



# The Wakulla Sun

**WAKULLA WeatherSTEM**  
Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Thunderstorms
Hi: 67° Lo: 43° 7%	Hi: 70° Lo: 56° 55%	Hi: 69° Lo: 51° 69%
Sunrise 7:33 AM Sunset 5:48 PM	Sunrise 7:33 AM Sunset 5:49 PM	Sunrise 7:33 AM Sunset 5:50 PM



\$1  
One Section

*"It's a New Day"*

Locally Owned & Operated

Our 5th Year 1st Issue  
Thursday, January 1, 2026

## The pistol in the jail

The .22 caliber pocket pistol and a meth pipe were brought in by an inmate

By **WILLIAM SNOWDEN**  
Editor

The inmate who allegedly smuggled a pistol into a secure area of the jail, also brought in a meth pipe, according to the charging document.

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

The gun Hollis reportedly brought in was a German-made Burgo revolver that fired .22 shorts. The pocket pistol was probably manufactured in the 1960s before laws banning so-called Saturday Night Specials – cheap, poorly made handguns of small calibers and short barrels, often linked to crime.

Hollis was booked into the jail on Sept. 30 and the gun was found in the pillowcase on his bunk on Oct. 6.

According to the report, Hollis and other inmates in the cell were talking about needing a needle to pop a pimple and Hollis passed down a spent .22 cartridge from his bunk.

After Hollis was taken from the cell for a medical appointment, an inmate searched Hollis' bunk and found the gun in the pillowcase. The inmate was reportedly so scared at finding the gun that he was shaking. Correctional staff were called



The handgun found in the jail was a German-made Burgo revolver that shoots .22 shorts, similar to the model pictured here.

and confiscated the handgun.

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

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

At the time of his arrest, he ran from law enforcement and was Tasered by officers. Hollis later told detectives he ran because he had



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

meth pipes on him. One meth pipe was found and seized by a deputy.

But Hollis was allegedly still in possession of another meth pipe and the gun.

He was taken to the hospital after being Tasered and claimed to detectives that he couldn't have had the gun on him at the time because he had a CT

scan at the hospital and went through the metal detector at both the hospital and the jail.

But detectives watching video footage from the jail reportedly found that procedures weren't properly followed – the metal detector and search during Hollis' intake "does not show an adequate search," according to the report.

The night Hollis was brought into the jail, he and another inmate broke the glass meth pipe he had smuggled into the jail, scraping out the residue and snorting it.

After the gun was found, detectives compared spent shell casings at Hollis' home with those in the gun – and Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms reported the casings were a 98% match with the gun.

## Owen Klees named offensive player of year

The War Eagle quarterback passed for more than 3,000 yards this season

By **WILLIAM SNOWDEN**  
Editor

Wakulla War Eagle quarterback Owen Klees was named All-Big Bend Offensive Player of the Year.

The senior passed for just over 3,000 yards this season, with 27 touchdowns, and had 105 carries for 743 rushing yards and six touchdowns.

In another honor, Klees was selected for the Florida Athletic Coaches Association's All-Start North-South game, played Dec. 20 in The Villages.

Line man Sam Wright, a senior, was named to the All-Big Bend First Team Offense. Wright had 29 pancake blocks.

Defensive lineman Antonio Harvey, a junior, was named to the All-Big Bend First Team Defense. Harvey had 69 tackles (49 solo), including 12 tackles for loss and 10 sacks.

Also on First Team Defense was defensive back Auvion Thomas who had 20 tackles and five interceptions.

### SECOND TEAM

Players named to the Second Team Offense were Wide Receiver Jayden Jean, a junior, with 68 catches for 685 yards and seven touchdowns.

Also on Second Team was Tight End Wyatt Brown, a senior, who had 30 catches for 503 yards and two TDs.

Running Back Jordan Barnes, a senior, had 60 catches for 856 yards and eight TDs, and had 18 carries for 151 yards and six TDs.

Second Team Defense included Linebacker Derek Davis, a senior, who had 97 tackles (45 solo), seven tackles for loss, four sacks and three fumble recoveries.

He was joined on Second Team by Defensive Back Andrew Nelson, another senior, with 92 tackles (53 solo), three tackles for loss and a sack.

### HONORABLE MENTION

War Eagles given Honorable Mention for All-Big Bend include Wide Receiver Jarrell Randolph, a junior; Offensive Lineman Alex Akins, a senior; Offensive Lineman Trenten Barwick, a sophomore; Offensive Lineman Wyatt Jones, a junior; Offensive Lineman Bryce Rowan, a junior; Defensive Lineman Jackson Crowe, a senior; Defensive Lineman Richard Senatus, a senior; Linebacker Walker Klees, a senior; Linebacker Rayshon St. Hilaire, a senior; and Defensive Back Lacari Murray, a junior.

War Eagle Head Coach Scott Klees said the All-Big Bend designations for many of his players was "Awesome."

"It was another great year where our kids were represented well," Klees said.

"Another great year for Wakulla – we won the district. Some adversity for sure, but we made the playoffs and had a great year," he said.



Quarterback Owen Klees



O Lineman Sam Wright



D Lineman Antonio Harvey



DB Auvion Thomas

## Incident involving Dale Evans reported

By **WILLIAM SNOWDEN**  
Editor

Wakulla Sheriff's deputies were called to the home of a former deputy who wanted an incident reported in which former Major Dale Evans had sent an accusatory email claiming the woman had stolen his cell phone.

Evans, who was part of Sheriff Jared Miller's senior command staff over road patrol, was recommended for termination a few weeks ago after filing numerous complaints against the sheriff's office – including a memo claiming Colonel Chuck Whaley, who heads Criminal Investigations, was misleading the sheriff about activities.

A charge of disrespect against a senior officer was filed against Evans and upheld.

Evans told The Sun at the time that he had chosen to retire.

In the recent incident, Evans claimed his cell phone was pinged at a former Wakulla deputy's home and warned that deputies would be

arriving with a search warrant.

The former Wakulla deputy, Amanda Marsh, who now works as a law enforcement officer in Jefferson County, called the sheriff's office to report the incident, saying Evans was harassing her.

On Dec. 19, Marsh and some current deputies had dinner at Evans' home with his wife. The following day, Marsh was alerted by Evans' wife that his cell phone was missing. He sent her an email on Dec. 20 asking: "Did you take my phone?"

A couple of hours later he sent an email: "I can not believe you stole my phone. I told the (Sheriff's Office) to do whatever they needed to. I was told the ping was complete and they have the location and a search warrant for the residence is being submitted. I will never understand how you could do something like that and take something so personal, especially from within my home. Good luck"

Marsh responded



Major Dale Evans

back with an email that basically said she didn't take his phone and had no idea what he was talking about. She later called sheriff's deputies to make a report believing Evans had made a report against her.

Redacted body cam footage obtained by The Sun from the sheriff's office show Marsh, obviously disturbed and frustrated by events, telling deputies that Evans had been a friend of five or six years and was behaving oddly.

"Listen," she can be heard telling deputies on the video, "I don't know what the (expletive) is wrong with this dude,

but ever since he had brain surgery, something just ain't right."

Deputies informed Marsh they are unaware of any report by Evans that his cell phone was stolen. She insists on making a report of the incident, offering to let deputies search her home and vehicle, and saying she wants to talk to someone higher ranking, mentioning Whaley and Sheriff Miller.

Evans responded that he had no intention of harassing Marsh, and said telling her there was a search warrant was "an old cop trick" to get her to admit she had his phone.

Evans indicated he still believed Marsh had taken his phone, but said: "I haven't talked to her. I got a new phone."

His new phone indicates that someone with his old phone called 911 from it, but he said the sheriff's office won't tell him where the call originated from.

He also said he is pursuing an appeal of his termination, and is seeking to have the matter open to the public.

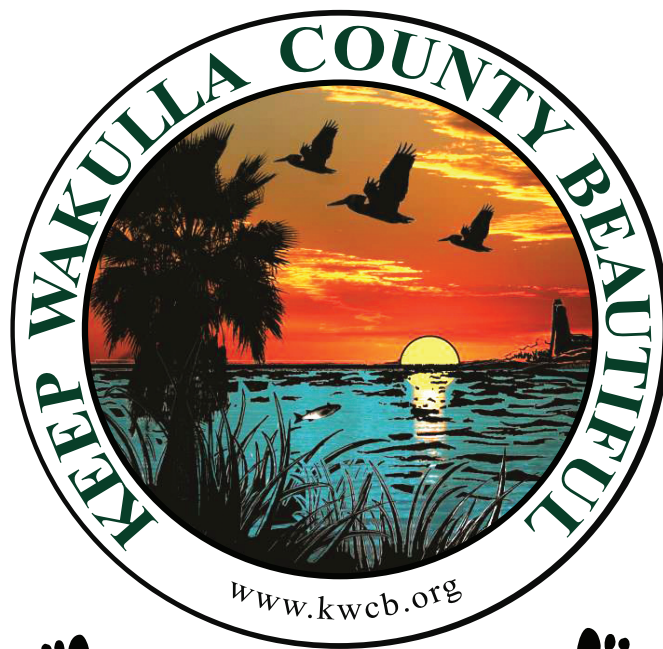
**STUDENT OF THE WEEK SHOULD RETURN NEXT WEEK.**

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CRAWFORDVILLE  
**ARBOR DAY**

Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 am - 1:00 pm

**Hudson Park**  
Rain or Shine

**Hundreds of young trees (in pots) will be given away!**

Red Maple, Red Cedar, Persimmon  
White Oak, Black Cherry, Redbud  
Rusty Blackhaw, Pignut Hickory  
Blackgum (Sourgum), River Birch,  
Sycamore, Longleaf Pine, & more!

Children's Activities  
Music Food  
Artisan & Craft Vendors

Wakulla County Garden Club, Florida Forest Service,  
Sarracenia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society,  
National Wildlife Federation, & UF/IFAS Extension Master Gardeners  
with Florida Wildlife Federation, Just Fruits & Exotics, & The Wakulla Sun.

**Wakulla County Tax Collectors Office**

**SPECIALTY TAGS**  
\$15 - \$30 additional to cost of tag.

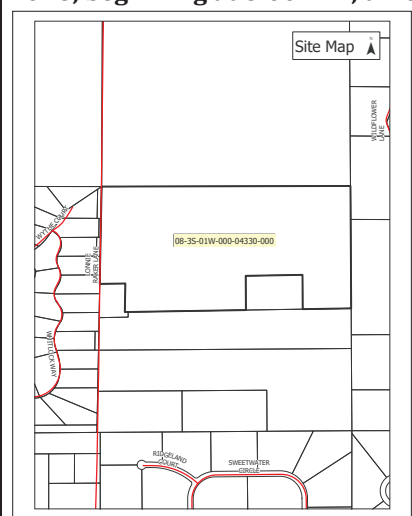
*Lisa Craze, CFC*  
Wakulla County Tax Collector

**HOME OF THE BLUE ANGELS LICENSE PLATE**

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

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING AN APPLICATION FOR PRELIMINARY PLAT

The Wakulla County Planning Commission proposes to consider the following application. A Public Hearing is scheduled regarding the following before the **Planning Commission on Monday, January 12, 2026, beginning at 6:00 P.M., unless otherwise**



**noted below or as time permits.** All public hearings will be held at the County Commission Chambers located west of the County Courthouse at 29 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida 32327. Interested parties are invited to attend and present testimony.

