



Wrestlers advance to Region Finals / Page 14

The Wakulla Sun

WAKULLA WeatherSTEM
Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	PM Showers
Hi: 71° Lo: 48° 88% Sunrise 7:32 AM Sunset 6:06 PM	Hi: 71° Lo: 53° 18% Sunrise 7:32 AM Sunset 6:07 PM	Hi: 66° Lo: 54° 68% Sunrise 7:31 AM Sunset 6:07 PM



\$1
One Section

"It's a New Day"

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Our 5th Year 4th Issue
Thursday, January 22, 2026

MLK Remembrance



Speaker at the Martin Luther King Jr. memorial ceremony on the courthouse grounds was Novella Franklin, president of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority. She urged Wakulla to come together as one community. "Together there's nothing we can't accomplish, nothing we can't do," she said. (Photo by William Snowden)



After the memorial remembrance at the courthouse, a breakfast was served at Palaver Tree Theater, cooked by members of the Buckhorn Masons. (Photo by Gerald Brown)

Makena Glassner wins district bee

She won Friday's spelling bee with the winning word 'Catalyst'

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

Makena Glassner, an 8th grader at Riversprings Middle, won the district-wide spelling bee on Friday with the word "Catalyst."

Runner-up is Siris McKenzie, an 8th grader at Wakulla Middle.

There were 13 students in the bee, representing the elementary and middle schools and COAST Charter School. The bee went 12 tough rounds – knocking out competitors with words like Airborne, Felonious, Oboe and Vendetta.

In the 9th round, with only Glassner and McKenzie still in the running, they both stumbled – Glassner misspelled Affiliate and McKenzie stumbled on Entrails. He missed a couple of rounds later with Valiant and Glassner correctly spelled Catalyst to win.

Retired school board member Melissa Taylor was the prouder; and judges were retired district staffer Sue Anderson, Megan Smith of English Financial and William Snowden of The Wakulla Sun.



District Spelling Bee winner Makena Glassner with Superintendent Rick Myhre and runner-up Siris McKenzie.

Wakulla graduation rate is top in state

Special to The Sun

Wakulla County Schools have once again set the standard for student success, earning the highest graduation rate in the state of Florida for the 2024–25 school year at an impressive 97.6%, according to newly released data from the Florida Department of Education.

This achievement places our district #1 statewide, marking a 0.5% increase over the previous school year and reinforcing our position as Florida's graduation leader two out of the last three years—a distinction that reflects sustained excellence and consistency over time.

Florida as a whole reached a historic milestone this year, posting its highest statewide graduation rate ever at 92.2%. Wakulla High School's results were even higher than the district average at 98.4% and significantly exceeded the state benchmark, highlighting the strength of the school's academic culture and student support systems.

"Everyone in Wakulla knows how exceptional our schools are across the board, and while this success is attributed greatly to the hard work at WHS, it certainly begins in Pre-K and couldn't be possible without the support of our entire community," said Superintendent Rick Myhre, adding: "100% of our African-American, Hispanic, and ESE students are graduating on-time which clearly shows WHS is an outstanding place where all students are able to find success. This is true testament to the personal connections our teachers make, and the opportunities we create with our extracurriculars and CTE programs which continue to engage our high school students to keep them enrolled."

Correction

• The first name of Wakulla's Teacher of the Year was wrong in the front page headline and photo outline. She is Makenna Maldonado.

We regret the error.

Donor gives property to Pregnancy Center

By LINDA ANN McDONALD
Correspondent

A donor who wishes to remain anonymous has donated property to the Pregnancy Center.

Pam Pilkington, director of the non-profit organization, could not be any more thankful.

The donated property is located where Wakulla Life, is currently housed.

The Wakulla Pregnancy Center merged with Wakulla Life Ministry. Wakulla Life is in the former Operation Santa building on Crawfordville Highway across the street from the courthouse.

Because the building contains asbestos, demolition will commence mid-February.

A new building, paid for through state grants, will be built.

"It was a huge blessing," said Pilkington. "This project is funded under an agreement with the State of Florida, Department of Children and



The donated building, above, across from the courthouse; Pam Pilkington, right.

Families."

"We have plans for the new building. It will have a side for the pregnancy center, a bigger moms and babies room (material support) and the other side will be Wakulla Life, admin offices and an area for big groups, Bible study and a conference room."

"It's awesome to be in a more centrally located area," she said. "We went from supporting families until the baby was 1 year



old, we are now able to expand and support until the baby is 3 years old."

"We plan to help more people, more families," Pilkington said. "That is what we are about. Those that walk through

the door, it is a judgment free zone to support. The walk is not what is important, it is building the relationship. We want to love you and help you. We are HIPPA compliant, and we provide resources in the community."

"I want to say thank you to the community that has always helped us and we want to be the safe place to get the help people need. We are thankful to be more visible to attract people that we are trying to reach."

The Wakulla Pregnancy Center is a non-profit organization that provides free and confidential services to women and men facing the possibility of an unplanned pregnancy.

To view information about the pregnancy center and associated ministry, go to wakullapregnancycenter.org, wakullalife.org and contact info@wakullapregnancycenter.org or call 850-210-1276.

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CELEBRATING 37 YEARS!

Students Bradley McGuffey, Tate Glass, Jeremiah Dissmore and band director Matthew Spindler were in Tampa last week and the students performed on Saturday at the Tampa Convention Center. Bradley and Tate performed in the All-State Concert Band which consists of 9-10th grade students from Florida. Jeremiah performed in the All-State Symphonic Band which consisted of 11-12th grade students from Florida!



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The Wakulla Sun
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Lisa Craze, CFC

Wakulla County Tax Collector

AMERICA IS TURNING 250 NEXT YEAR

FLORIDA **SAMPLE** 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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Wakulla County's Visitors Guide

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2 x 3	\$125	

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New Chamber officers, board for 2026 is sworn-in



New officers and board members for the Wakulla Chamber of Commerce were sworn-in on Tuesday, Jan. 13, by Wakulla County Judge Brian Miller. The meeting was held at Wakulla High School's new vocational wing where

culinary arts students served breakfast. The new officers, seated, are Tanya James, Katie Taff, Niraj Patel, Megan Smith, Frank Messersmith and Jessica Revell. (Photo by Heather Bryan of the Chamber)

St. Marks holds workshop on closing Wakulla Street

Story By
LINDA ANN McDONALD
Correspondent

The City of St. Marks held a workshop last week to ask the public for feedback and direction regarding growing concerns about Wakulla Street.

Wakulla Street is an undeveloped road with residential homes on one side and 18 city owned platted lots on the other side. The issue was discussed at a workshop at the St. Marks Yacht Club on Thursday, Jan. 15.

The City of St. Marks owns the right-of-way and shoreline along the Wakulla River. Some residents have expressed interest in purchasing portions of the public land to establish riverfront status of their property, while others want to keep the area public

for access, fishing, and recreation.

Through time and different city commissions, some homeowners have encroached onto Wakulla Street, some with permission and some without.

Because this affects the whole community and the city-owned remaining waterfront, the city commissioners wanted to ask for input and to review maps before any decisions are made.

At the start of the workshop, City Manager Katherine Gatewood immediately debunked circulating rumors by stating, "There is no intention of the city selling or giving away property." She added: "25 residents have contacted me regarding Wakulla Street. Of those, 22 were verbal contacts. One individual opposed the use of public funds to maintain a park

and instead believes the property should be given to dock owners. The remaining contacts support the ideas of the land being used to benefit the entire city. Some noted that if the land were to be sold that everyone should have the option to buy it, not just the dock owners."

Patrick Bisson, Chief Operating Officer of Bison Peak Ventures wrote, "On behalf of the ownership at Shell Island Fish Camp and RV Resort, I am in strong support for the proposed boardwalk project on the Wakulla riverfront. We believe this initiative will be a significant asset to the community and will greatly benefit local tourism. We are also planning to develop our own boardwalk and path around the Shell Island property, which we hope could potentially

connect with the city's boardwalk as part of our future development plans."

Available at the workshop were pictures of what a futuristic boardwalk would look like if adopted.

Gina Hatcher wrote: "I am opposed to the city using funds to create another public recreation area. Our limited city funds need to be appropriated for much needed infrastructure improvements, not the additional expense of maintaining another unneeded recreation area."

Resident Billy Bishop, who lives on neighboring Crabapple Lane, said at the workshop: "This land is useless, you can't deny homeowners access to anything. Does the State or Florida own this land or the City of St. Marks?" Gatewood confirmed

the City of St. Marks is the owner.

"With the wetlands, there is still significant value as parcels," said resident Ryder Rudd, husband of City Commissioner Sharon Rudd. "I think it should stay public. To say it's no value is ridiculous. Beautiful things have been built on boardwalks and could be of value to the city as a great revenue source."

In past regular monthly city commission meetings, resident Corey Ingram asked to abandon Wakulla Street so he can gain a portion of the road.

Former St. Marks City Attorney Charles McMurry also shared extensive history regarding the property. "There is over 200 feet of marsh in front of the properties, you can't fish. We need to see ways to make it more affordable to live here.

All the grants we get (for projects) and we have to pay to maintain them. Yet, the idea to spend money on something unfunctional does not work for me. If it costs me money as a taxpayer, I don't want to support it," McMurry said.

City Manager Gatewood has been conducting extensive historical research on Wakulla Street.

"Record keeping issues have always been a challenge and numerous floods and storms make retrieving records a struggle," she said.

The City of St. Marks will continue to host workshops for feedback only as a long-term planning process. The next discussion will be at the regular city commission meeting on Feb. 12 at 6 p.m.

Natalie Brattain, Wakulla student at Embry-Riddle, named outstanding aerospace student

Special to The Sun

Wakulla County native Natalie Brattain has been named to the Aviation Week Network 20 Twenties Class of 2026, which recognizes outstanding aerospace-focused university students. Aviation Week, the leading source for aerospace news, recognized Natalie, who is a senior majoring in Aerospace Physiology, for her research to design ways to protect astronaut health.

Brattain is majoring in Aerospace Physiology to design ways to protect astronaut health, focusing on human physiology, nanotechnology and spaceflight operations. She is a senior and was named a Goldwater Scholar in 2025.

Her main project in-

volves the effect of space-flight on astronauts' vision, which is often impaired by intraocular pressure. She has developed a wearable, high-sensitivity biosensor to monitor that pressure using a self-healing polymer for which she proposed and implemented a fabrication method, demonstrating the potential of such materials for a range of biosensing applications.

