



War Eagles go to 20-0 at duals/Page 12

The Wakulla Sun

WAKULLA WeatherSTEM
Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
AM Fog/ PM Clouds Hi: 71° Lo: 57° 42% Sunrise 7:34 AM Sunset 5:54 PM	Partly Cloudy Hi: 75° Lo: 60° 16% Sunrise 7:34 AM Sunset 5:54 PM	Mostly Sunny Hi: 74° Lo: 56° 44% Sunrise 7:34 AM Sunset 5:55 PM



\$1
One Section

"It's a New Day"

Locally Owned & Operated

Our 5th Year 2nd Issue
Thursday, January 8, 2026

Thanks to our readers

The Wakulla Sun appreciates its supporters and contributors as we enter 2026



By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

As we go into the New Year, I want to thank our readers, advertisers and contributors as we start our fourth year as The Wakulla Sun.

We started the newspaper in February 2022 – me, salesperson Lynda Kinsey and graphic artist/production supervisor Eric Stanton along with reporter Riddhi Patel – after leaving The Wakulla News over differences with the new owners. Except for Patel, the others of us had worked at the newspaper for decades.

We were joined by other former News staffers, including Jessi Smith, who runs the delivery route, and Krystal Shepard, who does circulation and billing.

Former News freelancer Linda Ann McDonald

came from The News as did feature photographer Gerald Brown and sports photographer Ken Fields.

Longtime columnist Ethel Skipper, who has been writing her Buckhorn News column since the 1970s, joined us. And Verna Brock came on board with Wakulla Station News, now Wakulla Crossroads. DJ Butch joined us to write Sopchoppy News.

Other contributors include Sheryl Boldt, who continues her religion column, along with Cheryl Mixon-Cruce, who has been writing a religion column for several years.

Marj Law has continued to write a column on shooting and handguns.

And this is the last issue that Carolyn Brown Treadon will contribute a Coast Guard Auxiliary Report, which she took over in 2011 from Sherrie Alverson.

Some continuing contributors to the Monthly Neighbor include Brian English, Sheriff Jared Miller, Extension Agent Samantha Kennedy, and psychologist Greg Gast. Also the Wakulla County Historical Society and Kathy Shirah who provide Elizabeth Smith's Magnolia Monthly columns.



The first edition of The Wakulla Sun at the printer in February 2022.

Newer contributors include wildlife photographer Robert Thompson, photographer Neil Hostnick, and photographer Perry Dissmore. Thanks to Jo Ann Palmer for proofreading, and Cheri Morgan for help labeling. And thanks to Bob Ferrante and the Oseola for sharing FSU sports coverage with us.

Thanks to our advertisers who have supported us, many of whom

started with the first issue.

I also want to thank those who have made tax-deductible donations through the Florida Press Foundation to support our work and have a local community newspaper.

And thanks to our readers: We will continue to do our very best to bring you news and features about Wakulla County.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace bed build set

On Saturday, volunteers will build beds for local kids who don't have a bed to sleep on

By STEVE SANABRIA
SHP & Rotary

Sleep in Heavenly Peace is a nationwide organization that believes that "a bed is a basic requirement for the proper physical, emotional and mental support" that a child needs.

Our local Sleep in Heavenly Peace affiliate is the Tallahassee Chapter (SHPTLH). As a part of this chapter, we launched a distribution center in Wakulla County in June. We started with 40 beds and have depleted our inventory through many deliveries to families in need.

On Saturday, January 10th we will be building bed kits at the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office beginning at 8:30 a.m. If you want to participate in the build please reach out to Steve Sanabria at steve.sanabria@shpbeds.org. You must pre-register if you wish to participate. No walk-ins on the day of the event.

How can you get help for your family? The motto of Sleep in Heavenly Peace is "No Kid Sleeps on the Floor in Our Town." If your family or someone you know needs a bed for a child in our community, apply at <https://shpbeds.org/apply/>.

Enter your ZIP Code to route your request to the correct chapter for your location. The beds are also available to foster parents who need additional beds to be able to care for children for whom they are responsible. SHPTLH Wakulla Distribution Satellite will contact you to arrange delivery and installation of the beds. All beds come with mattresses and a complete sleep set with comforter and pillow. SHPTLH Wakulla Distribution Satellite can accomplish this important mission because of dedicated volunteers and supporters who help in a variety of ways.

We are currently receiving so many requests that from time to time we are forced to close the application portal to replenish our inventory. If you encounter a "We are not taking applications at this time" please send an email to steve.sanabria@shpbeds.org.

How can you get involved?
• Share the word about this important mission with your friends, congregations, workplaces, organizations, civic groups, etc.

• Please assist us in identifying a permanent location for housing supplies that could also accommodate a build event. This could be a warehouse, business, church, or other facility with space dedicated solely for this purpose. Should land be allocated for this purpose, it would be possible to construct a facility upon it. SHPTLH is a registered 501(c)3 charitable organization and contributions are tax deductible including cash and in-kind.

• Collect bedding: twin size sets (comforter, sheets, pillowcase), for children from 3 to 17. Some groups are making and donating quilts along with bedding sets. Your organization can get involved by agreeing to be a collection site or organizing a drive for collecting bedding (sheet set, comforters, pillows). There are bedding collections bins at the Crawfordville Library and the Wakulla Chamber of Commerce.

• Give generously: donations may be made online at <https://shpbeds.org/donate/>

• For more information on Sleep in Heavenly Peace: <https://shpbeds.org>

Apalachicola oystering opened Jan. 1

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

On Jan. 1, the Apalachicola Bay reopened through Feb. 28 for commercial Apalachicola Bay Endorsement holders and Apalachicola Bay Recreational Opportunity Permit holders.

This is the first opportunity to harvest from the bay since 2020, thanks to the continued investments by the DeSantis Administration to expedite the restoration of the Apalachicola Bay Ecosystem. Over the last two decades, bay-wide declines in the oyster reef resulted in a reduction of oyster populations that led to a closure in the area in 2020. Since 2019, over \$38 million has been invested in projects to expedite the restoration of a sustainable oyster industry.

At their November 2025 Commission Meeting, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission approved a revised oyster management plan for Apalachicola Bay and established new annual seasons based on oyster abundance. This opening is possible due to the restoration of oyster reefs in the bay.

Commercial and recreational applications for the initial 2026 harvest season were accepted Nov. 10 – Dec. 16. For



Oystermen on Apalachicola Bay in 2022.

the Jan. 1 season, those who were approved for commercial endorsements received a share of roughly 4,700 bags available for harvest. Apalachicola Bay Recreational Opportunity Permit holders may harvest one bag for the season.

"Tomorrow marks the beginning of a new year, and a new beginning with the reopening of the Apalachicola Bay, which has served as a vital estuary for decades," said FWC Executive Director Roger Young. "We are grateful for the dedication and support provided by Governor DeSantis, the Florida Legislature, FWC Commissioners and staff, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Franklin County, the Partnership for a Resilient Apalachicola Bay, the State University System, State Agencies, oyster harvesters and other stakeholders and

the local community. Everyone has worked very hard to bring back this ecologically and culturally important resource and the oyster industry that benefits the communities and the economy."

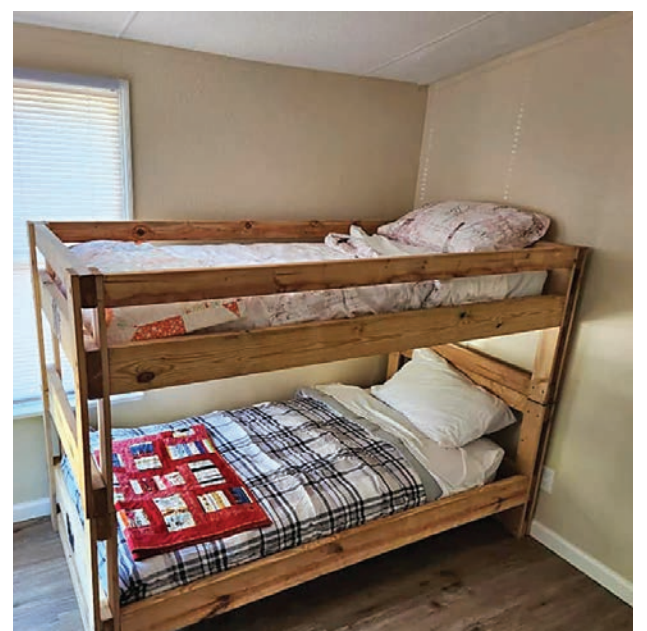
Apalachicola Bay's oyster industry has defined Franklin County and Florida's Central Panhandle for generations, both culturally and economically. Harvest from Apalachicola Bay once dominated Florida's commercial oyster fishery and represented a significant share of national wild oyster production. At its peak, Apalachicola accounted for approximately 90% of Florida's commercial oyster landings and about 10% of the commercially harvested wild oysters sold in the United States. Apalachicola Bay is an iconic, name-brand fishery.

