the quick suspicion that the Irish have always felt for even the best intentioned of Englishmen.

"No sir," exclaimed the British officer quickly, "but there are so many Fighting Butlers it's impossible to move around without stepping on one of them."

The father of this metlesome quintet, Thomas, immigrated to Lancaster, PA from County Wicklow in 1748. The family surname was originally Fitzwalter and much of their martial ardor came from their Norman ancestors who, installed as lord chief butlers of Ireland by Henry II, later became the Dukes of Ormond. James Butler, the second duke, commanded the troops under Prince William of



Taken shortly before his death in 1860, Robert Butler was a military aide to Andrew Jackson. Surveyor General for the territory of Florida. Did the survey of Tallahassee. Organized 1st fraternal organization in Tallahassee, Jackson Lodge #23, Masonic Lodge. Had a plantation on southwest shore of Lake Jackson where a 'Feast of Roses' annual celebration was held - named for Mrs. Butler's rose garden.

Orange, became Lord Lieutenant of Ireland in 1703 and in 1712 succeeded the Duke of Marlborough as Commander in Chief of the Army in Flanders.

Richard Butler, who rose the highest in rank of the fighting five, fought the Miami Indians in Ohio shortly after the Revolution and was tomahawked in a disastrous attack on the savages.

States Robert Butler in his letter to President Taylor, "I, too, have performed arduous services in the tented fields of my country, and in all the engagements (15 or 16, large and small) we were always victorious, and with other associated, I received the thanks of Congress. (I was) a Captain in 1812, assistant Adjutant General in 1813, at the second investment of Camp Meigs under General Green Clay of Kentucky when assailed by the combined forces of the Indians and the British; with General (William Henry) Harrison in his descent on Upper Canada, re-occupancy of Detroit and forming his army October, 1813 in the absence of the Adjutant-General (Gaines) left at the latter place when General Proctor's combined forces were defeated, the British troops taken prisoner and Te-

cumseh killed by Colonel Johnson; was appointed Adjutant-General of the Eighth Military Department in March, 1814..... After General Harrison's resignation I was transferred to the Seventh Military Department, under command of General Jackson."

How Robert Butler came to Tallahassee after that is a litany of Andrew Jackson's activities. Robert butler was with him when he came to St. Marks in 1818 and hanged a Scots trader with the Indians and shot a British soldier on the parade ground of the old Spanish fort while Florida was still a dependency of Spain, and the men he tried were British citizens.

Robert's father, Thomas, married Sarah Jane Semple of Pittsburgh in 1784, and Robert was born in 176. His father, ten years before, had been studying law in Philadelphia, but left to join the rebels under Washington and soon commanded his own company and eventually became a Lt-Colonel in the U. S. Army. In 1805 he was stricken with yellow fever while in New Orleans and soon died. He was buried there.

Robert Butler, his son, had come with his parents from Pennsylvania to Tennessee where they had a plantation in Da-

vidson County which they called "The Farm". It was not far from Jackson's "The Hermitage", and the Butlers and Jacksons soon became friends who had traveled the same general path southward.

Robert Butler married Rahel Hays in 1808 at "The Hermitage". She was a niece and namesake of Jackson's wife. In the years that followed, Rachel Butler saw little of her husband because he was constantly in pursuit of Indians on the wide-ranging frontier of the new nation. The irony of his biggest engagement, the Battle of New Orleans, is that it occurred after the War of 1812 was officially over, but word in those days was slow in coming from either Washington or London, and Jackson's buckskinned soldiers discovered it only after victory celebrations were held. But until the Americans and the British met in the swamps of the Mississippi Delta, Robert pushed his companies and corps, the Mississippi Dragoons, the Kentucky and Tennessee militias to proceed day and night on forced marches until they faced the British in their last coup to recover a lost colony.

After 1815 Robert went back Tennessee to his family for several years, but in 1817 the Indians

from the Spanish protection of Florida were raiding the American farms on the border from Florida to Louisiana, aided by escaped slaves. Jackson's foray to St. Marks and south to the Suwannee River rattled the chancelleries of Europe, but still exhausted from the Napoleonic Wars (of which the War of 1812 was a part), no one overseas wanted to make an issue of Jackson's campaigns except people who couldn't do anything about his transgressions of diplomacy.