She has also served as a co-lead on a project to build an International Space Station lab investigating the effects of UV and cosmic radiation on the genetics, cell structure and reproduction of tardigrades. Tardigrades are small invertebrates that are able to tolerate extreme environments, including high levels of radiation, and have been used in space experiments and studies of animal survival in space.

A first-generation student, Brattain worked diligently to adjust to college life and to do research.

"With no instructions, no guaranteed results and a lot of trial and error, I struggled at first. There were moments when I felt completely lost," she said, adding that her challenges propelled her to create

the Aerospace Physiology Peer Mentorship Program. "Looking back, each obstacle has shaped me into someone who doesn't easily give up. Instead of letting challenges stop me, I've used them to build resilience and create opportunities for others," she said.

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 Board of County Commissioners has scheduled a Public Meeting of the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee on February 5, 2026, at 10:00 AM in the Wakulla County Fire and Rescue conference room at 318 Trice Lane in Crawfordville, FL. 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.

January 22, 2026

WAKULLA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD PRE-QUALIFICATION NOTICE

The School Board of Wakulla County is requesting Proposals for Pre-Qualifying for Construction Services for Wakulla County School Board projects for the 2026 year. Pre-Qualification packets are available at the School Board Office.

WAKULLA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD/FACILITIES OFFICE
126 High Drive
Crawfordville, Florida 32327
Telephone Number: 850-926-0065

Interested parties may pick up packets between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Completed packets and a Public Entity Crime Statement must be returned to the office of Richard Myhre, Superintendent, Wakulla County School Board, 69 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida 32327. Attention: Michael Barwick by 2:00 p.m. February 20, 2026.

There will be a Pre-Qualification Meeting at 2:00 p.m. February 5, 2026 in the Wakulla County School Boardroom.
January 22, 29, February 5, 2026



PHOTO BY BERNARD WILCHUSKY/EMBRY-RIDDLE

Student Natalie Brattain of Embry-Riddle.

FOLLOW THE SUN.

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Request for Letters of Interest and Qualifications For the Community Transportation Coordinator Under the Transportation Disadvantaged Program In the Service Area of Wakulla County, Florida

The Apalachee Regional Planning Council is seeking qualifications from entities interested in serving as the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) for Wakulla County, Florida. The selected entity will be recommended to the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD). If approved by the CTD, the selected contractor will coordinate the administration and operation of the Wakulla County Transportation Disadvantaged system, as authorized by Chapter 427, Florida Statutes, and more fully described in Rule 41-2, Florida Administrative Code, beginning July 1, 2026.

Interested entities are required to provide the following as proof of qualifications:

- description of organization,
- proposed local organizational chart,
- coordination experience,
- proposed scheduling and routing software to be used,
- description of experience with vehicle acquisition and a list of vehicles to be used (if applicable),
- description of experience with grant applications and administration,
- proof of insurability,
- credit references,
- a current financial statement,
- the company's Federal Employer Identification Number, and
- a statement that the company is registered to do business in Florida.

Interested entities should submit one (1) original and three (3) copies of their expression of interest and qualifications in a sealed envelope to the Apalachee Regional Planning Council, 2507 Callaway Road, Suite 100, Tallahassee, Florida 32303 by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Wednesday, January 28, 2026. The envelope must be marked, "LETTER OF INTEREST AND QUALIFICATIONS FOR WAKULLA COUNTY CTC." Faxed and emailed responses WILL NOT be accepted. Responses received after the deadline will not be considered and the interested entities will be notified. Only responses to the request for letters of interest will be considered if a request for proposals is issued for the CTC. Questions should be addressed to: Austin Britt, Transportation Disadvantaged Program Coordinator, Apalachee Regional Planning Council, at the address listed above. The Apalachee Regional Planning Council reserves the right to accept or reject any and all responses in the best interest of the service area and the State.

January 22, 2026

Opinions

THE FIRST AMENDMENT

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

LETTERS FROM READERS

Thanks to partners and volunteers who made Arbor Day a success

Editor, The Sun:

We thank our dedicated partners whose efforts and resources provided the trees given away at the 22nd annual Crawfordville Arbor Day Celebration: the Wakulla County Garden Club, the Florida Forest Service, the Sarracenia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS), and the National Wildlife Federation and its Florida affiliate.

Fifty terrific volunteers helped to conduct the festival on January 17th. They included Colleen Alcorn, Dianne Amburn, Fritz & Lucy Bertoch, Jeannie Brodhead, Sarah Chatman, Jack & Tess Coetzee, Rue Collins, James & Vicki Cooper, Mary Cortese, Margaret Davis, Mary Driscol, Claudia Farren, Raychel Gray, Anton & Marinell Hahna, Chris Hill, Katie Hook, Jiujing, Val LaHart, Gini Lawson, Dotty McPherson, Jenn & Rich McWilliams, Tonia Murray, Joy Neeves, Kris O'Neill, Pam Pafford, Marty Quinn, Ann Reams, Evelyn Reid, David Roddenberry, Joe & Rita Schuetz, Pennie Slaughter, Jaye Sousa, Betsy Smith, Trudy Thompson, Carlos & Christina Velasquez, George Weaver, and Dianna & Shannon Whitmore.

Those volunteering on Friday (not named above) include Michelle Hunter, Christine Kelsch[John Parks], and Julie Sabados.

We are deeply grateful for the generous door prize donations we re-

ceived from Just Fruits & Exotics, Native Nurseries, Tallahassee Nurseries, and Ace Hardware. We appreciate the monetary and in-kind contributions from the Sarracenia Chapter of FNPS. Special thanks to Al Pasini for covering our Hudson Park rental fee again.

We thank Ernest Toole for entertaining us with music. The Wakulla County Parks Department and WCSO are always supportive as is The Wakulla Sun.

Lastly, we thank the many wonderful exhibitors and vendors who joined us at Hudson Park. Thank you all!

Sincerely,

Lynn Artz

Crawfordville Arbor Day Coordinator



Some volunteers at the ticket station: Vicki Cooper, Gini Lawson, Jenn McWilliams, Tonia Murray (in back), Marty Quinn, Jaye Sousa, and Mary Driscol.

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. 22– Jan. 28.

Thursday, January 22nd

- Creative Writing I 10am

Friday, January 23rd

- Quilting Guild 10am
- Family Game Night 4pm

Saturday, January 24th

- Read Therapy Dogs 10am

Sunday, January 25th

- American Legion District Oratorical 2pm

Monday, January 26th

- No Programs

Tuesday, January 27th

- Book Bunch 10am
- Creative Writing II 10am

Wednesday, January 28th

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

On the Horizon

Calendar of events for the week of January 22

Thursday, January 22

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

Friday, January 23

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

Saturday, January 24

- Keep Wakulla County Beautiful River Cleanup will be held from 9 a.m. to noon. Meet at Upper Bridge on Shadeville Road at 9 a.m.
- Wildlife, Heritage and Outdoors Festival will be held at the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sunday, January 25

- 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.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Sunday at 6:30 p.m. at 54

Ochlockonee St.

Monday, January 26

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

Tuesday, January 27

- Sopchoppy community dinner is held every week at the Towles

House at 6:30 p.m.

- Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at 54 Ochlockonee St.

Wednesday, January 28

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

UPCOMING

Thursday, January 29

- Empty Bowls fundraiser, to raise money for Wakulla Giving Hands, will be held at Wakulla High CTE wing from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$50 VIP, \$25 general.
- Clover Gala, a formal dinner and awards ceremony to benefit Wakulla 4-H, will be held at Wakulla Springs Lodge from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$75.

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We would very much appreciate your contribution.

William Snowden
Editor & Publisher
The Wakulla Sun

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

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

"It's A New Day!"

The Wakulla Sun



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

Subscriptions to The Wakulla Sun
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Polled at 22nd annual Crawfordville Arbor Day Celebration:
What is your favorite tree?

– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey



SHANNON VALENTINE
Florida Master Naturalist

“I don’t have a favorite tree, I just like them all!”



RAY GRAY
Department of Education

“Redbud tree, they are beautiful with all the new growth in the spring. It was the first tree I planted in Hudson Park when I worked with Parks & Rec.”



LUCAS LANPHER
Forest ranger

“The White Oak tree. I got three of them here today.”



BETSY SMITH
Retired FSU

“A Live Oak tree, it’s a great wildlife tree for squirrels, deer, and other animals. It’s very long lived and hurricane resistant.”



PENNIE SLAUGHTER
Retired State of Florida

“My favorite tree is a Bald Cypress. It is green in the spring and a rusty color in the fall. It’s a fast grower and majestic.”

Wakulla Crossroads

By **VERNA BROCK**

Any one experiencing deja vu? Just about a year ago we were dealing with a whole lot of snow and ice. At my house, the ice didn’t completely melt for nearly a week! This past weekend there was snow and rumors of snow, all across our region.

If you live just far enough north, or west, you welcomed everything from “wintry mix” to actual snow on Sunday morning. The live reporting from Colquitt made me a little jealous! The fat, wet snowflakes drifted down slowly, reminding me of my childhood in Michigan. I had a flash-

back to how the air smells of ozone on days like this, and how still it is. No wind, sounds are muffled, and you don’t even feel the cold. That morning, the two weathermen on site were like a couple of kids reveling in the joy of unexpected snow!

However, I do feel as though we should be rewarded with snow if we have to endure cold and wet weather.

In this area, it is a rare thing indeed to have both freezing temperatures combined with precipitation. We’re just too dang close to the coast. On Saturday, warm breezes flowed in from the Gulf, carrying the scent of marshes and salt water. On

Sunday, the wind shifted and frigid air rolled down like a river. Just not quite far enough south.

Temperatures were predicted to drop into the low 20s and remain there every night for most of the week. Alas, there was still little, to no, precipitation to bring us any of the white fluffy stuff.

Lately, I’ve noticed all kinds of reminders about winter as a season in our lives. You know, the allegories of Spring (youth), Summer (maturity), Autumn (middle age) and Winter (the downhill roll to The Big Sleep).

But maybe we should approach our winter with the joy of children playing in unexpected snow. Slow down and breathe in the cold air that makes our noses glow, find our playful sides. There’s a lot to appreciate about winter.

Days are shorter, homes are cozier, and we even change how we eat. Bowls of hearty soups and chili warm our bones. And the restorative properties of hot chocolate shouldn’t be overlooked! Warm flannels and thick sweaters embrace like a comforting hug. Curling up with a good book and staying in is never more appealing.

Perhaps my feelings about winter are too shaped by my preconceived expectations. To be sure, I’m not overly fond of the cold. But I think I need an attitude adjustment, to really embrace this season, both literally and figuratively.

After all, I’ll have all of eternity to rest!

