



Wrestlers win Dual Championship/Page 14

The Wakulla Sun

WAKULLA WeatherSTEM
Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Partly Cloudy	PM Showers	Partly Cloudy
Hi: 59° Lo: 35° 5% Sunrise 7:29 AM Sunset 6:12 PM	Hi: 61° Lo: 35° 54% Sunrise 7:28 AM Sunset 6:13 PM	Hi: 41° Lo: 21° 2% Sunrise 7:28 AM Sunset 6:14 PM



\$1
One Section

"It's a New Day"

Locally Owned & Operated

Our 5th Year 5th Issue
Thursday, January 29, 2026

Celebrating diesel program

Staff Report

This year, Wakulla High School diesel students were awarded for their high achieving performance with the donation of a Freightliner 114SD heavy-duty diesel engine, providing them with additional hands-on training access.

Lively Technical College and Wakulla High School held an event on Friday recognizing students in the diesel training program and a successful workforce partnership with Four Star Freightliner and Daimler Trucks of North America.

Among more than 250



Dignitaries at the diesel training program in front of a Freightliner truck diesel engine.

technical colleges nationwide, Lively consistently ranks as one of the top training providers in Medium/Heavy Truck Technician programs, and

had a 100% job placement rate in 2024 for all graduates of the Transit Technician program.

Friday's event highlighted student success,

career pathways in diesel and heavy truck technology, and the industry partnerships helping prepare students for

Turn to Page 3

Wakulla Springs discussion held

FSU's Dr. Joel Trexler talks about ongoing research on the spring

By LINDA ANN McDONALD
Correspondent

Friends of St. Marks Wildlife Refuge held a Second Sunday Talk about Wakulla Springs on Jan. 11th at the Leon County Library Main Branch. Approximately 50 people attended the lectures.

Guest speaker Dr. Joel Trexler, director of the Coastal and Marine Laboratory and Professor of Biological Science at FSU, shared information and data regarding ongoing studies regarding research to restore and protect the health and clarity of natural springs, especially Wakulla Springs.

"Our research in the larger sense is to try to advance our understanding of [the] influence of people on water coming into the spring and out the spring vent, how that impacts the ecological side of the Wakulla River," he said.

Trexler shared three hypotheses created through his research: 1. Gulf of Mexico waters are encroaching on the Upper Floridian Aquifer through the subterranean conduit system. 2. The Lower Floridan Aquifer, or deeper non-potable waters are flowing upward into the Upper Floridian Aquifer via deeper-seated fractures or faults that intersect the conduits feeding Wakulla Spring. 3. Significant changes in the hydrologic regime may be allowing waters from an unknown source to enter the conduit system and discharge at Wakulla Springs.

Trexler shared in summary that elementary analyses of conductivity spikes are continuing and due to highly diverse microbial communities present within and among sites, microbiome analyses are still ongoing.

Kelly Keys, a Communications Professor at FSU who is working with Trexler, teaches Environmental Communications, was also a guest speaker for the event.

"By translating complex scientific data into clear, accessible formats that align with people's values, the team at the Wakulla Springs Lab hopes to continue to improve the health of the springs and, in turn, the water supply," Keys said. "We're also doing communication research, different from the scientific research. Within that communication research, we're looking at environmental values and how communicating using different values might have an effect on the way that people take in the information."

Keys' team is focusing on outreach and will create an educational video and curriculum for middle school science classes, available free of charge for teachers. She plans to offer public tours of the spring's watershed from Tallahassee to Wakulla Springs. The funding will also support undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral students whose studies align with the work.

WILDLIFE, HERITAGE, OUTDOORS FESTIVAL



Celebrating outdoors

On Saturday, the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge hosted the Wildlife, Heritage, Outdoors Festival. From the Miccosukee Tribe in the Everglades were Hector "Pancho" Tigertail and Nichols Gonzalez with native tools, hides, and weapons all handmade. At right, James Cavavah, 2, with his first bow-and-arrow. (Photos by Gerald Brown)



Longleaf pine planting at Wakulla Springs

Special to The Sun

Surrounded by iconic natural communities near one of the world's largest and deepest freshwater springs, the Florida State Parks Foundation today joined the Florida Park Service and Tallahassee's Bass Pro Shops store to celebrate an unprecedented milestone for tree and ecosystem restoration in Florida.

The Foundation's Plant a Pine program, which seeks to restore native longleaf pine populations in Florida's state parks, recently surpassed 500,000 seedlings planted in parks across the state. To commemorate the achievement, the Foundation teamed up with park staff, rangers and biologists, as well as representatives from Bass Pro Shops, to manually plant nearly 1,000 longleaf pine seedlings at Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park near



Foundation, state parks and Bass Pro officials at the Wakulla Springs tree planting.

Tallahassee.

