



Wakulla wins 1A District 2 duals /Page 14

The Wakulla Sun

WAKULLA WeatherSTEM
 Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

| Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | | |
| Partly Cloudy | Sunny | Partly Cloudy |
| Hi: 50° Lo: 28° 4% | Hi: 58° Lo: 45° 5% | Hi: 66° Lo: 40° 14% |
| Sunrise 7:34 AM Sunset 6:00 PM | Sunrise 7:34 AM Sunset 6:00 PM | Sunrise 7:33 AM Sunset 6:01 PM |



\$1
One Section

"It's a New Day"

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Our 5th Year 3rd Issue
Thursday, January 15, 2026

Makenna Maldonado is Teacher of the Year



Shadeville Elementary's Makenna Maldonado, center, as balloons drop with the announcement that she is Wakulla's Teacher of the Year by Superintendent of Schools Rick Myhre, far right.

Story & Photos By
LINDA ANN McDONALD
Correspondent

Superintendent of Schools Rick Myhre and the Wakulla County School District held the inaugural Wakulla County Teacher of the Year Gala on Friday evening, Jan. 9, at the Wakulla County Community Center.

The formal event celebrated each individual school's School Level Teacher of the Year and announced the winner from this selected group of teachers to represent Wakulla County at the district level. Winners from the district level can advance to be named the Florida Teacher of the Year.

Shadeville Elementary's Makenna Maldonado was selected and will be advancing to the district level. Maldonado was cheered on and surrounded by fellow educators, family and friends as her name was announced along with confetti and a huge balloon drop.



Shadeville Principal Tim Wheeler with Maldonado.

"I want to thank my husband, and my parents, for being here and Shadeville Elementary. I am going (to the district level) because of the teachers, students and parents - and I want to thank you; you are awesome. The glory goes to God, and I am blessed; it is a privilege to represent Wakulla County," said Maldonado when accepting her award.

Lori Sandgren, HR Director for Wakulla School District said, "The teachers are selected by peers, and we have interviews. We also have judges from surrounding counties sit in on the judging. Educa-

tors outside of the panel also judge and interview every teacher in a uniform manner and we tally up the scores to get the Wakulla County Teacher of the Year.

"We have this event every year at the school, but this year, Superintendent Rick Myhre wanted to step it up and make it elegant to give the time to these educators who deserve to shine."

Wakulla High School's Culinary Department, led by Ryan Warner, cooked and served an Italian themed dinner and dessert for the event. Items grown in their classroom's hydroponic gar-

den that was donated by the Wakulla County Rotary Club was featured in the meal for the event.

Wakulla County School Level Teachers of the Year include:

- Jessica Strickland of Riversprings Middle School;
- Cheyenne Hartzog, Medart Elementary;
- Jennifer Gilbert, Riversink Elementary;
- Kelli Bell, District Office;
- Kathleen George, Wakulla Middle;
- Amber Stallings, Crawfordville Elementary; and
- Erin Dunn-Caquimbo, Wakulla High.

Florida Department of Education's Teacher of the Year program engages educators in a year of professional learning and active collaboration through the Florida Teacher Lead Network, connects them within an alumni network to further their skill set, and provides opportunities to work with educators at events like the Teacher of the Year Roundtable.

Three jail inmates treated for overdose

The three reportedly OD'd on fentanyl, were taken to hospital for treatment

By **WILLIAM SNOWDEN**
Editor

Three inmates at the Wakulla County Jail reportedly recently overdosed on fentanyl or some other opioid and were treated with Narcan and subsequently taken to Tallahassee Memorial for treatment.

It's not yet clear how the drug was smuggled into the jail. There are reportedly requests for warrants for additional charges at the state attorney's office pending approval.

Capt. Brett Surace, public information officer for the sheriff's office, confirmed there were three inmates involved with "exposure to noxious compound," but couldn't confirm the substance was drugs until lab results come back.

Citizen blames commissioner for problems

Bill Catalina was critical on Commissioner Ralph Thomas, but there's no evidence of claim

By **WILLIAM SNOWDEN**
Editor

Citizen Bill Catalina was at last week's county commission meeting to blame commissioners - especially Chairman Ralph Thomas - for problems at the Wakulla Airport and not firing volunteer airport manager Steve Fults.

Catalina made the comments at the Jan. 5th county commission meeting during the citizens to be heard portion of the meeting. He went to the podium with a protest sign complaining about Fults.

Catalina complained that Thomas filed a complaint against him in July 2016 for flying a drone at the airport that reportedly interfered with a U.S. Air Force C-145 that was using the airfield for training exercises. Fults notified the sheriff's office, according to an incident report, but ultimately it was determined that there was no local ordinance prohibiting flying drones at the airport.

At the time of the incident, sheriff's investigators had a meeting with Thomas, as chair of the county commission, about the lack of an ordinance about flying drones at the airport.

While he met with investigators, there is no report of Thomas ever filing anything against Catalina according to records that were checked by The Sun.

At the meeting, Thomas replied to Catalina saying: "I will say you told a flat-out lie. I never filed any paperwork against you, never filed any accusation, never made any statements against you... I'm not sure if you're delusional or just a liar, but what you said about me is not true."

"I ain't lying, jerk," Catalina said as he left the podium.

Catalina has long complained about Fults, whom he blames for ruining the local airport for pilots with his authoritarian ways. For his part, Fults

60 beds built for kids who need them

By **WILLIAM SNOWDEN**
Editor

About 100 volunteers turned out Saturday morning at the parking lot of the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office to build beds.

The local bed-building event through Sleep in Heavenly Peace began seven years ago with the sheriff's office. Sheriff Jared Miller, a Rotarian, took the project to the Rotary Club of Wakulla and it has coordinated the builds for the past four years.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace is a national non-profit with a chapter in Tallahassee that's mission is to give kids who are sleeping on the floor a bed of their own.

Sheriff Miller said that a donor, who wished to remain anonymous, came to the sheriff's office on Friday to give a check for \$10,000 for



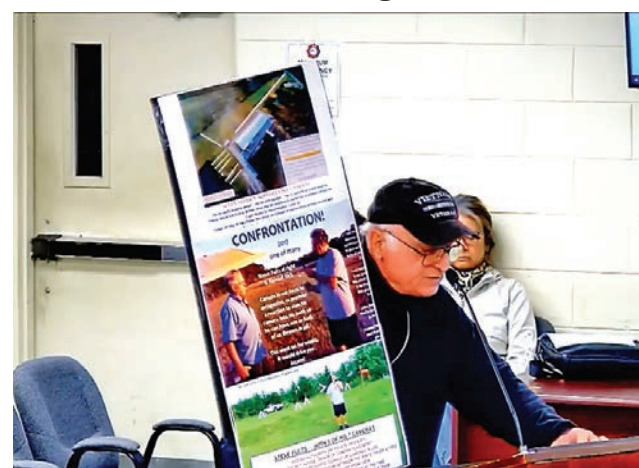
Volunteers at Saturday's bed build, above; at right, Sheriff Jared Miller with a \$10,000 check.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace. This year's event featured volunteers from the local Rotary Club as well as the Tallahassee Rotary Club, plus support from Cone Distributing and local civic organizations.

Turn to Page 9



Turn to Page 9



Citizen Bill Catalina appeared at the county commission meeting to complain about Commissioner Ralph Thomas' support of Steve Fults as airport manager.

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Student of the Week

Marco Junious Jr. – 4th grader, Shadeville Elementary

Principal: Tim Wheeler

Achievements/Reason for Nomination: Marco is a student that consistently goes above and beyond in both academics and behavior. He comes to class prepared each day, puts strong effort into his work, and never gives up when learning feels challenging. Marco shows kindness and respect to everyone, works well with classmates during group activities, and is always willing to help others or offer encouragement, making him a great Table Captain. He follows classroom expectations, makes responsible choices, and sets a positive example for his peers, making Marco truly deserving of this recognition.

– Teachers Mrs. Kimberly Morgan & Mrs. Angel Smith

“Way to go, Marco! Your hard work is paying off, and we couldn't be prouder! #GreatJob #KeepCrushingIt”

– Principal Tim Wheeler



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Lisa Craze, CFC
Wakulla County Tax Collector

AMERICA IS TURNING 250 NEXT YEAR

AMERICA IS TURNING 250 NEXT YEAR

FLORIDA SAMPLER 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.

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SARA ROBINSON
LEE TAFF
ADAM LASSITER
CASSIE JOHNSON

A Busy and Beautiful Week



**BY TAMMIE NASON
KWCB**

It was a week full of community spirit, volunteer power, and fun for Keep Wakulla County Beautiful. From fundraising and fellowship to hands on cleanup efforts, the past week showcased just how much can be accomplished when residents come together with a shared love for Wakulla County.

One of the highlights of the week was KWCB's Plant Bingo fundraiser, affectionately themed Grannies and Planties, held at the Palaver Tree Theater. About 40 players attended the event, enjoying an afternoon of fun while supporting KWCB's mission. Instead of traditional prizes, winners selected from a wide variety of plants, and no one left empty handed.

The majority of the plants were generously donated by White Squirrel Nursery in Panacea. Additional plants and cuttings were provided by KWCB board member Erica Morse, who has an extensive plant collection and a deep knowledge of gardening. Erica shared beautiful cuttings that

were distributed to everyone who attended. Participants also brought plants to share, earning a free round of bingo and adding to an impressive selection that included some truly amazing and rare plants.

Earlier in the day, KWCB board members Christina Sanabria and Debbie Singletary were tackling a challenging cleanup behind the Circle K near the high school. The area was heavily littered, and the trash bags collected were so heavy they were difficult to carry to the dumpster, highlighting both the severity of the issue and the dedication of the volunteers. Five large black garbage bags were filled just in this area.

Community partners were also out making a difference. The American Legion Post 114 was out doing beautiful things, collecting trash along Spring Creek Hwy. Wakulla 4 H youth and volunteers held a road cleanup on Songbird Avenue into The Hammocks, showing what a great group of young leaders and community

members can accomplish together.

Volunteers and Adopt a Road adopters play a critical role in maintaining the beauty, safety, and environmental health of Wakulla County. Their efforts help prevent pollution, protect wildlife, and create cleaner roadways for residents and visitors alike. KWCB encourages more individuals,

families, civic groups, and businesses to get involved as Adopt a Road adopters and be part of the solution.

Planning is also underway for Mudbugs and Music, the popular Crawfish Cookoff. Anyone interested in competing, volunteering, or being a vendor is encouraged to contact Keep Wakulla County Beautiful at labeautiful@gmail.com

or reach out to Executive Director Tammie Nason at 850-274-0767.