Crawfordville Arbor Day Celebration breaks records

By **LYNN ARTZ**

The 22nd annual Crawfordville Arbor Day Celebration was the grandest yet. More than 1,000 people signed in or received a ticket to each get a free tree on Saturday, Jan. 17.

At least 2,000 native trees found homes. With grant funding from the National Wildlife Federation, the Wakulla County Garden Club gave away nearly 900 trees in 1-gallon pots. The Florida Forest Service provided 130 pot-grown trees along with 1,000 pine seedlings. Two Florida Native Plant Society Chapters also contributed trees.

Event coordinator Lynn Artz encourages tree recipients to plant their trees as soon as possible and to follow the planting instructions they received. “Plant your trees level to the ground in a wide, bowl-shaped hole and water them in,” she said. “Water them often at first and then water them deeply once a week through next fall.”

The break in chilly weather and fun children’s activities brought out many young families. Ernest Toole entertained with original music. Raffle winners walked off with 8 fabulous prizes. More than 50 terrific exhibits and vendors contributed to the festive atmosphere.

Fifty volunteers were vital to the event’s success. Most are members of the Wakulla County Garden Club or the Sarracenia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society and many are master gardeners.



Jeff and Casey Tirums, above, with trees. Conner and Rodney Howe with a Rusty Blackhaw, right. (Photos by Claudia Ferren)



Volunteers Joy Neves and Carlos Velasquez with Art and Steffey and their Persimmon. (Claudia Ferren)



Vendors at the event included Florida Native Plant Society’s Sarracenia Chapter, above; some of those in attendance were Chris and Valerie Russell and Robert Manning. (Photos by Gerald Brown)

Outdoors

outdoor sports

HOME ON THE RANGE

Two of Browning's famous handgun designs



By MARJ LAW

"It's a Browning," breathes Joe.

Oh. When I hear "It's a Browning," I know what's about to follow. Joe will want to look at the gun. He'll pull back the slide and peer into the chamber. He'll drop the magazine.

"What comes with it?" he'll ask.

Then I'm in trouble.

"We don't need another handgun," I object.

"Marj. It's a Browning." Like that says everything.

This time, it's the Browning Hi Power.

"It's an original," he says in awe. "It even has the beer barrel sights."

He turns the gun to show me these unusual sights.

"I see." I look at them closely. Wow. Rounded sights.

"It's a collector's item. Designed by John Moses Browning. Like that 1911 you have."

"My 1911 is a .45-caliber Thompson Auto-Ordnance," I disagree.

"Yes, but the design of your gun is pure Browning. The 1911 design was adopted by the US Army on March 29, 1911. That's why so many handguns

are called 1911s. They are based on Browning's design. In 1913, the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps also adopted the 1911-designed handguns."

"But the gun you're looking at isn't a 1911," I try to object.

"No, but it's also designed by Browning."

"So, we have a Browning and we don't need another."

"The Hi Power is quite different," he begins to explain. "Browning sold his patent to Colt. Later in 1921, France wanted handguns that could hold more rounds. They asked Browning to design one that could hold more rounds than the seven plus one round in the magazine of the 1911."

"This is when Browning came up with the Hi Power. First called the High Power, the gun held 13 rounds and one in the chamber. "It was ultimately adopted as the standard service pistol by more than 50 armies. It has seen widespread use among military and law enforcement agencies in 93 nations," according to Will Dabbs in *The Armory Life*.

"OK, so the Hi Power held more rounds than the 1911s. But today, you can get magazines holding 10 rounds in a 1911. With one in the chamber, I might add. If you're looking for more rounds, the 1911 is now close to the Hi Power, and they're both designed by Browning," I argue.

"Ah, but now magazines have been made for the Hi Power that hold 15 rounds. With one in the



chamber," he adds.

You can guess what happened next.

Yes, Joe now has a Browning Hi Power. An original. Needless to say, he's excited as we spend our usual Wednesday morning at the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office range. We plan to compare shooting the two Browning designed guns: the Browning Hi Power and the 1911 Thompson Auto-Ordnance.

The range is hot, so we can take our guns out of their sacks. First, we examine each handgun. I can tell that Joe is going to find reasons why he prefers the Hi Power.

"I guess one of the reasons that the Hi Power holds more rounds is because the magazine is double-stacked," I notice.

"Yes," he agrees. "Not only does it hold more rounds, but the double-stack makes the grip wider and it fills my hand better."

"I like the way my 1911 sits in my hand," I say. "The beavertail is huge and the weight of the gun makes the web of hand fit right into that big beavertail."

"The weight is fairly heavy," he agrees. "If you wore it in a holster, it would weigh your pants down."

"So would the Hi Power," I retort. "While the 1911 weighs 39 ounces, the Hi Power weighs 32 ounces. They'd both make my pants sag. Both guns are made of metal. What's the difference in barrel length?"

He pulls out a small tape measure.

"The Hi Power's barrel is 4.7 inches long and the Thompson is 5 inches long. Not much difference there," he adds. Then he checks the length of both guns overall.

He adds: "The Hi Power is 7.8 inches long and the Thompson is 8.6 inches long. So, the Thompson is longer and heavier than the Hi Power."

"Well, I'm not going to be lugging them around. We'll be shooting here, at the WCSO range. Shall we take five shots from each gun? The target on the right will be for the Hi Power, and the target on the left will be the Thompson. We'll consider how long and how hard the trigger pull is with each handgun. We'll think about recoil because everyone wants to know about how much kick to expect. Last, we'll check for accuracy and see how tight the groupings are or if they even hit the target at all!"

We shoot at 8-inch

targets at a distance of 21 feet.

Joe goes first. With the Hi Power, his shots are to the left of the x-ring. With the Thompson, one of his shots hits directly beneath the x-ring.

Then it's my turn. I also shoot the Hi Power to the left.

"Joe, I think you need to adjust the sights on this gun, seeing as we're both shooting left." He agrees. (When I finished shooting, he did adjust the sights. Then he fired a few shots and they did end up in a tighter grouping in the center of the target.)

When I shoot the Thompson, groupings are fairly tight. I'm surprised, though, that recoil on the 9mm Hi Power seems sturdier than that of the .45 caliber Thompson. The 9mm's sharper kick makes my shots more scattered. I wasn't prepared for the amount of recoil, and ended up limp-wristing a couple shots. Eek! Nobody likes to be accused of limp-wristing!

"That's because the 9mm has higher pressure. It's moving at a higher rate of supersonic speed," says Joe. "The .45 has lower pressure and is moving subsonic: about 850 feet per second."

I have better control with the Thompson. I think that is so because of the lower pressure, and its heavier weight absorbs some of the recoil. The deep beavertail sinks firmly into the web of my hand. I like the narrower grip and the smoother trigger.

Joe is bigger-boned, and the sharper recoil of the Hi Power doesn't faze him. He prefers the 9mm's wider grip.

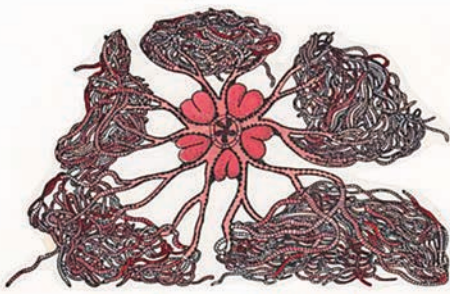
Both guns fire single action only. The hammer has to be cocked first, then the trigger performs the one action of releasing the hammer. Both have manual safeties, although the Thompson also has a safety in its grip. Unless the manual safety lever has been deactivated (and the grip safety of the Thompson as well), you won't be able to pull the trigger.

Both the Hi Power and the 1911 are reliable. As Jim Dickson in *Gun Mag* says: "Reliability in the world's worst conditions is where the M1911 A1 has no peer."

Today, you can find magazines that hold more rounds than when the guns first came out. While the Hi Power holds more ammunition than the 1911, the 1911 is a more powerful weapon. Both guns are very ergonomic.

Browning's designs have held up over time. As Jim Dickson concludes: "The M1911A1 was built to be the most reliable combat automatic possible and it was built to last. New designs come and go (and often go very quickly if shot much) but the M1911A1 remains the best. Do you really want to trust your life and the lives of your family to less?"

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



BASKET STARFISH
(*Astrophyton murium*)

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

Eukarya, Echinodermata, Ophiuroidea, Ophiuroidea, Phrynophiurida, Curculionoidea

Gulf Specimen Marine Laboratory
www.gulfspecimen.org

WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO



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

**Wakulla
Lawn Ranger**
**Gene
Darby**
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Thursday 22

Sun rise/set: 7:32 AM / 6:05 PM
Moon rise/set: 9:52 AM / 9:00 PM

Moon Illumination 16%

Friday 23

Sun rise/set: 7:32 AM / 6:06 PM
Moon rise/set: 10:21 AM / 10:00 PM

Moon Illumination 24%

Saturday 24

Sun rise/set: 7:31 AM / 6:07 PM
Moon rise/set: 10:51 AM / 11:01 PM

Moon Illumination 34%

Sunday 25

Sun rise/set: 7:31 AM / 6:08 PM
Moon rise/set: 11:24 AM / 12:04 AM

Moon Illumination 45%

Monday 26

Sun rise/set: 7:30 AM / 6:09 PM
Moon rise/set: 12:02 PM / 1:10 AM

Moon Illumination 56%

Tuesday 27

Sun rise/set: 7:30 AM / 6:10 PM
Moon rise/set: 12:46 PM / 2:19 AM

Moon Illumination 68%

Wednesday 28

Sun rise/set: 7:29 AM / 6:10 PM
Moon rise/set: 1:39 PM / 3:30 AM

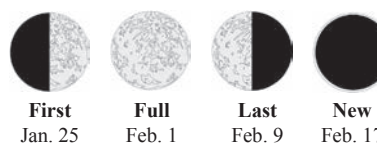
Moon Illumination 78%

Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

Jan. 22 - Jan. 28

GO FISH!