The Apalachicola Bay

oyster fishery experienced a collapse in 2013. Starting in 2013, the FWC issued 20 executive orders (EOs) to reduce harvest pressure in Apalachicola Bay in response to the collapse. An EO closed oyster harvest in the Bay in 2020, which was followed by rulemaking to implement a five-year closure beginning in 2021. This was done to give the oyster reefs time to recover from continued low abundance following the fishery's collapse. During this time, FWC initiated intensive monitoring and, along with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, undertook restoration efforts with funds provided by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and later by the Governor and Legislature. The restored reefs are currently the only locations in the bay with oyster abundance that can support harvest.

FWC will continue to monitor the oyster resource in Apalachicola Bay and will set harvest levels for each season based upon oyster abundance. After this Jan. 1 season concludes, the next season will be Oct. 1 to Feb. 28, 2027.

For more information on commercial oyster harvest regulations, visit MyFWC.com/fishing/saltwater/commercial/oysters/



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The Wakulla Sun
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The Wakulla Sun

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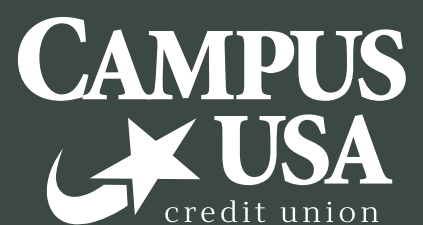
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Membership is open to anyone in Wakulla county.²

Offer subject to change without notice. 1. \$25,000 minimum deposit. APY assumes interest remains on deposit until maturity. Annual Percentage Yield (APY) effective 1/1/2026. Penalty for early certificate withdrawal, which may reduce earnings. Ask any CAMPUS representative for more information about applicable fees and terms. Deposits are federally insured up to \$250,000 by the National Credit Union Administration, a U.S. Government Agency. 2. Credit approval and initial \$5 deposit required.

Borosky makes Dean's List at Belmont

Special to The Sun

NASHVILLE – Katlynnne Borosky of Crawfordville was among over half of Belmont University's undergraduate students named to the fall 2025 semester Dean's List. Approximately 55% of the University's 6,934 undergraduate students qualified this semester.

"The high percentage of students earning Dean's List honors reflects more than academic excellence, it reflects who we are becoming together as a Belmont community," said Dr. David Gregory, provost and executive vice president for academic excellence. "This achievement demonstrates what is possible when students pursue their goals in an ambitious, supportive



Fall graduation at Belmont University in Nashville.

community committed to the flourishing of all. It speaks to the dedication of our students, the mentorship of our faculty and a shared commitment to wisdom."

Dean's List eligibility is based on a minimum course load of 12 hours and a quality grade point average of 3.5 with no

grade below a C.

Located near the heart of thriving Nashville, Tenn., Belmont University consists of nearly 9,000 students from every state and 33 countries. As a Christ-centered, student-focused community, Belmont's mission is to develop diverse leaders of purpose, character and wisdom who possess a transformational mindset to make the world a better place.

CITY OF SOPCHOPPY

DISTRIBUTION TECHNICIAN VACANCY / JOB OPPORTUNITY

The City of Sopchoppy is currently seeking qualified applicants for a full-time Distribution Technician. Applicants must have a high school diploma or GED, possess a level 3 distribution license, or obtain one within 18 months as a condition of continued employment and possess a valid Florida Driver's License.

Application, position description and salary range for this position may be obtained by visiting our website at www.sopchoppy.org or at City of Sopchoppy, 105 Municipal Avenue, Sopchoppy, FL 32358. Drug screening and background check will be required. Applications must be received by **Noon on Thursday January 29, 2026**. The starting salary for this position will be based on experience and knowledge as listed in the position description of the City's Personnel Policy Manual.

The City Commission reserves the right to waive technical irregularities in any submission, to reject any or all applicants for any reason related to the required skills, knowledge or ability requirements and to agree to accept an applicant that in its reasonable opinion would otherwise not meet the minimum requirements if it determines those actions are necessary in furtherance of the best interests of the City.

The City of Sopchoppy, Florida is an Equal Opportunity Employer. It does not discriminate and will not tolerate any discrimination, based on race, nationality or national origin, gender (including gender identity), age or disability, as long as the disability limits the applicant's ability to perform the functions of this job,

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Sopchoppy, Florida will provide reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals with disabilities". If you are a person with disabilities who needs reasonable accommodation to participate in this process, please reply to Ashley.Schilling@Sopchoppy.org to arrange the appropriate accommodation.

January 8, 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@craarchitects.com

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

Mr. Michael Barwick

Chief of Facilities and Maintenance

Wakulla County School Board

Post Office Box 100, Crawfordville, FL 32327

and be marked:

1. Bids for 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

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.



An additional Public Notice appears on Page 5

NOTICE OF WORKSHOP

The City of St. Marks will hold a Wakulla Street Public Workshop on Thursday, January 15, 2026, at 6:00pm at the St. Marks Yacht Club at 36 Yacht Lane. This discussion is regarding public land owned by the City of St. Marks.

Meeting materials can be found on the cityofstmarks.com website under the Government tab > Agenda & Minutes.

For additional information please call the City of St. Marks at 850-320-5220.

January 8, 2026

UF | IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE WAKULLA 4-H

Thursday,
January 29,
2026

5:30-9:30 PM

Clover
GALA

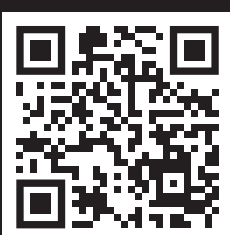
A celebration with community partners & volunteers
at The Lodge at Wakulla Springs

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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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.”

LETTERS FROM READERS

Sopchoppy history to be subject of program

Editor, The Sun:

Robert Seidler will speak about the history of Sopchoppy at the Wakulla County Historical Society meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 13 at 6 p.m. in the iconic Sopchoppy gymnasium!

Robert is a filmmaker/entrepreneur/speaker who loves Florida, its nature, and its history.

Originally from Pinellas County Robert moved to Tallahassee in 1975 to attend college and never left.

He began his career with PBS in 1978 and formed Seidler Productions in 1984 and since then has produced more than 500 programs and has received numerous state, national and international awards for his work.

Robert was awarded a 1999 Emmy for Florida the Outdoor Adventure a seven-hour nature based educational series for PBS that inspires people to explore the natural world around them.

Robert is the Founding President of Florida Bicycle Association, but also has a passion for hiking, paddling and wildlife viewing.

Robert is most passionate about water and is the proprietor and guide of Buckhorn Creek Lodge. Among his historical interests has been restoring local area buildings.



Robert Seidler

He instilled a love of the area to his son, who returned to his roots and owns a Sopchoppy business.

Plan now to come out and learn about the history of Sopchoppy on Jan. 13 in the Sopchoppy Gym, 159 Yellow Jacket Avenue in Sopchoppy.

For more information, call the Historical Society at 850-926-1110.

Brent Thurmond
WCHS

Auditions set for ‘Legally Blonde’

Editor, The Sun:

Wakulla Community Theater proudly presents “Legally Blonde-The Musical.” The story is about Elle Wood, who follows her ex-boyfriend to Harvard Law School, where she tries to win him back. She fails in that endeavor, but successfully defends an exercise queen, Brooke Wyndham, in a murder trial. Elle is able to surprise not only herself but most everyone else with her intellect and heart. This show is a comedy, has some mature themes, and has a lot of singing. Character ages are college level and up- everyone is welcome to audition!

AUDITION DETAILS

• **COMPLETE AN AUDITION FORM:** All auditioners must download, complete, and submit the audition form prior to auditions.

• **IN-PERSON AUDITION OPTION:** You may audition in-person at the Sopchoppy Auditorium (164 Yellow Jacket Ave, Sopchoppy) on Thursday, January 22/7:00 pm.

• **VIRTUAL AUDITION OPTION:** You may submit a virtual audition between Jan. 12 and Jan. 20 us-

ing this submission form. Submit a short monologue and song to Wakulla.theater@gmail.com.

• **CALLBACKS:** Callbacks will be held at the Sopchoppy Auditorium on Jan. 26 at 7 p.m. In-person callbacks are required for casting in this show.

• **CAST ANNOUNCEMENT:** The cast will be announced by January 29th.

• **PRACTICES:** Practices are held every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday with exceptions of holidays, spring break, etc. Practices will be held every night the weeks prior to shows.

• **SHOW DATES:** The shows will be May 9 & 10, and May 15, 16, & 17.