From plants and bingo cards to roadways

and cleanup crews, this past week was a strong reminder that when the community steps up, Wakulla truly shines.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Wakulla County Special Magistrate will hold a **Public Hearing On February 6, 2026 at 9:00 am** in the Wakulla County Courthouse, Courtroom B, 3056 Crawfordville Hwy., Crawfordville, FL 32327.

Interested parties are invited to attend and participate.

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

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

January 15, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICES:

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



Notice of Public Meeting:

The Wakulla County Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group is holding a Public Meeting on Thursday, January 29, 2026, at 9:00 A.M. in the Wakulla County Community Center (Wakulla Room), 318 Shadeville Rd, Crawfordville, FL, (850) 926-3695. Interested parties are invited to attend and participate.

Purpose of Meeting:

To discuss updates to the Local Mitigation Strategy, which is a comprehensive, coordinated planning document utilized to decrease the County's vulnerabilities to natural and man-made hazards.

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

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January 15, 2026

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PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE WAKULLA 4-H

Thursday,
January 29,
2026

Clover
GALA

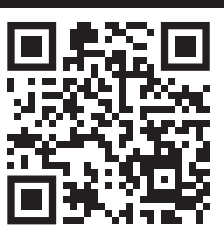
A celebration with community partners & volunteers
at The Lodge at Wakulla Springs

Suggested Attire: Formal

5:30 - 9:30 PM

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) is an Equal Opportunity Institution

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

Free trees for Arbor Day on Saturday

Editor, The Sun:

On January 17th, the annual Crawfordville Arbor Day festival will feature its signature tree giveaway and much more. Even if you have no need for a tree, plan a visit to Hudson Park between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. this Saturday.

Families will enjoy the children’s activities that include a petting zoo, marine touch tanks, face painting, and an art contest. Look for the trailers and tents offering tasty foods, artisan pantry staples, baked goods, and hot and cold beverages to sample onsite or take home.

Visit interesting educational exhibits and talented artisan and craft vendor tents as well. More

than 50 vendors and exhibitors are expected. Don’t miss the raffle table with a Meyer lemon tree and more. Raffle tickets are \$1 or 6 for \$5.

If you have room in your yard for a tree, choose from among 24 kinds of large and small trees ranging from red maple to redbud to red cedar. Each person may take home 1 free tree. Kids, too. After 12:30 p.m., remaining trees will be available in any quantity for a requested donation of \$4 per tree. Nearly 1,000 trees in 1-gallon pots and 1,000 pine seedlings are looking for homes

Lynn Artz
Arbor Day Festival

Gulf Specimen forced to remove sign

Editor, The Sun:

For at least 30 years Gulf Specimen Marine Lab’s main sign on Highway 98, located on a parcel next to the Panacea Plaza Shopping center, has directed school buses to Clark Drive where the aquarium is located. Recently this parcel was purchased by the Panacea Waterfronts Partnership which told us remove our sign immediately.

We acknowledged that Panacea Waterfronts Florida now owns the property and has the right to tell us to remove our sign, but explained that we couldn’t move it right away because there was no place to legally put it, and requested time to find a location and acquire the necessary new permits.

We all agreed to meet on March 1st for continued negotiations on the deadline for moving our sign.

With such short notice we had no choice but to purchase an available piece of highway frontage property at the intersection of Palmdale Street and Highway 98. The lot is heavily wooded, which will regretfully have to remove some trees

and undergrowth so our sign can be clearly seen from the highway. In keeping with our long-standing fight for environmental protection, we are bringing in forestry and landscape experts to minimize the loss of trees and wildlife habitat.

Even so, FDOT ordinances and county rules allow businesses located directly on the highway to display their signs, but prohibit directional signs for businesses off the highway.

If we can’t get the permits we will try to work around them by installing art displays. There are no regulations regarding art. Five years ago, we helped the Rock Landing Marina erect a 20-foot fiberglass Great White Shark and a 14-foot giant blue crab on their property at the intersection of Highway 98 and Rock Landing Road. These have become an icon identifying the turn which has helped, but it’s not as effective as having a sign with their name on it.

Jack Rudloe
President, Gulf Specimen

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 Jan. 15– Jan. 21.

Thursday, January 15th

- Creative Writing I 10am
- Veterans Meetup 11am
- Functional 3-D Printing for Adults (Registration Required) 6pm

- Cal Ripken Youth Baseball 6:30pm
- Wakulla Amateur Radio Testing 7pm

Friday, January 16th

- Quilting Guild 10am
- Career Source Employ Florida 2pm

Saturday, January 17th

- No Programs

Sunday, January 18th

- Closed

Monday, January 19th

- American Legion Post 114 6pm
- American Legion Post 114 Auxiliary 6:30pm

Tuesday, January 20th

- Book Bunch 10am
- Creative Writing II 10am
- Lego Club 4:30pm
- Fl Sarracenia Chapter of the Native Plant Society 6pm
- WGSA Board Meeting 6pm

Wednesday, January 21st

- Book Babies 10am
- Mahjong 1pm
- Knitting Group 4pm

On the Horizon

Calendar of events for the week of January 15

Thursday, January 15

- 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.

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

Saturday, January 17

- Arbor Day – .

Sunday, January 18

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

Monday, January 19

- MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY – Banks, schools, government offices and many businesses will be closed.

- Wakulla MLK Celebration begins with a memorial ceremony at 9 a.m. at the King Memorial on the courthouse grounds, followed by breakfast at 10 a.m. at Palaver Tree Theater on Shadeville Road.
- 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.

- Sarracenia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, 6:30 p.m. – Wakulla Co. Library. Lynn Artz will present a program on Pruning Made Easy. For a Zoom link email: Sarracenia.nps@gmail.com. Free and open to the public.
- The school board meets at 5:45 p.m. in the district office.
- County commission meets at 6 p.m. in the commission chambers.
- 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 21

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

Tuesday, January 20

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- More local content on the environment and local businesses

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We would very much appreciate your contribution.

William Snowden
Editor & Publisher
The Wakulla Sun

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"It's A New Day!"

The Wakulla Sun



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Polled at Keep Wakulla County Beautiful Plant Bingo – Palaver Tree:

– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

What is your favorite flower?



TAMMIE NASON
Keep Wakulla Cty. Beautiful

“My favorite flower is the Peonie. My grandparents had huge Peonies in there yard when I was growing up. One was white and one was pink.”



CADEN GRAY
4-H & KWCB

“I’ll go basic. I’ll say the rose, red roses.”



DEBBIE SINGLETARY
KWCB Board Member

“A Zenia, all colors. They are just so pretty and so colorful.”



KAREN ZAK
Wakulla Cty. Coalition for Youth

“Hydrangea, It is my mom’s favorite too!”



SARA SHADRICK
Friends of Wakulla Cty. Library1

“My favorite is a Magnolia, I also really like the Bird of Paradise.”

Wakulla Crossroads

By **VERNA BROCK**

Coming off several days of nursing four queasy dogs, I have given a great deal of thought to how genuinely lucky my pets are. Over the past year or so, we have been able to repair a ruptured disc in Beau’s back, treat bouts of Cushing’s disease, seizures, acute anxiety, a dysfunctional thyroid, address a beloved pet’s sudden blindness, and tummy aches.

In our case, said pets are fortunate to live with humans who can afford to provide medical help. It all adds up, monetarily speaking, and Ed and I are grateful to help them.

But I can’t help but ponder the plight of my human friends who struggle everyday to afford health insurance, prescriptions, tests, and specialists.

I know people who have sometimes had to choose between medicine, food or heat. I could share real horror stories about the desperate balancing act of juggling finances while lives hang in the balance (I won’t, since I know everyone can do the same). I’ve watched the cost of medical care skyrocket, the increases often explained as necessary to cover malpractice insurance and lawsuits. Which, in and of itself, is sad.

I can’t help but believe the richest

country in the world can do better when it comes to providing universal health care to its citizens. Despite our prosperity and amazing medical talent, America is the only westernized country that doesn’t provide guaranteed access to health care for its citizens.

It is my fundamental belief that no one should face financial ruin because of a serious disease or catastrophic illness. I also believe the system can be fixed, improved, and corrected.

Currently, our system is segmented, dependent upon private (often employer-based) insurance and public programs like Medicare and Medicaid. This results in millions of un- or underinsured families. Despite the billions of dollars spent every year, our country has the worst

health outcomes when compared to other high income nations, with the highest rates of morbidity and mortality. Clearly, the system isn’t working, it is blatantly failing.

I wish I had the answer. There really are other, proven, options. Somehow we need to light a fire under our legislators, so they’ll take the crisis in health care seriously, and find workable solutions. Lawmakers must answer to their constituents (we voters, The People), not the AMA, Big Pharma or the insurance industry.

Afterall, no one should need a GoFundMe app to pay their doctors.

I guess I need to make a few phone calls. Time we all make ourselves heard!

Sheriff’s Report

This report is for activity Jan. 2 to . There were 1,179 total calls for service during the week.

FRIDAY, JAN. 2

• Reserve Lt. David Pienta conducted a traffic stop on Coastal Highway for excessive speed. Upon contact with the driver it was discovered her Mississippi driver license was suspended or revoked. She was placed under arrest and transported to the jail facility without incident.

SATURDAY, JAN. 3

• Deputy Ian Kilbourn and Deputy Dylan Buckhalt conducted a traffic stop on a grey sedan in the 2600 block of Crawfordville Highway for an expired tag. Contact was made with the driver, who was recently arrested on for driving while license suspended or revoked (DWLSR). She was placed under arrest and transported to the Wakulla County Jail without further incident. A probable cause search of the vehicle produced 19.7 grams of suspected marijuana. The green leafy substance was impounded for destruction. The vehicle was removed from the scene

by Quality Wrecker.

• Deputy Dylan Buckhalt responded to Publix Pharmacy in reference to missing medication. Contact was made with the pharmacist who advised they were missing 50 capsules of Pregabalin. She advised she did not think the meds were stolen but she needed a information report per store protocol.

SUNDAY, JAN. 4

• Deputy Dylan Buckhalt responded to the sheriff’s office in reference to a fraud complaint. Contact was made with the reporting person, who advised he still has not received his tax return he filed in January 2025. He stated he filed the return at Jackson Hewitt and advised he has followed up with the office multiple times and has yet to receive his refund.

• A traffic stop was conducted for non-valid registered owner. Contact was made with the driver who had knowledge her license was suspended. She was placed under arrest and transported to the jail facility.

MONDAY, JAN. 5

• A citizen reported being scammed out of \$1,500. She stated she

was advised by a subject who falsely identified themselves as “Lt. Colbert” of the sheriff’s office to send the money for an ankle monitor for her daughter who is currently in the Wakulla County Jail. She paid the money via cash app as instructed.