Tide charts by tides4fishing.com



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

Thursday 22

Major Times: 3:15 AM / 2:53 PM
Minor Times: 9:22 AM / 8:30 PM

Friday 23

Major Times: 4:00 AM / 3:37 PM
Minor Times: 9:51 AM / 9:30 PM

Saturday 24

Major Times: 4:48 AM / 4:24 PM
Minor Times: 10:21 AM / 10:31 PM

Sunday 25

Major Times: 5:13 AM / 5:13 PM
Minor Times: 10:54 AM / 11:34 PM

Monday 26

Major Times: 5:36 AM / 5:36 PM
Minor Times: 12:40 AM / 11:32 AM

Tuesday 27

Major Times: 6:35 AM / 6:06 PM
Minor Times: 1:49 AM / 12:16 PM

Wednesday 28

Major Times: 7:36 AM / 7:05 PM
Minor Times: 3:00 AM / 1:09 PM

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

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

Location	Day	Time	Tide
St. Marks River Entrance	Th	3:37 am	▲ 3.2 ft
	Th	10:06 am	▼ -0.5 ft
	Th	4:24 pm	▲ 3.2 ft
	Th	10:26 pm	▼ 0.2 ft
	Fr	4:25 am	▲ 3.0 ft
	Fr	10:37 am	▼ -0.1 ft
	Fr	4:50 pm	▲ 3.2 ft
	Fr	11:15 pm	▼ 0.0 ft
	Sa	5:21 am	▲ 2.1 ft
	Sa	11:12 am	▼ 0.3 ft
	Sa	5:20 pm	▲ 3.2 ft
	Sa	11:15 pm	▼ 0.0 ft
Su	12:13 am	▼ -0.1 ft	
Su	6:34 am	▲ 2.3 ft	
Su	11:53 am	▼ 0.8 ft	
Su	5:56 pm	▲ 3.2 ft	
Mo	1:27 am	▼ -0.2 ft	
Mo	8:15 am	▲ 2.1 ft	
Mo	12:45 pm	▼ 1.3 ft	
Mo	6:41 pm	▲ 3.1 ft	
Tu	2:56 am	▼ -0.4 ft	
Tu	10:11 am	▲ 2.1 ft	
Tu	1:57 pm	▼ 1.7 ft	
Tu	7:47 pm	▲ 3.0 ft	
We	4:23 am	▼ -0.7 ft	
We	11:39 am	▲ 2.4 ft	
We	3:32 pm	▼ 1.8 ft	
We	9:17 pm	▲ 3.0 ft	
City of St. Marks	Th	4:13 am	▲ 2.9 ft
	Th	11:10 am	▼ -0.5 ft
	Th	5:00 pm	▲ 3.0 ft
	Th	11:30 pm	▼ 0.2 ft
	Fr	5:01 am	▲ 2.8 ft
	Fr	11:41 am	▼ -0.1 ft
	Fr	5:26 pm	▲ 3.0 ft
	Fr	11:30 pm	▼ 0.3 ft
	Sa	12:19 am	▼ 0.0 ft
	Sa	5:57 am	▲ 2.5 ft
	Sa	12:16 pm	▼ 0.3 ft
	Sa	5:56 pm	▲ 3.0 ft
Su	1:17 am	▼ -0.1 ft	
Su	7:10 am	▲ 2.2 ft	
Su	12:57 pm	▼ 0.7 ft	
Su	6:32 pm	▲ 2.9 ft	
Mo	2:31 am	▼ -0.2 ft	
Mo	8:51 am	▲ 1.9 ft	
Mo	1:49 pm	▼ 1.2 ft	
Mo	7:17 pm	▲ 2.9 ft	
Tu	4:00 am	▼ -0.4 ft	
Tu	10:47 am	▲ 2.0 ft	
Tu	3:01 pm	▼ 1.5 ft	
Tu	8:23 pm	▲ 2.8 ft	
We	5:27 am	▼ -0.6 ft	
We	12:15 pm	▲ 2.2 ft	
We	4:36 pm	▼ 1.7 ft	
We	9:53 pm	▲ 2.8 ft	
Shell Point, Spring Creek	Th	3:59 am	▲ 3.2 ft
	Th	10:36 am	▼ -0.5 ft
	Th	4:54 pm	▲ 3.0 ft
	Th	10:53 pm	▼ 0.2 ft
	Fr	4:47 am	▲ 3.0 ft
	Fr	11:06 am	▼ -0.2 ft
	Fr	5:20 pm	▲ 3.1 ft
	Fr	11:41 pm	▼ 0.0 ft
	Sa	5:43 am	▲ 2.7 ft
	Sa	11:38 am	▼ 0.3 ft
	Sa	5:48 pm	▲ 3.1 ft
	Sa	11:41 pm	▼ 0.0 ft
Su	12:39 am	▼ -0.1 ft	
Su	6:53 am	▲ 2.3 ft	
Su	12:15 pm	▼ 0.7 ft	
Su	6:21 pm	▲ 3.1 ft	
Mo	1:50 am	▼ -0.3 ft	
Mo	8:29 am	▲ 2.1 ft	
Mo	1:00 pm	▼ 1.2 ft	
Mo	7:03 pm	▲ 3.0 ft	
Tu	3:16 am	▼ -0.4 ft	
Tu	10:25 am	▲ 2.0 ft	
Tu	2:02 pm	▼ 1.6 ft	
Tu	8:04 pm	▲ 3.0 ft	
We	4:45 am	▼ -0.7 ft	
We	12:00 pm	▲ 2.2 ft	
We	3:31 pm	▼ 1.9 ft	
We	9:33 pm	▲ 3.0 ft	
Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay	Th	3:29 am	▲ 2.4 ft
	Th	10:17 am	▼ -0.4 ft
	Th	4:16 pm	▲ 2.4 ft
	Th	10:37 pm	▼ 0.1 ft
	Fr	4:17 am	▲ 2.2 ft
	Fr	10:48 am	▼ -0.1 ft
	Fr	4:42 pm	▲ 2.4 ft
	Fr	11:26 pm	▼ 0.0 ft
	Sa	5:13 am	▲ 2.0 ft
	Sa	11:23 am	▼ 0.2 ft
	Sa	5:12 pm	▲ 2.4 ft
	Sa	11:26 pm	▼ 0.0 ft
Su	12:24 am	▼ -0.1 ft	
Su	6:26 am	▲ 1.7 ft	
Su	12:04 pm	▼ 0.6 ft	
Su	5:48 pm	▲ 2.4 ft	
Mo	1:38 am	▼ -0.2 ft	
Mo	8:07 am	▲ 1.6 ft	
Mo	12:56 pm	▼ 0.9 ft	
Mo	6:33 pm	▲ 2.3 ft	
Tu	3:07 am	▼ -0.3 ft	
Tu	10:03 am	▲ 1.6 ft	
Tu	2:08 pm	▼ 1.2 ft	
Tu	7:39 pm	▲ 2.3 ft	
We	4:34 am	▼ -0.5 ft	
We	11:31 am	▲ 1.8 ft	
We	3:43 pm	▼ 1.3 ft	
We	9:09 pm	▲ 2.3 ft	
St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.	Th	3:41 am	▲ 2.3 ft
	Th	10:18 am	▼ -0.5 ft
	Th	4:44 pm	▲ 2.1 ft
	Th	10:37 pm	▼ 0.3 ft
	Fr	4:35 am	▲ 2.3 ft
	Fr	10:51 am	▼ -0.2 ft
	Fr	5:11 pm	▲ 2.2 ft
	Fr	11:28 pm	▼ 0.0 ft
	Sa	5:36 am	▲ 1.9 ft
	Sa	11:24 am	▼ 0.2 ft
	Sa	5:39 pm	▲ 2.2 ft
	Sa	11:28 pm	▼ 0.0 ft
Su	12:26 am	▼ -0.2 ft	
Su	6:52 am	▲ 1.6 ft	
Su	11:57 am	▼ 0.7 ft	
Su	6:11 pm	▲ 2.3 ft	
Mo	1:37 am	▼ -0.4 ft	
Mo	8:34 am	▲ 1.5 ft	
Mo	12:31 pm	▼ 1.1 ft	
Mo	6:51 pm	▲ 2.3 ft	
Tu	3:01 am	▼ -0.6 ft	
Tu	11:05 am	▲ 1.5 ft	
Tu	1:10 pm	▼ 1.5 ft	
Tu	7:45 pm	▲ 2.3 ft	
We	4:24 am	▼ -0.8 ft	
We	8:59 pm	▲ 2.3 ft	
We	1:10 pm	▼ 1.5 ft	
We	7:45 pm	▲ 2.3 ft	
Dog Island West End	Th	3:56 am	▲ 1.9 ft
	Th	10:36 am	▼ -0.4 ft
	Th	5:05 pm	▲ 1.8 ft
	Th	11:06 pm	▼ 0.3 ft
	Fr	4:51 am	▲ 1.7 ft
	Fr	11:07 am	▼ 0.0 ft
	Fr	5:28 pm	▲ 1.9 ft
	Fr	11:58 pm	▼ 0.1 ft
	Sa	5:51 am	▲ 1.5 ft
	Sa	11:36 am	▼ 0.4 ft
	Sa	5:52 pm	▲ 1.9 ft
	Sa	11:58 pm	▼ 0.1 ft
Su	12:56 am	▼ -0.2 ft	
Su	7:14 am	▲ 1.2 ft	
Su	11:59 am	▼ 0.8 ft	
Su	6:20 pm	▲ 2.0 ft	
Mo	2:09 am	▼ -0.4 ft	
Mo	10:00 am	▲ 1.1 ft	
Mo	12:02 pm	▼ 1.1 ft	
Mo	6:58 pm	▲ 2.0 ft	
Tu	3:31 am	▼ -0.6 ft	
Tu	8:01 pm	▲ 2.1 ft	
Tu	1:10 pm	▼ 1.5 ft	
Tu	7:45 pm	▲ 2.3 ft	
We	4:51 am	▼ -0.8 ft	
We	9:16 pm	▲ 2.1 ft	
We	1:10 pm	▼ 1.5 ft	
We	7:45 pm	▲ 2.3 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.

BIRDING AT THE REFUGE

February at the refuge

By DON MORROW

The clouds had cleared off about an hour before first light, revealing a sky full of stars and a thin crescent moon hanging above the eastern horizon. The temperature was in the upper 40s and the brisk north wind made it feel all the colder.

It was not a quiet night. There is nothing louder than a cabbage palm in the wind and the levee edge had many.

Despite the sound of the wind in the palms, I had heard the calls of Sora and Virginia Rail on my way out to the far end of Stony Bayou, but the owls were quiet, as they often are when the moon is not bright.

As the sky began to lighten, a pair of eagles began their whistling call from the cypresses on the far side of the marsh.

I was out to do a shorebird survey, but the north wind had overcome the incoming tide, exposing the coastal flats and scattering shorebirds. I went through the motions of running my route, but halfway through it became obvious that the shorebirds were not cooperating. I will try it again next week.

It is January at St. Marks, a time that can simultaneously be the cusp of Spring and the dead of winter. January sees mornings alternating between frog choruses and frost. At the Double Bridges most of the trees are bare, but red maples have burst into flower and their tiny red flowers are attracting newly emerging pollinators.