Sign up for your audition at www.wakullacommunitytheater.org

For additional questions, please contact Nancy Commander at 850-570-5463 or Mina Sutton at 850-879-0513.

Mina Sutton
WCT

Something on your mind?

Email Letters to the Editor to 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.

Library News

By **LINDA OAKS**
Library Director

Library News January 8– January 14

Thursday, January 8th
• Creative Writing I 10am

• Manga Club 5pm
• Functional 3-D Printing for Adults (Registration Required) 6pm
• Wakulla Amateur Radio Testing 6:30pm

Friday, January 9th
• Quilting Guild 10am

Saturday, January 10th
• American Legion Riders Meeting 9:30am

Sunday, January 11th
• Closed

Monday, January 12th
• No Programs

Tuesday, January 13th
• Book Bunch 10am
• WGSA Board Meeting 6pm

Wednesday, January 14th
• Book Babies 10am
• Wakulla County Garden Club 11:30am
• Mahjong 1pm
• Knitting Group 4pm

On the Horizon

Calendar of events for the week of January 8

Thursday, January 8

- St. Marks City Commission meets at the yacht club at 6 p.m.
- The Rotary Club of Wakulla County meets at the TSC Wakulla Center at 8:30 a.m. on Thursdays.
- Gentle Yoga and Stetching Class, every Thursday, 11:30 a.m. at First Baptist Church. Bring a mat. Come early to sign in. Chair Yoga participants welcome. \$2 per class.
- The VFW Auxiliary Bingo Night will be held at 7 p.m. at 475 Arran Road in Crawfordville, every Thursday. There are concessions and raffles.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. every Thursday at 54 Ochlockonee St.

Friday, January 9

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

Saturday, January 10

- Sleep in Heavenly Peace and Rotary Club of Wakulla will hold a bed build to provide beds for kids at the Wakulla County Sheriff’s Office beginning at 8:30 a.m.
- Sopchoppy Community Market will be held at Depot Park from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sunday, January 11

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

ry on Highway 98.

Monday, January 12

- Planning commission meets in the commission boardroom beginning at 6 p.m.
- Sopchoppy City Commission meets at city hall at 6:30 p.m.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. every Monday at 54 Ochlockonee St.
- Gentle Yoga and Stetching Class, every Monday, 11 a.m. Wakulla Community Center. Bring a mat. Come early to sign in. Chair Yoga participants welcome. \$2 per class.
- Line Dancing Class is held at Wakulla Dance Academy every Monday from 7 to 9 p.m. \$5 per person. Wear dance shoes or

tennis shoes.

Tuesday, January 13


- Wakulla County Historical Society will hold a program on Sopchoppy at the Sopchoppy Gym beginning at 6 p.m. Longtime resident Robert Seidler will present.
- 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 14


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

“It’s A New Day!”


The Wakulla Sun




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

Subscriptions to The Wakulla Sun
In County - \$40/yr. - \$25/6 mo. Out of County - \$50/yr. - \$30/6 mo.
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By donating, you help us keep citizens informed, hold officials accountable and cover the most important topics in our community.

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

That means:

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

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

We would very much appreciate your contribution.

William Snowden
Editor & Publisher
The Wakulla Sun

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

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

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

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



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– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

**Polled at The Wakulla Sun News Office:
What is your New Year's resolution?**

				
WILLIAM SNOWDEN Editor & Publisher	KRYSTAL SHEPPARD Circulation / Billing	JESSI SMITH Route Delivery Carrier	ERIC STANTON IT / Graphic Design	LYNDA KINSEY Advertising / Marketing
“To spend more time with family – especially my five grandchildren.”	“To live my best life everyday!”	“To have even more adventures...”	“To get out on the water more.”	“I have several small ones, personal and work related. If I have more than one, a couple should stick. Always room for improvement!”

Wakulla Crossroads

By **VERNA BROCK**

Ever have one of those nights, when sleep is elusive and the brain won't stop spinning? It happens to me more often than I'd like, and recent events aren't helping one bit. My children advise me to let go of things I can't control, and I acknowledge the wisdom in that approach. But to no avail. My brain has a mind of its own, so to speak. There is an old saying, rumored (falsely) to be a curse of Chinese origin, "May you live in interesting times." For the adventurous among us, that sounds like a

pretty good thing. Interesting times can be exciting! But in actuality, it is a sly call to bring chaos and calamity down upon our heads. What could possibly be more "interesting" than the day-to-day uncertainty we're experiencing? We certainly can't deny the "interesting" times we currently inhabit! Whatever your particular philosophical or political bent may be, we are all in this boat together. The previous year has ricocheted all over, up, down, and all around. We're riding class four white water rapids, hanging on for dear life, hoping to sur-

face for air soon. Events appear unmoored. Nothing follows precedent or tradition, and actions seem rooted in whim and wishful thinking. Now, as we have barely begun a brand new year, we awaken to news of an invasion of a neighbor with all the implications that accompany it. Most recently, I find myself feeling as if I'm trapped in a surreal game of "Let's Make a Deal" and wondering what lies behind doors number one, two and three. What fate, good or bad, awaits us in these interesting times? How likely is it that diplo-

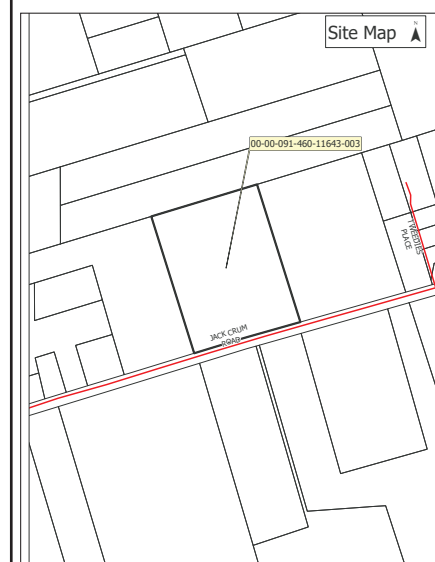
macy will overcome bellicosity? I've been around long enough to have seen multiple examples of unintended consequences brought about by good intentions. So on I fret, through sleepless nights, fully aware that it accomplishes nothing. My weak human nature insists on indulging in troublesome scenarios, fervently wishing I had the power to prevent my fears becoming reality. Eventually, I say my prayers and do my best to surrender my vexations to a Higher Power, until another day at least. But I do wish I could appreciate these interesting times!

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.

An additional Public Notices appears on Page 3

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

The Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners proposes to consider the following application and/or adopt the following by ordinance and has scheduled a Public Hearing before the **Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners on 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 OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING, REVISING, AND REPLACING IDENTIFIED PORTIONS OF THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP AS ADOPTED BY ORDINANCE NUMBER 2018-23, AS ADOPTED

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

1. Application for Comprehensive Plan Map Amendment: CPM25-04

Applicant: Adoption of Amendment to Future Land Use Designation
Tax ID Number: 00-00-091-460-11643-003
Existing FLU Map: Agriculture (FLUE Policy 1.2.3)
Proposed FLU Map: Rural 1 (FLUE Policy 1.2.4)
Current Zoning: Agricultural (Section 5-25, LDC)
FEMA Flood Info: "X" and "A" zones on Panel 0380E
Parcel size: 30.42 +/- acres
Location: Jack Crum Road, approximately 0.85 miles east of Coastal Highway, Lot 3, Gray's Estate Subdivision

Hearings Required: BOCC: Tuesday, January 20, 2026 @ 6:00 PM

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

Sopchoppy News

By **DJ BUTCH**

2025 has been an interesting year for me. I have grown a lot. We should all continue to learn, continue to grow. Get better every day. Small changes make a big difference. A lot of people make New Year's resolutions but don't stick to it. We need lifestyle changes not temporary fixes. The more we improve ourselves the more our environment improves. We all need work. Every man falls short. But with prayer and hard work you can do great things. I'm very excited about 2026! I have been really growing! Not only views and followers online but growing in other areas too. Realizing we need to live in the moment. The past is gone. We don't know the future... live now!

audio books. Read the Bible more, learn more. Video more awesome experiences that I miss sometimes. I want to be less bothered by any negativity. Keep pushing positive vibes. Spread more love. Give back more. More prayers, more patience, more letting God guide. I've learned I'm not in control. I want to do my purpose. Whatever God has for me, I'm here to do it. I asked for guidance and he has been taking me to amazing places and showing me so much. Sometimes we just need to listen and

pay attention. I'm ready for 2026! I saw a new roof going on the old gym. It is looking amazing. I don't know the details of the project yet. But I noticed it recently got cleaned up and now a new roof is going up so that is exciting. I love our historic gym. It looks like a castle. Made from local limestone, it is an amazing building! It is available for rent and has a kitchen and is a beautiful space! You can now get Yella Fly shirts at Sopchoppy feed store! They also

have corn and all kinds of other products. Local honey and great customer service! Stop by and check em out! Save ya a trip to town and support local. There is a show coming to Sopchoppy historic school Feb. 14th. The show will feature Six Gun South and Randy Johnson. Tickets can be purchased online at www.eventbrite.com by going to freedomjam2026. Memory Lane in Sopchoppy Depot Park will remain open until Jan. 3rd. This was a beautiful memorial. I really appreciate the hard work by Ms. Pollie Lawhon and Discover Sopchoppy. I was the DJ for Low Tide New Year's Eve party. The fireworks were out of this world. They put on an amazing show. I enjoy their events. Don't get me started on how great the food is at Trident. If you have not been you are missing out on an amazing experience! The view, food and service is top notch! I'm excited for 2026! I see many blessings coming my way. I'm going to continue to work on me and be thankful for everything. Happy New Year from Sopchoppy.