### 1. Application for Preliminary Plat Approval: PP25-01

Applicant: Linda H. Raker  
 Agent: Edwin Brown & Associates, Inc./Wade Brown  
 Proposal: create 2-lot residential subdivision– Maurice Estates  
 Tax ID Number: 08-3S-01W-000-04330-000  
 Existing FLU Map: Rural 1 (FLUE Policy 1.2.4)  
 Current Zoning: AG (Section 5-25, LDC)  
 FEMA Flood Info: "X" and zone on Panel 0250E  
 Parcel size: 77.16+/- acres  
 Location: 1003 Lonnie Raker Lane

**Hearing Required: Planning Commission: Monday, January 12, 2026 @ 6:00 PM**

If an individual wishes to submit documents or other materials related to a matter before the Planning Commission for consideration by the Planning Commission at a public meeting, they are strongly encouraged to submit copies of all such documents or other materials to the Wakulla County Office of Planning and Community Development at least 3 days prior to the date of the meeting so that they can be provided to the Commission Members. If an individual wishes to bring documents or other materials for consideration by the Planning Commission that were not previously provided to the Wakulla County Office of Planning and Community Development in accordance with the preceding sentence, they must bring at least twelve (12) copies of each such document to the meeting.

Copies of applications, draft ordinances, and any related public record files may be viewed at the County Planning Department located at 11 Bream Fountain Road, Crawfordville, FL 32327, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM M-F; Phone (850) 926-3695. Any person desiring to appeal a decision of a County Board must ensure a verbatim transcript or copy is made of the testimony and exhibits presented at said hearings. Persons with a disability needing a special accommodation should contact the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners Administration Office at least two (2) days prior to the meeting at (850) 926-0919; Hearing and Voice Impaired at 1-800-955-8771; or email at [ADARrequest@mywakulla.com](mailto:ADARrequest@mywakulla.com). Jan. 1, 2026

### ADVERTISEMENT TO BID

## WAKULLA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

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

**PROJECT: Vestibule Security Upgrade for Wakulla Co. Schools**

**BID DATE: January 23, 2026**

**TIME: 2:00 p.m. local time**

**WCS BID NO. 2025/26-02**

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

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

Wakulla County School Board Administration Building (Board Room)

69 Arran Rd, Crawfordville, FL 32327

Drawings and Specifications may be obtained by contacting:

Emily Winston

Clemons, Rutherford & Associates

Phone: 850.385.6153

[ewinston@crarchitects.com](mailto:ewinston@crarchitects.com)

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

Mr. Michael Barwick

Chief of Facilities and Maintenance

Wakulla County School Board

Post Office Box 100, Crawfordville, FL 32327

and be marked:

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

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

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

WAKULLA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING (BOARD ROOM)

69 ARRAN RD

CRAWFORDVILLE, FL 32327

MR. MICHAEL BARWICK

CHIEF OF FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE

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

## THE SCHOOL BOARD OF WAKULLA COUNTY ANNOUNCES THE FOLLOWING:

**EVENT:** School Board Meeting  
**DATE:** Tuesday, January 20, 2026  
**TIME:** 5:45 pm  
**PLACE:** School Board Room, 69 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida  
**PURPOSE:** Monthly School Board Meeting

For further information please contact:  
 Superintendent's Office  
 Wakulla County Schools  
 Post Office Box 100, 69 Arran Rd  
 Crawfordville, Florida 32326  
 850-926-0065

January 1, 2026

## City of Sopchoppy Notice of Public Meeting

The City of Sopchoppy will hold a regular monthly meeting on **Monday, January 12, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.** The meeting will be held at City Hall, 105 Municipal Avenue, Sopchoppy, FL.

**Purpose of Meeting: General Business.**

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

Persons with a disability needing a special accommodation should contact the City of Sopchoppy, Administration Office at least two (2) days prior to the meeting at (850) 962-4611. January 1, 2026



## Notice of Public Hearings Concerning a Text Amendment to the Wakulla County Land Development Code

The Wakulla County Planning Commission and Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners propose to consider the following ordinance. Public Hearings are scheduled before the **Wakulla County Planning Commission on Monday, January 12, 2026, beginning at 6:00 P.M. and before the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, and Monday, February 2, 2026 beginning at 6:00 P.M. or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard.** All public hearings will be held at the County Commission Chambers located west of the County Courthouse at 29 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida 32327. All affected parties may appear at the public hearings, be heard, and submit evidence and written comments on the application.

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA; AMENDING SECTION 2-4 OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE RELATING TO DEFINITIONS AND TERMS; AMENDING SECTION 5-38 OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE RELATING TO C-2 GENERAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT REGULATIONS; AMENDING SECTION 5-64 OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE RELATING TO TC CRAWFORDVILLE TOWN CENTER ZONING DISTRICT REGULATIONS; AMENDING SECTION 5-66 OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE RELATING TO HIC CRAWFORDVILLE HIGH INTENSITY COMMERCIAL ZONING DISTRICT REGULATIONS; CREATING SECTION 6-40 OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE RELATING TO PROCEDURES FOR THE REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF CERTIFIED RECOVERY RESIDENCE PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Copies of applications, draft ordinances, and any related public record files may be viewed at the Wakulla County Planning and Community Development Department located at 11 Bream Fountain Road, Crawfordville, FL 32327, 8 AM to 4:30 PM M/F; Phone (850) 926-3695. Any person desiring to appeal a decision of a County Board must ensure a verbatim transcript or copy is made of the testimony and exhibits presented at said hearings. Persons with a disability needing a special accommodation should contact the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners Administration Office at least two (2) days prior to the meeting at (850) 926-0919; Hearing & Voice Impaired at 1-800-955-8771; or email at [ADARrequest@mywakulla.com](mailto:ADARrequest@mywakulla.com). January 1, 2026



SCAN ME for an electronic edition of this newspaper.

## PUBLIC NOTICES:

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



## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS CONCERNING AN APPLICATION FOR CHANGE OF ZONING

The Wakulla County Planning Commission and Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners propose to consider the following application and/or adopt the following by ordinance and has scheduled Public Hearings before the **Wakulla County Planning Commission on Monday, January 12, 2026, beginning at 6:00 P.M. and before the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, beginning at 6:00 PM,** or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard. All public hearings will be held at the County Commission Chambers located west of the County Courthouse at 29 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida 32327. Interested parties are invited to attend and present testimony.



**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE WAKULLA COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE, ORDINANCE NO. 85-4, AS AMENDED; CHANGING THE ZONING DISTRICT CLASSIFICATION AND OFFICIAL ZONING ATLAS FROM R-1 TO CC FOR PROPERTY DESCRIBED**

**AS ATTACHED EXHIBIT "A" TO THE ORDINANCE; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

### 1. Application for Change of Zoning: R25-09

Applicant: Randall C Pelt, as Trustee of Randall Cager Pelt Revocable Trust

Agent: Edwin Brown & Associates, Inc./Wade Brown  
 Proposal: rezone from single-family residential to cottage commercial

Tax ID Numbers: 00-00-077-017-10532-001 and 00-00-077-017-10530-008

Existing FLU Map: Urban Fringe (FLUE Policy 1.2.7)

Current Zoning: R-1 (Section 5-30, LDC)

Proposed Zoning: CC (Section 5-65, LDC)

FEMA Flood Info: "X" zone on Panel 0225E

Parcel size: 1.94+/- acres

Location: 25 Sabal Palm Drive and 33 Sabal Palm Drive

**Hearings Required: Planning Commission: Monday, January 12, 2026 @ 6:00 PM**

**BOCC: Tuesday, January 20, 2026 @ 6:00 PM**

If an individual wishes to submit documents or other materials related to a matter before the Planning Commission for consideration by the Planning Commission at a public meeting, they are strongly encouraged to submit copies of all such documents or other materials to the Wakulla County Office of Planning and Community Development at least 3 days prior to the date of the meeting so that they can be provided to the Commission Members. If an individual wishes to bring documents or other materials for consideration by the Planning Commission that were not previously provided to the Wakulla County Office of Planning and Community Development in accordance with the preceding sentence, they must bring at least twelve (12) copies of each such document to the meeting.

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## Wakulla County Announces Application Period for FY2025/26 Solid Waste and Fire Services

### Hardship Assistance Program

Crawfordville, Florida – The Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners announces Fiscal Year 2025/26 Hardship Assistance Program related to the Solid Waste and Fire Services Protection Assessments.

The Hardship Assistance Program was created to assist the residential property owners who meet the eligibility criteria, with the financial burden imposed by the Solid Waste and Fire Services Assessments. In order to apply for hardship assistance, citizens must complete an application and file with the County Administrator's Office for consideration prior to June 1, 2026. The applicant must be the owner of the residential property for which must also be homestead exempt, and the following income criteria must be demonstrated:

Extremely Low (30%) Income Limits:

Extremely Low (30%) Income Limits							
1 Person	2 Person	3 Person	4 Person	5 Person	6 Person	7 Person	8 Person
\$19,500	\$22,250	\$26,650	\$32,150	\$37,650	\$43,150	\$48,650	\$54,150

It should be noted that the Hardship Applications will no longer be mailed out to citizens; however, Applications can be obtained from the County website ([www.mywakulla.com](http://www.mywakulla.com)), or can be obtained from the BOCC Administration Office, 3093 Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville, FL. If you have questions relating to this program, please contact Jessica Welch at (850) 926-0919 ext. 706.

January 1, 2026

# Opinions

THE FIRST AMENDMENT

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

## Ask Judge Smith: Where the real people go



By **JUDGE LAYNE SMITH**

My first boss out of law school had a knack for relating to people just as they were and making everyone feel at ease. He was always polite, used simple language and short sentences, and paid close attention to body language. That skill set served him

well, and I do my best to emulate him. When he spoke to juries, he fit right in as one of them.

Pensacola, where I first practiced law in the late 1980s, had a family-owned grocery store. This store had operated for many years in a working-class neighborhood. As the new guy at work, I often made our lunch runs. Often, my boss asked me to go to the deli shop in that grocery store and order his favorite sandwich.

My boss told me to pay attention to the patrons because that grocery store was “where the real folks go.”

Many of its patrons were blue-collar workers, soldiers, and single parents living on tight budgets. My boss challenged me to observe and listen to them and think about how I could relate to them on their terms.

Good trial lawyers quickly assess prospective jurors by keeping their cases simple and their presentations short.

And jurors assess lawyers too. Thus, one must be able to read people and make a good first impression.

Flash forward 36 years. Breakfast is my favorite meal. In fact, I’ve never met an omelet that

I didn’t like! My local version of where the real people go is Waffle House.