Our winter ducks are still with us, but their numbers are beginning to drop as birds stage northward. Refuge duck numbers on the interior ponds peaked at 2,066 ducks in mid-December and have now decreased by a third. The only regular species not being reported is Ruddy Duck.

Over half of the refuge's ducks are on Mounds Pool 3. The seasonal closure of the outer levee on that pond means that the best viewing is from its inner levee. You can access it by turning right at the T-dike intersection or by parking at the 132 gate and turning left on the first side trail.

Several of our nesting Bald Eagles are feeding young eaglets. It's a dangerous time to be a coot, a preferred eagle food. Bald Eagles take between four and five years to attain

their full breeding plumage. These older non-breeding darker-plumaged juvenile eagles will start migrating north at the end of the month. The breeding adults and this year's eaglets won't leave until May.

A pair of Groove-billed Anis are wintering at the refuge. Basically, a species of Central and northern South America, they breed in southern Texas, which is likely where these birds came from. They are feeding along the north levee at Stony Bayou 2. They are skulkers, staying low in the brush to feed and it takes some patience to find them, but they occasionally pop up and perch on sawgrass seed stalks.

It is an interesting winter. We are dealing with drought, an abnormal warm spell in early January and an abnormal cold spell in mid-January. I'm not sure what comes next, but I'll check on the wind direction before scheduling my next shorebird survey.

Come down to St. Marks. We've got a full complement of anis, eagles, and wintering ducks.

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



Underwater Wakulla

By Gregg Stanton

Scientist-In-The-Sea.
April 12, 2012

During the summer of 1970, NOAA's Man in the Sea Program funded Florida State University to offer a series of semester-long residence classes at the Naval Coastal System Center in Panama City.

Capt. George Bond, MD, organized U.S. Navy resources to host diving science faculty from many disciplines to expose their graduate students to naval underwater technology that might serve underwater research.

Over the next three years they perfected the program such that by the time I attended in 1974, they accommodated 20 graduate students, with me being the last Scientist-In-The-Sea student accepted into the program as funding soon ended.

I was winding down a two-years-plus experience at Harbor Branch Foundation Lab (HBFL), still in search of a career in Diving Science.

I was taking graduate courses at Florida Atlantic University, but frustrated with the previous year's tragedy of the trapped mini-sub Johnson-Sea-Link off the Florida Keys that took the lives of Dr. Ed Link's son and a respected Navy man.

Dr. Larry Briel and Walley Jenkins invited me up to Panama City to meet with Dr. Bond to see if I could find an alternate path. After a brief discussion of my past performance, he told Walley I'd do just fine, to report for training in a few months and the interview was over. My life's paradigm shift happened so quickly I missed the relevance of the moment.

I returned to my job at HBFL and began plans for a productive summer at the lab oblivious of the opportunity.

I did not know anything about the then prestigious NOAA funded Navy-FSU program called Scientist-In-The-Sea until Chris Combs, their graduate coordinator called me angrily a month later to ask if I was going to apply or stop wasting his time. His lecture was enough to get me on track, secure time off from my job, get graduate recommendations secured and forms completed to report to the base on time. Little was the same afterwards.

My lifelong beard was removed, I was issued a jump-suit uniform, we moved into dormitories, issued military visitor IDs, ate at the military mess and, yes, began PT every morning (swimming and jogging). After PT, morning lectures and afternoon practical field or pool exercises followed six days a week for the next 10 weeks. This fast paced schedule was too much for me!

The week we were trained on Surface Supplied diving (helmets included), I rebelled. I could see no science in what we were doing, just exposure to technology, the Navy way.

While fascinating in its own right, I sought the academic interaction I thought would be provided. I threatened to quit the program. That got me a meeting with the Master Chief Wilbur Eaton. He was surprised at first, then amused.

He said the faculty of the program had already pinned their hopes on me to coordinate the next SITS Program, through difficult, unfunded times.

I greeted this with incredulity! I was the graduate student after all, I was supposed to learn from them, and how disappointed I was in the direction I was being lead. Wilbur said his amusement was in my failure to recognize that they were the past, graduate students were the future, and the sooner we came to grips with it, the sooner we could change it. I stayed.

With Navy assistance, I organized and coordinated SITS 1976 at the FSU Marine Lab with 35 guest faculty speakers, a staff of six and 10 students. I again organized and coordinated SITS 2000 on base in Panama City with similar results.

Master Chief Wilbur Eaton empowered me in 1974 to stop following and take the lead.

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



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Faith when the world feels out of control

By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

In the erratic times we live in, when emotions run rampant, do you ever wonder if you're living with the right focus? I do.

As Christ followers,

what does God require of us? When the enemy seems to be gaining ground in our culture, relationships and emotions, what happens to our faith?

I used to picture God and the devil almost equal in size and power, though opposite in nature. I was so wrong.

Satan is not God's counterpart. Not even a little bit.

Satan, who was created by God, doesn't compare to God in any area. Everything about God is huge. In comparison, anything regarding Sa-

tan is microscopic. How would our perspective change if we kept our focus on this truth?

Think about it: God is huge and powerfully strong. The devil is tiny and pathetically weak. Next to God, the devil is a flea.

God is so big and powerful that He created and governs heaven and earth. "Ah, Lord GOD! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you" (Jeremiah 32:17 ESV).

We were created and are loved by a mighty, mighty God.

We can easily lose track of how big and powerful God is when we see the devil's widespread devastation, including our own hurt, confusion and anger. But the devil is no match for God.

I won't deny that we live in scary times. And we'll see more scary days. But I'm reassured to know that nothing can overwhelm our God.

When we put our trust in Christ, we have the strength to en-

sure. "I have strength for all things in Christ Who empowers me [I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him Who infuses inner strength into me; I am self-sufficient in Christ's sufficiency]" (Philippians 4:13 AMPC).

Yes, Satan is real, but he is a defeated foe. The destruction he causes is devastating, but God's restorative power is far greater. "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundant-

ly." (John 10:10 ESV)

God is so much bigger than you can ever imagine. Even bigger than all your hurt, confusion and anger.

Don't let the enemy and his destructive works become larger to you than God and His restorative power. Because ... God is big.

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.

Wings to fly

By **CHERYL CRUCE**

Growing up on a one-lane country road meant animals were simply part of life. Caring for them taught us responsibility, tenderness, and attention – but one lesson stayed with me more than all the rest.

When I was young, our parakeet, Pretty Boy, was never kept in a closed cage. He rode on our shoulders, followed

us from room to room, and never tried to fly away. He seemed content – safe, loved, and at home.

Years later, as an adult, I had another parakeet named Eightball. Unlike Pretty Boy, he was never fully tamed. One evening, his cage door was left ajar, and he escaped. He could fly – but he couldn't navigate his flight. Eightball didn't know how to stop or change direction. He struck walls and windows in panic before I could catch him.

In that moment, something sobering dawned on me. In trying to protect him, I had unintentionally limited him. He had wings, but not the freedom – or the ability – to use them

well.

Watching Eightball struggle revealed a truth that reaches far beyond a small bird. Love and care alone do not guarantee freedom. Sometimes, what feels like protection can quietly become restriction. God gives us wings – gifts, strength, and purpose – but the world and its temptations can clip those wings over time. What begins as something small or harmless can grow into habits that keep us grounded, unable to rise.

Eightball's panic felt uncomfortably familiar. How often do we carry the gifts God has given us, yet struggle to use them well? We long for freedom, but fear, habit, or misplaced protec-

tion keeps us circling instead of soaring. Like that small bird, we may know how to move, but not how to navigate the open space before us. It's a quiet reminder that having wings is not the same as knowing how to fly. For a flight to be life-giving, it must be shaped by wisdom and trust.

In Jesus, we can learn to soar on the wings of eagles (Isaiah 40:31). Through Christ, we are set free from whatever would hold us down. In our weakness, He strengthens us (Philippians 4:13), and when we are too weary to soar, He will cover us with His wings until we are ready to fly (Psalm 91:4).

Paul reminds us that

Christ has set us free – not to return to what once held us captive, but to live unburdened by fear, guilt, or control (Galatians 5:1). To soar in Christ is to trust that His guidance will keep us steady, even when the winds change. In the light of Christ, we are free to soar to heights we never imagined.

After more than sixty years of loving animals, raising children, and watching grandchildren care for creatures of their own, I've come to understand this: love is not control. Sometimes the greatest gift we can give – just as our Heavenly Father gives us – is the freedom to soar.

Wherever you are in life – whether in a season of challenge, doubt,

or quiet waiting – God is inviting you to spread your wings. He calls us to trust His guidance, to rise above fear, and to step boldly into the purpose and plan He has lovingly prepared for each of us. True freedom in Christ allows us to move with courage, grace, and hope.

He brought me out into a broad place; he delivered me, because he delighted in me. Psalm 18:19 And I say, 'O that I had wings like a dove! I would fly away and be at rest. Psalm 55:6

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

OUT TO PASTOR

What it was was a coughing and sneezing contest

By **JAMES SNYDER**

The New Year started rather nicely for us. After all the exciting holiday activities, it was nice to settle into a more relaxed frame of mind. We had a whole week before us with nothing really to do and no place to go. What could be better?

I like it when there's not much to do, but The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage has a very opposite view. If she's not doing something in her craft room, she can't handle it.

However, some things have a way of changing.

Halfway through the first week of the New Year, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came down with flu-like symptoms. She was coughing, sneezing, and all that's associated with the flu.

She was sitting on the couch with her eyes closed, and as lunchtime approached, I said, "Would you like me to make lunch today?"

She always makes lunch, and I thought this was an opportunity to help her out with the lunch plan.

She opened her eyes, looked at me very strangely, and then said, "Heavens no. I'm sick enough as it is, I don't need any more." She then got up, went

to the kitchen, and began making lunch. At least I tried to help.

By the time she finished lunch, I started coughing and sneezing. My nose was running so much that I couldn't handle it. It was then that it occurred to me that whatever she had, she gave to me.

It wasn't long before both of us were sick, and I couldn't help but laugh at how our 'Flu' had turned us into a couple of couch potatoes. We were coughing, sneezing, and feeling miserable, but somehow, it made our start of the New Year memorable in a funny way.

I often wonder why they call it "Flu" when it never flies away. I want to say, "Whatever I had, it Flu away. But this Flu has a very exaggerated fascination with me. And of course, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

This went on for at least a week. For six days, I never got out of my pajamas. It was like I never got out of bed in the morning. I didn't have the energy to put on my work clothes, so I just stayed in my pajamas.

The only work I was doing was walking into the living room, taking a cup of coffee, and sitting down in my easy chair. It took a lot of work to get here.