New Year's Eve fireworks at Trident.

Outdoors

outdoor sports

HOME ON THE RANGE

Newbie purchases ammunition



By MARJ LAW

Last Wednesday, while we were at the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office range, I ask Newbie Barb about her recent visit to a gun shop.

"I had to buy some bullets," she explains. "But when I got there, I saw shelves and shelves of boxes of ammunition. All I wanted was one box, and I wasn't sure which one to buy. The shop owner seemed nice and he came over and asked me what I needed."

"I need bullets for my handgun," I told him.

"Ah," he replied. "Rimfire or centerfire?"

"I thought that was a strange question," she says to me. "But then he seemed to understand I didn't know the answer to that question, so then he asked: 'What gun are you shooting?'"

"I told him I'm shooting a Ruger Mark IV handgun."

"Then you need .22 LR," he told me and he pulled a box of CCI .22s."

"Even though he was really nice, I felt too stupid to ask him what this rimfire or centerfire business had to do with bullets," she admits to me.

"You really should feel free to ask your questions at the shop. They are happy to help you, and will probably be helping you for years to come," I reply. "But now, let's talk about ammunition. You must have the right kind of ammunition for your gun. Anything else is dangerous and can hurt you, your gun, and people around you."

I drop two rounds into her hands.

"What is the difference between these two rounds?" I ask her.

"Well, one is smaller," she begins.

"Good! What else?"

"One is flat in the back. The other has a circle in the middle of the back."

"Ah! You're right! A part of the gun whacks the primer of a round. This sets off a spark that ignites the gunpowder inside. The gunpowder builds up sufficient gases to shoot the bullet out of the case to hit your target over there."

"OK, but get to centerfire and rimfire. What's the diff?"

"The difference is in the location of that primer you need to whack to spark off the gunpowder. You need ammo for a Ruger Mark IV. That's a .22 handgun. See that smaller round with the flat back?"

"Yep."

"The primer is located around the rim of this .22 round. After you shoot this round, look

Centerfire vs Rimfire



Centerfire has a circular primer in the middle of the base.



Rimfire has a flat base.

4 Parts to a Round or Cartridge



for its casing on the floor. You will see a depression on the edge of its back. Now, if you were to have almost any other handgun, you'd see the circular depression in the center of the larger round's case."

"I get it!" she sounds surprised. "So whatever gun I get has to hit the primer. In my gun, the primer is in the rim of the bullet, and in other guns, the primer is in the center of the bullet."

"Very good!" Barb has picked it up right away. "But, let's discuss the bullet. Actually, you're calling the 'round' like it's the bullet. It's not."

"Of course it is! The bullet hits the target!" Barb replies, somewhat offended.

"Yes. The bullet does hit the target. But see this thing you're calling a bullet? It's actually called a round. The round or cartridge is made of four parts. You know about the bullet. That's the part that hits the target."

"When you pull the trigger, the primer at the

back of the casing gets whacked. The primer sends a spark to the gunpowder within the casing. Exploding gases from the gunpowder push the bullet down and out of the barrel. The casing holds the bullet, primer, and gunpowder. These are the four parts of the 'round' or 'cartridge.'"

"So, I called it a 'bullet' in the gun shop. The guy there must think I'm stupid."

"No. He's a good guy. He knew what you meant."

"What's good about a .22 round?" she wonders.

".22s are cheap to make. When you shoot a .22, there is not much recoil, and not much noise."

"Good. I don't want either recoil or a lot of noise."

"A .22 will also help with muscle memory. If you shoot a larger caliber, you might anticipate a louder noise or more recoil. People often flinch and might even shut their eyes when antici-

pating noise and recoil. When you flinch, you jerk your gun off target. And certainly, when your eyes are closed, you're very unlikely to hit the target. That's why most new to shooting begin with a .22 like your Mark IV."

"So why bother with a centerfire gun which will have more noise and recoil?" asks Barb.

"A centerfire gun is useful if you plan on it for defense. The centerfire guns have more powder and larger bullets, so they have more power to stop the bad guy who has broken into your house. They also have better range."

"It seems like I need my Ruger to learn good habits of aiming and not flinching and it doesn't hurt that the ammunition is pretty cheap. But I think I hear you saying that as a useful defensive handgun, I'll probably need a larger caliber centerfire gun."

"If you can afford it, that can be a good idea."

"I'll think about it. Now, I've heard that dry

firing is another way to build up muscle memory. Do I practice dry firing my Mark IV every night? That means pulling the trigger without any ammo inside, right?"

"Yes, dry firing is without ammo. But don't do it! Please don't dry fire any .22 handgun. Remember, in rimfire guns, the firing pin of the gun hits the rim of your round. But, when you have no round in the .22 caliber gun, the firing pin will hit the edge of the gun's chamber wall. That can break or damage the firing pin and the gun."

"Then how do I practice at home if I can't dry fire?"

"You can purchase inexpensive snap caps which act like .22 rounds. They won't hurt your gun."

"OK. I'll practice dry firing with snap caps at home, and then go to the Sheriff's range to shoot with real ammunition. And I can shoot a lot because .22 ammo is so cheap."

"Practice is a good thing," I encourage. "Taking care of your Mark IV is a good thing, too. A small downside of the .22 ammunition is that it leaves a lot of shooting residue, and you'll have to fieldstrip your gun after a few days at the range to clean it well or it won't shoot correctly."

Barb sighs. "There's a downside to everything. Guess I'll have to learn to clean my gun."

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



BASKET STARFISH
(*Astrophyton muriatum*)

This living "spanish moss" of starfish, ranging in color for red to orange to black and white, is found in deep water gripping sponges and rocks. During the day it curls up into a tight ball to hide from predators. At night, it extends its net of tentacles to catch plankton, curling its delicate tendrils around prey trapping it. All starfish are radial symmetric meaning they spread out from a central point instead of a right and left side.

Eukarya, Echinodermata, Ophiuroidea, Ophiuroidea, Phrynophiurida, Curculionioidea

Gulf Specimen Marine Laboratory
www.gulfspecimen.org

WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO



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

Wakulla Lawn Ranger

Gene Darby

850-251-9122



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a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences

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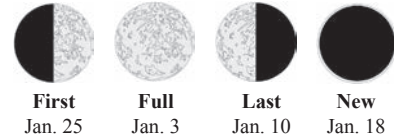


Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

Jan. 8 - Jan. 14



Tide charts by tides4fishing.com



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

Thursday 8	
Sun rise/set 7:34 AM 5:53 PM	Moon rise/set 10:37 PM 11:07 AM
Moon Illumination 69%	
Friday 9	
Sun rise/set 7:34 AM 5:54 PM	Moon rise/set 11:34 PM 11:34 AM
Moon Illumination 59%	
Saturday 10	
Sun rise/set 7:34 AM 5:55 PM	Moon rise/set 12:30 AM 12:01 PM
Moon Illumination 50%	
Sunday 11	
Sun rise/set 7:34 AM 5:56 PM	Moon rise/set 1:25 AM 12:30 PM
Moon Illumination 40%	
Monday 12	
Sun rise/set 7:34 AM 5:57 PM	Moon rise/set 2:21 AM 1:02 PM
Moon Illumination 31%	
Tuesday 13	
Sun rise/set 7:34 AM 5:57 PM	Moon rise/set 3:18 AM 1:38 PM
Moon Illumination 23%	
Wednesday 14	
Sun rise/set 7:34 AM 5:58 PM	Moon rise/set 4:15 AM 2:20 PM
Moon Illumination 15%	