Like that old Pensacola grocery store, many Waffle Houses are family-owned businesses.

Most Waffle House buildings look the same. That’s because the franchisor designs and builds them with purpose and function in mind.

When I dine there, I often sit at the counter and watch the staff work.

Waffle House cooks orders in rapid-fire succession. Their staff uses mnemonic words and phrases to communicate the dish,

its ingredients, and cooking methods, promoting accuracy and efficiency.

Think of an empty diner plate as a clock. Waffle House divides this clock into sections. The cooks mark the orders as the server calls them out by placing bits of food or condiments on designated plate spots. The cook listens, marks the plates, and then cooks each dish as ordered based on the plate’s visual cue.

Suppose I order hash browns with onions and mushrooms. The server shouts to the cook, “Drop one scattered, smothered, and

capped.” The cook marks the plate, and within minutes, the waiter serves my food.

Many trial lawyers mirror Waffle House employees when they try cases, by using shorthand, outlines, and acronyms.

Akin to a cook following a recipe, trial lawyers and judges use these tools to stay organized and cover all the essentials.

*The Honorable J. Layne Smith is the Circuit Judge assigned to Wakulla County, Florida, a bestselling author, and a public speaker.*

### LETTERS FROM READERS

## Wakulla Community Theater appreciates support for Christmas show

Editor, **The Sun**:

The Wakulla Community Theater would like to thank the public and our patrons for your support of our Christmas show, “A Celebration of Christmas.” It was so much fun starting off the season with songs and skits to get everyone warmed up for Christmas 2025.

We would especially like to thank a few people: Zoe Gregory and Scott Rossow (Lights & Sound), Lynn Rossow, Mina Sutton and Mary Katherine Westmark (Decorations), Mary Katherine Westmark and Mina Sutton (Choreography), Era Taff, Jason Westmark, and Jay Westmark (Ticket Sales), Era Taff and Scott Ros-

sow (Program Design), Diana Hays, Amanda Miller, Anna Carlisle and Kyndal Parker (the ladies who set up and worked our concession), the City of Sopchoppy and Bobby Roddenberry, Kevin Andrew and Rockulla (for leading us in Christmas carols), Wakulla High Theater Troupe (helping in many, many ways!), The Wakulla Sun (awesome ads!), and our fabulous Master of Ceremonies Tanner Pafford.

Thank you to all of our performers for sharing your talents: Brooke Brannan, Riley Carraway, Emma Dykes, the Rev. Michael Hartley, Arliss Kirkland, Alex Lewis, Luna Martinez, Brooke Millender, Cristi Sorensen, Mina Sutton, Bella Taff,

Lauren Wilhelm, and Cody Worrill. And our very own Jingle Belle dancers: Kellery Kilgore, Kenzie Lawhon, Nikki Lawhon, Treva McKenzie, Lisa Porter, and Katie Sass.

Again, thank you to “our village”

for making this show a success!!  
Happy New Year from Wakulla Community Theater!

**Wakulla Community Theater**

## Something on your mind?

Email Letters to the Editor to [editor@thewakullasun.com](mailto:editor@thewakullasun.com); or mail it The Wakulla Sun, 12 Arran Road, Crawfordville FL 32327; or drop it by the office on the courthouse square.

# On the Horizon

## Calendar of events for the week of January 1

### Thursday, January 1

- HAPPY NEW YEAR!
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. every Thursday at 54 Ochlockonee St.

### Friday, January 2

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

### Saturday, January 3

- No public events.

### Sunday, January 4

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

### Monday, January 5

- Board of County Commissioners meeting in the commission board-

room beginning at 6 p.m.

- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. every Monday at 54 Ochlockonee St.
- Gentle Yoga and Stretching Class, every Monday, 11 a.m. Wakulla Community Center. Bring a mat. Come early to sign in. Chair Yoga participants welcome. \$2 per class.
- Line Dancing Class is held at Wakulla Dance Academy every Monday from 7 to 9 p.m. \$5 per person. Wear dance shoes or tennis shoes.

### Tuesday, January 6

- Sopchoppy community dinner is held every week at the Towles House at 6:30 p.m.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. at 54 Ochlockonee St.

### Wednesday, January 7

- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon and 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday at 54 Ochlockonee St.

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William Snowden  
Editor & Publisher  
The Wakulla Sun

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*“It’s A New Day!”*

# The Wakulla Sun

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- Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

**Polled at the Annual Galactic Musician Party:  
What was the name of your first band?**

 <p><b>CRAIG REEDER</b> Hot Tamale</p> <p><b>“Going back to the high school days it was The Marijuana Brass. That was around '66 or '67.”</b></p>	 <p><b>SUSAN SOLBURG</b> Retired WHS teacher</p> <p><b>“As a student at FSU we had a folk band called Glenn’s Friends, later we became Big Bend Ramble. We played at the White Springs Festival near Live Oak.”</b></p>	 <p><b>SAMMY TEDDER</b> Musician/filmmaker</p> <p><b>“The Rogues, we were in Tallahassee at Elizabeth Cobb Junior High - I was 15. Our first gig was during the 15 minute afternoon class break.”</b></p>	 <p><b>TOMMY OWEN</b> Retired</p> <p><b>“The Frantics, I was 14. We played at Teen Town for junior high and Tally Town for the High School at the community center.”</b></p>	 <p><b>BEN BANKS</b> Old Porch Swing Band</p> <p><b>“Milltown and it was a very small town in Georgia. That would have been around 1980. I have been in enough bands that I can’t even remember all of them.”</b></p>
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## Wakulla Crossroads

By **VERNA BROCK**

I hope everyone had a happy Christmas, full of friends, family and fellowship. We at Casa de Brock had a very full and fun day!

New Year’s day is quickly approaching as I type this, and as usual, I am ruminating on all that portends. January 1st has always been, first and foremost, my mother’s birthday. Deep in the throes of the Great Depression, my mom was the first child born in Ware County, Georgia on that New Year’s day. There were a few gifts given to her family, in celebration of her arrival, and a precedent was set. Alice was

always great at making an entrance!

My family was never much for fireworks and champagne to welcome the New Year, but we always celebrated with the traditional Southern fare. We always had (and have) greens, blackeyed peas, rice and tomato gravy, pork, and cornbread.

This year, dessert will be strawberry shortcake, with made-from-scratch biscuits! It is definitely my favorite meal. And who knows? Maybe I’ll see some of that green in my wallet after all.

All around the globe, tradition requires we examine the past year as we welcome the dawning one. How can we start fresh? Atone for past mistakes? Perhaps even resolve to

do better? I guess our human nature needs to feel a modicum of control over the span of events, and making resolutions helps with that.

I have long believed we don’t need a special date to change for the better. In fact, it seems most resolutions are doomed to fail when pegged to one date given great import. My personal experience with self-improvement has been a journey of two steps forward and one step back. My resolve often seems made of wet cardboard.

But what successes I have had in making change have happened because I chose to focus on what was (and is) most important to me. Defining goals, and stubbornly working towards them, has been the most effective way for me to get there.

When I say “stubbornly,” I really mean heels-dug-in, hard-headed

determination. But the first step is to actually put into words what you want to realize, and why. If you can’t recognize what it is you truly want, it’ll never happen.

Admittedly, I rarely meet my objective quickly. Sometimes it has taken years, with many roadblocks, detours and obstacles to progress. I expect I will be working towards some of my goals with my dying breath. But I think the secret is to literally never give up.

Take a break, sure. But don’t give up. Determination is the lion’s share of effort.

I hope we all have our share of progress and happiness in the coming New Year. May God bless and hold us all close in 2026!

## Buckhorn News

By **ETHEL SKIPPER**

Happy New Year to each of you!

Yes, we made it into the new year. We are so blessed. So many blessings there is no room to store them up.

As we enter into the new year let us share what God has given us with others.

Just look around and begin to

count your blessings one by one and see what the Lord has done.

We were blessed to share Willie F. Skipper’s 98th birthday on Dec. 23 with breakfast at the Waffle House in Crawfordville. Thanks to our children, family and all our friends.

Skipper Temple Church of Christ Written in Heaven, 165 Surf Road

in Sopchoppy will have its annual Women in Conversation on Jan. 31. It will be a day of women with speaking, preaching, and giving their testimonies. There will also be a hat show for all occasions. If you would like to enter the hat show, for more information, call 850-962-1035.

Happy birthday to William Stevens on Jan. 7, Colleen Skipper Mitchell on Jan. 11, Glenda Simmons on Jan. 16, Jerry Arnold on Jan. 14, and belated birthday wishes to Presiding

Elder Anthony Matthew on Dec. 25.

Shiloh Church of Christ W.I.H. in Quincy will have a revival on Jan. 7 and 8 at 7 p.m. nightly. Host is Pastor Anthony Matthew. Everyone is welcome.

Our prayers and concern go out to all the sick and shut-in, those in the nursing homes, hospitals, jails, the homeless, and those who have lost loved ones this season.

## Sopchoppy News

By **DJ BUTCH**

What an amazing month! Christmas In Sopchoppy was really cool. Big turn out! Food, fun and awesome Christmas music. The sing-along was a hit! Kids were singing! They loved the giveaways. The golf carts in the parade were decorated very nice. Memory lane was amazing! It was a

wonderful, fun-filled family event! Thank you, Discover Sopchoppy.

Christmas in Panacea was the following day due to being rescheduled. The original date had to be changed due to bad weather. This event was also awesome! The had a parade in the park featuring the Wakulla High School drum line and golf carts. But the drone show was sooooo cool. To

see so many drones create all that in the sky was amazing. A crab, Santa and do much more!

This event featured free food, free rides all kinds of free stuff. Great job, Panacea Waterfronts.

St. Marks had a super cool golf cart parade! Christmas season was in full effect. I’m blessed to get to spend time with each city. Celebrate with all the families in the different areas. We are a great community and it touches my heart helping put smiles on all the faces.

The New Year is almost here! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! I hope you have a wonderful holiday. Don’t forget that Jesus is the reason for the season.

We are all very blessed to live in such a beautiful place. I look forward to 2026! My platforms have grown tremendously in 2025 so I’m super excited about 2026.

Sending you all Love in 2026 from the small town of Sopchoppy!

## Chamber holds After Hours Christmas Party at Seineyard



The Grinch (Lisa Morgan Ponder of Seineyard) with Chamber member Doug Gove.



Chamber members Frank Messersmith, Kevin Vaughn and John Shuff.



Chamber members Courtney Davis and Megan Smith.

PHOTOS BY LYNDA KINSEY

# Outdoors

outdoor sports

## HOME ON THE RANGE

### Pit Bull or Double Dog?



By MARJ LAW

"I double dog dare you to compare the Pit Bull versus the Double Dog!" challenges Joe.

"Nah," I reply firmly. "The Pit has a much longer barrel. Everybody knows that when you fire a longer-barreled revolver, the resulting explosion will have more room to exert more pressure against the bullet. The Pit will fire more accurately. After all, Pit has a 4.2 inch barrel. Double Dog only has a 2.2 inch barrel."