• Deputy Austin Rivers responded to Walmart and made contact with Asset Protection, who stated an unknown male passed all points of sale without paying for merchandise. The merchandise totaled \$178. Case forwarded to Criminal Investigations Division.

TUESDAY, JAN. 6

• Walmart Asset Protection reported a delayed theft. The suspect who was identified passed all points of sale with \$43.39 worth of unpaid merchandise.

• Deputy Karius McMillan responded to Dollar General, 1885 Crawfordville Hwy., and made contact with the cashier. He stated an unknown male entered the store and filled a buggy with Tide pods and proceeded to exit via the rear entrance to the business. Case forwarded to CID.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 7

• A citizen reported a possible retail theft that occurred on Jan. 6 which was reported to him by an employee. He

advised after reviewing video footage, a black male was observed entering the store and collecting boiled peanuts in a Styrofoam cup. The male then entered the bait room and began speaking with other subjects. At the time of him entering the bait room, the cup of peanuts was not observed with the male subject. During the investigation, the reporting person advised there were blind spots in the store that the cameras did not pick up. He advised due to an employee being unsure if the peanuts being stolen or left behind, he wished for a trespass warning be issued to the male.

• Deputy Ashton William responded to Wilson Estate Road in reference to a theft complaint. Contact was made with the reporting person, who advised he believes he is missing \$2,000. He stated he opened up a new account at Campus USA on Dec. 15. During the visit he advised he had approximately \$270,000 in cash separated in \$5,000 increments. He stated he was taken to a private office with two employees due to the large sum of cash. During the count, one of the employees advised two of his increments were short \$1,000 each. He ended the deposit shortly after at the \$225,000 checkpoint. He advised

he could not see one of the employees during the count due to them being on the floor using the money counter machine. He believes the employee may have pocketed some of his cash. At this time He advised he is in communication with his attorney and will advise how to proceed further at a later time.

THURSDAY, JAN. 8

• A citizen reported at approximately 2:45 a.m. an unknown male came on to his property uninvited. He advised the subject knocked on the door, then left the property returning to the main road walking southbound. He requested this incident be documented for informational purposes.

• A citizen reported a suspicious vehicle at a residence that was supposed to be vacant. Upon arrival, movement was observed inside the residence along with windows and doors being open. Contact was made with the property manager who advised no one is supposed to be inside. Due to the residence being unsecured, deputies entered the residence to clear it. While clearing the residence, three subjects were located hiding in the residence and did not have permission to be there. All three subjects were placed in double-locked hand

restraints and transported to the county jail without further incident.

• Deputy Arturo Cordoba responded to Shell Island Fish Camp in St. Marks in reference to a vehicle theft complaint. Contact was made with a citizen who discovered his motorcycle was no longer parked in the parking lot. He last remembers seeing the motorcycle sometime between Dec. 16th and 20th. He has a tracker on the vehicle and it pinged at the 400 block of Arran Road. Deputies responded to the above location, but were unable to locate the motorcycle. The motorcycle was entered into FCIC/NCIC as stolen.

FRIDAY, JAN. 9

• Walmart Asset Protection reported a delayed theft. Two unknown subjects passed all points of sale with approximately \$800. worth of unpaid items. Case forwarded to CID.

• Deputy Austin Rivers conducted a traffic stop due to a stop sign violation and made contact with the driver, who did not have a valid driver license. The driver was placed under arrest and transported to the jail.

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

Outdoors

outdoor sports

HOME ON THE RANGE

The Heritage Rough Rider vs: the Taurus 942 M



By MARJ LAW

My grandmother was born in the late 1800s. She remembered the day the first Ford Model T roared into their placid small town. What a convenience! No more horse and buggy! And what wouldn't we give today to own that beautiful Model T?

Unless, of course, we have to go to Publix for a gallon of milk. Imagine travelling north on 319 on a Sunday morning in that Model T. Other cars would whiz around us, honking angrily at our slow pace. Yet others would slow down and gawk to see the historic automobile of days gone by.

So, no. That lovely old car would not be much of a convenience today. And that's true of handguns as well. Take, for instance the Heritage Rough Rider: a reproduction similar to the old Single Action Army revolver of the late 1800s versus the Taurus 942 M of today. Both can shoot .22 magnum rounds. But what a difference time makes!

Is there a place today for a .22 revolver that shoots magnum rounds? Last Wednesday, Joe

and I brought the Heritage and the Taurus to the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office range. How did we think we could compare them? The Heritage has a 6.5" barrel, and the Taurus only has a 3" barrel. Doesn't that longer barrel give the Heritage a huge advantage? Normally, we'd expect that the Heritage's much longer barrel would allow the gases more space to expand and thus give the bullet more impetus. We'd expect the rifling in the barrel would twist the bullet like a quarterback's flick of the wrist as he tosses a football. We'd expect it would provide more accuracy as well.

Won't barrel length and twist give the Heritage a huge advantage over the Taurus?

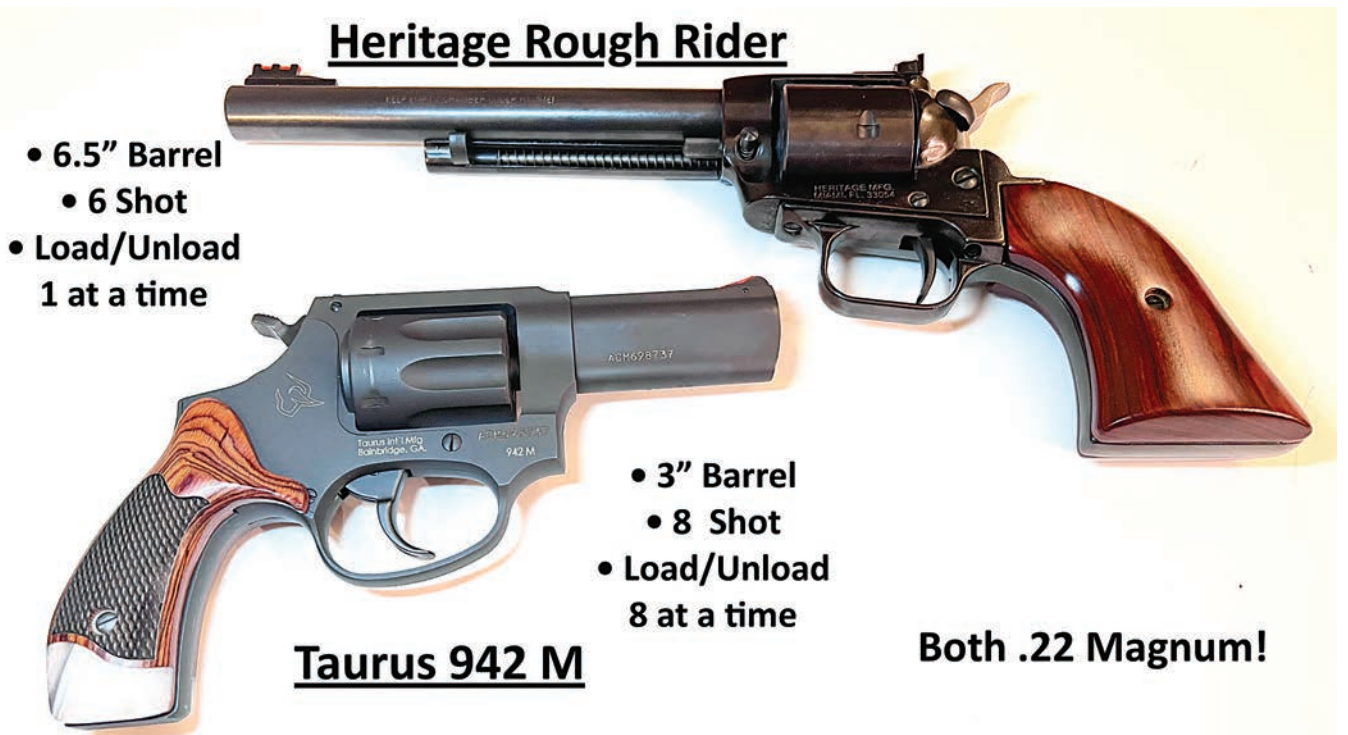
We load each revolver. The Heritage holds 6 rounds and the Taurus holds... 8 rounds! Wow. An extra 2 rounds in the Taurus!

Picking up the Heritage, I open the gate on the right-hand side. Half-cocking the hammer, I feed one round into the exposed chamber. To load the other 5 rounds, I leave the hammer at the half-cock position and rotate the cylinder and rotate the cylinder to expose the next empty chamber. After filling that chamber, I rotate the cylinder again and load the next round. This continues until all 6 chambers are filled.

Loading the Heritage takes some time!

The new Taurus is much faster and easier to load.

First, my right thumb



- 6.5" Barrel
- 6 Shot
- Load/Unload 1 at a time

- 3" Barrel
- 8 Shot
- Load/Unload 8 at a time

Both .22 Magnum!

pushes the cylinder release button. With my left middle finger, I push the cylinder out to the left of the gun. Now, all 8 chambers are revealed. I'm able to load each chamber quickly, then snap the cylinder back into the gun. All loaded, and it's ever so much easier than loading the Heritage.

We plan to shoot in single action only because the Heritage can be shot single action only, while the Taurus can be shot in either single or double action.

When we're ready to shoot each revolver, all we have to do is make sure the range is 'hot,' point the muzzle down-range, aim at the target, pull the hammer back with our thumb and then squeeze the trigger. Blam!

Shooting each revolver, trigger pull and trigger travel is light. Recoil is light as well.

But what about the targets?

Joe shoots 5 rounds with the Heritage on the right-hand target and 5 rounds with the Taurus on the left. All 5 rounds score nicely with the Heritage, but what happened with the Taurus? Only 2 rounds have hit well, and another round barely clips the target.

I pick up each revolver, shooting 5 rounds at each target. Again, all

my 5 rounds from the Heritage hit the target, yet I only get 1 hit on the Taurus target. Darn!

Perhaps that much longer barrel of the Heritage did make that much of a difference. Perhaps the Taurus was a newer revolver and hadn't been broken in. Perhaps the sights on the Taurus needed adjustment.

We decide to check the Taurus's sights. Joe takes my range bag and places it on the shooting bench. He's using it as a rest to keep the gun steady as he shoots. He aims carefully. He shoots. Blam!

Right on the target. Was it a one-time piece of luck? Blam! He shoots again. On the target.

The Heritage, a copy of a much older gun, shoots better today than the more modern (and shorter barreled) Taurus.