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

St. Marks River Entrance

Th	4:48 am ▲ 2.7 ft	11:14 am ▼ 0.3 ft	5:35 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	11:54 pm ▼ 0.5 ft
Fr	5:46 am ▲ 2.3 ft	11:38 am ▼ 0.8 ft	6:01 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	
Sa	1:01 am ▼ 0.5 ft	7:04 am ▲ 1.9 ft	12:04 pm ▼ 1.2 ft	6:32 pm ▲ 2.6 ft
Su	2:20 am ▼ 0.4 ft	9:01 am ▲ 1.8 ft	12:40 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	7:14 pm ▲ 2.6 ft
Mo	3:42 am ▼ 0.2 ft	10:58 am ▲ 1.9 ft	1:47 pm ▼ 1.7 ft	8:23 pm ▲ 2.5 ft
Tu	4:52 am ▼ -0.1 ft	12:03 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	3:30 pm ▼ 1.8 ft	9:51 pm ▲ 2.5 ft
We	5:47 am ▼ -0.3 ft	12:41 pm ▲ 2.3 ft	4:56 pm ▼ 1.8 ft	10:59 pm ▲ 2.7 ft

City of St. Marks

Th	12:03 am ▼ 0.5 ft	5:24 am ▲ 2.5 ft	12:18 pm ▼ 0.3 ft	6:11 pm ▲ 2.5 ft
Fr	12:58 am ▼ 0.5 ft	6:22 am ▲ 2.1 ft	12:42 pm ▼ 0.7 ft	6:37 pm ▲ 2.5 ft
Sa	2:05 am ▼ 0.4 ft	7:40 am ▲ 1.8 ft	1:08 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	7:08 pm ▲ 2.4 ft
Su	3:24 am ▼ 0.3 ft	9:37 am ▲ 1.6 ft	1:44 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	7:50 pm ▲ 2.4 ft
Mo	4:46 am ▼ 0.2 ft	11:34 am ▲ 1.7 ft	2:51 pm ▼ 1.6 ft	8:59 pm ▲ 2.3 ft
Tu	5:56 am ▼ -0.1 ft	12:39 pm ▲ 1.9 ft	4:34 pm ▼ 1.7 ft	10:27 pm ▲ 2.4 ft
We	6:51 am ▼ -0.3 ft	1:17 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	6:00 pm ▼ 1.6 ft	11:35 pm ▲ 2.5 ft

Shell Point, Spring Creek

Th	5:12 am ▲ 2.7 ft	11:46 am ▼ 0.0 ft	6:02 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	
Fr	12:18 am ▼ 0.4 ft	6:08 am ▲ 2.4 ft	12:15 pm ▼ 0.4 ft	6:32 pm ▲ 2.8 ft
Sa	1:18 am ▼ 0.3 ft	7:18 am ▲ 2.0 ft	12:45 pm ▼ 0.8 ft	7:04 pm ▲ 2.8 ft
Su	2:27 am ▼ 0.2 ft	8:50 am ▲ 1.8 ft	1:24 pm ▼ 1.2 ft	7:45 pm ▲ 2.7 ft
Mo	3:44 am ▼ 0.1 ft	10:30 am ▲ 1.8 ft	2:18 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	8:40 pm ▲ 2.7 ft
Tu	4:57 am ▼ -0.2 ft	11:49 am ▲ 2.0 ft	3:31 pm ▼ 1.6 ft	9:49 pm ▲ 2.7 ft
We	5:58 am ▼ -0.4 ft	12:44 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	4:50 pm ▼ 1.7 ft	10:57 pm ▲ 2.7 ft

Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay

Th	4:40 am ▲ 2.0 ft	11:25 am ▼ 0.2 ft	5:27 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	
Fr	12:05 am ▼ 0.4 ft	5:38 am ▲ 1.7 ft	11:49 am ▼ 0.6 ft	5:53 pm ▲ 2.0 ft
Sa	1:12 am ▼ 0.3 ft	6:56 am ▲ 1.4 ft	12:15 pm ▼ 0.9 ft	6:24 pm ▲ 2.0 ft
Su	2:31 am ▼ 0.3 ft	8:53 am ▲ 1.3 ft	12:51 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	7:06 pm ▲ 1.9 ft
Mo	3:53 am ▼ 0.1 ft	10:50 am ▲ 1.4 ft	1:58 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	8:15 pm ▲ 1.9 ft
Tu	5:03 am ▼ -0.1 ft	11:55 am ▲ 1.5 ft	3:41 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	9:43 pm ▲ 1.9 ft
We	5:58 am ▼ -0.2 ft	12:33 pm ▲ 1.7 ft	5:07 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	10:51 pm ▲ 2.0 ft

St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.

Th	5:05 am ▲ 2.0 ft	11:34 am ▼ 0.0 ft	5:54 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	
Fr	12:20 am ▼ 0.3 ft	6:13 am ▲ 1.7 ft	12:07 pm ▼ 0.4 ft	6:23 pm ▲ 2.0 ft
Sa	1:27 am ▼ 0.1 ft	7:34 am ▲ 1.4 ft	12:40 pm ▼ 0.8 ft	6:56 pm ▲ 2.1 ft
Su	2:38 am ▼ 0.0 ft	9:22 am ▲ 1.3 ft	1:18 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	7:37 pm ▲ 2.1 ft
Mo	3:49 am ▼ -0.2 ft	11:29 am ▲ 1.4 ft	2:21 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	8:28 pm ▲ 2.0 ft
Tu	4:51 am ▼ -0.4 ft	12:49 pm ▲ 1.5 ft	3:55 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	9:27 pm ▲ 2.1 ft
We	5:44 am ▼ -0.6 ft	1:27 pm ▲ 1.6 ft	5:08 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	10:25 pm ▲ 2.1 ft

Dog Island West End

Th	5:04 am ▲ 1.6 ft	11:41 am ▼ 0.0 ft	6:04 pm ▲ 1.8 ft	
Fr	12:40 am ▼ 0.4 ft	6:00 am ▲ 1.3 ft	12:04 pm ▼ 0.4 ft	6:26 pm ▲ 1.8 ft
Sa	1:43 am ▼ 0.2 ft	7:21 am ▲ 1.0 ft	12:20 pm ▼ 0.7 ft	6:53 pm ▲ 1.8 ft
Su	2:53 am ▼ 0.1 ft	10:13 am ▲ 1.0 ft	12:16 pm ▼ 0.9 ft	7:30 pm ▲ 1.8 ft
Mo	3:59 am ▼ -0.1 ft	8:22 am ▲ 1.8 ft		
Tu	5:04 am ▼ -0.3 ft	9:16 pm ▲ 1.8 ft		
We	6:03 am ▼ -0.5 ft	10:07 pm ▲ 1.9 ft		

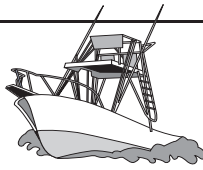
Thursday 8	Major Times 3:56 AM 4:17 PM	Minor Times 10:37 AM 10:07 PM
Friday 9	Major Times 4:38 AM 4:58 PM	Minor Times 11:04 AM 11:04 PM
Saturday 10	Major Times 5:19 AM 5:40 PM	Minor Times 12:00 AM 11:31 AM
Sunday 11	Major Times 6:01 AM 6:22 PM	Minor Times 12:55 AM 12:00 PM
Monday 12	Major Times 6:44 AM 7:07 PM	Minor Times 1:51 AM 12:32 PM
Tuesday 13	Major Times 7:30 AM 7:54 PM	Minor Times 2:48 AM 1:08 PM
Wednesday 14	Major Times 8:19 AM 8:44 PM	Minor Times 3:45 AM 1:50 PM

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



Coast Guard Auxiliary Reports

By Carolyn Brown Treadon



Early in my Auxiliary days, I had the honor and privilege to meet Sherrie Alverson. She wore many hats as an auxiliary, but the one that connected us was the column in the paper.

Sherrie wrote her first article for The Wakulla News in June of 1974. In her words, "It was about four inches long, announcing the June 2, 1974 opening of Flotilla 13's Communications Center at Shell Point."

Except for the times when Sherrie was Flotilla Commander, she was responsible for reporting local Coast Guard Auxiliary news. In 2005, she asked me for help to contribute news from Flotilla 12 and I wrote my first report. We became collaborators, sharing news from Flotilla 12 and Flotilla 13. I have been writing since.

Toward the end of 2010, Sherrie's health began to require more

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

of her attention and in December of 2011, she officially signed off in her final column. At the same time, Flotilla 13 was disbanded, not enough membership to remain active. Flotilla 12 assumed responsibility for the AOR (area of responsibility) once covered by Flotilla 13. Sherrie continued to be an avid supporter for the Auxiliary until her passing on March 23, 2017.

The time has now arrived for me to also pass the torch onto another auxiliary. Just as charted paths can take turns, so

has my path. After 23 years, I have chosen to retire from the Auxiliary to pursue other interests. It has been an honor to have been a part of this column all these years, thank you for all being a part of this journey.