Bass Pro Shops has contributed \$200,000 to Plant a Pine since the program launched in 2020. Every \$1 donated plants one longleaf pine seedling in a state park.

"We are amazed that Plant a Pine has restored more than half a million trees in our state parks, and we are so grateful to Bass Pro Shops and all of our incredible Plant a Pine donors," said Julia

Gill Woodward, CEO of the Florida State Parks Foundation. "It's a proud day for the Foundation, and we are celebrating the best way we know how — by planting more trees in a state park."

Originally conceived in response to Category 5 Hurricane Michael, which destroyed approximately 500 million trees across the Florida Panhandle in 2018, Plant a Pine has become one of

the Foundation's signature campaigns.

A popular gift for holidays, birthdays and special occasions, nearly 2,500 grassroots supporters have contributed to Plant a Pine since its debut. Plant a Pine donations may be made in honor of a friend, family member, pet or community group, and every Plant a Pine donor

Turn to Page 3

Teen crashes stolen truck

Staff Report

A 15-year-old boy in a stolen Toyota pickup collided with an SUV while being pursued by law enforcement last week, and the truck rolled into a utility pole and took out a chainlink fence, according to a report from the Florida Highway Patrol.

The wreck happened on Wednesday, Jan. 21, off Spring Creek Highway around 7 a.m.

According to FHP, the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office had requested FHP assistance in a vehicle pursuit of the stolen truck. FHP intercepted the pickup as it turned onto Spring Creek Highway from Shadeville Road, and the trooper attempted a Precision Immobilization Technique (PIT) maneuver near the intersection of Wakulla-Arran Road, but the truck escaped.

The pickup, traveling northbound, went onto the grass shoulder and passed vehicles in the northbound lane that had pulled over to yield to the emergency vehicles. At one point, the teen driver steered sharply left, began rotating, and the right side of the truck struck the front of a Ford SUV.

After that collision, the truck rotated clockwise and overturned on shoulder and struck a utility pole, breaking it in half. The pickup continued to overturn and went through chainlink fence and stopped.

The 15-year-old driver reportedly suffered minor injuries.

The 59-year-old female driver of the SUV also suffered minor injuries, as did her 9 and 10 year old passengers.

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Lisa Craze, CFC
Wakulla County Tax Collector

AMERICA IS TURNING 250 NEXT YEAR

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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.

Student of the Week

Malayne Scribner – 8th grader at Wakulla Middle School

Principal: Amy Bryan

Achievements/Reason for Nomination: Wakulla Middle School is pleased to nominate Malayne Scribner for the Wakulla Sun's Student of the Week. Malayne joined our school mid-year and immediately made a lasting impression. She quickly fit in with her peers and became an integral part of the Wildcat community. Malayne brought her positive energy to the basketball team, where her enthusiasm and team spirit have been invaluable. In the classroom, she is an active participant—always volunteering ideas, collaborating with classmates, and even taking time to tutor others. Her kindness, leadership, and dedication make her a truly wonderful person and an outstanding role model for her peers. Malayne is an asset to WMS and has adjusted well to being a successful Wildcat!



STUDENT OF THE WEEK FEATURES A DIFFERENT SCHOOL EACH WEEK.

Arbor Day Celebration featured children's art



Dylan Morgan's art



Blaize Litowsky's art



Georgia-Grace Avery's art



Rosemary Butwell's art

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FOLLOW THE SUN.

The Wakulla Sun

WHS teacher wins Directors Chair Award

By **KRISSY SANCHEZ**
WHS

Last week, Wakulla High School Theatre Teacher Krissy Sanchez was awarded one of two State of Florida Jan McArt Director's Chair Awards. This is a prestigious award in the world of theatre and is awarded annually to two educators across the State of Florida. The award is named for Jan McArt, a beloved figure in the South Florida theatre community, who formed several theatres and programs throughout the state. This award keeps her memory alive by celebrating and supporting

educators who inspire and cultivate the next generation of theatre artists.

Sanchez was nominated for the award by others in the industry and was reviewed and selected by the committee as one of just two winners from the State of Florida based on the impact she is making with the Wakulla High School Theatre Program.

The Director of Education and Operations at the Florida Theatrical Society said that "this is a great honor that shows that your impact and dedication to your students and their theatrical education is to



be applauded, and your hard work is evident in the investment of not only their education, but the lives of your students as well."

The award was announced by WHS administration Michele Falk, Kerry Prosser and Jessica Mapes and the Florida Theatrical Association Director of Operations, David Atwood on Thursday. Sanchez will be recognized onstage at the Florida Thespian Festival in March which is attended by over 8,000 theatre students each year. In addition, Sanchez will be awarded a monetary award of \$5,000 in recognition of this prestigious

award.