Then we have to unload the guns.

To unload the Heritage, we open the gate, half-cock the hammer and then push the ejector to eject the empty casing. Then we roll the cylinder to the next chamber to eject the next spent casing. We repeat these actions until all empty casings are expelled.

To unload the Taurus, all we have to do is press the cylinder release button and push the cylinder away from the gun. Then

we push the extractor rod and presto! All the casings fly out.

Clearly, loading and unloading the Taurus is far easier and faster than loading and unloading the Heritage. And, so far, we are shooting the Heritage more accurately than the Taurus, although we could see holes where we hit just off the 8" target with the Taurus.

There isn't a huge difference in accuracy, but there is some. Is it because the Taurus isn't broken in yet? Is it because it's difficult to see the front sight, which is just an uncolored ramp? We decide to paint the ramp with a bright nail polish when we return home.

But, what good is a .22 revolver anyway?

I've heard many guys say that a .22 is about as useful as a pea shooter.

"It has no take-down power," they say in disgust.

Well, the .22 has its place.

I like the philosophy I saw recently when surfing the 'net on the Sniper Country site. What makes the .22 such a great gun?

First, it's small and portable to have on hand whether you're hiking, paddling a small boat, or fishing.

Next, the .22 is a great

plinker. You can visit the Sheriff's range on a nice day, meet up with your friends, and enjoy a pleasant afternoon improving your hand/eye coordination.

Third, you can get rid of small nuisances like snakes with a .22.

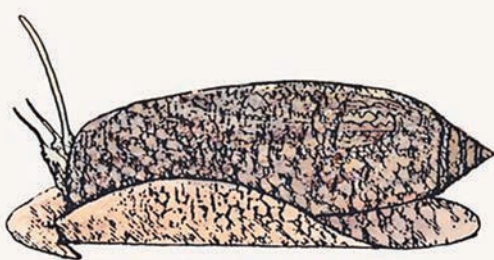
A .22 is a great teaching tool for someone who has never shot a gun before. It doesn't make a loud noise and doesn't have a lot of recoil. Trying to learn on higher caliber handguns can result in habits like flinching, which can take your aim off your target.

And last, a .22 can be useful for self-defense. This caliber may be all a person can handle. If so, a .22 is probably a lot better than throwing a rock. Tell that to David when he sees Goliath on the ground.

The .22 revolver has been around for over a century and a half. Just as new cars have conveniences the first cars didn't have, the .22 of today is much easier to handle than the .22s of the 1800s.

And with a little practice, we may learn to shoot it just as well!

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



LETTERED OLIVE SNAIL
(*Oliva sayana*)

The official shell of South Carolina, this snail can grow up to 2.5". The shell often has markings that resemble letters. It lives along the south eastern coast. A nearly identical species lives in Asia. It is a shoreline predator living in the sand where it hunts small clams. It burrows in the sand during low tide or if threatened. The female produces 20-50 eggs in transparent capsules which hatch in a week and live as plankton before developing into adults.

Eukarya, Animalia, Mollusca, Gastropoda, Neogastropoda, Olividae



WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO

Retired Wakulla Springs State Park Ranger Bob Thompson, on a recent wildlife survey at the park, took this photo of an Yellow Crowned Night Heron.



Wakulla Lawn Ranger
Gene Darby
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a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences

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Thursday 15

Sun rise/set: 7:34 AM / 5:59 PM
Moon rise/set: 5:11 AM / 3:07 PM
Moon Illumination 9%

Friday 16

Sun rise/set: 7:34 AM / 6:00 PM
Moon rise/set: 6:05 AM / 4:00 PM
Moon Illumination 4%

Saturday 17

Sun rise/set: 7:33 AM / 6:01 PM
Moon rise/set: 6:54 AM / 4:58 PM
Moon Illumination 1%

Sunday 18

Sun rise/set: 7:33 AM / 6:02 PM
Moon rise/set: 7:38 AM / 5:58 PM
Moon Illumination 0%

Monday 19

Sun rise/set: 7:33 AM / 6:03 PM
Moon rise/set: 8:17 AM / 6:59 PM
Moon Illumination 1%

Tuesday 20

Sun rise/set: 7:33 AM / 6:03 PM
Moon rise/set: 8:51 AM / ---
Moon Illumination 4%

Wednesday 21

Sun rise/set: 7:32 AM / 6:04 PM
Moon rise/set: 9:23 AM / 8:00 PM
Moon Illumination 8%

Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

Jan. 15 - Jan. 21

GO FISH!

Tide charts by tides4fishing.com

Best fishing days this month
Best fishing day(s) is in the center of date ranges.
Jan. 15-21, 25, Jan. 29-Feb. 4

Thursday 15

Major Times: 9:10 AM / 9:36 PM
Minor Times: 4:41 AM / 2:37 PM

Friday 16

Major Times: 10:02 AM / 10:28 PM
Minor Times: 5:35 AM / 3:30 PM

Saturday 17

Major Times: 10:55 AM / 11:20 PM
Minor Times: 6:24 AM / 4:28 PM

Sunday 18

Major Times: 12:10 AM / 11:46 AM
Minor Times: 7:08 AM / 5:28 PM

Monday 19

Major Times: 12:59 AM / 12:35 PM
Minor Times: 7:47 AM / 6:29 PM

Tuesday 20

Major Times: 1:45 AM / 1:23 PM
Minor Times: 8:21 AM / ---

Wednesday 21

Major Times: 2:30 AM / 2:08 PM
Minor Times: 8:53 AM / 7:30 PM

| St. Marks River Entrance | | | | City of St. Marks | | | | Shell Point, Spring Creek | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|----|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Th | 6:32 am ▼ -0.5 ft | 1:13 pm ▲ 2.4 ft | 5:54 pm ▼ 1.6 ft | 11:50 pm ▲ 2.8 ft | Th | 7:36 am ▼ -0.5 ft | 1:49 pm ▲ 2.3 ft | 6:58 pm ▼ 1.5 ft | | Th | 6:49 am ▼ -0.6 ft | 1:27 pm ▲ 2.4 ft | 5:56 pm ▼ 1.6 ft | 11:53 pm ▲ 2.8 ft |
| Fr | 7:10 am ▼ -0.7 ft | 1:43 pm ▲ 2.6 ft | 6:38 pm ▼ 1.4 ft | | Fr | 12:26 am ▲ 2.6 ft | 8:14 am ▼ -0.6 ft | 2:19 pm ▲ 2.4 ft | 7:42 pm ▼ 1.3 ft | Fr | 7:32 am ▼ -0.8 ft | 2:03 pm ▲ 2.5 ft | 6:48 pm ▼ 1.5 ft | |
| Sa | 12:31 am ▲ 3.0 ft | 7:44 am ▼ -0.8 ft | 2:12 pm ▲ 2.8 ft | 7:16 pm ▼ 1.2 ft | Sa | 1:07 am ▲ 2.8 ft | 8:48 am ▼ -0.7 ft | 2:48 pm ▲ 2.6 ft | 8:20 pm ▼ 1.1 ft | Sa | 12:39 am ▲ 3.0 ft | 8:10 am ▼ -0.9 ft | 2:37 pm ▲ 2.6 ft | 7:32 pm ▼ 1.3 ft |
| Su | 1:07 am ▲ 3.1 ft | 8:14 am ▼ -0.9 ft | 2:40 pm ▲ 3.0 ft | 7:53 pm ▼ 1.0 ft | Su | 1:43 am ▲ 2.9 ft | 9:18 am ▼ -0.8 ft | 3:16 pm ▲ 2.7 ft | 8:57 pm ▼ 0.9 ft | Su | 1:19 am ▲ 3.1 ft | 8:43 am ▼ -1.0 ft | 3:08 pm ▲ 2.7 ft | 8:12 pm ▼ 1.2 ft |
| Mo | 1:42 am ▲ 3.2 ft | 8:42 am ▼ -0.9 ft | 3:07 pm ▲ 3.0 ft | 8:28 pm ▼ 0.8 ft | Mo | 2:18 am ▲ 3.0 ft | 9:46 am ▼ -0.8 ft | 3:43 pm ▲ 2.8 ft | 9:32 pm ▼ 0.7 ft | Mo | 1:58 am ▲ 3.2 ft | 9:14 am ▼ -1.0 ft | 3:37 pm ▲ 2.8 ft | 8:50 pm ▼ 1.0 ft |
| Tu | 2:17 am ▲ 3.3 ft | 9:09 am ▼ -0.9 ft | 3:33 pm ▲ 3.1 ft | 9:05 pm ▼ 0.6 ft | Tu | 2:53 am ▲ 3.1 ft | 10:13 am ▼ -0.8 ft | 4:09 pm ▲ 2.9 ft | 10:09 pm ▼ 0.6 ft | Tu | 2:36 am ▲ 3.3 ft | 9:41 am ▼ -0.9 ft | 4:04 pm ▲ 2.9 ft | 9:29 pm ▼ 0.7 ft |
| We | 2:55 am ▲ 3.3 ft | 9:37 am ▼ -0.7 ft | 3:58 pm ▲ 3.1 ft | 9:44 pm ▼ 0.4 ft | We | 3:31 am ▲ 3.0 ft | 10:41 am ▼ -0.7 ft | 4:34 pm ▲ 2.9 ft | 10:48 pm ▼ 0.4 ft | We | 3:16 am ▲ 3.2 ft | 10:08 am ▼ -0.8 ft | 4:29 pm ▲ 3.0 ft | 10:09 pm ▼ 0.5 ft |

| Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay | | | | St. Teresa, Turkey Pt. | | | | Dog Island West End | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|----|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Th | 6:43 am ▼ -0.4 ft | 1:05 pm ▲ 1.8 ft | 6:05 pm ▼ 1.2 ft | 11:42 pm ▲ 2.1 ft | Th | 6:27 am ▼ -0.7 ft | 1:53 pm ▲ 1.7 ft | 5:57 pm ▼ 1.4 ft | 11:17 pm ▲ 2.2 ft | Th | 6:48 am ▼ -0.7 ft | 3:14 pm ▲ 1.5 ft | 6:15 pm ▼ 1.4 ft | 10:58 pm ▲ 2.0 ft |
| Fr | 7:21 am ▼ -0.5 ft | 1:35 pm ▲ 2.0 ft | 6:49 pm ▼ 1.0 ft | | Fr | 7:06 am ▼ -0.8 ft | 2:17 pm ▲ 1.7 ft | 6:36 pm ▼ 1.3 ft | | Fr | 7:24 am ▼ -0.8 ft | 3:25 pm ▲ 1.5 ft | 6:58 pm ▼ 1.3 ft | 11:53 pm ▲ 2.0 ft |
| Sa | 12:23 am ▲ 2.2 ft | 7:55 am ▼ -0.6 ft | 2:04 pm ▲ 2.1 ft | 7:27 pm ▼ 0.9 ft | Sa | 12:02 am ▲ 2.3 ft | 7:40 am ▼ -0.8 ft | 2:40 pm ▲ 1.8 ft | 7:11 pm ▼ 1.2 ft | Sa | 7:56 am ▼ -0.9 ft | 3:39 pm ▲ 1.6 ft | 7:30 pm ▼ 1.2 ft | |
| Su | 12:59 am ▲ 2.3 ft | 8:25 am ▼ -0.7 ft | 2:32 pm ▲ 2.2 ft | 8:04 pm ▼ 0.7 ft | Su | 12:43 am ▲ 2.4 ft | 8:12 am ▼ -0.9 ft | 3:03 pm ▲ 1.8 ft | 7:47 pm ▼ 1.1 ft | Su | 12:45 am ▲ 2.4 ft | 8:27 am ▼ -1.0 ft | 3:53 pm ▲ 1.6 ft | 8:02 pm ▼ 1.1 ft |
| Mo | 1:34 am ▲ 2.4 ft | 8:53 am ▼ -0.7 ft | 2:59 pm ▲ 2.2 ft | 8:39 pm ▼ 0.6 ft | Mo | 1:24 am ▲ 2.4 ft | 8:43 am ▼ -0.9 ft | 3:27 pm ▲ 1.9 ft | 8:26 pm ▼ 0.9 ft | Mo | 1:32 am ▲ 2.2 ft | 8:58 am ▼ -1.0 ft | 4:09 pm ▲ 1.7 ft | 8:38 pm ▼ 1.0 ft |
| Tu | 2:09 am ▲ 2.5 ft | 9:20 am ▼ -0.6 ft | 3:25 pm ▲ 2.3 ft | 9:16 pm ▼ 0.4 ft | Tu | 2:07 am ▲ 2.4 ft | 9:14 am ▼ -0.9 ft | 3:53 pm ▲ 2.0 ft | 9:07 pm ▼ 0.8 ft | Tu | 2:17 am ▲ 2.1 ft | 9:30 am ▼ -0.9 ft | 4:26 pm ▲ 1.7 ft | 9:22 pm ▼ 0.8 ft |
| We | 2:47 am ▲ 2.5 ft | 9:48 am ▼ -0.5 ft | 3:50 pm ▲ 2.3 ft | 9:55 pm ▼ 0.3 ft | We | 2:52 am ▲ 2.4 ft | 9:46 am ▼ -0.7 ft | 4:18 pm ▲ 2.1 ft | 9:51 pm ▼ 0.5 ft | We | 3:04 am ▲ 2.1 ft | 10:03 am ▼ -0.7 ft | 4:45 pm ▲ 1.8 ft | 10:13 pm ▼ 0.6 ft |

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.

FWC releases results of 2025 black bear hunt

From FWC News

After Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission staff presented options on highly regulated black bear hunting and the public provided their comments at the August and November 2025 Commission meetings, FWC Commissioners approved final proposed amendments to bear hunting rules, which took effect during the 2025 hunting season.

The new rules established Bear Hunting Zones (BHZ) within four of the seven existing Bear Management Units. Through a random drawing a total of 172 permits were issued across the East Panhandle, North, Central and South BMUs, and each permit allowed the harvest of one bear within the assigned BHZ.

There were 52 bears harvested during the 2025 bear hunt, which is a hunter success rate very close to other states with similar hunt parameters. All harvested bears were physically checked by FWC staff and bear response contractors, providing valuable data that will influence future management strategies. Analysis of the data collected is underway, and a full harvest report will be released in the coming months.

“The 2025 black bear hunt, rooted in sound scientific data, was a success. We’re proud to have joined the more than 30 states that manage black bears with regulated

hunting,” said FWC Executive Director Roger Young. “The limited number of permits issued in areas with the largest bear populations and other components of the hunt prioritized a conservative approach that ensures the long-term health of bear populations in Florida, while providing opportunity for hunters.”

“Hunting is an effective tool for managing wildlife populations around the world and is a key part of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation,” said FWC Chief Conservation Officer George Warthen. “It’s about helping bears succeed over the long term in our state and is a way for us to guide an iconic Florida species into the future, for their benefit and ours.”

The FWC Division of Law Enforcement allocated additional resources to support a productive hunt while maintaining accountability among participants. Increased officer engagement and hunter education led to strong compliance with hunting regulations. Out of numerous positive interactions between officers and hunters, only one hunter received a warning for a minor Wildlife Management Area violation, and no citations were issued. Additionally, the Division of Law Enforcement investigated all reported wildlife violations, and no wildlife violations were found.

“Our officers maintained a strong, engaged presence

throughout the hunt to help ensure it was conducted safely and legally,” said Colonel Alberto Maza, Director of the FWC Division of Law Enforcement. “While our officers were there to uphold the rules, the primary focus was education. I’m proud of our officers for protecting this important resource and supporting the goals of the agency’s Bear Management Plan.”

As one of the management tools included in the 2019 Florida Black Bear Management Plan, regulated hunting allows the FWC to manage population growth rates in areas with the largest bear subpopulations. Balancing wildlife numbers with suitable habitat keeps populations healthy. Hunting is an important and effective tool for managing wildlife populations worldwide, but it is essential to recognize that managing bear populations does not necessarily mitigate human-bear conflicts. Conflict prevention and bear management practices will still need to continue.

For more information on regulated bear hunting, including answers to frequently asked questions, visit MyFWC.com/hunting/bear. Tips to reduce conflicts and general information about bears are available at MyFWC.com/wildlifehabitats followed by selecting “Wildlife” and then “Black Bears” and at Bear-Wise.org.



Underwater Wakulla

By Gregg Stanton

Hose Diving.

March 29, 2012

Long before there was Self Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatuses (SCUBA), there was hose or Surface Supplied (SS) diving.

Breathing air was pumped down to a person at depth through a rubber pipe.

In the beginning, the pump at the surface was as primitive as the helmet at depth. Manually driven bellows similar to those used to stoke a smith’s fire, were constructed to manage the greater pressure required of the depth of the diver. One or two people would rock a lever back and forth, or up and down, driving a single piston in and out of a tube with valves at the end.

Attached to the other end of the tube, a diver would wear an open bell helmet a top his head. The surface supplied hose delivered air that kept the water level in the helmet below the chin of the occupant.

Sponge divers off Tarpon Springs Florida used just such a diving device a century ago. And Europeans used surface supplied breathing gas to salvage sunken ships centuries before that.

Today, Surface Supplied Diving is even more popular amongst the recreational diving community. They have gas and electric driven pumps to replace the manual systems, but otherwise the pumps are rather similar. The delivery hose looks like a yellow garden hose similar to the one with which you water the plants. At the other end, the diver or divers breathe from regulators similar to the second stages of their scuba brethren.

Most gasoline-powered pumps run for three hours before refueling; permitting a team of two a very long dive depending upon how deep they dive.

The yellow 100-foot long delivery hose floats, so divers stay within a 100-foot radius of the boat’s safety dive flag as specified by Florida Law. Other boats must stay 100 feet away from the red and white Diver Down flag.

I installed a surface supplied compressor on the bow of my boat. Others set it in a float that follows the divers around on the reef.

Imagine no heavy cylinder on your back, easy water entry and exits, and three hour dives.

These rigs are ideal for shallow water diving, lobster fishing in the Keys, scallop fishing off St. Marks, and keeping the children corralled near the boat.

I moved my children from snorkel diving to scuba through an intermediate surface supplied step. Of course I was in the water with them, and insisted upon training to national standards, resulting in hours of thrilling time underwater.

Last week the clam aqua-culturists visited our shop in search of surface supplied technology. They are placing their baby clams this month in waters less than 10 feet deep. They spend a lot of time in shallow water. I once carried the same 50 pound surface supplied compressor on my back five miles through the jungles of Palau (an island in the Pacific) to dive shallow lakes too distant to supply with scuba cylinders.

After the first day, all I carried in was a gallon of gasoline each day.

The clam farmers love this five century old diving concept as much as the rest of us.

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



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When your pro-life convictions are put to the test

By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

If you're a Christian considering abortion, I can imagine your conflicting emotions.

Most likely, you were staunchly pro-life before your pregnancy test, and it sickens you to watch your convictions slide. You can't even bring yourself to say you're pro-choice because in your heart, you're pro-life. Just not as staunch-

ly as you were a few weeks ago.

Very soon, the evidence of the choice you made in a moment of passion will begin to show. What will people say? Especially your church friends?

Your heart wants to do the right thing, but you're so afraid.

If you're a Christ-follower and find yourself considering abortion, I implore you to seek that place in your relationship with God you once enjoyed. Think back to the txqime when your greatest desire was to please your heavenly Father above all else. When you were certain that Almighty God would never abandon you, and that you could always

go to Him whenever you needed His mercy and grace. He's still the same God, and He's ready to extend that same mercy and grace.

If you're a Christ-follower and are considering abortion, I urge you to return to that special place in your relationship with God that you once knew. Remember the time when your greatest desire was to please your heavenly Father above all else. Recall the confidence you had that Almighty God would never abandon you and that you could always turn to Him whenever you needed His mercy and grace. He remains the same God, and He's ready to offer that same mercy and grace.

Many factors brought

you to this moment, but I'm hoping you'll ask God for the grace to do the hard thing. The thing your heart is nudging you to do.

I realize this is a big ask, but if you keep your heart and thoughts on God and His Word, you'll find the strength to make the right decisions for you and your baby. Begin today to pray for God to give you a love for your child. Find someone you trust to pray with you that God will provide everything you need and to be ready for the task ahead.

Rather than ending this new life, ask God for the strength to see your pregnancy through. Allow Him to grow your faith on every level. Dis-

cover God's will and the amazing miracle of His creation forming within you.

The sobering truth is that if you allow your baby to live, your life will change. Undeniably and profoundly so. But God, Who never changes, will faithfully remain as close to you as you will allow Him to be. Trust Him for the future.

You do have a choice. You can choose to do the "easy" and quick thing; to end this growing life – your child's life. Or you can return to the place you once enjoyed as a child of God.

Perhaps reading this reassuring verse will help you get to that place: "Draw near to the throne of grace, that [you] may

receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16 ESV).

... And then, maybe, you can make the choice your heart wants you to make.

If you're facing an unplanned pregnancy, you don't have to go through it alone. Please consider contacting a pregnancy resource center. If you've already had an abortion and need someone to talk to, your local pregnancy resource center is available for you, as well.