"I don't think so," Joe maintains. "I like the feel of the Double Dog's grip. The wood feels more solid against my hand than the rubber of the Pit. And it's ported," he adds.

"Maybe, but the ports are so small, I can't see that there'll be much of a difference."

"Besides, they're practically the same gun," I urge. "After all, both are made by Charter Arms. They are both 9mm revolvers. They both can be shot in both double action and single action. They are both made of stainless steel. They both carry 5 rounds. They're both so similar, but, like I said,

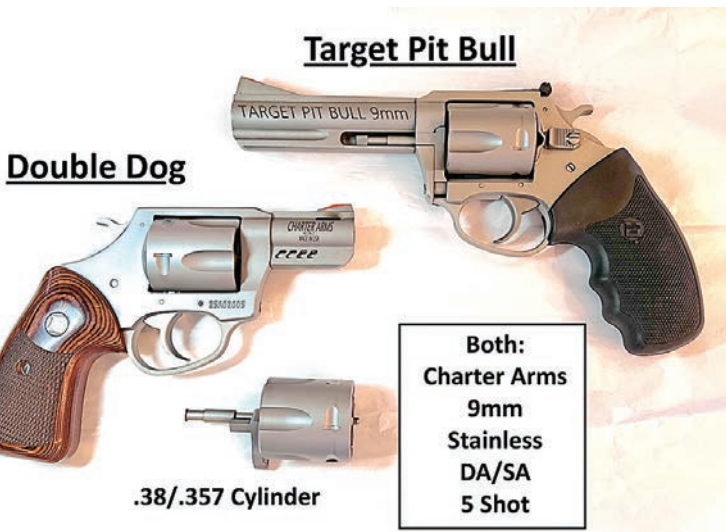
the Pit has 2 inches more barrel. When we shoot, we'll find the Pit to be more accurate."

"Did you notice that the Double Dog weighs only 1 ounce less, even though it has the shorter barrel?" asks Joe. "That will help with recoil management. The mass will absorb some of the recoil. Less recoil equals less straying from the original sight picture. If your hands are steady, your aim will stay true on the target. I think the Double Dog is going to shoot better."

"You just like it that Double Dog has a cylinder for 9mm rounds, and another cylinder than can contain .38s as well as .357s. Yes, it is more versatile. And a lot of people will like it because they can shoot 9mm rounds in it. 9mm rounds are less expensive than the .38s and the .357s. But that doesn't mean the gun will shoot better."

According to Mike Detty, writing for NRA: "Double action revolves are the original point-and-shoot guns. Their uncomplicated designs make them attractive for those looking for a self-defense gun. So, being able to fire three different popular calibers in the same revolver makes a great deal of sense."

We decide to take both revolvers to the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office range. We will shoot the Double Dog using the 9mm cylinder, so the comparison will be more



accurate.

Something we notice right away is that loading these revolvers is different than loading others. Many revolvers require the use of moon clips. These clips hold the cartridges in place within the chambers.

The Double Dog and the Pit Bull are engineered differently.

"It's tricky putting the round into the cylinder," I muse, trying to push in the round.

"Try this." Joe tilts the round upward and pushes firmly. "You have to press firmly against these spring-loaded clips. They hold the cartridges in each chamber. That's why you don't need moon clips to keep your ammunition from falling out of the cylinder."

"It's a clever design," he adds. "It's also clever that you can undo a screw from the front of the revolver. Then you slide the cylinder assembly out and exchange the cylinders. And, see these little washers?" he adds, showing me an empty plastic bag.

"I don't see anything. What am I supposed to look at?" I wonder.

"Inside this bag are tiny nylon washers. They need to be changed out when you exchange the cylinders. They hold tightly as you screw in

each cylinder."

"Why do you need the washers?" I ask him.

"Well, the way it works is this, according to Terry Nelson in Lipsey's Bulletin: 'You simply place one of these washers on the crane screw before placing it back through the frame and the cylinder yoke itself and before tightening back down. This washer ensures the correct tension on the cylinder itself and minimizes any unnecessary back and forth movement of the cylinder.'"

"Seems a little extravagant to change them out every time you exchange the cylinder," I argue.

"Well, we'll be using the 9mm cylinder the most," he replies. "And they put in seven extra washers. There's a phone number included if you need more."

We load the five rounds each into the two handguns. I'm finding the loading to be somewhat difficult, but will do better with practice.

Joe shoots the Pit Bull first. He hits the 8 inch target, but there is no tight grouping.

"What did you think of the trigger pull?" I ask.

"It's fairly light in single action," he replies. "Trigger travel is fairly short as well."

"Okay. What about

the recoil?"

He thinks for a moment.

"Recoil is pretty sturdy," he replies. "If you'd give the hardest kick is a 5, then I'd give recoil a 2.5."

"Do you like the grip?" I ask.

"I like the feel of the Double Dog's wood grips better. But we'll see when we shoot it."

I shoot the Pit

Bull next. After my five shots, I agree with Joe. Trigger travel and pull are both light in single action and recoil is stiff. Stiff enough that the rubber turns my palm pink, even though I only shoot five rounds.

Double Dog comes next. Joe is ready to shoot. He aims, then fires.

Groupings on the target are now closer together. Hm. Even with that shorter barrel.

"What do you think of trigger pull and travel on this one?" I ask.

"They're a little lighter, although the recoil seems the same as the Pit Bull. But I do prefer the wood grip. It feels more solid on the palm."

I shoot the Double Dog next. Again, the bullets have made a closer grouping on the target. Perhaps it's because I prefer the wood grips, too, I find the recoil to be less. Recoil ought to be less when you have a more solid grip, so that makes sense to me.

We both find the front ramp-style stainless sight to be somewhat difficult to see in both revolvers. When we return home, Joe will coat them with a neon orange fingernail polish.

Which revolver is better? Well, they are certainly very close. The Double Dog is more ver-

satile, and because it is 2 inch less, it is more concealable. Even new to us, they both hit the 8 inch target, so they are reasonably accurate.

Steve Tracy in Police 1, notes: "How accurate do we need to be to shoot a snub nose revolver? Trick shooter Bob Mund-en could hit a steel target 200 yards away with a snubby, but in law enforcement we know that most shootings occur at 21 feet or less."

He adds: "Police departments should issue ammunition for on-duty backup firearms and most do. But it is understandable that departments cannot stock every caliber available on the firearms market. If your department stocks 9mm ammunition for practice and qualification, the Charter Arms Pit Bull in 9mm is an option that holds great appeal. 9mm ammo is less expensive than .38 Special ammo so it's a better deal if you are paying for your own ammo."

"A good defense handgun should be versatile, uncomplicated and easy to use," says Mike Detty of NRA.

Joe and I find the Pit Bull and the Double Dog to be all the above. However, I also agree with Steve Tracy when he says: "The Pit Bull kicks. It's not a range toy for extensive plinking for fun." He goes on to say "It was easy and intuitive to load, fire accurately, eject empty cases and then reload."

As the Pit Bull and the Double Dog are so similar, I'd say Steve's assessment works for both revolvers.

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



SAND DOLLAR

(*Mellita quinquiesperforata*)

The sand dollar lives most of its life party buried in sand in coastal regions from Virginia to Brazil. They burrow through the sand eating tiny crustaceans and sea mites and leaving others behind such as nematodes. A relative of sea urchins and sea stars its underside is covered with tiny hairs that it uses to move. Thousands, all of one size exist in a single beach. They spawn in summer.

Eukarya, Animalia, Echinodermata, Echinodermata, Echinoidea, Clypeasteroidea, Mellitidae

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## BIRDING AT THE REFUGE

### December bird count at the refuge

By DON MORROW

December brings various celebrations depending on your religion, culture, or belief. It also brings the Christmas Bird Count season. These counts are winter bird surveys done within a defined 15-mile diameter circle. Participants count as many birds as they can within the count circle on a scheduled date. Counts happen over a three-week period at the end of the year and are part science and partly an annual recreational birding celebration. This year marks the 126th Christmas Bird Count.

So, this past Saturday at 4:30 a.m., three hours before sunrise, I unlocked one of the refuge gates, drove in and began birding my assigned area on the St. Marks Christmas Bird Count. It was a cold, still night with no moon. Night birding requires a lot of passive listening and plenty of opportunity to watch the sky. I saw three meteors as I listened for birds. By 5 a.m. I had already recorded three species; Eastern Screech Owl, Barred Owl, and Sora rail.

Over 70 other area

birders were taking part in the St. Marks count and most of them would also start the day with a predawn owling session. Most of the day's birding would be done on foot or by car, but there would be two canoe teams, one on the St. Marks River and another on the Wakulla River. I would be part of a boat team taking advantage of a late afternoon high tide to survey the offshore waters.

By the time it got light, I had added another four species, including a calling King Rail. As I closed out my owling list, I saw a large black cloud of birds rising out of the marshes. It bulged and quivered like a living being before breaking up and spreading out. I estimated that it contained 1,100 Red-winged Blackbirds.

The daytime portion of my territory included Stony Bayou 1 and a portion of Lighthouse Road. Not an especially interesting territory, but all of the circle needs to be covered. I spent four hours counting sparrows, wrens and warblers on levees and roadsides before stopping to head for the Lighthouse boat ramp.

I was meeting Joe Re-

inman, retired refuge biologist, who had agreed to take me out. The refuge supplied an aluminum skiff with a 60 HP outboard motor, along with a truck and trailer to move it. We launched at 1 p.m. with a plan to be back by 4 p.m. There was only a 2.9-foot-high tide that afternoon which gave us limited depth and time to work with.

As we got out on the water, Joe casually mentioned that he hadn't operated a motorboat in many years, being more of an airboat kind of guy. He also said that the boat did not have a full fuel tank when he picked it up, but it probably had enough fuel to get us out and back and he had brought paddles just in case. The Christmas Bird Count, however, must go on and we bumped along the shallows counting birds.

There are a lot of birds out on Apalachee Bay and always the chance that something rare lurks out there. We found nothing rare, but we did find gulls, terns, pelicans, Horned Grebes, cormorants, and Common Loons. Scattered about were many small black-and white

Buffleheads, along with other ducks; scaup, mergansers, Common Goldeneyes and especially Redheads.

Five percent of the entire continental Redhead population, possibly as many as 40,000 ducks, winter along the Big Bend coast, grazing on seagrasses. We found a Redhead flock that we estimated at 2,500 ducks. We also found 180 Red-breasted Mergansers, the largest flock that I have ever seen.

We did make it back before the fuel gave out. It was just 4:30 p.m. when Joe loaded the boat on the trailer. I said goodbye and headed for home. Elsewhere in the count circle, other teams had finished up and some were still out birding. The St. Marks Christmas Bird Count was drawing to a close.

Christmas Bird Counts are held regardless of the weather, but this had been a glorious blue-sky winter day and a good day of birding.