I know you will be in good hands with Emory Smith, who is taking over writing this column. As we enter 2026, I wish you all fair winds and following seas.

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 Hulst, Staff Officer for Vessel Examinations at steve.hulst@uscgaux.net

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

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



Underwater Wakulla

By Gregg Stanton

Calappa granulate: The Shameface Crab.

March 22, 2012

When I am offshore diving, whether in search of a meal or adventure, I am always watching the sea floor for creatures of interest.

No, they do not need to be food for me, wonderful entertainment is always appreciated.

The Shameface Crab, Calappa granulate, one of many species found around the world, is certainly entertaining.

But most divers never see this crab, which can get to be 9 millimeters long and 12 millimeters wide.

The claws pull up in front of his face, which is where this crab gets its name as it hides behind its claws.

But during the day, it is usually buried in the sand showing only the eyes and the tips on its claws, waiting for a meal, such as a hermit crab, to stroll by.

At night this crab is digging in the sand in search of mollusks or sea shells to eat.

Now the last time I tried to eat a mollusk, I had a hard time getting past that hard shell. I can steam the critter or shuck it with a knife, but this crab is not so capable.

Or is it?

The right hand claw is a perfect can opener.

Once pulled from the sand, a shelled creature is manipulated into place such that the modified claw is inserted into any opening and locked down like a vice-grip.

The shell is crushed and its contents immediately available to the crab. Next time you are out diving and you find spiraled shells (gastropods) that have been peeled open, this is the work of the Shamefaced Crab.

You Tube even has a short clip on the internet showing a Shamefaced Crab opening a cockle shell – www.youtube.com/watch?v=D0uhtT45Nhc.

You might think those poor hermit crabs haven't a chance, but they do.

Over time and a process of natural selection, hermit crabs that carry anemones (related to jellyfish) on their shells are rejected by the Shameface Crab.

Imagine putting an oyster to your mouth only to be stung by a jellyfish hanging on the shell. It has the same effect on the crab.

The crab soon gives up the anemone-carrying hermit crab in preference to one without the sting.

Folks who study these creatures have even observed hermit crabs searching for and placing anemones on their backs. It seems that for every adaptation in nature there is a counter-adaptation.

For those who don't dive (yet), visit the Gulf Specimen Marine Lab in Panama, where you can see and even briefly pick up one of these Shameface Crabs and inspect it at close quarters.

In cooperation with Gulf Specimen Marine Lab we are placing two 100-gallon display aquariums in our facility at Wakulla Diving Center this summer, to show off many of these creatures of interest. That way divers can get better acquainted with these and other seldom-seen creatures while they get their cylinders filled.

Come to the coast and share in the excitement. Feeding times will be posted!

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

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Need a boost to start or finish a project?

By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

I've struggled with time management all my life. On good days, I make steady progress. On hard days, I feel overwhelmed, discouraged and worn down by

the effort it takes just to begin a task. I often feel as if I'm failing at something that should be simple.

This reality humbles me more than I care to admit.

Do you struggle with procrastination? Do you sometimes need a little boost to start or finish a project?

How often do you look at a sink full of dirty dishes and feel instantly exhausted? Or you know you need to write that dissertation, but the sheer size of the project repels you.

So instead, you watch another episode of your favorite show or check social media – again.

Would you accomplish more work if you committed to just five minutes on a project? I magically find the energy to start nearly any task when I set my iPhone (or the oven timer) for five minutes and see how much I can do before it goes off.

More often than not, this is all I need to get rolling.

When I have several tasks competing for my attention, I make

a list such as: Create a call list for the next day, tidy up clutter around the house (not that I have much!) or pay bills. Then I rotate through them. Depending on how daunting each task feels, I set the timer for five, 15, 30 or 60 minutes. When the timer rings, I move on to the next task.

This also works for a job I dread, like filing income taxes. Rather than just staring at the piles of receipts and picturing myself working on them, I set the timer throughout the

day and make another dent.

God addresses the value of good time management in Proverbs 10:4 (ESV): "A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich."

The goal is to consistently make encouraging progress. Even if we don't finish the task, we'll go to bed feeling motivated, thanking God for what we did accomplish.

Could this work for you?

How much could you accomplish in five, 15,

30 or 60 minutes? Try it right after you finish reading this post. Set a timer and see how this simple practice can transform your day. Then visit TodayCanBeDifferent.net and leave a comment to share your experience.

You just might inspire someone else.

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

Moments to treasure, days to embrace

By **CHERYL CRUCE**

I continue to be amazed at the changing face of time. From the childlike, slow-moving days of the 1960s to the hurried pace of adult life in the 2020s, the second hand spins the moments away. There's no slowing down – just a constant forward move into tomorrow, and all that lies ahead.

The 1960s found me as a child in my parents' home, eagerly

waiting for Christmas morning and all the joy it brought. In the 1970s, I was stretching my boundaries and learning to stand on my own. The 1980s brought changes of marriage and children, along with the busyness of life I had observed through my parents' example. The 1990s were a whirlwind of movement, leading into a new century, where my children found their place in the rhythms of home and family life.

Through it all, family has been the steady thread weaving through these changing seasons. The laughter shared around the table, the quiet moments of guidance, and even the challenges that tested patience and under-

standing – all of these have reminded me that love endures, grows, and anchors us. Watching my children step into their own journeys, I see the cycle of care and connection continue, and I am reminded that family, in its many forms, is where life's deepest lessons and quietest joys are often discovered.

How many times have we said, "If I could do it all over again?" So often, we look back with longing or regret. But the lessons and missteps of the past cannot be undone.

However, we can step into today and tomorrow carrying the wisdom, grace, and hope we have received, trusting that life will carry us into new seasons and

opportunities yet to be experienced. Just as the hands of a clock never pause, each day brings an invitation from God: to step forward, notice the blessings already given, and embrace the gifts to come. Renewal is possible when hope is plausible, and hope is always waiting in the moments ahead.

This hope is not just wishful thinking – it is rooted in Scripture, which reminds us that each day is a fresh start and a gift from the Lord. It is through His great love that we experience His compassion. Even when yesterday carries regret, God's mercy meets us today, giving us the chance to begin again with hope in our hearts (Lamentations 3:22–23).

And this same God who meets us with mercy also calls us to look ahead with expectation. As Isaiah 43:19 tells us, God is always doing something new in our lives, and we are invited to notice it. Even in the midst of routine, challenges, or uncertainty, God is at work, creating new opportunities and opening doors we might not yet see. Each day brings a chance to recognize His movement and to step into the new ways He is leading us forward.

As we step into a new year, we can cherish the memories and wisdom of the years gone by – the lessons learned, joys, and struggles that shaped us. These reflections remind us of God's faithfulness through ev-

ery season. Yet we are not meant to dwell on the past. Each new year offers the chance to step forward with intention, embrace fresh beginnings, and live with hope and purpose. With God's guidance, we can carry the best of what we have learned into the days ahead, creating new moments of joy, love, and service – for ourselves and those around us.

You crown the year with your bounty, your carts overflow with abundance. Psalm 65:11

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

OUT TO PASTOR

Where in the world did last year go?

By **JAMES SNYDER**

It was New Year's Day, and I got up before The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. I poured my coffee and then sat in my easy chair to reflect on the day.

I was trying to get all the things in order I was planning to do today. After all, the Christmas holiday was over, and I needed to get back in the saddle again.

As I was thinking about my plans, a thought bumped into my mind. I don't have too many thoughts, but once in a while, one comes my way and hits me, and I'm not sure what to do about it.

The thought was simply this: today begins a brand-new year. I had given this too much thought recently, but last year is over. Today starts a brand new year.

What in the world happened to last year? And, where did it go?

I was getting accustomed to the year at hand and was finally writing 2025 on my checks. For most of the year, I wrote 2024. Now, a new year lay before me, and I wasn't sure what I should do.

Just then, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came into the living room, greeted me good morning and then said, "What are you

thinking about today?"

I looked at her and said rather soberly, "Do you know today begins a brand-new year?"

"What happened to the year we are living?" she asked. "I was just getting adjusted to that year."

She went and got a cup of coffee, then came and sat down, just staring at it. I knew exactly what she was thinking because I was thinking the same way. What happened over the last year?

One of the problems I have is this: Did I accomplish everything I wanted to accomplish last year? I'm not the kind of person who puts together a detailed New Year's resolution list. I used to, but I never could finish it, and some of the things on that list took me five years to accomplish.

I sat there quietly, thinking back over the past year trying to figure out what I really accomplished. After all, I've been retired for about four years so I have time.

Sitting in my chair with The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, I thought back over the year and tried to identify what I did. Was I busy? Did I do what I had planned to do?

Looking at The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, I said, "What do you think about last year?"