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.

Crossing Egypt's threshold

By **CHERYL CRUCE**

There has always been something unsettling about the New Year and the doors that are not quite open. Standing on the threshold of what has been and what lies ahead often feels vulnerable and uncertain. The calendar turns, but clarity doesn't always arrive. I know the New Year is an invitation forward. However, not knowing what waits on the other

side is unsettling.

This season carries a strange mix of anticipation and hesitation. As I think about what I've survived, what I've lost, I realize there are some things I've carried longer than I should have. And yet, at the same time, I feel the pull of possibility – a quiet stirring, even if I cannot yet name it. That is hope. This uneasiness isn't from a lack of faith; it is the tension of moving forward, trusting before understanding.

Here's the hard part: I want certainty, assurance, a map in my hands before I step. But life rarely works that way. Most of the time, faith is quiet, lived in the ordinary – in small decisions and slow mornings, in routines that

pass unseen, in acts no one notices, when there is no applause.

The New Year reminds me that moving forward rarely begins with grand gestures. It begins with willingness, with obedience in the small, ordinary corners of our lives, and with trusting that God is already at work – behind unopened doors and in the shadows where we cannot see the path.

Long before the promise was fulfilled, Abraham was asked to leave his father's household and step into a land God had promised him – the land of His covenant. How heavy that step must have felt – leaving the familiar, stepping into uncertainty, trusting a promise he could not see.

His steps of faith set the path toward the promised land, a journey God would continue through Moses and ultimately fulfill through His Son (Genesis 12).

Moses, too, faced daunting steps. God called him at the burning bush to lead a nation out of slavery. Each step – from fear to courage, from the bush to Egypt – required trust before understanding. Every act of obedience moved the story forward, even amid uncertainty. Each door God opened led His people out of bondage, continuing Abraham's journey and drawing them closer to Him.

Mary and Joseph faced their own "Egypt." God warned them to flee, and in the mid-

dle of the night, with a newborn in their care, they left everything familiar. Danger was real – Herod's violence threatened lives – but they trusted God and obeyed. God later called His Son out of Egypt, back into the promised land, fulfilling His plan in ways no one could have imagined. The miracle moved with them, each step met with God's guidance and grace (Matthew 2:13-15).

And here we are, standing on our own thresholds. Our "Egypt" may look different – fear, grief, uncertainty – but God is calling us forward. He is calling us out of what holds us back and into the future He has promised. The same

grace that led Abraham and Moses, that carried Mary and Joseph, that brought His Son safely from danger – this same God is calling us still, asking us to step forward, trusting even when the path is not yet clear. Each step we take, each door we open, is a small act of faith – and, in God's hands, it is part of a story far greater than we can imagine.

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? Isaiah 43:18-19

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

OUT TO PASTOR

An old geezer looking for new tricks

By **JAMES SNYDER**

Although the year is new, I'm still an old geezer. I think I know what geezer means, but I'm not sure what the definition of "old" is. One person's old is another person's youth. Believe me, I don't know the difference.

I do know that I am a geezer because occasionally, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage will look at me and say, "Are you acting like an old geezer?"

I stare at her for a moment and respond, "Oh, no my dear. I'm not acting."

She gives me one of her looks, then walks away. Of course, I may know that I am a geezer, but I'm really not quite sure what old really is. According to her, I am the poster child of an old geezer.

This year, I'm looking for some new tricks. None of my tricks up to this point has worked as planned. I need something new this year that's going to help me perfect my old geezerhood.

I reflected on some of the tricks I used this

past year. Tricks like, "I just don't remember that." Or, "I was doing something else at the time."

I need to learn some new tricks to address the situation at hand. I need an excuse for not doing what she wants me to do. Up to this point, she is not falling for "I can't remember."

One trick might work. "I was thinking about that, my dear, but I wanted to wait and get your advice on it." That might work. Because she loves giving me advice the most. So, I'm going to find ways in which I can insert this "new trick" into our conversation.

I thought of another one: When she looks at me and asks me what I'm thinking, I could say, "I was just thinking about how lucky I am to have you in my life. What a blessing you are."

That should work in many regards. I think it might throw her off her game, putting me a little ahead of schedule. That's certainly worth trying out for this New Year.

Another new trick came to mind. Occasionally, we go out to a diner for lunch or supper. Whenever she asks if I want to go out for lunch, I could say, "I was just thinking about that. Where do you want to go?"

That would shift the responsibility over to her. Wherever she wants

to go is all right with me. The last thing I want to do is tell her where I want to go for lunch or dinner. I don't have the palate for cuisine that she has.

The purpose of these "new tricks" is to divert attention away from me and put it back on her. I'm going to spend a lot of time this year studying and learning as many new tricks as I can.

There is another trick I need to focus on: when she asks me what I want for supper. She usually asks me right after lunchtime, when I'm not really hungry. I'm trying to think of what to say to take the pressure off me.

Maybe I could say, "Oh, my dear, anything you make would be pleasing to me. You're the best chef I know."

There was that one time when she slipped broccoli in, much to my disdain.

Not only is she good in the kitchen, but she is also good with cloth-

ing.

Sometimes, not often, she will come from the bedroom, stand before me, and ask, "I just bought this dress, what do you think of it?"

This is where I have a problem. I am at a loss when it comes to clothing. They all look the same to me. I can't even tell the difference between colors. One color matches mine.

I look back at her and give it some thought. The only thing that comes to mind is, "Oh, my dear, anything you wear looks amazing." And, I will smile my best smile. I don't know how many times I can get away with it, but I'll take it as far as I can go.

I couldn't help but think of a verse from the Bible that is relevant to this subject.

"Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3).

Sometimes we need to agree to disagree. We have differing opinions and tastes. But the se-

cret of a good relationship is to find that area where we agree. That becomes the foundation of our relationship and can bring blessings in.un.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala with the

Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, email jamesnyder51@gmail.com, website www.jamesnyderministries.com.



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Worship 11 a.m.
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Wednesday 6:30 pm
Sunday 9:45 am
First Saturday: Mass at 9:00 am
Confessions: Every Saturday 9:30am – 10:30am
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Obituaries



Mary Angela 'Angie' (Kuhn) Chappell

Mary Angela "Angie" (Kuhn) Chappell, 79, passed away peacefully at her home in Quincy on January 2nd, 2026.

Angie is survived by her husband of 49 years, Mike Chappell, of Quincy; and her stepdaughter, Jackie Chappell, of Charlotte, NC.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Mary Catherine "Catherine" (Lawhon) Kuhn, of Crawfordville.

The family is forever grateful for

the loving care provided by Parx Home Health Care of Quincy and Big Bend Hospice.

After a long, arduous battle with Lewy body dementia, Angie is finally at peace with the Lord.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial contributions be made to Big Bend Hospice. The family is planning a Celebration of Life to be held at a later date.

Charles McClellan Funeral Home, Quincy, is in charge of arrangements.



Ruby Inez Love

Ruby Inez Love, 85, of Crawfordville, passed away on January 5, 2026.

A lifelong native of the area, Ruby lived a full and meaningful life surrounded by family, friends, and the community she loved. In her early years, Ruby worked at Faver's Restaurant and in the seafood industry, where she built lasting friendships. Later in life, she became the office manager for Alexander Storage Units, where her kindness and dedication were appreciated.

Ruby was preceded in death by two brothers, Dennis Smith and Pete Smith; three sisters, Maxine

Conley, Lena Jordon and Yvonne Hartsfield; a son, Bobby Allred; and a daughter, Jan Harper.

She will be lovingly remembered by her children, David Allred, Ricky Burnette, and Frank Allred (Rita); her siblings, Ronnie Smith, Earl Smith, Carlene Wimberly, and Flo Rivers; and nine grandchildren who brought her great joy.

A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, January 17, 2026, at 11 a.m. at the Panacea Full Gospel Church.

Arrangements are under the care of Skip and Trey Young, along with Paula, Heather, and Amanda at Young Family Funeral Home, Crawfordville (850-926-5919).

DEATH NOTICES

- **Shane Patrick McLaughlin**, 66, of Crawfordville, died January 9, 2026.
- **Sylvia Elaine Porter**, 75, of Crawfordville, died January 10, 2026.

- **Angela Pyles Smart**, 50, of Crawfordville, died January 8, 2026.
- Family Funeral Home at Harvey-Young Chapel, 850-926-5919, www.familyfhc.com.

60 beds built for kids who need them

From Front Page

Rotarian Steve Sanabria has become very involved in Sleep in Heavenly Peace and, over the past year, has helped create a Wakulla chapter of the organization. While bed builds are still through the Tallahassee chapter, the Wakulla group is able to coordi-

nate local requests and deliver beds. Sanabria recently participated in a Sleep in Heavenly Peace bed built in Charlotte and brought back 30 beds to Wakulla. When contacted by a Rotarian in Tallahassee about a woman with four children who lost everything in a housefire, Sanabria and other local

Rotarians delivered bunk beds for the children. John Cousins, head of the Tallahassee chapter, said the biggest issue facing the organization is not donations or getting volunteers to build beds, but getting residents who need help of overcoming the stigma of asking for help. Sanabria has said his

goal is to have a bed delivered to local residents in need within 36 hours of the request being made and the waiver signed. The beds are built of lumber and assembled at the home of those who need them. Each bed is delivered with pillows, linens, bed spread and a quilt.

Citizen blames commissioner for problems

From Front Page

has indicated Catalina refuses to follow airport rules. The matter came to a head in May 2019 with a fight between Fults and Randall Dick, who had often been a source of complaint by Fults for driving his truck on the airport taxiway to get to his hanger. On this day,

Fults claimed Dick tried to run him over with his truck – actually struck him with the bumper, and when he fell to the ground Dick came at him with a crescent wrench. Fults choked Dick until he relented. For his part, Dick denied striking Fults with his truck or arming himself, and claimed Fults dragged him from his

truck and choked him out. Catalina, who wasn't at the airport at the time or a witness to the incident, has since filed numerous legal actions against Fults – restraining orders, lawsuits against the county and Fults – but has not succeeded in that. Catalina, a U.S. Navy diver in Vietnam and later a pilot for several agen-

cies, a bush pilot, and a smuggler of contraband, according to his autobiographical book, "Over & Back," written under the pen name Wild Bill Callahan. Catalina has recently self-published a profanity-laced book about Fults and the incident with Dick, and provided several chapters to The Sun.



A Wakulla Wild Animal Rescue WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP?