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

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# Water Ways

a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences

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**Thursday 1**

Sun rise/set: 7:33 AM / 5:48 PM  
Moon rise/set: 3:54 PM / 5:47 AM

Moon Illumination 96%

**Friday 2**

Sun rise/set: 7:33 AM / 5:49 PM  
Moon rise/set: 5:01 PM / 6:57 AM

Moon Illumination 99%

**Saturday 3**

Sun rise/set: 7:34 AM / 5:49 PM  
Moon rise/set: 6:13 PM / 7:58 AM

Moon Illumination 100%

**Sunday 4**

Sun rise/set: 7:34 AM / 5:50 PM  
Moon rise/set: - / 8:49 AM

Moon Illumination 98%

**Monday 5**

Sun rise/set: 7:34 AM / 5:51 PM  
Moon rise/set: 7:25 PM / 9:32 AM

Moon Illumination 93%

**Tuesday 6**

Sun rise/set: 7:34 AM / 5:53 PM  
Moon rise/set: 8:33 PM / 10:07 AM

Moon Illumination 86%

**Wednesday 7**

Sun rise/set: 7:34 AM / 5:53 PM  
Moon rise/set: 9:37 PM / 10:38 PM

Moon Illumination 78%

## Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

Jan. 1 - Jan. 7

GO FISH!

Tide charts by [tides4fishing.com](http://tides4fishing.com)

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

First Dec. 27    Full Jan. 3    Last Jan. 10    New Jan. 18

**Thursday 1**

Major Times: 9:51 AM / 9:18 PM  
Minor Times: 5:17 AM / 3:24 PM

**Friday 2**

Major Times: 10:58 AM / 10:25 PM  
Minor Times: 6:27 AM / 4:31 PM

**Saturday 3**

Major Times: 12:03 PM / 11:31 PM  
Minor Times: 7:28 AM / 5:43 PM

**Sunday 4**

Major Times: 12:35 AM / 1:04 PM  
Minor Times: 8:19 AM / ---

**Monday 5**

Major Times: 1:33 AM / 1:59 PM  
Minor Times: 9:02 AM / 6:55 PM

**Tuesday 6**

Major Times: 2:25 AM / 2:48 PM  
Minor Times: 9:37 AM / 8:03 PM

**Wednesday 7**

Major Times: 3:12 AM / 3:34 PM  
Minor Times: 10:08 AM / 9:07 PM

For tides at the following points add to Dog Island Listings:

	High Tide	Low Tide
Carrabelle	28 Min.	25 Min.
Apalachicola	1 Hr., 53 Min.	2 Hrs., 38 Min.
Cat Point	1 Hr., 13 Min.	2 Hrs., 31 Min.
Lower Anchorage	1 Hr., 36 Min.	2 Hrs., 3 Min.
West Pass	1 Hr., 26 Min.	2 Hrs., 39 Min.

**St. Marks River Entrance**

Th	6:35 am ▼ -1.3 ft	1:27 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	6:10 pm ▼ 1.6 ft	11:50 pm ▲ 3.5 ft
Fr	7:27 am ▼ -1.5 ft	2:14 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	7:02 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	
Sa	12:45 am ▲ 3.6 ft	8:16 am ▼ -1.5 ft	2:55 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	7:50 pm ▼ 1.3 ft
Su	1:36 am ▲ 3.7 ft	9:00 am ▼ -1.3 ft	3:33 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	8:36 pm ▼ 1.1 ft
Mo	2:25 am ▲ 3.6 ft	9:40 am ▼ -1.0 ft	4:08 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	9:22 pm ▼ 0.9 ft
Tu	3:12 am ▲ 3.4 ft	10:15 am ▼ -0.6 ft	4:39 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	10:09 pm ▼ 0.7 ft
We	3:59 am ▲ 3.0 ft	10:47 am ▼ -0.1 ft	5:08 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	10:59 pm ▼ 0.6 ft

**City of St. Marks**

Th	7:39 am ▼ -1.2 ft	2:03 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	7:14 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	
Fr	12:26 am ▲ 3.3 ft	8:31 am ▼ -1.4 ft	2:50 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	8:06 pm ▼ 1.3 ft
Sa	1:21 am ▲ 3.4 ft	9:20 am ▼ -1.4 ft	3:31 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	8:54 pm ▼ 1.2 ft
Su	2:12 am ▲ 3.4 ft	10:04 am ▼ -1.2 ft	4:09 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	9:40 pm ▼ 1.0 ft
Mo	3:01 am ▲ 3.3 ft	10:44 am ▼ -0.9 ft	4:44 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	10:26 pm ▼ 0.8 ft
Tu	3:48 am ▲ 3.1 ft	11:19 am ▼ -0.6 ft	5:15 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	11:13 pm ▼ 0.7 ft
We	4:35 am ▲ 2.8 ft	11:51 am ▼ -0.1 ft	5:44 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	

**Shell Point, Spring Creek**

Th	6:59 am ▼ -1.4 ft	1:49 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	6:23 pm ▼ 1.7 ft	
Fr	12:09 am ▲ 3.5 ft	7:53 am ▼ -1.6 ft	2:36 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	7:18 pm ▼ 1.6 ft
Sa	1:05 am ▲ 3.6 ft	8:42 am ▼ -1.6 ft	3:18 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	8:09 pm ▼ 1.4 ft
Su	1:57 am ▲ 3.6 ft	9:27 am ▼ -1.5 ft	3:56 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	8:58 pm ▼ 1.2 ft
Mo	2:47 am ▲ 3.5 ft	10:08 am ▼ -1.2 ft	4:31 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	9:46 pm ▼ 1.0 ft
Tu	3:35 am ▲ 3.4 ft	10:44 am ▼ -0.9 ft	5:03 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	10:34 pm ▼ 0.8 ft
We	4:23 am ▲ 3.1 ft	11:17 am ▼ -0.5 ft	5:33 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	11:24 pm ▼ 0.6 ft

**Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay**

Th	6:46 am ▼ -1.0 ft	1:19 pm ▲ 2.3 ft	6:21 pm ▼ 1.2 ft	11:42 pm ▲ 2.6 ft
Fr	7:38 am ▼ -1.1 ft	2:06 pm ▲ 2.3 ft	7:13 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	
Sa	12:37 am ▲ 2.7 ft	8:27 am ▼ -1.1 ft	2:47 pm ▲ 2.3 ft	8:01 pm ▼ 0.9 ft
Su	1:28 am ▲ 2.7 ft	9:11 am ▼ -1.0 ft	3:25 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	8:47 pm ▼ 0.8 ft
Mo	2:17 am ▲ 2.7 ft	9:51 am ▼ -0.8 ft	4:00 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	9:33 pm ▼ 0.6 ft
Tu	3:04 am ▲ 2.5 ft	10:26 am ▼ -0.4 ft	4:31 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	10:20 pm ▼ 0.5 ft
We	3:51 am ▲ 2.3 ft	10:58 am ▼ -0.1 ft	5:00 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	11:10 pm ▼ 0.4 ft

**St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.**

Th	6:31 am ▼ -1.4 ft	2:04 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	6:03 pm ▼ 1.6 ft	11:26 pm ▲ 2.7 ft
Fr	7:22 am ▼ -1.5 ft	2:48 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	6:50 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	
Sa	12:21 am ▲ 2.8 ft	8:11 am ▼ -1.5 ft	3:27 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	7:38 pm ▼ 1.4 ft
Su	1:16 am ▲ 2.8 ft	8:58 am ▼ -1.4 ft	4:01 pm ▲ 1.9 ft	8:29 pm ▼ 1.2 ft
Mo	2:11 am ▲ 2.7 ft	9:42 am ▼ -1.1 ft	4:32 pm ▲ 1.9 ft	9:23 pm ▼ 1.0 ft
Tu	3:07 am ▲ 2.5 ft	10:22 am ▼ -0.8 ft	5:00 pm ▲ 1.9 ft	10:19 pm ▼ 0.8 ft
We	4:05 am ▲ 2.3 ft	11:00 am ▼ -0.4 ft	5:27 pm ▲ 1.9 ft	11:18 pm ▼ 0.5 ft

**Dog Island West End**

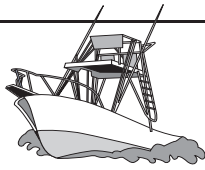
Th	7:02 am ▼ -1.3 ft	3:08 pm ▲ 1.9 ft	6:48 pm ▼ 1.6 ft	11:36 pm ▲ 2.4 ft
Fr	7:48 am ▼ -1.5 ft	3:45 pm ▲ 1.9 ft	7:31 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	
Sa	12:37 am ▲ 2.5 ft	8:32 am ▼ -1.5 ft	4:16 pm ▲ 1.9 ft	8:11 pm ▼ 1.4 ft
Su	1:33 am ▲ 2.5 ft	9:15 am ▼ -1.3 ft	4:43 pm ▲ 1.8 ft	8:56 pm ▼ 1.2 ft
Mo	2:25 am ▲ 2.3 ft	9:58 am ▼ -1.1 ft	5:05 pm ▲ 1.8 ft	9:51 pm ▼ 1.0 ft
Tu	3:17 am ▲ 2.1 ft	10:38 am ▼ -0.7 ft	5:25 pm ▲ 1.7 ft	10:52 pm ▼ 0.8 ft
We	4:11 am ▲ 1.9 ft	11:12 am ▼ -0.4 ft	5:44 pm ▲ 1.7 ft	11:46 pm ▼ 0.6 ft

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



## Coast Guard Auxiliary Reports

By Carolyn Brown Treadon



With the New Year upon us, many boaters take to the water to enjoy festivities, which can involve shooting off fireworks. The following is information we try to share each year as we approach New Years.

It may seem obvious, but doing fireworks on boats is never a good idea.

A boat constantly moves and rocks on the water, making it difficult to safely light and control fireworks, increasing the risk of misfires and unpredictable trajectories.

Sparks from fireworks can easily ignite flammable materials on a boat like fuel lines, upholstery, or fiberglass hull.

If a firework malfunctions or lands unexpectedly, it can cause severe burns or injuries to people

**Boating Emergencies**

Coast Guard Station  
Panama City ..... (850) 234-4228

Coast Guard Station  
Yankeetown ..... (352) 447-6900

Coast Guard Auxiliary  
Apalachee Bay (Flotilla 12) ..... (850) 942-7500  
or ..... (850) 284-1166

on board.

As we head into the holiday week, one of the leading causes for accidents is boating while intoxicated. Remember to drink responsibly and designate a driver. Boaters 21 years of age or older are considered to be under the influence, and may not operate a boat or PWC, if their blood alcohol level is 0.08 or more or if drugs are detected.

Additionally, many

boaters with limited or no experience on the water are out in heavier than usual traffic. When accidents do happen, the Coast Guard will often broadcast out of channel 16 a series of messages.

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

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

Vessel Examinations at [steve.hults@uscgaux.net](mailto:steve.hults@uscgaux.net)

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

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



## Underwater Wakulla

By Gregg Stanton

**Suwannee River caves.**  
March 15, 2012

All eyes are on the Suwannee River this week as it rises to within four feet of flooding Peacock Springs State Park.