Spain sold its troublesome real estate of Florida to the United States in 1819, and President Monroe made Jackson its first military governor in 1821. Old Hickory sent Butler to represent him at St. Augustine when the flags were changed in July at the Cession of East Florida

Unlike the rest of the country, surveys of Florida by the Spanish had been irregular and the Americans had little to go by in assigning land to settlers flooding into the Territory. Other surveys had been made by the English during the British period from 1763 to 1783, and most land, even when it was in thousands of acres, was fought over by individuals and whole towns. Jackson, who rewarded his friends with lucrative positions, made Butler the first Surveyor General of the Public Lands in Florida in 1824. Butler may have wondered many times if he had deserved the honor. The Spanish had appointed George J. F. Clarke Surveyor-General, and he had platted Fernandina in squares of a formal style common in Europe. He was also given 16,000 acres of land in payment, but his gift was not confirmed by the Supreme Court for many years. The Arrendondo Grant near Gainesville was another thorn and so was the Forbes Grant given to the Pantan, Leslie Trading company as remuneration of non-payment of goods in the Indian trade during the Second Spanish period.

Butler, who knew of the thorny problems even before he was chosen to expedite them, attempted to recruit qualified men, and it is a credit to his judgement that few of his surveys had to be redone.

Butler began with the establishment of the Tallahassee Meridian or Principal Meridian, running north and south, with a new meridian paralleling it every 24 miles. Furthermore, Butler induced many of Jackson's

Sustained Solutions – an expanded approach to policing



By **JARED MILLER**
Wakulla Sheriff

A Message from Sheriff Jared F. Miller:

As your sheriff, my mission has always been to ensure the safety and well-being of every resident in Wakulla County. While we remain firmly committed to combating serious crime, I also believe that true public safety extends beyond arrests and enforcement – it includes addressing the everyday quality-of-life challenges that impact our community.

In January 2024, we began a renewed and expanded approach to policing – one that balances enforcement with compassion, account-

ability with support.

I'm proud to share several key initiatives that reflect our commitment to helping people, resolving persistent issues, and building a safer, healthier Wakulla County.

One of our most innovative and impactful efforts to date is the creation of the Sustained Solutions (S2) Program, a locally developed initiative that is unique to Wakulla County.

Born from conversations with residents, deputies, and community leaders, the S2 Program was designed to address a gap in traditional law enforcement – those persistent, often frustrating issues that fall outside the scope of a criminal offense, yet deeply affect quality of life.

These include ongoing neighborhood disputes, repeat nuisance calls, ongoing harassment, and long-term interpersonal conflicts that create tension and unrest within our communities.

Historically, these situations have received short-term responses that don't get to the root of the problem. We knew we could do better.

With the S2 Program we've moved away from reactive, one-time interventions and embraced a more proactive, problem-solving model.

Deputies assigned to S2 work closely with the individuals and families involved, taking the time to listen, understand the full context, and coordinate meaningful, long-term solutions. This may include working with landlords, mediators, mental health professionals, or neighborhood association – whatever it takes to bring lasting peace and restore safety and civility.

This isn't about softening law enforcement – it's about making it smarter, more effective, and more human.

I've personally witnessed how this program has brought resolution to disputes

that had gone unresolved for years. Families who once felt trapped in cycles of conflict are now living in peace, knowing their Sheriff's Office heard them and took action that truly made a difference.

The S2 Program is a reminder that public service isn't always about making arrests – sometimes, the most powerful thing we can do is show up, listen, and offer real help. That's what the people of Wakulla County deserve, and that's what this program delivers.

In 2024, we partnered with DISC Village to create a behavioral health deflection program, giving our deputies an alternative to incarceration for individuals struggling with mental health issues or substance abuse.

When appropriate, deputies can now refer individuals to DISC Village, where they can access treatment, counseling, and support – right when they need it most.

A review of the pro-

gram showed promising results: of the 67 adults referred to DISC Village in 2024, 33 individuals – nearly half – had no further negative contact with law enforcement after their referral.

These are not just numbers; these are lives that were changed. I firmly believe that offering help in place of handcuffs, when possible, is a powerful way to improve community safety and personal recovery.

In January 2025, we launched the Handle With Care (HWC) Program in partnership with the Wakulla County School District. This initiative ensures that when deputies encounter a child who has experienced trauma – whether through domestic violence, a car accident, or another critical event – we notify the child's school so they can provide appropriate, trauma-informed support.

Between Feb. 3 and March 25, 2025, we referred 42 children through this program.