We always need donations of these items:

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

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Crawfordville, FL 32327 FWMA.org
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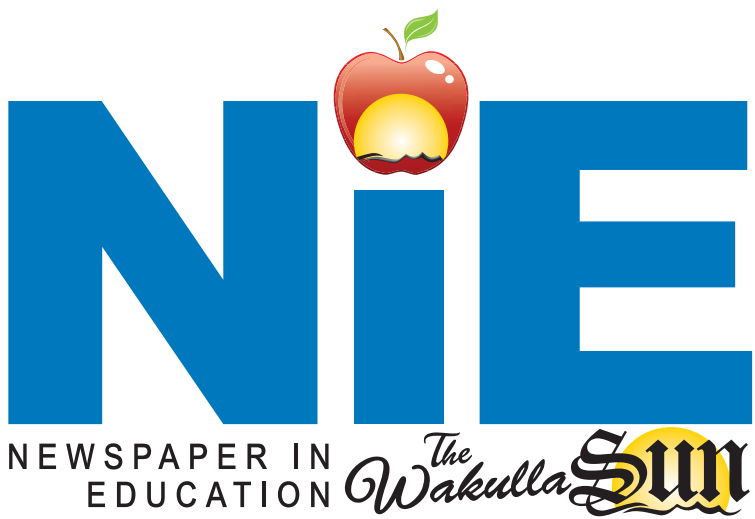
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USE THE NEWS

1. KENNEDY FLIPS FOOD PYRAMID

The U.S. government released new food rules that tell Americans to eat more protein and fewer sugary and highly processed foods. The new “food pyramid” looks very different from older ones because it puts foods like red meat, cheese, and whole milk near the top. Some parts of the advice sound familiar, like eating lots of fruits and vegetables and not eating too much salt, but other parts worry some health experts because red meat and full-fat dairy can have a lot of saturated fat. The rules matter because they can influence what foods are served in places like schools and hospitals. Some people also questioned whether the new experts who helped make the guidelines were too connected to food companies. Pretend you are planning a one-day lunch menu for a school cafeteria that wants to follow the new rules but also stay balanced and healthy. In one paragraph, describe what you would serve for lunch and snack, explain how you made sure there was “real food” and not much added sugar, and then write one sentence that names a food you would limit and why you think it could be a “sometimes food” instead of an “everyday food.”

2. COSMIC WONDERS IN 2026

Scientists say 2026 will have many exciting sky events involving the moon and the sun. Astronauts will travel near the moon again, and several robot spacecraft may try to land on the moon, including new landers from companies and countries around the world. There will also be special eclipses, including a “ring-of-fire” solar eclipse in February and a total solar eclipse in August that will pass over places like Greenland, Iceland, and Spain. Stargazers may get a chance to see a big “planet parade” where many planets line up in the sky, and there will be supermoons that look extra large and bright. Space weather from the sun might also make auroras appear in more places than usual. Imagine you are writing a short note to a friend who has never watched a space event before and you want them to get

excited about 2026. In 5–7 sentences, choose one event from the story (like the eclipse, the planet lineup, the supermoon, or the moon mission), describe what it would look like from Earth, and explain what you would do to prepare to watch it safely and comfortably, even if it is just from your backyard.

3. “WORST IN SHOW” A.I. GADGETS

At a huge technology show called CES, some new products were criticized for being a bad use of artificial intelligence. A group of consumer and privacy experts gave “Worst in Show” awards to gadgets they said were invasive, wasteful, or too hard to repair. One example was a refrigerator with AI that can listen to

voice commands and track food, but critics said it makes a simple job more complicated and could even try to sell you groceries. Another example was new AI features for doorbell cameras that raised privacy concerns because they could increase surveillance. The judges said they want companies to build technology that is helpful and safe, not just flashy. Think of a normal object in your home or classroom that already works fine, like a pencil, backpack, fan, or water bottle. Write one paragraph explaining why adding “smart” features to that object could create problems (like distractions, privacy worries, breaking easily, or wasting resources), and then end with two sentences describing one kind of technology you would

want because it solves a real problem in a simple way.

4. RARE SUPERMAN COMIC SELLS FOR \$15 MILLION

A very rare comic book that introduced Superman was sold privately for \$15 million. The comic is called Action Comics No. 1, and it was first sold in 1938 for only 10 cents, but fewer than 100 copies are believed to still exist today. This particular copy has an unusual history because actor Nicolas Cage bought it, it was stolen from his home during a party, and it was missing for more than 10 years before being found in a storage unit. Because it was recovered and kept in good condition, it became even more valuable over time. The sale shows how old, rare items can become incredibly expensive when collectors want

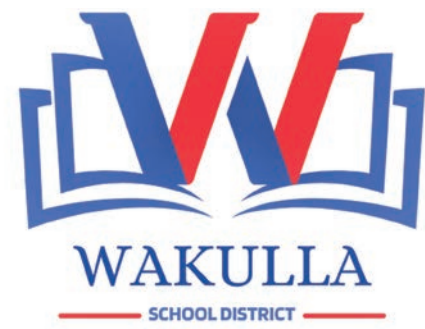
them. Pretend you find an old object in a family attic that turns out to be worth a surprising amount of money. In one descriptive paragraph, explain what the object is, how it was lost or forgotten, how it gets proven real, and how your family debates what to do next; make sure at least one sentence shows how you feel about keeping it versus selling it.

5. HOW ANIMALS SLEEP

Scientists are learning that animals sleep in many surprising ways, even when sleep seems dangerous. New tools like tiny trackers and devices that measure brain activity help researchers tell when wild animals are truly sleeping, not just resting. For example, chinstrap penguins caring for eggs and chicks can take thousands of tiny “micro-

sleeps” that last only a few seconds, but those naps add up to many hours a day. Some birds like frigatebirds can sleep with half of their brain at a time while flying, so they can keep moving and still rest. Elephant seals can sleep while diving deep underwater, sometimes even drifting in a “sleep spiral” during a deep sleep stage. Choose one animal from the story (penguin, frigatebird, or elephant seal) and write a short paragraph as if you are that animal explaining your “sleep plan” to a curious scientist. In your writing, describe where you sleep, what makes sleeping risky, and how your special sleep trick helps you survive, and then finish with one sentence that compares your animal sleep to how you think humans sleep.

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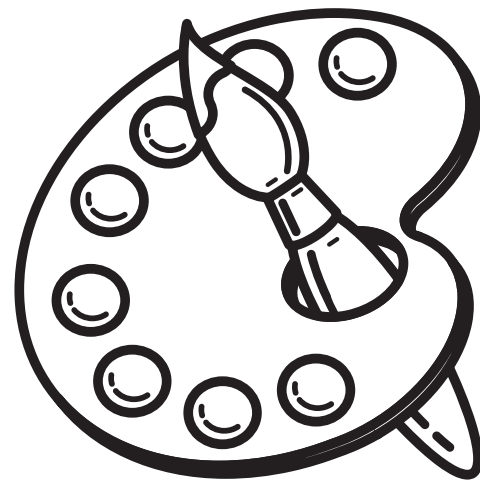
Art FACT:

Various artistic activities can be considered hobbies, including this pastime that involves clay.

Answer: Pottery

Creative Coloring

Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.



Double Word Puzzle

Unscramble the individual words to reveal letters for the phrase.

FCART [] [] [] [] []
6 2 1 7 3

TIGNTINK [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
5 3 3

ISTRAT [] [] [] [] [] []
1 2 4 3

NTIPA [] [] [] []
3

[] [] [] [] [] [] D [] [] [] [] [] []
1 2 3 4 1 5 6 2 1 7 3 4

Answer: Arts and crafts

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

JAN 16

- 1909:** Ernest Shackleton and his expedition find the magnetic South Pole.
- 1920:** The League of Nations holds its first council meeting in Paris, France.
- 1969:** Soviet spacecraft Soyuz 4 and Soyuz 5 perform the first-ever docking of crewed spacecraft in orbit.

NEW WORD

NICHE
a specialized segment of the market

How they say that in...

English: Hobby
Spanish: Pasatiempo
Italian: Passatempo
French: Passe-temps
German: Zeitvertreib

Did You Know?

Hobbies have many benefits, including reducing stress, improving mood, fostering social connections, and encouraging community involvement.

Get the PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Sewing machine

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NOTICE OF FICTITIOUS NAME

FICTITIOUS NAME

Notice under Fictitious Name Law, pursuant to Section 856.09, Florida Statutes. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, Stanley Slayton, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of **OLIFUSED**

Located at 91 Trumpet Lane Crawfordville FL, 32327
In the County of Wakulla
Intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporation of the Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida.

Published on January 15, 2026

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
DRAUGHON, NICHOLAS J,
Decedent.

DIVISION: PROBATE
File No.: 2025 CP 142

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the Estate of NICHOLAS J. DRAUGHON, Deceased, Case No. 2025 CP 142, is pending in the Circuit Court for Wakulla County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Clerk of Court, Wakulla County Courthouse, 3056 Crawfordville Hwy, Crawfordville, Florida 32327. The names and addresses of the Personal Representative and the Personal Representative's attorney are set out at the end of this Notice. ALL CREDITORS ARE NOTIFIED THAT:

All creditors of Decedent and other persons having claims or demands against Decedent's estate on whom a copy of this Notice is served must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM. All other creditors of Decedent and other persons having claims or demands against Decedent's estate must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS, DEMANDS AND OBJECTIONS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

The Personal Representative or curator has no duty to discover whether any property held at the time of the Decedent's death by the Decedent or the Decedent's surviving spouse is property to which the Florida Uniform Disposition of Community Property Rights at Death Act as described in ss. 732.216-732.228, applies, or may apply, unless a written demand is made by a creditor as specified under s. 732.2211.

The date of the first publication of this Notice is January 15, 2026.
Attorney for Personal Representative
/s/ CLAIRE A. DUCHEMIN
Florida Bar No. 0301159
CLAIRE A. DUCHEMIN, P.A.
1615 Village Square Blvd., Suite #7
Tallahassee, FL 32309
Phone: 850-270-9870
claire@attorneyclaire.com

Personal Representatives name:
Ms. Angela Draughon
18 Midway Court
Crawfordville, FL 32327

January 15, 22, 2026

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, Case No.: 2025CA000061
PLAINTIFF,
V.
ANGELIA SMITH, ANTHONY PARRISH JR, UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF ANGELIA SMITH, UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF ANTHONY PARRISH JR., UNKNOWN TENANT 1 AND UNKNOWN TENANT 2,
DEFENDANTS.

NOTICE OF ACTION- CONSTRUCTIVE SERVICE

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

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

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

Property Address: 49 Chickat Trail, Crawfordville, FL 32327

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

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

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



January 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026

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



Gene Lambert
Agency
Manager

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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.