Not only did I not change out of my pajamas, but The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage did the same. One thing was quite strange: she never left the house to go shopping. That was the real clue that she was sick.

We couldn't handle

much activity, but then The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage invented some game for us to play. She called it the "Cough and Sneezing Challenge." I never heard of that before, but I was in for it. I had nothing else to do, and there was no way I could stop from coughing or sneezing.

It was rather strange that I sneezed three times. I couldn't sneeze just once or even twice, but three times.

At the beginning, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage was far ahead of me in her coughing and sneezing. After all, she got this flulike thing way before I did. But it did not take long for me to catch up with her.

We were sitting together in the living room, coughing and sneezing in turn. I would let her go first, and then I would follow not long after. I tried to be a gentleman about it, but pretty soon I was no longer in control of my coughing and sneezing.

She had a couple of hours ahead of me, but it wasn't long before I caught up.

After my last cough-

ing and sneezing fit, I looked at The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and said, "When will this game be over?" She coughed and sneezed and then cleared her throat and said, "It will be over when one of us wins the contest."

I really didn't know what she was talking about or how to respond. It went on for five days, and each day seemed worse than the one before. We got up in the morning coughing and sneezing, and it continued throughout the day, and then we went to bed coughing and sneezing.

"I have an idea," I said to her, "if I surrender and let you win can we then call it quits?"

As soon as I said that, I went into the worst coughing and sneezing fit I had all week.

Laughing between coughing and sneezing fits, she said, "Are you really willing to lose this game?"

She knows that I don't like losing. But I've had a history of losing, and this would be a great time to keep losing. I wouldn't mind

losing to this if we get it over with.

For the next half hour, we coughed and sneezed together as partners. Sometimes quitting is not an option.

In the middle of a sneeze, a Bible verse came to mind. "Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect

and entire, wanting nothing," (James 1:3-4).

Patience has a way of getting through difficult times.

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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Obituaries

Freeman Dale Ashmore

Freeman Dale Ashmore, 90, of Tallahassee, passed away peacefully at Big Bend Hospice's Margaret Dozier Hospice House on Wednesday, January 14, 2026.

He was born in Gainesville, raised in Tallahassee with his family. He married and had three children. He worked 30 years at FSU as a computer programmer. He was an avid outdoorsman, enjoying his love for the great outdoors – spending time at his beloved river-house hunting and fishing. The family will always cherish his gift of story telling.

He is survived by his children, April Winchester, Jeremy Ashmore, Tom Conley; his four grandchildren, three great-grandchild-

dren and one great-great-grandchild; his brother Michael Ashmore, along with his beloved dog, Sugar Bear.

He was predeceased by his parents, Freeman and Marybelle, his siblings Pamela and Byrne; his first wife Patricia and second wife Carol.

Services will be held at Culley's Funeral Home at 1737 Riggins Road in Tallahassee on Wednesday Jan. 21st. Visitation is 1 to 2 p.m., funeral begins at 2 p.m, graveside at Roselawn Cemetery, 843 Piedmont Drive in Tallahassee.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Big Bend Hospice, 1723 Mahan Center Blvd., Tallahassee FL 32308.

DEATH NOTICES

- **Jerry Lamar Henderson**, 56, of Crawfordville, died January 13, 2026.
- **Johnny Lee Morris Jr.**, 75, of Crawfordville, died January 13, 2026.
- **William D. Osborne**, 77, of Crawfordville, died January 14, 2026.

- **Joe Blake Vinson**, 77, of Monticello, died January 14, 2026.
 - **Patricia Brinkley Wilson**, 65, of Crawfordville, died January 12, 2026.
- Family Funeral Home at Harvey-Young Chapel, 850-926-5919, www.familyfhc.com.

RECAP AND ANALYSIS OF THE WEEK IN STATE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Weekly Roundup: Cold open

By **JIM SAUNDERS**
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — A chill outside the Capitol didn't improve the at-times frosty relationships between the state's three top Republican politicians in the kickoff to the 2026 legislative session.

Gov. Ron DeSantis, however, received a warm response from conservatives in the legal community as he cemented his imprint on the Florida Supreme Court with the appointment of Justice Adam Tanenbaum.

The governor also notched a win from the state court this week in a decision that scrapped the American Bar Association as the sole accreditor for Florida law schools.

CHILLING OUT

House Speaker Daniel Perez, R-Miami, told reporters everything isn't hunky-dory with Senate President Ben Albritton, R-Wauchula, as the 60-day regular session opened on Tuesday.

Asked by reporters about his relationship with his Senate counterpart, Perez referred to a 2025 state budget and tax-cut package agreed to by the two legislative leaders. Perez said Albritton renegeed on the deal after DeSantis said it was "DOA."

The Legislature needs to be "the independent branch of government," Perez said Tuesday.

"And if he (Albritton) were to agree with me on that, we will be able to talk," he added.

Albritton demurred when asked about Perez, saying he won't bad mouth his colleague.

"Not in a million years. I'm not going to do it," Albritton said.

In separate addresses to their chambers Tuesday, the pair pointed to the need for lawmakers to make life more affordable for Floridians. The House and Senate began passing bills later in the week.

The Senate on Wednesday backed a \$150 million "rural renaissance" plan (SB 250), a priority of Albritton's which is aimed at boosting such things as education, transportation and economic development in rural areas. A similar effort last year with more health-care provisions failed to gain traction in the House.

Among bills advanced Thursday in the House were proposals to lower the minimum age to purchase rifles and other long guns from 21 to 18 (HB 133) and to require all private employers to use the federal E-Verify system to check the immigration status of new workers (HB 197). Similar proposals flailed in the Senate in 2025.

The House also approved an effort (HB 6003) that would repeal a 1990 law that prevents people ages 25 and older from seeking what are known as "non-economic" damages in medical-malpractice cases involving deaths of their parents. DeSantis vetoed a similar effort last year.

Meanwhile, DeSantis used his final State of the State address to tout accomplishments over the past seven years in areas such as cutting taxes, expanding school choice, increasing teacher pay, remaking the higher-education system and pouring money into Everglades restoration.

"We lead with clarity, conviction and courage," DeSantis told lawmakers who filled the House chamber. He also touched on his priorities for the session, though he went into little detail and did not announce major new initiatives.

Senate Minority Leader Lori Berman, D-Boca Raton, described DeSantis' address as a "campaign stump speech" and said he didn't address "the true issues that affect Floridians about affordability."

HEADING HOME

DeSantis on Wednesday promoted Adam Tanenbaum from a judge at the Tallahassee-based 1st District Court of Appeal to a justice on the Florida Supreme Court.

Tanenbaum has the "courage" and "warrior spirit" to make tough decisions "regardless of the blowback," the governor said during an announcement at Seminole High School, where Tanenbaum graduated at the top of his class in 1989.

During his two terms as governor, DeSantis has chosen six of the seven current justices — and two other justices who were later tapped by President Donald Trump to serve on the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Tanenbaum's appointment cements DeSantis' legacy of reshaping the court with conservative justices who have reversed years of precedent established by more left-leaning justices on issues such as the death penalty and abortion rights.

Laying out his textualist judicial philosophy on Wednesday, Tanenbaum said he subscribes to "the fixation thesis and the constraint principle." Tanenbaum also defended the court's duty to revisit earlier decisions.

"Our goal as judges is always to find the correct original meaning of the law. To instead follow and replicate erroneous interpretations

of the past is essentially to make the law, usurping in the process the Legislature's and the people's authority. If we as judges profess to apply the law and not make it, then the imperative at all times is to recognize what the law is," Tanenbaum said.

Tanenbaum replaces former Justice Charles Canady, an appointee of former Gov. Charlie Crist who left to direct the University of Florida's Hamilton School for Classical and Civic Education.

NEW GATEKEEPERS

Amid mounting pressure from conservatives on the national lawyer group, the Florida Supreme Court on Thursday ruled that the state should "end its reliance on the American Bar Association" as the sole accreditor of law schools.

The court "is persuaded that it is not in Floridians' best interest for the ABA to be the sole gatekeeper deciding which law schools' graduates are eligible to sit for the state's General Bar Examination and become licensed attorneys in Florida," Chief Justice Carlos Muñoz and Justices John Couriel, Jamie Grosshans, Renee Francis, and Meredith Sasso said in Thursday's ruling. Justice Jorge Labarga issued a dissenting opinion.

The decision follows a report issued in October by a workgroup appointed by Muñoz.

In most cases, Florida requires people to graduate from accredited law schools to be eligible to take the bar exam to practice law. The American Bar Association has served as the state's lone accreditor for more than three decades.

The ABA's accreditation process has come under fire from conservative officials including DeSantis, Florida Attorney General James Uthmeier and U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi, who accuse the organization of trying to require diversity, equity and inclusion efforts at law schools — a political hot-button issue.

"The (highly partisan) ABA should not be a gatekeeper for legal education or the legal profession," DeSantis said in a post on the social-media platform X after Thursday's ruling.

Jenn Rosato Perea, managing director of

the ABA Section of Legal Education and Admission to the Bar, said in an email the court's order "reinforces the authority that it has always had" over licensure of law-school graduates and the law schools it recognizes as accredited.

STORY OF THE WEEK: Florida lawmakers kicked off the 60-day 2026 legislative session on Tuesday, with House and Senate leaders making affordability a top priority.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "Whether the governor wants to be petulant and not shake the hand of a partner, that's on him. It's not going to change our direction." — House Speaker Daniel Perez, R-Miami, on not receiving a handshake from Gov. Ron DeSantis on the House rostrum before the State of the State address.

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Editor's Note

- Because of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, there is no Sheriff's Report this week. That feature will return next week.