Sixteen of those students are already receiving services, such as counseling or school-based interventions.


By identifying these children early and surrounding them with care, we're not only helping them heal – we're giving them a better chance at a successful future, free from the justice system.

As sheriff, I've always believed that we must do more than respond to crime – we must prevent harm, build trust, and offer hope.

These new programs reflect that vision, and they're only possible because of the dedicated men and women of the WCSO, along with our committed partners across the county.

Thank you for continuing to support the work we do. We'll keep moving forward – together.

Jared Miller is Wakulla County Sheriff.



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CROSSWORD

CLUES

ACROSS

1. Breezed through
5. Supervises interstate commerce
8. Unruly group
11. Backs away from
13. Expression of understanding
14. Have concern for
15. Monetary units
16. Congressman (abbr.)
17. Iranian city
18. Eating houses
20. 2,000 lbs.
21. Grandmother
22. They include North, South and Central

25. In an early way
30. Foes
31. Shuttered British entertainment magazine
32. One who unloads cages
33. Another term for sesame
38. Formally forbid
41. Make clear
43. Inaccessible
45. Get through
47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
49. Decameter
50. Type of sword
55. Actor Idris
56. Affirmative (slang)
57. Afflicted
59. One point north of north-east
60. Born of

61. Arabic name
62. Traditional Hong Kong street food: ___ pai dong
63. Termination point
64. Email function

CLUES DOWN

1. Sign language

2. In style
3. Helsinki neighborhood
4. Unable to hear
5. More rapid
6. An idea accepted as a demonstrable truth
7. In a cagy way
8. Kate and Rooney are two
9. Algerian port

10. Community in Ladakh
12. Midway between south and southeast
14. Town in Galilee
19. Satisfy
23. Italian impressionist painter
24. Brass instrument
25. Chest muscle (slang)
26. Transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm
27. Records electric currents generated by the brain
28. Woman (French)
29. Aircraft designed to carry lots of passengers

34. Baseball stat
35. Pointed end of a pen
36. Popular sports league
37. Body part
39. Unlikely to provoke dissent
40. Yellowish cotton cloth
41. Domesticated house pet
42. Untruths
44. Set out to attract
45. Spiritual leader
46. Abba ___, Israeli politician
47. Repair
48. Genus of flowering plants
51. Swiss river
52. Prejudice
53. River in central Europe
54. Harness
58. Father

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

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

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15				16				
17					18									
19					20				21					
				22				23						
		24	25					26			27	28		
29	30						31					32		33
34					35	36					37			
38				39							40			
	41		42					43	44					
			45					46						
	47	48					49					50	51	52
53						54				55	56			
57										58				
59					60				61					



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

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

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Navigating retirement pitfalls



By BRIAN ENGLISH

Much is written about the classic financial mistakes that plague start-ups, family businesses, corporations, and charities. Some classic financial missteps have been known to plague retirees, too.

Calling them “missteps” may be a bit harsh, as not all of them represent errors in judgment. Either way, becoming aware of these potential pitfalls may help you to avoid falling into them in the future.

• **Managing Social Security.** Social Security benefits are structured to rise about 8% for every year you delay receiving them after your full retirement age. Is waiting a few years to apply for benefits an idea you might consider? Filing for your monthly benefits before you reach your full retirement age can mean comparatively smaller monthly payments.¹

• **Managing medical costs.** One report estimates that the average couple retiring at age 65 can expect to need

\$315,000 to cover health care expenses during the course of their retirement, even with additional coverage such as Medicare Part D, Medigap, and dental insurance. Having a strategy can help you be better prepared for medical costs.²

• **Understanding longevity.** Actuaries at the Social Security Administration project that a 65-year-old man has a 34% chance and a 65-year-old woman has a 45% chance to live to age 90. The prospect of a 20- or 30-year retirement is not only reasonable, but it should be expected.³

• **Managing withdrawals.** You may have heard of the “4% rule,” a guideline stating that you should take out only about 4% of your retirement savings annually. Each person’s situation is unique but having some guidelines can help you prepare.

• **Managing taxes.** Some people enter retirement with investments in both taxable and tax-advantaged accounts. Which accounts should you draw money from first? To answer the question, a qualified financial professional would need to review your financial situation so they can better understand your goals and risk tolerance.

This article is for informational purposes only and is not a replacement for real-life advice, so make sure to consult your tax, legal, and accounting professionals before modifying your investment strategy for tax considerations.