NOTICE OF ACTION

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

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

NOTICE OF ACTION

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

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

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

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

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

FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION, PLAINTIFF, Case No.: 65-2025-CA-000105-CAAM V. RONALD EDWARD REYNOLDS JR.; SUMMERFIELD SUBDIVISION HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.; CARMEN E. REYNOLDS, DEFENDANTS.

NOTICE OF ACTION - CONSTRUCTIVE SERVICE

To: Ronald Edward Reynolds Jr. and Carmen E. Reynolds Last Known Address: 205 Stillmont Drive, Crawfordville, FL 32327 YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in Wakulla County, Florida:

LOT 34, SUMMERFIELD PHASE 2, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 6, PAGE 43, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Amanda Driscole, Esquire, Brock & Scott, PLLC., the Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 4919 Memorial Hwy, Suite 135, Tampa, FL 33634, within thirty (30) days of the first date of publication on or before February 14, 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 22nd day of December, 2025.

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



January 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

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.

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

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

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

NOTICE OF ACTION

To: JOYCE L. MCCOMB, surviving spouse of LENNIE G. MCCOMB; if alive, and if deceased, unknown spouses, heirs, devisees, grantees, creditors, assigns, and all other parties claiming by through, under or against her YOU ARE NOTIFIED that a Complaint for Quiet Title on the following property in Wakulla County, Florida:

LOTS NUMBERED ONE (1) AND TWO (2) OF BLOCK THREE (3) OF LAKE ELLEN ESTATES UNIT ONE, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 44, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA. 1973 BROA HS WITH ID# 4D16183S5223 U & X, TITLE #6177621 AND 6177622 OR TOGETHER WITH A MOBILE HOME SITUATED 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.

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



January 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026

NOTICE OF SALE NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is given pursuant to Florida Self-Storage Facility Act, Florida Statutes, Chapter 83, Part IV that Seminole Self Storage will hold a sale by sealed bid JANUARY 30TH, 2026, at 11:00 am, at 2314 Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville, Florida 32327, of the contents of Mini Warehouse containing personal property of

APRIL GEORGE, LELA BROWN

Before the sale date of JANUARY 30TH, 2026. The Owners may redeem their property by payment of the Outstanding Balance and cost by mailing certified funds to 2314 Crawfordville Hwy, Crawfordville, Florida 32327 or Paying in person at the warehouse location. January 15, 22, 2026

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Mechanical lever
7. Rocky peak
10. Leave a country
12. Discount
13. D.C. ballplayer
14. Partner to "oohed"
15. Engine sound
16. Japanese ornamental box
17. Fido is one
18. Amounts of time
19. DiFranco and Phyo are two
21. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
22. Make secret plans
27. "Tiny Bubbles" singer
28. "His Airness"
33. Morning
34. Perfected
36. Winger guitarist Beach
37. Abba __, Israeli politician
38. Self-immolation by fire ritual
39. A way to save money
40. Pulpit
41. Make ecstatically happy
44. Once more
45. Works on
48. Nocturnal S. American rodent
49. State again
50. Expression of disappointment
51. Type of door

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Yugoslavian communist leader
2. Exchange rate
3. High school dance
4. Peter's last name
5. When you anticipate arriving
6. Israeli city __ Aviv
7. Goat-like mammals
8. Margarine
9. End-of-the-spectrum color
10. Make poisonous
11. Popular beverage
12. Actress Lathan
14. Where planes land and depart
17. Political fundraising entity
18. The distinctive spirit of a people or an era
20. Buffer used in microbiology
23. Light, open carriage
24. Metrical feet
25. Email subject line feature
26. A street with lots of nightmares
29. Rapper Rule
30. River in Scotland
31. One who settles a dispute
32. Most chummy
35. We all have our own
36. Arab tribe
38. Slap
40. Ottoman military commanders
41. Scottish or Irish Gaelic language
42. Emit coherent radiation
43. Sun or solar disk (Egyptian mythology)

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

0115-0122 TWS NOFS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA

UNITED WHOLESALE MORTGAGE, LLC, CASE NO. 2025-CA-000106 Plaintiff, vs. HUY NGOC NGUYEN, et al., Defendants

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Greg James, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Wakulla County, Florida, will on February 19, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. ET, Lobby of Wakulla County Courthouse, 3056 Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville, Florida 32327 in accordance with Chapter 45, F.S., offer for sale and sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, the following described property situated in Wakulla County, Florida, to wit:

Lot 88, SUMMERFIELD PHASE 1, according to the plat as recorded in Plat Book 6, Pages 31 through 33, of the Public Records of Wakulla County, Florida.

Property Address: 20 Springdale Dr, Crawfordville, FL 32327 pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered in a case pending in said Court, the style and case number of which is set forth above.

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the Lis Pendens must file a claim before the clerk reports the surplus as unclaimed.

If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact: ADA Coordinator, 301 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, FL 32301, (850) 606-4400 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

Dated this 7th day of January 2026.

Greg James As Clerk of the Court By: /s/ Ethan Brown As Deputy Clerk

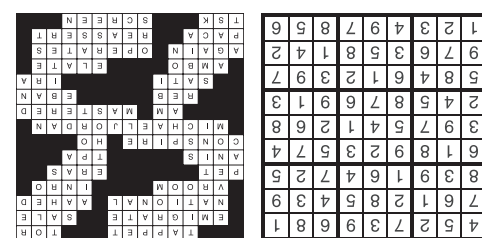


January 15, 22, 2026

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9x9 grid with numbers 1-9 in some cells, representing a partial sudoku puzzle.

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41. Scottish or Irish Gaelic language
42. Emit coherent radiation
43. Sun or solar disk (Egyptian mythology)
44. Inclined to
45. Olfactory reference syndrome
46. Chest muscle (slang)

Large 15x15 grid with numbers 1-51 in some cells, representing a crossword puzzle grid.



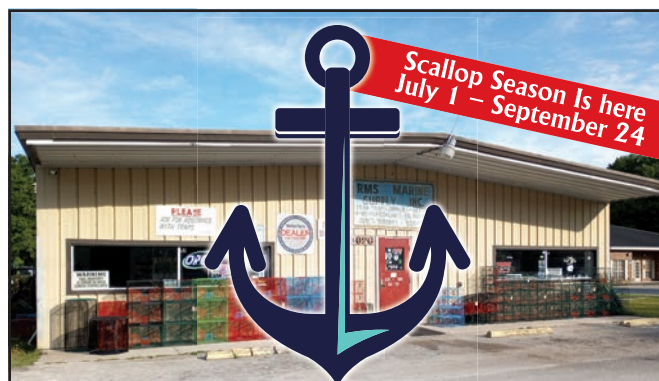
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WRESTLING

Wakulla wins 1A District 2 duals title

By **WALT JACOBS**
Correspondent

Seneca is credited with saying, “Every new beginning comes from some other beginning’s end.”

In 2018, the Florida High School Athletic Association introduced the new state dual wrestling championship tournament, and Wakulla won its first of five straight 1A District 2 titles that year. The War Eagles’ reign as district champs ended in 2023 when Suwannee defeated Wakulla 49-21.

On Jan. 7th, Coach Nate Litowsky led No. 8 Wakulla into Bob Albertson Gymnasium, intent on reclaiming the District 2 crown.

In dominating fashion, the undefeated War Eagles defeated five district foes, thereby ending Suwannee’s three-year reign as champs. Wakulla defeated Liberty County 78-6 in the opening round. Subsequently, Wakulla shut out Marianna 77-0 and Godby 83-0 in rounds two and three.

Wakulla faced No. 12 Suwannee in round 4 and soundly defeated the Bulldogs 62-18.

A large contingent of War Eagle fans who made the trip eagerly anticipated the final dual of the night against No. 7 Florida High. Wakulla’s performance did not disappoint supporters, as the War Eagles resoundingly defeated the Seminoles 58-18.

Coach Litowsky commented, “The team wrestled hard and brought the district title back to Wakulla where it belongs.”

“We’re proud of the accomplishment, but this group knows the job isn’t finished,” the coach said. “Our eyes are already on Thursday and a regional champi-



MYRA JEAN'S RESTAURANT

PHOTO OF THE WEEK
SPONSORED BY
MYRA JEAN'S RESTAURANT



MYRA JEAN'S RESTAURANT



Wakulla War Eagles with the 1A District 2 trophy.



Kameron Easter at Rusted Jade.

onship.”

LADY WAR EAGLES COMPETE AT RUSTED JADE

On Jan. 10th, a pair of Lady War Eagles competed at Hernando High’s Rusted Jade Tournament in Brooksville.

In their respective weight classes, Julia Baggett posted a 4-2 record, and Kameron Easter went 3-2 over the course of the competition.

Coach Jon Sanchez

said, “Kameron had a rough start, dropping her first match right at the beginning, but would then win three straight after that on the backside.”

Regarding Baggett, Sanchez said, “Julia wrestled very well throughout the day. Her only losses came to girls ranked No. 1 and No. 8 in the state.”

“I tell both girls,” the coach continued, “the only way to see what you’re made of is to start stepping out of your comfort zones. I

think they’re both starting to see what I’ve been telling them this whole season, which is they can roll with the best of them and do very well.”

“Overall, I’m very proud of them on their performance this weekend and I’m looking forward to seeing how they do coming down the home stretch of the regular season.”

CRADLE CANCER RESULTS FROM JAN. 9TH AND 10TH

106 Brayden Hodges



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“I’m proud of our guys. This is a special team that keeps getting better each week, and we’re still not a finished product.”

– Coach Nate Litowsky

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1-2 | 150 Troy Thaxton 4-2 |
| 113 Kyle Manzi 2-2 | 165 Clayton Manzi |
| 120 Matthew Thaxton 1-2 | 175 Cole Manning |
| 126 William Harvey 4-2 | 190 Gavin Mitchell |
| 2-1; 6th place | 215 Blake Barodte |
| 132 Patrick Cooksey 2-2 | 285 Lonnie Pearce |
| 0-2 | |
| 138 Brady Jackson 4-2 | |
| 4-3; 6th place | |
| 144 Aaron Robinson 0-1 | |
| 6-2; 4th place | |

GOLF

Lady War Eagles finish season



Wakulla High School Girls Golf finished their 2025-26 season as District runner up and Regional finalist. Congratulations to Hadley Brown for making 2nd Team All Big Bend. Abbigail Lawhon and Jessalee Core received honorable mention. Pictured: Hadley Brown, Brianna Stephens, Abbigail Lawhon, Raegan Wester, Jessalee Core. (Submitted by Coach Windy Jones)

22nd Annual Free Trees!
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