In the absence of adequate cave diving training sites here in Wakulla County, we are transfixed to the flood cycles of surrounding cave systems this time of the year.

All last month, the Merritt's Mill Pond in Marianna was drained to combat hydrilla infestations. The resulting effect was that several favorite cave sites were inaccessible.

Now sites along the Suwannee, such as Little River and Telford, are flooded with dark waters. Since I have another out of town cave class underway this week, schedules are changing with frustrations high.

But flooding our caves with dark water has a healthy nourishing effect. Stagnant water, soaking leaves and other organic material has been stored in our swamps all winter. These swamps fill up with the spring rains and overflow their banks into the many karst windows in the county that empty into the aquifer.

Tannins from the leaves cause our Wakulla water to turn brown, draining swamps like Squire Swamp and Sullivan to feed the north/south underground conduit. Since little plant life grows in our lightless caves, residents like the blind crawfish, rely upon the bounty of these floods to bring food to their table.

This is a time of plenty, as I witnessed our crayfish mating and carrying eggs at a favorite local cave last week.

Extended flooding exposes our otherwise white limestone walls to chemicals that darken the walls with deposits, such as goethite. Greater water flow through underground passages expands these tunnels, moves sediment floors and displaces residents.

When the dark waters recede, and clarity returns, we find a reorganized cave, one with new life, character and charm.

Several years ago the Suwannee River was equally swollen, brown with sediments, and promising a nourishing flood. I was there with a class, and witnessed the river break its banks and flood Peacock caves.

We first felt a change in water flow while in the cave, from spring to siphon. I quickly ushered my class to the nearest exit and climbed out to witness a small waterfall coming from the river, cascading into the park.

Soon the caves were swallowing up churning dark water.

The rangers were soon encouraging our departure as the park flooded to over 20 feet. Even the roads leading to the park were flooded that time.

And flooded they stayed for several weeks — the park was closed for months.

But a newly surfaced road and cleanup crews topside and below when the waters once again turned clear restored the park to its original glory back then.

It will happen again no doubt. We will dive there again tomorrow if the creek don't rise, and share this beauty one last time before dark waters visits to nourish residence creatures once more.

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

## WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO



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

## What can God do with our dedicated lives?



By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

Are you eagerly looking forward to 2026? Or has 2025 been so bad that you dread another day, much less another year?

Could it be that experiencing more of God's wonders in the future begins with dedicating

or consecrating our lives (setting ourselves apart) today?

Throughout Scripture, God often instructed His people to consecrate themselves right before He moved powerfully in their midst. The day before the Israelites crossed into the Promised Land, Joshua told the people: "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you" (Joshua 3:5 ESV).

Do you long for God to do wonders in your life? In your marriage? In your church? I do.

So ... where do we begin?

We begin by asking God to help us desire Him more than anyone or anything else. We ask Him to deepen our longing for Him until we willingly separate ourselves from sinful activities, unhealthy desires, destructive thoughts and compromising relationships.

Setting our lives apart for God requires the Holy Spirit's help – and the courage to ask ourselves some hard questions:

What relationships (in person or online) need to change – or end? Are we spending too much time on social media or online games? Do we deny our

addiction to gambling or pornography?

What occupies our thoughts? Whom do we need to forgive? What other habits are quietly weakening our relationship with God and those we love?

And finally, are we willing to do whatever it takes to change?

The enemy will try to weaken our resolve. We're certainly doomed to fail if we rely on sheer willpower (pulling ourselves up by our bootstraps). But if we put our trust in Christ to change us, we'll persevere.

Imagine what God could do with our conse-

crated hearts and lives – and how our lives would testify to the wonders God would work within us.

The regrets we could avoid in our relationships alone in 2026 would make our resolve to live this way worth sticking to. As we experience less guilt, we'll be amazed by how much lighter our hearts and mood become.

Consider, too, the impact we'll have in our churches, which will spill over into our communities. Envision all the ways God might use us when we're wholeheartedly committed to

Him.

Can you see the benefits of consecrating your heart and life (your choices and dreams) to God?

Let's aim to spend every day in 2026 setting ourselves apart for Him and learning to make wiser, godlier choices. Then, instead of dreading another new year, we'll step into 2027 with hope-filled expectation.

*Sheryl H. Boldt is a sales executive for Wave 94 and author of the blog, [www.TodayCanBeDifferent.net](http://www.TodayCanBeDifferent.net). Connect with her at [SherylHBoldt.Wave94@gmail.com](mailto:SherylHBoldt.Wave94@gmail.com).*

## The New Year resolution



By **CHERYL CRUCE**

A new year is upon us. 2024 will ring in with the usual celebration of New Year fireworks and champagne. Collard greens and black-eyed peas will fill the dinner table as families celebrate the dawning of a new year. Engagements will happen, promises will be made, and resolutions will be set in the hearts and minds of many. 2023 will lapse into yesterday's book of memories on social me-

dia as we turn a page in time.

The tradition of resolution comes with the ringing of the New Year. I have often set these personal resolutions — the promise of personal challenges, like exercising and losing those added holiday pounds. I have wanted to lose 20 pounds for some time, and most days, everything I do feels like exercise at 64. Nonetheless, personal challenges benefit the mind, body, and soul. These challenges can also carry significant benefits for the communities we live in.

I have found that making a resolution often sets me up for disappointment when I falter on my promise to do better. Why does one day's vow set the tide

for the following 364? What worked yesterday may not work today. My determination should be to begin refreshed every morning as I start my day, for each day is unique with its challenges.

If I failed yesterday, I should forgive my mistakes and allow a clean slate for the new day. Desmond Tutu said, "Forgiveness says you are given another chance to make a new beginning." Our Heavenly Father is a God of compassion. He scatters our sin as far as the East is from the West. He shows compassion for His children, removing our brokenness and healing us (Psalm 103:12-18). New beginnings start with the forgiveness of old endings. Our Father, who creat-

ed new beginnings, also created forgiveness.

As we learn to forgive self-let us also learn to forgive others. It is impossible to have a new beginning when you fail to allow others to have theirs. There is a lot to be said about forgiveness of others that reflects on the forgiveness of self. When Peter asked Jesus about forgiveness, Jesus replied not seven times but seventy-seven times (Matthew 18:21-22). The Apostle Paul writes to the Church of Colossians that we are to forgive each other as the Lord has forgiven us. How can we resolve for a New Year when we cannot forgive the year that has passed?

God set a rhythm for new beginnings in the creation story when

He called the light day and the darkness night. There was evening and morning, the first day of creation, and He saw it was good. God carried the goodness forward and added to His creation, meeting the needs of each new day (Genesis 1). That should be our resolution: to bring the goodness of each day forward and let go of the unforgiveness that deters us and discourages another.

We could all use a new beginning — days when only goodness is brought forward and when forgiveness of self and others is left behind in the sea of forgetfulness, days where brokenness is turned into healing. Maybe a good New Year resolution would be to put one foot forward and

not look back, looking to His Kingdom and not our failings, knowing that His compassion and faithfulness are new every morning.

Lamentations 3:22-24 Because of the Lord's great love, we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion; therefore, I will wait for him."

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

**Editor: This is a repeat of a column that appeared in January 2024.**

### OUT TO PASTOR

## Can you eat too many Christmas cookies?



By **JAMES SNYDER**

Christmas was over, and the house began to quiet down in a good way. Don't get me wrong, I love the noise when all the family is together. It is a good feeling to be with your family during this wonderful holiday season. I love the energy!

I enjoy the presents and watching the family opening theirs, but I especially love the holiday feasts prepared by The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

There was only one time when she really messed up. That was when she had broccoli at the holiday feast. Nothing is more disgusting to me than seeing broccoli on the table. She only did it once, for which I am most grateful.

Someone might ask what my favorite item on the table was. I would reply by saying, the item that is in my mouth at the time.

This Christmas season, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage baked a truckload of cookies and shared them with friends and neighbors, who greatly appreciated them.

The only problem with The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage baking cookies is that I'm in the

same house, and the smell infiltrates every room.

There is a very strict rule in our house about cookies: I can have only one, and only if The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage gives it to me. Otherwise, it is a forbidden fruit.

Every so often, she will slip me a second cookie, and I'm so appreciative of that small gesture.

I must confess that eating these cookies is not my fault. After all, if the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage did not make so many delicious cookies, I wouldn't be tempted. In short, my eating cookies is not my fault but hers.

I've tried several times to explain this to her, but she still doesn't buy it. Her idea is that I can only have a cookie if she hands it to me.

During the holiday festivities, with all the noise, I can sneak cookies whenever I want. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is so focused on the family, especially the great-grandchildren, that I can get away with it. So, if I get away with it, it's all right. Right?

As our family festivities began, I noticed the stash of cookies the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage had baked. The grandchildren love her cookies.

As the festivities began, I asked The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage if I could give some cookies to the grandchildren. After all, I explained, she was too busy to do this.

I must say I caught

her by surprise, and because she was busy with something else, she just said, "OK, but remember, no cookies for you."

With a big smile on my face, I picked up a plate of cookies and took them around to the grandchildren. There was so much activity that I began eating a cookie now and then. I made sure the plate was in front of one of the grandchildren before I picked up a cookie. I think I covered my tracks pretty well.

The first grandchild I took the cookie plate to looked at me and said, "Papaw, do you want one of my cookies?" Now, how can you refuse your grandchild? I thought it was my grandparental duty to respond to my grandchild by saying, "Oh, my dear, thank you so much I appreciate that." And the cookie disappeared from the plate into my adoring mouth.

I was very cautious because when I went to one of my grandchildren, I often made sure to check where The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage was and whether

she was looking and in my direction. When she wasn't, it was a signal for me to get another cookie.

My only question during this festive time was: How many cookies are too many?

After the family activities were over, I relaxed with some coffee and The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came in and sat down. She looked at me and asked, "So, how many cookies did you eat today?"

To answer that question would get me in deep trouble. Instead, I replied, "Wasn't our great-granddaughter so cute?" That was enough to distract her and get her talking about our great-granddaughter. I ducked an arrow with that.

While the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage went on and on about our great-granddaughter, I remembered a Bible verse I read in my devotions.

"Give thanks unto the Lord, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the people. Sing unto him, sing

psalms unto him, talk ye of all his wondrous works Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord" (1 Chronicles 16:8-10).

No amount of trouble can rob me of rejoicing in the Lord. Everything I have is a gift from the Lord, and I'm going to

appreciate it the rest of my life.

*Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, email [jamesnyder51@gmail.com](mailto:jamesnyder51@gmail.com), website [www.jamesnyderministries.com](http://www.jamesnyderministries.com).*



**Sopchoppy United Methodist Church**

Pastor Cheryl Mixon-Cruce 850-962-2511

**Sunday School** 9:45 a.m.  
**Worship** 11 a.m.  
**Bible Study** Wed. 6 p.m.



**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
MISSOURI SYNOD

**SUNDAY SERVICE...**  
10:17 a.m.


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

**New Hours**  
**Beginning: September 1, 2025**  
**St. Elizabeth Ann Seton**  
Catholic Church

Pastor Michael Hartley • Den. Dave Harris Director of Music & Choir - Jeff Cook  
3609 Coastal Hwy. Crawfordville FL 32327  
**850 745-8359**

Office Hours: Mon./Wed./Fri. 9:00am – 3:30pm  
Pastor: Rev. Michael Hartley: [office@seas.ptdiocese.org](mailto:office@seas.ptdiocese.org)  
Deacon David Harris • E-Mail: [dendoc@comcast.net](mailto:dendoc@comcast.net)  
Masses: Saturday 5:00 pm • Sunday 11:00 am  
Monday, Thursday and Friday 8:30 am  
Wednesdays at 7:00 pm  
Rosary: Mon., Thurs. and Fri. - after 8:30 Mass  
Wednesday 6:30 pm  
Sunday 9:45 am  
First Saturday: Mass at 9:00 am  
Confessions: Every Saturday 9:30am – 10:30am  
Saturdays 4:30 pm - 5:00 pm  
Or by appointment

**Cemetery lots and** **850-509-7630**  
**Cremaim spaces available. 850-745-8359**  
or the Church Office at:



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THE LIFE COACH

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*New Year*

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850-570-8271



# Sheriff's Report

This report is for activity Dec. 19th to 26th. There were 989 total calls for service during the week.

## FRIDAY, DEC. 19

• Deputy Jackson Kittrell responded to Gays Drive in reference to a theft complaint. Contact was made with the reporting person, who advised he received a toll charge from a vehicle tag he no longer owns. He advised he replaced the old tag with the current one in March 2025. He advised he never turned in the old tag upon receiving the newer tag. He advised he was informed he would need to provide documentation to the state Department of Transportation for the replacement tag and he would no longer be responsible for the toll invoices. Nothing further advised.

• A citizen reported an unknown subject coming on to her property and attempted to make entry via the garage door. During the investigation it was discovered there was no video or witnesses to this event, however she suspects a neighbor to have committed the attempted break-in. She advised the repairs would cost approximately \$4,000. She

completed a sworn affidavit and a request for prosecution.

## SATURDAY, DEC. 20

• Deputy Ashton Williams responded to Mack's Meats, 1200 block of Spring Creek Highway, in reference to a retail theft complaint that already occurred. Contact was made with store manager, who advised a female entered the business and retrieved multiple alcoholic beverages from one of the coolers inside the store. The female is then seen entering the bathroom with the merchandise and exiting the store shortly after, passing all points of sale. The manager advised she was notified by a fellow employee of a suspicious customer after she fled the scene. Upon review of the store's surveillance video, the manager confirmed the suspect never purchased the items she retrieved from the store's cooler. The suspect was identified. The manager advised the business wishes to pursue charges at this time. Nothing further advised.

• Deputy Ashton Williams responded to Walmart in reference to a theft complaint. Contact was made with Asset Protection Inves-

tigators, who advised a female subject attempted to steal a shopping cart full of items, passing all points of sale. Upon arrival, contact was made with the subject, who was intercepted by Asset Protection after attempting to exit the business with a cart containing multiple items that were not purchased. She advised she purchased the items, but was unable to provide a receipt. After a review of surveillance video, it was determined she never approached a register to pay for any of the items in her shopping cart. Subsequently, she was placed under arrest and transported to the Wakulla County Jail. Nothing further advised.

## SUNDAY, DEC. 21

• Deputy Rosa Sammons conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for excessive speed. During the stop, the odor of marijuana was detected. After discovering the driver did not possess a medical marijuana card, a probable cause search was conducted. During the search, 3.4 grams of marijuana was located, seized, and submitted for destruction.

• Walmart Asset Protection reported a theft that had just occurred, and advised the subject had just left the store failing to pay for mer-

chandise. Asset Protection provided a description of the subject and vehicle. Deputy Dustin Saba located the vehicle and conducted an investigative stop. During the investigation, it was discovered that the driver/suspect had stolen approximately \$118.87. After gathering sufficient evidence, the subject was placed under arrest and transported to the county jail without further incident.

## MONDAY, DEC. 22

• Deputy Terry Marshall responded to the front lobby and took possession of a found cell phone. The phone was placed in evidence for safe keeping.

## TUESDAY, DEC. 23

• Deputy Terry Marshall made contact with a citizen, who stated his grandson stole his credit card and used it several times. He cancelled his credit card and signed an affidavit for prosecution.

• Deputy Terry Marshall made contact with a citizen, who stated an acquaintance sold his Ford truck without his permission. He signed an affidavit for prosecution and the vehicle was entered in NCIC/FCIC.

• Deputy Aimee Hoagland made contact with a citizen, who stated he recently pur-

# Obituaries

## DEATH NOTICES

• **Judith Horton, 82, of Crawfordville, died December 19, 2025.**

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

chased a vehicle which did not have any damage. He stated he discovered the windshield of his vehicle had what appeared to be a BB hole. No evidence or suspect information was available. He requested the incident be documented for information.

## WEDNESDAY, DEC. 24

• Deputy Shay Sullivan and Dep. Zachary Munroe responded to J.R. Milton Road in reference to the home owner having an abandoned camper broken into and paraphernalia being left inside. The paraphernalia was located and seized for destruction.

• Deputy Jeremiah Post conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for no tag. Probable cause was found to search the vehicle where a small amount of marijuana was located and seized for destruction.

## THURSDAY, DEC. 25

• No Reports

## FRIDAY, DEC. 26

• Deputy Aimee Hoagland responded to the front lobby due to a citizen dropping a found iPad with records. Deputy Hoagland was unable to locate the owner, so the iPad was placed in evidence for safekeeping.

• Deputy Zachary Godwin conducted a traffic stop due to the registered owner of the vehicle not being valid. During the stop, the driver and the rear passenger were placed under arrest for possession of methamphetamine and paraphernalia.

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

# 10 legal issues to watch in 2026

By **JIM SAUNDERS**  
News Servie of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — Alligator Alcatraz. Guns. Social media.

Legal battles about those and myriad other Florida issues remain unresolved heading into 2026. Here are 10 big legal issues to watch in the coming year:

• **ALLIGATOR ALCATRAZ:** The immigrant-detention center in the Everglades dubbed "Alligator Alcatraz" has spawned a series of court battles since Florida opened the facility this summer. For example, the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals is scheduled to hear arguments in April in a case that alleges violations of a federal environmental law. Other cases involve issues such as detainees' access to attorneys and whether the state has withheld public records.

• **BOOK FIGHTS:** Publishing companies, authors and parents are challenging state and local education officials in federal lawsuits after books were removed from school libraries because of alleged improper content. For instance, a case at the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals challenges a 2023 state law that led to books being removed. Two other pending lawsuits target Escambia County School Board decisions to remove or restrict access to books.

• **GUNS:** Nearly eight

years after the measure passed following the mass shooting at Parkland's Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, the U.S. Supreme Court is deciding whether to take up the National Rifle Association's challenge to a law that prevents people under age 21 from buying rifles and other long guns. Florida Attorney General James Uthmeier has taken the unusual step of refusing to defend the law.

• **IMMIGRATION:** A panel of the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals heard arguments in October about a law that created state crimes for undocumented immigrants who enter or re-enter Florida. The state appealed after a U.S. district judge issued a preliminary injunction, ruling the 2025 law was likely preempted by federal immigration authority. It remains unclear when the appellate panel will issue a decision.

• **MARIJUANA:** After falling short in 2024 of passing a constitutional amendment to allow recreational marijuana, the political committee Smart & Safe Florida wants to take the issue back to voters in 2026. But first, it needs to submit enough signatures and get Florida Supreme Court approval of the proposed ballot wording. The court review could turn into a fight, as Gov. Ron DeSantis and Attorney

General James Uthmeier oppose allowing recreational marijuana.

— **SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS:** A U.S. district judge in 2026 is expected to rule on the constitutionality of a 2021 Florida law that placed restrictions on social-media platforms, such as preventing the sites from banning political candidates. Tech industry groups challenged the law, which passed after Facebook and Twitter, now known as X, blocked President Donald Trump from their platforms after Trump supporters stormed the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

• **SOCIAL MEDIA RESTRICTIONS:** Saying social media was harming children's mental health, Florida lawmakers in 2024 passed a measure to prevent children under age 14 from opening accounts on certain platforms. Parents would have to give consent for 14- and 15-year-olds to have accounts on the platforms. Industry groups filed a First Amendment challenge and were backed by a district judge. The issue is pending at the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

• **TRANSGENDER ISSUES:** Gov. Ron DeSantis' administration and lawmakers in recent years have approved a series of measures aimed at transgender people, sparking legal

battles. For example, the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals is weighing the constitutionality of a state law and regulations that restrict treatments for people with gender dysphoria. It also is considering a challenge to a ban on Medicaid coverage for hormone therapy and puberty blockers.

• **UTILITY RATES:** The state's Office of Public Counsel and two consumer groups have gone to the Florida Supreme Court to challenge a decision by utility regulators to approve Tampa Electric Co. base-rate increases that began to take effect in 2025. Meanwhile, the Office of Public Counsel and consumer groups have indicated they likely will also challenge a November decision by regulators to approve a Florida Power & Light base-rate settlement.

• **WETLANDS:** In a case closely watched by conservation and business groups, the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia is considering whether the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 2020 improperly shifted permitting authority to Florida for projects that affect wetlands. A U.S. district judge sided with conservation groups that challenged the shift. Florida and business groups have defended giving authority to the state.

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## NOTICE OF ACTION

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

PAFFORD PROPERTIES & CONSTRUCTION, LLC, a Florida Limited Liability Company, Plaintiff,  
vs  
PAUL G. CROSS, if alive, and if deceased, unknown spouses, heirs, devisees, grantees, creditors, assigns, and all other parties claiming by through, under or against him, Defendant(s).

## NOTICE OF ACTION

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

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

**LOT 41, BLOCK 5 OF WAKULLA GARDENS UNIT 2, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE(S) 42, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.**

**Wakulla County Parcel ID No. 00-00-034-009-08322-000**  
**Address: Catawba Trail, Crawfordville, FL**

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

**DATED** this 15th day of December, 2025.

**{{County Court Seal}}**

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



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

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

ENVISION CREDIT UNION, Case No.: 2025CA000061  
PLAINTIFF,  
v.

ANGELIA SMITH, ANTHONY PARRISH JR, UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF ANGELIA SMITH, UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF ANTHONY PARRISH JR., UNKNOWN TENANT 1 AND UNKNOWN TENANT 2, DEFENDANTS.

## NOTICE OF ACTION- CONSTRUCTIVE SERVICE

To: ANGELIA SMITH, 49 CHICKAT TRL CRAWFORDVILLE, FL 32327  
UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF ANGELIA SMITH 49 CHICKAT TRAIL CRAWFORDVILLE, FL 32327

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

**LOT 19, BLOCK 49, WAKULLA GARDENS UNIT 5, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 56, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.**

**Property Address: 49 Chickat Trail, Crawfordville, FL 32327**

The action was instituted in the Circuit Court, Second Judicial Circuit in and for Wakulla, County, Florida; Case No. 2025CA000061; and is styled Envision Credit Union vs. Angelia Smith. You are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to the action on Mehwish Yousuf, Esq., Quinteiros, Prieto, Wood & Boyer, P.A., the Plaintiff's Attorney, whose address is 2400 E. Commercial Blvd., Ste. 520, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33308, within Thirty (30) days of the first date of publication on or before , and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on the Plaintiff's Attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint or Petition.