Managing other costs, like college. There is no “financial aid” program for retirement. There are no “retirement loans.” A financial professional can help you review your anticipated income and costs before you commit to a long-term strategy, and help you make a balanced decision between retirement and helping with the cost of college for your children or grandchildren.

1. SSSA.gov, 2023
2. Fidelity.com, 2023
3. LongevityIllustrator.org, 2023

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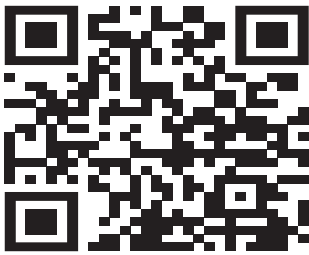
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OFFICE - CRAWFORDVILLE



The Fighting Butlers

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fighting men to come to Florida and homestead the clay and loam soil in the northern tier of counties.

In 1825 Robert moved his wife and children to Tallahassee and built a plantation on Lake Jackson where he laid out extensive lawns and rose gardens. The red clay and the heavy winter rains nourished the plants and in April when the flowers were at their peak of bloom, a “Feast of Roses” was held there for the planter society. It was (before horse racing) the main social affair of the year.

The caravan of Butlers that came to Tallahassee was similar to that of Thomas Brown’s when he came the same year from Virginia and later served as governor. First was the family carriage with horsemen riding alongside for protection, then his fine blooded stock horses with girls and women riding them followed by some 50 slaves herding cattle or riding mules, trailed by heavily reinforced wagons carrying furniture, provisions, farm implements, feed, garden seeds, building tools and other necessities for a self-sustaining manor. Butler followed old trails through Georgia where he had fought the Indians and he expected trouble again, but nothing happened in passage of the ‘twenty-fivers’.

Robert Butler’s plantation on Lake Jackson had 800 acres. He built a two-story house and cleared the land not only for his rose gardens but for a racetrack. Balls and other festivities followed the rose season and the horse-racing, too. Tallahassee in the 1820’s had only a few hundred people and they were (as is often said of the city) “two hundred miles from anywhere else”. There were a lot of forests, bad trails, and Indians in between, and life did not differ much from a medieval barony of 500 years before. They read the works of Sir Walter Scott and imitated the feasts, jousts, and ring tournaments of the highland clans from which many of their ancestors originated. Even the dancing was courtly, though somewhat out of step with a bagpiper puffing through the martial whine of the “Shean Trews” or the “Ghillie Callum” as his fingers dance back and forth on the chanter.

Robert and Rachel Hays Butler had ten children. They were:

1. Thomas P., born 1809 in Tennessee, died 1835 in Charleston, SC
2. Sarah Jane Butler, 1811 – 1878
3. Robert Hays Butler, 1813 – 1873
4. Jackson Orleans Butler, 1815 – 1826
5. Ellen Mary Butler, born 1820
6. Eliza Narcissa Butler, 1822 – 1850
7. Rachel Jackson Butler, born April 1824, apparently died in infancy
8. Willilam Edward Butler, 1826 – 1836
9. Andrew Jackson Butler, 1828 – 1831
10. Mary Lucinda Butler, 1830 – 1831

Sarah Jane Butler married Alexander Patton by whom she had Robert Patton and Rachel B. Patton and three sons whose names are not known

Robert married Lula Parham and had Lula, born 1862

Ellen Mary married James Hawkins, then C. F. Finkling, no issue

Rachel married Dr. P. P. Lewis. They had Robert hays Lewis, 1854 – 1876, Butler Ormond, born 1856; William Edward, born 1858, and Ellen Mary, born 1860

Robert Butler participated in the organization of the Jackson Lodge No. 1, Free and Accepted Masons of which he became the first W. M. Butler was removed as Surveyor General by the Tyler administration in 1842 but was reappointed by Polk in 1845 after the office had been removed to St. Augustine. He continued in this post until he was removed again by President Zachary Taylor in 1849. It was his second occasion when he wrote a letter to the president detailing the war record of ‘the Fighting Butlers’ beginning with the Revolutionary War. He was bitter at the administration, though this practice before Civil Service was common in all changes of government and Jackson used his own patronage generously.