The living room was relatively quiet for a few moments, and then she spoke up and said, "I really don't know what I did during the past year. I've been so busy doing things that I can't remember all the things that I did." Then, looking

at me, she said, "what about your year?"

Last year had 365 days, and for the life of me, the only day I can think of is my birthday. Thinking about my birthday, I was trying to remember what I did that day.

Looking at The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage I said, "Do you remember my birthday?"

"Oh, yes I do. It was a wonderful time don't you think?"

Not knowing exactly what she was talking about, I tried to find out more. I said, "What was the best part of my birthday last year?"

I wasn't expecting what she came up with, but she did.

"I think the best time about your birthday was the wonderful present I got you. How did you like that present?"

I don't know whether she knew what was happening or was trying to trick me. I thought, and I thought some more, but I couldn't come up with what she got me for my birthday.

"That was a wonderful present you got me. I appreciate it so much.

Thank you for that gift."

I sighed very deeply, believing that I had ducked a bullet.

Looking at me with one of her infamous smiles, she said, "I spent a lot of time trying to think of that birthday gift for you. What was the best part of that gift?"

Of course, now I am in real deep water. I can't remember that birthday present. After all, that was six months ago, and I'm not sure what happened this past week. I gave it some thought and tried to remember, but nothing actually came to mind.

That's the thing about getting older: you forget things you should remember, and remember things you should forget.

I didn't know what to say, so I said, "The best thing about that birthday present was your thoughtfulness in getting me such a wonderful present. I will always appreciate you for getting me that present."

She smiled at me, and at least it worked this time. Or so I thought.

When a year passes by, it's not too good to reflect on the past. The

best thing is to appreciate the past, but then put the focus on the present.

This time of the year, my favorite Bible verse is Ecclesiastes 1:8, "The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun."

We think something

is new, and it may be new to us at the time, but there is nothing new under the sun.

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



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Obituaries

DEATH NOTICES

- Carolyn June Britt, 94, of Crawfordville, died December 26, 2025.
- June Cooley, 97, of Crawfordville, died January 5, 2025.
- Patricia Enomoto, 67, of Tallahassee, died January 4, 2025.
- Barry Mills, 67, of Panacea, died December 31, 2025.

- Sarah Tatum, 89, of Crawfordville, died January 5, 2025.
- Ellen Mae Walker, 77, of Crawfordville, died December 27, 2025.

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

Sheriff's Report

This report is for activity Dec. 26th to Jan. 2. There were 1,034 total calls for service during the week.

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 safe keeping.

- 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 meth and paraphernalia.

- Sgt. Heather Will and Deputy Meredith Sullivan responded to the 100 block of Mysterious Waters in reference to a citizen refusing to leave the property. After she was trespassed deputies offered to bring her to Wakulla Station Circle K. Before the transport she provided consent to search her belongings before entering the patrol vehicle. A meth pipe was located while she was being placed in cuffs.

SATURDAY, DEC. 27

- Deputy Aimee Hoagland made contact with a citizen at the 1000 block of Old Woodville Road. He stated on Dec. 26 his EZ-Go Golf Cart battery died on the side of the road close to his residence. He stated upon returning to

retrieve the golf cart, it was missing. Due to no evidence and no information available on the golf cart, He wished the incident to be documented for information.

- Deputy Zachary Godwin conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle being operated by a driver with a suspended license. During the stop, a small amount of suspected marijuana was seized from the vehicle for destruction.

SUNDAY, DEC. 28

- Deputy Meredith Sullivan conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for careless driving. The driver was in possession of a small amount of marijuana. The narcotics were seized for destruction.

- Deputy Rosa Sammons responded to Comanche Road in reference to a tree that had fallen on a house. Upon arrival, the scene was made safe and appeared to have no one present inside during this incident. During the investigation, it was discovered that the tree had been rotting from the inside, which was the cause of it falling and landing on the residence. The tree caused massive damage to the back of residence. This report was taken for informational purposes

MONDAY, DEC. 29

- A citizen reported an unknown suspect stealing a dishwasher from a newly constructed residence. He advised the dishwasher was delivered to Needle

Thrush on Dec. 11th. He advised the dishwasher was left in the garage along with other appliances. The residence did not have any power therefore the residence garage was left unsecured. The dishwasher was valued at \$350.

- Deputy Kory Smith and Deputy Jonathan Kilbourn were on proactive patrol in the area of Rehwinkel Road and Coastal Highway when they observed a subject on the bike path. Deputy Kilbourn requested a warrant check on him. Dispatch advised he had active warrants out of our agency. Upon making contact with him, he was placed in double-locked hand restraints. A pat down was conducted which resulted in locating 0.7 grams of methamphetamine. He was placed in the patrol vehicle and transported to the county jail without further incident.

TUESDAY, DEC. 30

- Deputy Dylan Buckhalt and Deputy Ian Kilbourn conducted a traffic stop for faulty equipment. Upon making contact with the driver and sole occupant, a syringe and glass smoking pipe were discovered during a consent to search. The items were secured and seized for destruction.

- A citizen reported an unknown subject using his bank card to make a purchase which resulted in a loss of \$499. He advised he contacted his bank to inform them of this incident; however, he has been having difficulties getting the situation

resolved. Due to these difficulties, He requested a report be taken.

- A citizen reported a suspicious male on his property stealing copper at approximately 11 a.m. During the investigation the homeowner advised he did not wish to pursue charges and just wanted the subject trespassed if located. After obtaining information on the suspect, it was discovered that he resided in Leon County and contact was unable to be made at this time.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 31

- Deputy Dylan Buckhalt and Deputy Ian Kilbourn responded to Tharpe Lane in reference to a vehicle theft. Contact was made with the reporting party, who advised he allowed his girlfriend to use his vehicle beginning on Dec. 26. He has been attempting to get the vehicle returned, but she has since blocked his number and closed off communication. He requested the vehicle be reported as stolen and provided an Affidavit for Prosecution. The vehicle was entered into FCIC/NCIC.

- Deputy Aimee Hoagland responded to Cloud Smoke Shop for a retail theft. Some \$20 worth of merchandise was stolen. A possible suspect has been identified. Case forwarded to Criminal Investigation Division.

- Deputy Austin Rivers conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for the registered owner's license being suspended. The driver was arrested due to recently being warned about his sus-

pended license.

THURSDAY, JAN. 1

- Deputy Zachary Godwin responded to Walmart in reference to a retail theft in progress. Some \$725 worth of merchandise was stolen. The suspect was placed under arrest and transported to the Wakulla County Jail.

- Citizens reported an incident at Donkey's in reference to two intoxicated males touching people inside the restaurant. Upon arrival a very intoxicated and irate male was located. After he was trespassed at the request of Donkey's staff he continuously refused to leave. While being placed in cuffs he began resisting and was assisted to the ground where he still refused to allow his hands to be cuffed.

FRIDAY, JAN. 2

- Deputy Aimee Hoagland responded to Ann Circle in reference to a fraud that had already occurred. The report-

ing party advised she received a message on Facebook from an account that she thought was a friend. The message was asking if she knew how to get an Amazon gift card online. She was scammed out of \$300.

- Deputy Dustin Saba located a wanted subject in the 2400 block of Crawfordville Highway. Contact was made with the subject, who was identified. The warrant was confirmed via Wakulla dispatch and the subject was placed under arrest. He advised he was in possession of suspected marijuana in his backpack. 5.6 grams was located in his belongings and seized for destruction. He was transported to the Wakulla County Jail without further incident.

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

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NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION OF ESTATE TO CREDITORS
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF WAKULLA COUNTY
FLORIDA CASE NO.: 2025-CP-121

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF JOHNNY MAKE REAMS.

TO: Names and all parties having or claiming to have any right, title or interest in the property within the estate.

This shall serve as a formal notice, pursuant to Florida Statutes section 49.011, that this case is pending in the Circuit Court for Wakulla County, Florida, court file number 2025-CP-121 the address which is 3056 Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville, FL 32327.

The date of the first publication of this Notice is January 8, 2026.

Attorney for Personal Representative: /s/ Paul E. Arnold, Esq.
FBN: 0060799
411 E College Avenue
Tallahassee, FL 32301
Paul@PaulArnoldLaw.com

Personal Representative: JOYCE PAFFORD
2350 Honeycutt Trail
Tallahassee, FL 32311

January 8, 15, 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

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).

CASE NO. 2025-CA-000138

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, 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.

Case No.: 2025CA000061

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., Quintairos, 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

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).

CASE NO. 2025-CA-000144

NOTICE OF ACTION

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

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

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

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

DATED this 15th day of December, 2025.

County Court Seal

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



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

NOTICE OF ACTION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA 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# 4D161835223 U & X, TITLE #6177621 AND 6177622 OR TOGETHER WITH A MOBILE HOME SITUATED THEREON.