WITNESS my hand and seal of said court at Crawfordville, Florida 26th day of December, 2025.

**{{County Court Seal}}**

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



January 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026



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## NOTICE OF ACTION

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

CHARLES L. DUNLAP  
POST OFFICE BOX 683, ST. MARKS, FL 32355  
PLAINTIFF,

vs  
MICHAEL AND LOUISE DECKER  
500 N. CHERRY, FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS 78642  
DEFENDANT(S).

## NOTICE OF ACTION

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

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

**{{County Court Seal}}**

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



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

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

PAFFORD PROPERTIES & CONSTRUCTION, LLC, a Florida Limited Liability Company, Plaintiff,  
vs

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

## NOTICE OF ACTION

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

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

**LOT 8, BLOCK K OF MAGNOLIA GARDENS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 37, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.**

**Wakulla County Parcel ID No. 00-00-078-013-11120-000**  
**Address: Lance Lane, Crawfordville, FL**

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

**DATED** this 15th day of December, 2025.

**{{County Court Seal}}**

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



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

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

PAFFORD PROPERTIES & CONSTRUCTION, LLC, A FLORIDA LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, Case No.: 2025-CA-000147  
PLAINTIFF,  
v.

JOYCE L. MCCOMB, SURVIVING SPOUSE OF LENNIE G. MCCOMB, IF ALIVE, AND IF DECEASED, UNKNOWN SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, CREDITORS, ASSIGNS, AND ALL OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST HER, DEFENDANTS.

## NOTICE OF ACTION

To: JOYCE L. MCCOMB, surviving spouse of LENNIE G. MCCOMB; if alive, and if deceased, unknown spouses, heirs, devisees, grantees, creditors, assigns, and all other parties claiming by through, under or against her

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

**LOTS NUMBERED ONE (1) AND TWO (2) OF BLOCK THREE (3) OF LAKE ELLEN ESTATES UNIT ONE, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 44, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.**

**1973 BROA HS WITH ID# 4D16183S5223 U & X, TITLE #6177621 AND 6177622 OR TOGETHER WITH A MOBILE HOME SITUATED THERE-ON.**

**Wakulla County Parcel ID No. 26-4S-02W-022-02219-000**  
**Address: 2 Franklin Drive, Crawfordville, FL**

has been filed against you and others, and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on **ANDREW J. POWER, ESQUIRE, SMITH, THOMPSON, SHAW, COLÓN & POWER, P.A.**, Plaintiff's attorneys, 3520 Thomasville Road, Fourth Floor, Tallahassee, Florida 32309-3469, no more than thirty (30) days from the first publication date of this Notice of Action, January 30, 2026, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorneys or immediately thereafter; otherwise, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.

WITNESS my hand and seal of said court at Crawfordville, Florida 22nd day of December, 2025.

**{{County Court Seal}}**

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



January 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026

**NOTICE OF ACTION**

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

21ST MORTGAGE CORPORATION, Case # 2024 CA 105  
Plaintiff,  
-vs.-  
CIARA DANIELLE ADAMS; UNKNOWN SPOUSE  
OF CIARA DANIELLE ADAMS; LESLIE ERNEST  
LYNCH, III; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF LESLIE ERNEST  
LYNCH, III; MELANIE LYNCH; and UNKNOWN TENANT,  
Defendant(s).

**NOTICE OF SALE**

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

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

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

**{{County Court Seal}}**

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



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

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

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

PAFFORD PROPERTIES & CONSTRUCTION, LLC,  
A FLORIDA LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, Case No.: 2025-CA-000136  
PLAINTIFF,  
V.  
WILLIAM J. BURGOON, SR. AND PAULINE D. BURGOON, IF ALIVE, AND IF DECEASED, UNKNOWN SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, CREDITORS, ASSIGNS, AND ALL OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST THEM,  
DEFENDANTS.

**NOTICE OF ACTION**

To: WILLIAM J. BURGOON, SR. and PAULINE D. BURGOON; if alive, and if deceased, unknown spouses, heirs, devisees, grantees, creditors, assigns, and all other parties claiming by through, under or against them  
**YOU ARE NOTIFIED** that a Complaint for Quiet Title on the following property in Wakulla County, Florida:

**LOT 32, BLOCK 7 OF WAKULLA GARDENS UNIT 2, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE(S) 42, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.**  
Wakulla County Parcel ID No. 00-00-034-009-08459-000  
Address: Pueblo Trail, Crawfordville, FL

has been filed against you and others, and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on **ANDREW J. POWER, ESQUIRE, SMITH, THOMPSON, SHAW, COLÓN & POWER, P.A.**, Plaintiff's attorneys, 3520 Thomasville Road, Fourth Floor, Tallahassee, Florida 32309-3469, no more than thirty (30) days from the first publication date of this Notice of Action, **January 30, 2026**, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorneys or immediately thereafter; otherwise, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.

WITNESS my hand and seal of said court at Crawfordville, Florida 22nd day of December, 2025.

**{{County Court Seal}}**

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



January 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA  
PROBATE DIVISION

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF  
LENA ODESSA TERRELL,  
DECEASED  
DIVISION: PROBATE  
CASE NO: 2025-CP-189

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

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

All creditors of the Decedent and other persons having claims or demands against Decedent's Estate including unmatured, contingent or unliquidated claims, on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.  
All other creditors of the Decedent and persons having claims or demands against Decedent's Estate, including unmatured, contingent or unliquidated claims must file their claims with this Court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.  
ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WITHIN THE PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 FLORIDA STATUTES, WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

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

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

December 25, 2025, January 1, 2026

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

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

File No.: 2025-CP-000174

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

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

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE NOTIFIED THAT:

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

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

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

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

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

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

December 25, 2025, January 1, 2026



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**NOTICE OF ACTION**

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

PAFFORD PROPERTIES & CONSTRUCTION, LLC, a Florida Limited Liability Company,  
Plaintiff,  
vs  
HILDRED E. HIERS, if alive, and if deceased, unknown spouses, heirs, devisees, grantees, creditors, assigns, and all other parties claiming by through, under or against him,  
Defendant(s).

**NOTICE OF ACTION**

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

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

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

Wakulla County Parcel ID No. 00-00-034-012-09517-000  
Address: **Beeler Road, Crawfordville, FL**

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

**{{County Court Seal}}**

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



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

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

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

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

**NOTICE OF ACTION - CONSTRUCTIVE SERVICE**

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

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

**LOT #4 OF AN UNRECORDED PLAT OF THE FIRST ADDITION TO KIRKLAND ESTATES, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS: COMMENCING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF LOT #59 OF THE HARTSFIELD SURVEY OF LANDS IN WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA, (MARKED BY A CONCRETE MONUMENT), THENCE RUN SOUTH 72 DEGREES 30 MINUTES 30 SECONDS WEST ALONG THE NORTH BOUNDARY OF SAID LOT #59 A DISTANCE OF 2365.0 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT, THENCE RUN SOUTH 17 DEGREES 52 MINUTES 45 SECONDS EAST 659.02 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT ON THE SOUTH RIGHT-OF-WAY OF STATE ROAD #61 (U.S. 319), THENCE RUN SOUTH 70 DEGREES 45 MINUTES 30 SECONDS WEST ALONG SAID SOUTH RIGHT-OF-WAY OF STATE ROAD #61 A DISTANCE OF 480.15 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. FROM SAID POINT OF BEGINNING RUN SOUTH 17 DEGREES 54 MINUTES 20 SECONDS EAST 375.37 FEET, THENCE RUN SOUTH 72 DEGREES 40 MINUTES 45 SECONDS WEST 160.0 FEET, THENCE RUN NORTH 17 DEGREES 54 MINUTES 40 SECONDS WEST 370.0 FEET, THENCE RUN NORTH 70 DEGREES 45 MINUTES 30 SECONDS EAST ALONG THE SAID SOUTH RIGHT-OF-WAY OF STATE ROAD #61, A DISTANCE OF 160.05 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, IN LOT #59 OF THE HARTSFIELD SURVEY OF LANDS IN WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.**

**MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS:**

**COMMENCE AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 59 OF THE HARTSFIELD SURVEY OF LANDS IN WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA AND RUN SOUTH 72 DEGREES 30 MINUTES 30 SECONDS WEST 2365.00 FEET, THENCE RUN SOUTH 17 DEGREES 52 MINUTES 45 SECONDS EAST 659.02 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT (MARKED #2919) LYING ON THE SOUTHEASTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY BOUNDARY OF STATE ROAD NO. 61 MARKING THE POINT OF BEGINNING. FROM SAID POINT OF BEGINNING AND LEAVING SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY BOUNDARY RUN SOUTH 17 DEGREES 46 MINUTES 33 SECONDS EAST 375.20 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT (MARKED #2919), THENCE RUN SOUTH 72 DEGREES 43 MINUTES 18 SECONDS WEST 159.54 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT (MARKED #2919), THENCE RUN NORTH 18 DEGREES 01 MINUTES 08 SECONDS WEST 369.70 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT (MARKED #2919) LYING ON THE SOUTHEASTERLY, RIGHT-OF-WAY BOUNDARY OF STATE ROAD NO. 61, THENCE RUN NORTH 70 DEGREES 45 MINUTES 30 SECONDS EAST ALONG SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY BOUNDARY 161.16 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. TOGETHER WITH 1999 ADM1 MOBILE HOME IDENTIFICATION NOS. GMHGA1299820841A AND GMHGA1299820841B, TITLE NOS. 77429721 AND 77429724.**

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

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

**{{County Court Seal}}**

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



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

**Bill Webster, Attorney**  
*General Law Practice*  
50 Years Experience  
*Since 1975*  
By Appointment Only  
**850-443-5901**





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UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE WAKULLA 4-H

Thursday,  
January 29,  
2026

# Clover GALA

A celebration with community partners & volunteers  
at The Lodge at Wakulla Springs

5:30 - 9:30 PM

**Suggested Attire: Formal**

The event will include silent auction, dinner, and award program. During the event, Friends of 4-H and Volunteer of the Year nominees will be recognized.

Wakulla 4-H agent Dr. Rachel Pienta said, "We are excited to recognize and honor the 2025 Nominees for Friend of 4-H and Volunteer of the Year. These individuals and organizations contribute considerable time, talent, and resources to help support youth development programs in Wakulla County."



**Individual Tickets \$75.00**  
**Full Table \$800.00**  
**Half Table \$400.00**

Individual tickets and reserved tables for the Clover Gala are currently on sale and can be purchased at the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/WakullaCloverGala26> or by using the QR code.

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS)  
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