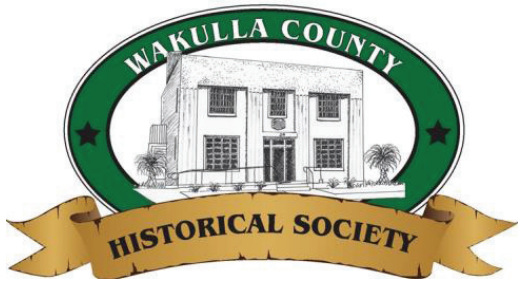
At the time the NASHVILLE UNION called his removal “one of the most disgraceful acts.....

perpetrated by this disgraced administration” and vowed that Robert Butler was a better soldier than Zachary Taylor had ever been.

Robert Butler died in 1860 at the age of 74 at his Lake Jackson plantation and is buried there. His son Robert lived there after the father’s death and his daughter Rachel Lewis and her children. The house burned down in 1886.

The graveyard of the Butler family is off Crowder Road in Tallahassee and the two Tallahassee chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution are planning to place a marker on Robert Butler’s grave.

The Wakulla County Historical Society museum is located behind the courthouse at 24 High Drive in Crawfordville and is open Thursdays and Fridays between 10 and 4 and on Saturdays between 10 and 2.



Wakulla County Schools will be offering free meals at following times and locations

SCHOOL SITES

MEDART ELEMENTARY

JUNE 2-30, 2025 MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY
JULY 1-2, 2025 TUESDAY AND THURSDAY
CLOSED JULY 3RD AND 4TH
JULY 7-28, 2025, MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY
MEAL TIMES
BREAKFAST 8:00 AM- 8:45 AM
LUNCH 11:30 AM- 12:15 PM

WAKULLA HIGH SCHOOL

JUNE 9-30, 2025, MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY
JULY 1-2, 2025 TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY
CLOSED JULY 3RD AND 4TH
JULY 7-17, 2025, MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY
MEAL TIMES
BREAKFAST 7:30 AM- 8:15 AM
LUNCH 11:30 AM - 12:15 PM

RIVERSINK ELEMENTARY

JULY 1-2, 2025 TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY
CLOSED JULY 3RD AND 4TH
JULY 7-28, 2025 MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY
MEAL TIMES
BREAKFAST 8:00 AM- 8:45 AM
LUNCH 11:30 AM- 12:15 PM
WEEKEND MEALS FOR FRIDAY, SATURDAY. AND SUNDAY WILL BE PROVIDED ON THURSDAYS FROM 3:00 PM- 3:30 PM.

CRAWFORDVILLE ELEMENTARY

JUNE 9-27, 2025 MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY
MEAL TIMES
BREAKFAST 8:00 AM- 8:45 AM
LUNCH 11:30 AM- 12:15 PM
WEEKEND MEALS FOR FRIDAY, SATURDAY. AND SUNDAY WILL BE PROVIDED ON THURSDAYS FROM 3:00 PM- 3:30 PM.

Wakulla County Schools will be offering free meals at following times and locations

MOBILE SITES

APARTMENT COMPLEX DELIVERY DATES

JUNE 2-30, 2025 MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY
JULY 1-2, 2025 TUESDAY AND THURSDAY
CLOSED JULY 3RD AND 4TH
JULY 7-24, 2025, MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY
DELIVERY TIMES
GREYES PLACE 10:30 AM-1100 AM
BRIDLEWOOD APARTMENTS 11:45 AM- 12:15 PM
HAMPTONS OF WAKULLA 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM

WAKULLA COUNTY LIBRARY

JUNE 3-30, 2025 TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY
JULY 1-2, 2025 TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY
CLOSED JULY 3RD AND 4TH
JULY 7-24, 2025, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY
DELIVERY TIMES
TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY
11:00 AM-11:30 AM
THURSDAY
12:30 PM-1:00 PM

HUDSON PARK

JUNE 2-30, 2025 MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY
JULY 1-2, 2025 TUESDAY AND THURSDAY
CLOSED JULY 3RD AND 4TH
JULY 7-24, 2025, MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY
DELIVERY TIME
12:30 PM-1:00 PM

WOOLEY PARK

JUNE 16-20, 2025
MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY
DELIVERY TIME
12:30 PM-1:00 PM
WEEKEND LUNCHES FOR SATURDAY AND SUNDAY WILL SERVED:
12:45 PM- 1:05 PM
CHILDREN MUST BE PRESENT TO RECEIVE WEEKEND MEALS.



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