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

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

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

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

NOTICE OF ACTION - CONSTRUCTIVE SERVICE

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

Last Known Address: Unknown

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

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

MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS:

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

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Amanda Driscoll, 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.

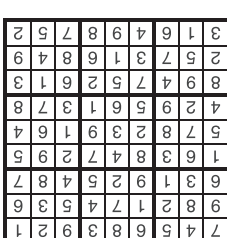
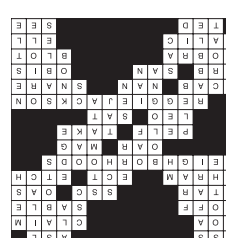
WITNESS my hand and seal of said court at Crawfordville, Florida 24th day of October, 2025.

{{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



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

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

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Former CIA
4. Language
7. Constrictor snake
8. Demander
10. Rich man
12. Short-tailed marten
13. Zoroastrian concept of holy fire
14. Superconducting super collider
16. International group of countries within the Americas
17. Sacred state for Muslims
19. Shock therapy
20. Engrave
21. Localities
25. Paddle
26. Periodical

- 27. Dishonestly gained money
29. Gain possession of
30. Actor DiCaprio
31. High schoolers' test
32. Mr. October
39. Sign of healing
41. One's grandmother
42. Entrap
43. One who simultaneously buys and sells
44. __ Francisco
45. Web-based data provider of marine life
46. Type of snake
48. Dark mark or stain
49. Member of the Salii
50. Former measure of length
51. CNN's founder

- 52. Witness

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Acquire
2. Console
3. Hunting expedition
4. Pie __ mode
5. Simple shoes for peasants
6. Eurasian shrub
8. Reciprocal of a sine
9. Work together in harmony
11. Grenade
14. File extension
15. Minute pores in a plant
18. Medal of Honor
19. Make a mistake
20. Advance slowly, as if by inches

- 22. Sandwich meat
23. An awkward stupid person
24. Strong tree
27. Commoner
28. Electroencephalograph
29. __ Mahal
31. Congressman
32. Disorderly crowd
33. 007's creator Fleming
34. Atomic #55
35. Part of a door
36. Short-tail martens
37. Baltimore ballplayer
38. Cuddle
39. Gang in "The Outsiders"
40. Of Croatia
44. Body cavity
47. Get free of

9x9 grid with numbers for a crossword puzzle.

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

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

Large crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-52.

WRESTLING

War Eagles get to 20-0 at Bobby Stanley Duals

By **WALT JACOBS**
Correspondent

The Wakulla High Wrestling team traveled to Cardinal Gibbons High School in Fort Lauderdale to compete in the Bobby Stanley Duals on Dec. 29th and 30th. The War Eagles went through the tournament virtually untested, as they utterly dominated their pool to advance to the Gold bracket on the last day of competition.

In the opening round, Wakulla steamrolled a severely short-handed Sandalwood squad from Jacksonville 72-12. In round 2, Wakulla wrecked West Boca 64-15.

During the dual, Matthew Thaxton reached a milestone by securing his 100th career victory with a pin over West Boca's Jaxon Clark.

In round 3, Wakulla faced Dillard, another team with a vastly depleted roster that gave up 7 forfeits in the dual. The War Eagles pummeled the Panthers 81-0.

Wakulla resumed their dominance in round 4, as they manhandled Miami Carol City 69-6.

In round 5, Wakulla defeated Coral Reef (Miami) 67-10. Wakulla had a bye in round 6.

On day two, Wakulla showed no signs of slowing down, as they defeated Flanagan 71-10 in round 7. Subsequently, the War Eagles shut out an outmanned Hollywood Hills team 80-0 in round 8. Wakulla closed out the final dual of their pool with a 61-13 victory over Southwest Miami's B squad.

Their success advanced Wakulla to the Gold bracket, which featured the top four teams still in contention for the championship. Wakulla won handily over Stoneman Douglas 80-0 in their first dual. The victory set up the match that discerning spectators expected to see all along, 3rd ranked Cardinal Gibbons vs 8th ranked Wakulla.

In the opening bout of the dual, Brayden Hodges pinned the Chiefs' Joseph Wilson in 48 seconds. Second ranked Andres Garcia of Cardinal Gibbons responded with a 19-4



PHOTO OF THE WEEK
SPONSORED BY
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Wakulla's Troy Thaxton vs. Matthew Acosta.

tech fall over Kyle Manzi, making the team score 6-5. With his pin over No. 7 Logan Bajor, Matthew Thaxton began a War Eagle assault that would go from 120 to 157. At 126 pounds, William Harvey majored Jake Arnesen 12-3. Patrick Cooksey pinned Maverick Peugh early in the second period to extend the War Eagles lead.

At 138 pounds, Brady Jackson picked up his 150th career win when he pinned the Chiefs' Jake Bigwood midway through the second period.

Aaron Robinson quickly disposed of the Chiefs' Enzo Amado in 28 seconds with his 19th pin of the season.

Troy Thaxton continued the War Eagles' onslaught with another win by pin over Caden Cagiano. Colt Sanders improved to 16-0 on the year and sealed the championship for the War Eagles when he collected a forfeit from Cardinal Gibbons. The score was 46-5 at this juncture and made a Chiefs comeback impossible.

With the outcome already decided, going forward, competitors were wrestling for pride, experience, legacy, and sheer entertainment.

At 165 pounds, Langdon Ramey pinned Wakulla's Clayton Manzi midway through the second period. Fourth ranked Issac Fayer from Cardinal Gibbons cut into the deficit by 6 with a victory by pinfall

over Cole Manning.

Wakulla's Gavin Mitchell secured Wakulla's last points of the dual with a 6-0 decision over Sebastian Ramirez. In the final bouts of the dual, Cardinal Gibbons' top ranked Mocco brothers, Peter and Michael, collected 6 points each for the Chiefs with pins over Blake Barodte and Lonnie Pearce in their respective weight classes of 215 and 285. The final score of the dual: Wakulla 49 Cardinal Gibbons 29.

With the win, Wakulla remains undefeated and improves to 20-0 in duals this season.

"We traveled, we competed, and every week this group is starting to look more like the team I know we're capable of being," said Coach Nate Litowsky.

Next, the War Eagles will compete at the FHSAA District Duals Championship at Florida High on Wednesday, Jan. 7. The event is currently scheduled to begin at 4:30 p.m.

LADY WAR EAGLES COMPETE AT PANHANDLE CHAMPIONSHIPS

On Jan. 3rd, the Lady War Eagles traveled to Lynn Haven to compete in the Panhandle Championships at Mosley High School. The tournament featured many of the teams that the Lady War Eagles will see in the postseason. Kameron Easter and Julia Baggett went

3-2 and 3-1 respectively on the day.

Easter's two pins and a technical fall garnered her with a third-place finish in her pool. Baggett had two pins and a technical fall as well and placed 2nd in her pool.

Coach Jon Sanchez raved about the duo's performance at the tournament, saying: "The girls wrestled tough. We were able to get a better picture of how we stack up going into the post season."

"One thing that is great to see as a coach, is you're seeing them work on adjustments during the week and then applying it at the next meet," Coach Sanchez said. "They're seeing some success in areas, as well as seeing things they still need to work on. I feel we're moving in the right direction."

This week, the coaching staff chose Julia Baggett as their wrestler of the week. Sanchez commented, "Every day Julia is pushing herself to be better. Right now, we

WRESTLERS of the WEEK

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Boys Wrestler of Week



JULIA BAGGETT
Girls Wrestler of week

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COACH'S CORNER

"Our guys are working every day and giving everything they have to be the best version of themselves. We've got a long way to go, but the work is being done and that's what matters."

- Coach Nate Litowsky

are on holiday break which can make it hard for wrestlers to stay in a routine. In addition to wrestling practice, she's going on runs, and getting extra workouts in. When she's out of town, she finds a gym so she can stay on track." Sanchez contin-

ued, "What's exciting, is seeing her improve against tough opponents. Each time she's closing the margin." Sanchez added, "Julia's able to see growth and use that as motivation to be a better, stronger wrestler."

22nd Annual Free Trees!
CRAWFORDVILLE
ARBOR DAY

Saturday, January 17th
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

AMERICA IS TURNING 250 NEXT YEAR

FLORIDA AMERICA 250 IN GOD WE TRUST

America is turning 250 next year, and the state of Florida is giving residents a chance to commemorate the occasion! The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles just announced that a new license plate, the America 250 license plate, is now available. Executive Director Dave Kerner said, "This commemorative plate reflects our shared pride in America's history and is a symbol of our state's connection to America's past." Unlike other specialty plates, the America 250 is an alternative to the standard plate and carries no additional fees.