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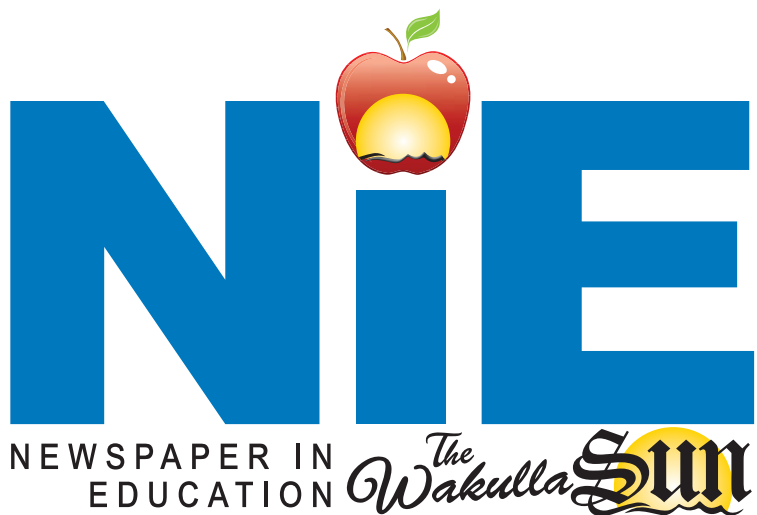
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USE THE NEWS

1. N.A.S.A.'S GIANT ROCKET

NASA is getting ready to send astronauts around the moon on a mission called Artemis II. A giant rocket called the Space Launch System was slowly moved from a big building to the launchpad in Florida. The rocket carries a spacecraft named Orion, which will take four astronauts on a 10-day trip around the moon and back to Earth. This will be the first time humans travel near the moon again since the Apollo missions. The astronauts will not land on the moon, but they will test important systems needed for future moon landings. Imagine you are one of the astronauts on Artemis II. Write a short journal entry about the day you finally get to see the moon up close from space. Describe what you see out the window, how you feel inside the spacecraft, and what you are most excited to tell people when you return to Earth. Write at least 4 sentences.

2. POKÉMON CARDS STOLEN IN NEW YORK CITY

Three robbers broke into a Pokémon card store in New York City and stole at least \$110,000 worth of rare cards. One of the cards stolen was a first-edition Charizard worth about \$15,000. The robbers smashed display cases, took money from the register, and frightened customers by pointing a gun at them. No one was hurt, but the store was damaged and many valuable cards were taken. Pokémon cards have become very popular and expensive, which has led to more thefts at card shops across the country. Pretend you own a small shop that

sells something valuable and collectible, like trading cards, toys, or comics. Make a safety plan for your store. Write 3–5 sentences explaining how you would protect your store, your customers, and your products from theft.

3. A NEW LAW TO PROTECT THE WORLD'S OCEANS

A new international law called the High Seas Treaty is now in effect to help protect ocean life in waters that do not belong to any country. These international waters cover nearly

half of the Earth and are home to many important sea animals and plants. The treaty allows countries to create protected ocean zones where fishing and other activities may be limited. Scientists hope this will help protect coral reefs, fish, and other marine life. The goal is to keep the oceans healthy for future generations. Design your own ocean protection zone. Draw a picture of your ocean area and label at least three animals or plants that live there. Then write a paragraph explaining why your zone should be protect-

ed and what rules you would make to keep it safe.

4. A NEW POLL ABOUT THE PRESIDENT

A new poll shows that many Republicans feel President Trump has not yet helped lower the cost of living during his second term. Prices for food, health care, and other items are still high for many families. While most Republicans approve of Trump's overall job performance, some say their own lives have not improved financially. The poll shows that the people can support a leader while still being unhappy about certain is-

School distribution sponsored by



ues. Think about something in your life that you wish could be improved, like school lunches, recess time, or homework rules. Write a letter to a leader (such as a principal, mayor, or president) explaining what you would like to change and why it would help people. Write at least 4 sentences.

5. MONKEYS ON THE LOOSE IN ST. LOUIS

Several vervet monkeys escaped in St. Louis, and animal experts are trying to catch them safely. The monkeys are native to Africa and are not allowed to be kept as pets

in the city. People have posted fake pictures online using artificial intelligence, which has made it harder to find the real monkeys. The monkeys are smart but can be unpredictable, so residents are being told to stay away and call animal control. Zoo experts are helping with the search. Create a "missing animal" poster for the monkeys. Include a drawing, a description of what they look like, and important safety tips for people who might see them. Then write 3 sentences explaining why it is important not to spread fake pictures or rumors online.



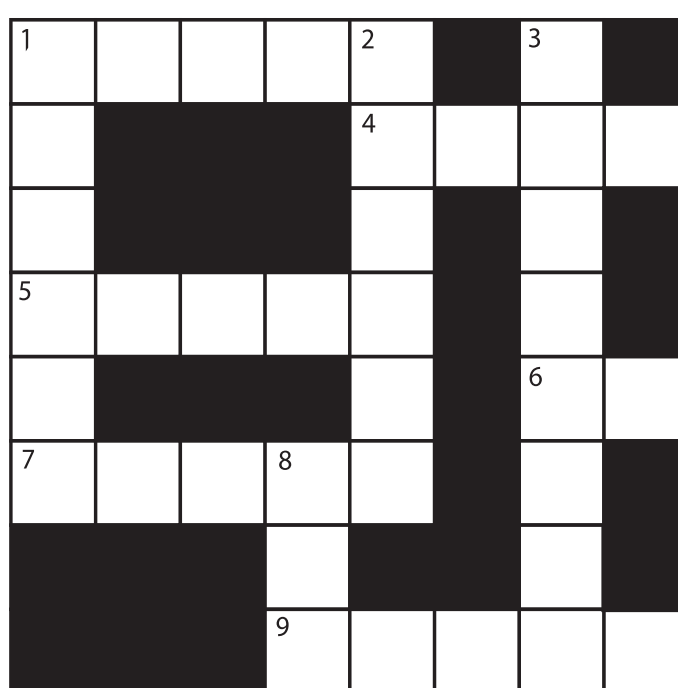
This soup is traditionally smooth and creamy and often begins with a shellfish stock.

Answer: Bisque



- English:** Soup
- Spanish:** Sopa
- Italian:** Minestra
- French:** Soupe
- German:** Suppe

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

1. Related to onions
4. Passage of minutes
5. Reason
6. Artificial intelligence
7. Liquid meals
9. Browned bread

DOWN

1. Scoops liquid
2. Bases for soups
3. Importance given
8. Cooking vessel

Answers:
 Across: 1. Leeks 4. Time 5. Logic 6. AI 7. Soups
 Down: 1. Ladles 2. Stocks 3. Emphasis 8. Pot

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1789: The first American novel is printed in Boston.

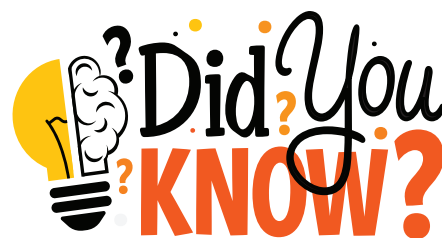
1915: Kiwanis International is founded in Detroit.

1948: The Flag of Quebec is adopted and flown for the first time over the National Assembly of Quebec.

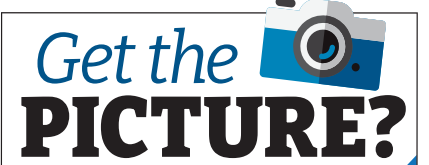
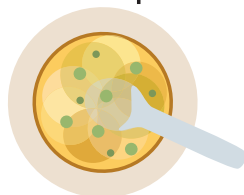


CHOWDER

thick, hearty soup defined by its chunky texture



The earliest archaeological evidence of consuming soup dates back to 6,000 BC, when the soup featured hippopotamus meat, sparrows, lentils, and vegetables.



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Noodle soup

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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, Christine Camp, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of

ISLFL

Located at 6 Old Courthouse Way, Unit B 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 22, 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 FORECLOSURE SALE

0122-0129 TWS NOFS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 2ND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
CIVIL DIVISION

TOWNE MORTGAGE COMPANY, CASE NO. 2025CA000077
Plaintiff,
vs.
ROCKY J. DAVIS; FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY CREDIT UNION
CORPORATION; VALERIE DAVIS; UNKNOWN TENANT,
Defendants

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order or Final Judgment entered in the above styled cause now pending in said court and as required by Florida Statute 45.031(2), GREG JAMES as the Clerk of the Circuit Court shall sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the, IN THE LOBBY OF THE WAKULLA COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 3056 CRAWFORDVILLE HIGHWAY, CRAWFORDVILLE, FLORIDA 32327, 11:00 AM on the 12 day of February, 2026, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

LOT 35, OF THE GROVE PHASE II, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 4, PAGES 14 - 16, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 235 SAND PINE TRAIL, CRAWFORDVILLE, FL 32327

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

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact:

ADA Coordinator
301 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32301
850-606-4401

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 16th day of January 2026.

{{County Court Seal}}

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



January 22, 29, 2026

NOTICE OF ACTION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 2ND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
CIVIL DIVISION

DATA MORTGAGE INC., DBA ESSEX MORTGAGE,
PLAINTIFF,
Case No.: 25000118CAAXMX
V.

NICHOLAS LOUIS BRINO, JR.; KIMBERLY BRINO; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ACTING ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT C/O U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HUD; MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEM, INC., ACTING SOLELY AS A NOMINEE FOR BAY CAPITAL MORTGAGE CORPORATION; FIFTH THIRD BANK, N.A.; PALMETTO OF WAKULLA COUNTY PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC; UNKNOWN PERSON(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY,
DEFENDANTS.

NOTICE OF ACTION

NICHOLAS LOUIS BRINO, JR.
(LAST KNOWN ADDRESS)
174 SHELBY DRIVE CRAWFORDVILLE, FLORIDA 32327

KIMBERLY BRINO
(LAST KNOWN ADDRESS)
174 SHELBY DRIVE CRAWFORDVILLE, FLORIDA 32327

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Foreclosure of Mortgage on the following described property:

LOT 61 OF PALMETTO SUBDIVISION PHASE II, A SUBDIVISION ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 6, PAGE 20 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

a/k/a 174 SHELBY DRIVE, CRAWFORDVILLE, FLORIDA 32327.

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it, on Kahane & Associates, P.A., Attorney for Plaintiff, whose address is 1619 NW 136th Avenue, SuiteD-220, Sunrise, FLORIDA 33323 on or before **February 12, 2026**, a date which is within thirty (30) days after the first publication of this Notice in the THE WAKULLA SUN and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.

This notice is provided pursuant to Administrative Order No.2.065.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, 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 provisions of certain assistance. Please contact the Court Administrator at 3056 Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville, FL32327, Phone No. (850)926-1201 within 2 working days of your receipt of this notice or pleading; if you are hearing impaired, call1-800-955-8771 (TDD); if you are voice impaired, call1-800-995-8770 (V) (Via Florida Relay Services).

WITNESS my hand and seal of said court at Crawfordville, Florida 14th day of January, 2026.

{{County Court Seal}}

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



January 22, 28, 2026



Susan Schatzman
Broker Associate



Mobile: 850-519-2292
SchatzmanSusan@gmail.com






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Agency
Manager



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NOTICE OF ACTION

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

PAFFORD PROPERTIES & CONSTRUCTION, LLC, A FLORIDA LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, Case No.: 2025-CA-000136 PLAINTIFF, V.

WILLIAM J. BURGOON, SR. AND PAULINE D. BURGOON, IF ALIVE, AND IF DECEASED, UNKNOWN SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, CREDITORS, ASSIGNS, AND ALL OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST THEM, DEFENDANTS.

NOTICE OF ACTION

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

LOT 32, BLOCK 7 OF WAKULLA GARDENS UNIT 2, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE(S) 42, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

Wakulla County Parcel ID No. 00-00-034-009-08459-000

Address: Pueblo Trail, Crawfordville, FL

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

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

{{County Court Seal}}

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



January 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026

NOTICE OF ACTION

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

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

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

NOTICE OF ACTION

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

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

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

Wakulla County Parcel ID No. 26-4S-02W-022-0219-000

Address: 2 Franklin Drive, Crawfordville, FL

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

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

{{County Court Seal}}

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



January 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026

NOTICE OF 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.

{{County Court Seal}}

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

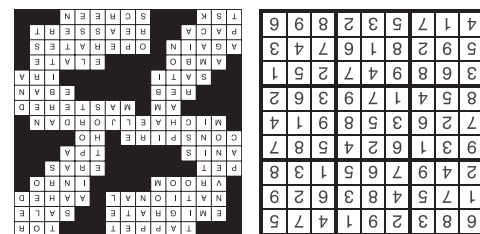


January 15, 22, 2026

GELLIS LAW PLLC A CONCIERGE COUNSELOR Local Wakulla Attorney ~ Resident & Neighbor ~ Sean W. Gellis, Esq Founder & Managing Member 561-371-2848 2931 Crawfordville Hwy. Next to DQ Sean@gellislaw.com www.GellisLaw.com

9x9 grid for a crossword puzzle with numbers 1-34.

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test! Here's How It Works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!



- 32. "Boardwalk Empire" character
33. More generous
34. Hanging cloth used as a blind
36. Ancient Greek sophist

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

FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION, PLAINTIFF, Case No.: 65-2025-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 Driscoll, Esquire, Brock & Scott, PLLC., the Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 4919 Memorial Hwy, Suite 135, Tampa, FL 33634, within thirty (30) days of the first date of publication on or before 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.

{{County Court Seal}}

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



January 15, 22, 2026

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

CENTENNIAL BANK, Case No.: 25 CA 99 PLAINTIFF, V. KEITH WARD, ET AL., DEFENDANTS.

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: THE ESTATE OF HELEN WARD and TONY WARD YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage encumbering the following property in Wakulla County, Florida:

Lots numbered Three (3), Four (4), Nine (9) and Ten (10), in Block "E", of East St. Marks, a subdivision of a part of the Government Lot Two (2) in Section 2, Township 4 South, Range 1 East, as shown by plat of said subdivision recorded on Page 8 of Plat Book No. 1, of the Public Records of Wakulla County, Florida, and described by metes and bounds as follows to wit:

Begin at the Northwest corner of Lot Number 3, in Block "E", of the subdivision of East St. Marks, as shown by plat thereof recorded on Page 8 of Plat Book No. 1, of the Public Records of Wakulla County, Florida, and run North 71 degrees 20 minutes East and parallel to the North boundary of said Block "E" 190 feet to the West boundary of the right-of-way of Port Leon Drive (State Road 363), then run South 18 degrees 40 minutes East along said right-of-way boundary 120 feet, then run South 71 degrees 20 minutes West and parallel to the North boundary of said Block "E" 190 feet to the East boundary of a street, then run North 18 degrees 40 minutes West 120 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING, situate, lying and being in Government Lot 2 of Section 2, Township 4, Range 1 East.

THE ABOVE-DESCRIBED PROPERTY ALSO BEING DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

Lots 3, 4, 9 and 10, Block "E", East St. Marks, a subdivision as per map or plat thereof, recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 8 and also Plat Book 1, Page 52, of the Public Records of Wakulla County, Florida.

has been filed against you and all unknown parties claiming by, through, under, and against the herein named individual defendants who are not known to be dead or alive, whether said unknown parties may claim an interest as spouses, heirs, grantees or other claimants, and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Rick A. Savage, Esq., of the Savage Law Office, PLLC, plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 111 N. Calhoun St., Suite 8, Tallahassee, Florida 32301 on or before 30 days from the date of the first publication of this notice and file the original with the clerk of court of this Court either before service on plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.

WITNESS my hand and seal of said court at Crawfordville, Florida 16th day of January, 2026.

{{County Court Seal}}

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



January 22, 28, 2026

Large grid for a crossword puzzle with numbers 1-51.

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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.

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WRESTLING

War Eagle wrestlers advance to Region Finals

By WALT JACOBS
Correspondent

On Thursday, January 15th, the top four teams from Districts 1 and 2 met in Lynn Haven to battle it out for a chance to compete for the FHSAA 1A Regional Dual championship title in Kissimmee on January 23rd.

An air of confidence emanated from a stone-faced Nate Litowsky and his intrepid squad of wrestlers as they walked into the gym at North Bay Haven Charter Academy.

In their first dual of the night, Wakulla faced South Walton. The outcome of the dual was never in question as the War Eagles dismantled the Seahawks 60-18. With Florida High's 44-32 defeat of North Bay Haven, the match that everyone anticipated was set.

Only a week earlier, Wakulla soundly beat Florida High 58-18. It was expected that Florida High would make roster adjustments in hopes of pulling off the upset, but the Seminoles dramatically changed their lineup the second time around. Eleven wrestlers competed in different weight classes this time for Florida High, while Wakulla only made adjustments at 138 and 144.

The dual began at the 157 pound weight class and by the time the dual reached the midway point, the War Eagles had built a commanding 27-11 lead. Although the momentum was firmly in Wakulla's favor, there was still some work to be done before Wakulla fans could begin to breathe easier.

At the conclusion of the 126 pound bout, Wakulla led 38-15. The Seminoles still had hope, but they would need to pin their way through the four remaining matches to win.

They got one of the four pins needed at 132, when Florida High's Wyatt Feltgen pinned Patrick Cooksey, but both Feltgen and Cooksey received unsportsmanlike conduct penalties which brought the score to Wakulla 37, Florida High 20.

The Seminoles got the second of four pins that they needed when Jasper Croom pinned Caleb Thompson at 138 pounds. That brought the team score to Wakulla 37, Florida High 26. After the bout, Croom was hit with an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty which resulted in the deduction of another team point, making the score 37-25.

With two matches left, the dual could still end in a 37-37 tie and have to be decided on criteria.

However, Brady Jackson received a forfeit at 144 pounds, which sealed the win for Wakulla.

At 150 pounds, Troy Thaxton put an exclamation point on Wakulla's victory with a pin of Florida High's Diego Silva in the final bout of the evening.

The final score was Wakulla 49, Florida High 25.

Coach Nate Litowsky commented, "We wrestle in a dominant district against some tough teams in the region. After Thursday, there's no question who the best is." He added: "Shouldn't have been a question in the first place."

The win advances



Kyle Manzi collecting nearfall points vs Malik Leonard of Florida High.

Wakulla to the Regional Finals where they will take on Baker County on January 23rd in Kissimmee.

WAKULLA PLACES 2ND AT GATOR BRAWL

Wakulla High placed second at the Gator Brawl held in Wewahitchka on January 16th and 17th. The Middleburg Broncos placed first with 551.5 points followed by Wakulla with 461.5, North Bay Haven with 339.5, Fort Walton Beach with 334, and Suwannee with 313 points to round out the top five.

Wakulla advanced five wrestlers to the finals and came away with three champions: Kyle Manzi at 113, William Harvey at 126 and Brady Jackson at 138.

INDIVIDUAL PLACERS

- 106- Brayden Hodges: 6-2; 4th place
- 113-Kyle Manzi: 8-0; 1st place
- 120-Matthew Thaxton: 8-1; 2nd place
- 126-William Harvey: 9-0; 1st place
- 132-Patrick Cooksey: 6-2; 4th place
- 138-Brady Jackson: 8-0; 1st Place
- 150-Troy Thaxton: 8-1; 2nd place
- 175-Cole Manning: 5-2; 5th place
- 190-Gavin Mitchell: 5-3; 3rd place
- 215-Blake Barodte: 9-1; 2nd place
- 285-Lonnie Pearce: 5-3; 6th place

BRADY JACKSON BREAKS RECORD

On January 17th,

Brady Jackson etched his name in the record books with his 28th tech fall of the year. It came on a 20-4 technical fall over Aiden Reeves of Fort Walton Beach.

Jackson added a 29th tech fall with a 19-3 win over Jude Merrell, also of Fort Walton Beach. With several dates remaining on the schedule, Jackson will no doubt continue to add more. The record was previously set by Jae T Thaxton in 2023 with 27.

LADY WAR EAGLES EXCEL AT RYAN BLACKWELL

The Ryan Blackwell Invitational in Gulf Breeze provided the Lady War Eagle wrestling team an opportunity to get a glimpse of half of the district opponents that they will see in the post-season.

Julia Baggett and Kameron Easter had stellar performances with both placing 2nd in their respective weight classes.

In her second match,

Baggett faced 11th ranked Elizabeth Herhold from Gulf Shores, Alabama. Coach Jon Sanchez described it as "a dogfight the whole match. There was a lot of back and forth action. Julia ended up pinning her in the second period."

In the finals, Baggett wrestled Choctaw's 20th ranked Mary McKinney.

Sanchez said, "She wrestled great and gave McKinney all she could handle. Unfortunately, she came up short, losing 12-2. However, the match brought out a lot of good things overall when you look at the progression of the season." He added: "We still have some time to work on some small adjustments, but the growth she's seen this season has been great."

In her opening match, Kameron Easter came out firing on all cylinders pinning Bay High's Tanya Leveret in just 55 seconds.

In the finals, Easter wrestled 11th ranked Adalyne Fowls from Gulf

WRESTLERS of the WEEK

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WRESTLERS of the WEEK



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Boys Wrestler of Week



JULIA BAGGETT
Girls Wrestler of week

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Join us on Sunday Mornings at 11 AM

COACH'S CORNER

"All the work we put in was aimed at this weekend and March. We've accomplished more than anyone ever thought we would. Now the boys are prepared, confident, and ready to finish it."

- Coach Nate Litowsky

Breeze. "Her finals match didn't go the way we wanted," said Sanchez, "but again, we were able to take away a lot of positives. Kameron is continuing to work on things in the room and is getting

better every week." "I'm very proud of how these girls performed and I'm looking forward to the postseason," he said.

The Sopchoppy Opry
SopchoppyOpry.com
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