Last year, The Wakulla High School Theatre Program was named a School of Excellence in Theatre and given the designation as a Gold Level Honor Troupe for the State of Florida, the highest level of recognition for a school by the Florida Thespian Society. If you would like to see the big things WHS is doing in the theatre department, plan to join them April 30-May3 for their spring production, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, which will feature 40 students on stage and 20 students making the magic come to life behind the scenes!

Tree planting

From Front Page

receives a printable Certificate of Tree Planting.

"Today's event at Wakulla Springs is a great example of what makes Florida's state parks so special — a project to restore a critically important ecosystem within one of our

favorite places to swim, hike and enjoy the outdoors," Foundation Board President Matt Caldwell said. "That so many people and partners have donated to Plant a Pine over the years is a testament to just how much our state cares about its natural spaces."

Capable of standing well over 100 feet



tall, longleaf pines once dominated landscapes across the Southeastern U.S., but now span just 3% of their original footprint.

Mature longleaf ecosystems support more than 30 endangered and threatened species, including red cockaded woodpeckers, gopher tortoises and indigo snakes. Longleaf pines are fire-adapted — park staff conducted a prescribed fire to prepare

for today's planting — and regular fire enables longleaf pines to create rich, stable ecosystems.

"The longleaf pine is a keystone species found in many of our parks," Florida State Parks Director Chuck Hatcher said. "We're not just planting trees today. We're restoring habitat for our state's native plants and animals to thrive for future generations."

Diesel program

From Front Page

in-demand jobs.

Todd O'Neal, lead technician of the Lively Transit Teach Program and former Wakulla program instructor, praised Proctor Subaru and Freightliner for being "champions" of the program.

"The need for technicians is very real," he said, adding that there are 865 jobs open statewide, and 18 locally, paying \$18-\$25 per hour.

Chuck Curles with Four Star Freightliner, told students that, with experience, it's a lucrative profession with

opportunities to work anywhere.

Students at the Wakulla High program learn to be diesel maintenance technicians. They can then transfer to Lively to study Diesel Mechanic I.

After completing Lively, Curles told the students they could come into Freightliner's program and after a year earn expert credentials.

Superintendent of Schools Rick Myhre reiterated his support for career training programs like diesel, saying it sends students into the world with the skills to be successful citizens.



Wakulla Instructor Johnny Slusher shows off a demonstration engine to Superintendent of Schools Rick Myhre at Friday's event at the high school.

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.



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

City of Sopchoppy Notice of Public Meeting

The City of Sopchoppy will hold a regular monthly meeting on Monday, February 9, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at City Hall, 105 Municipal Avenue, Sopchoppy, FL.

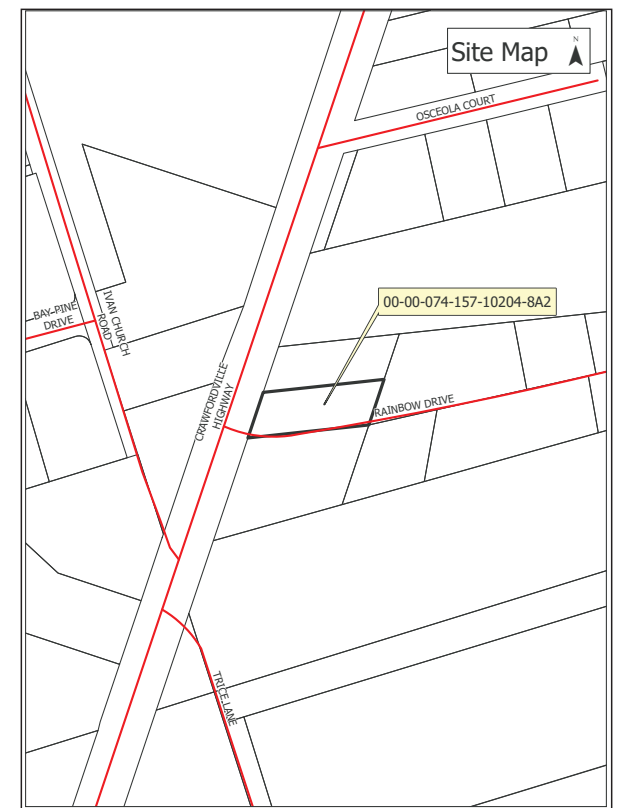
Purpose of Meeting: General Business.

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

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING AN APPLICATION FOR CONDITIONAL USE

The Wakulla County Planning Commission proposes to consider the following application. A Public Hearing is scheduled regarding the following before the Planning Commission on Monday, February 9, 2026, beginning at 6:00 P.M., unless otherwise noted below or as time permits. All public hearings will be held at the County Commission Chambers located west of the County Courthouse at 29 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida 32327. Interested parties are invited to attend and present testimony.



1. Application for Conditional Use: CU25-07
Applicant: Darra Everheart
Proposal: tow yard – temporary vehicle storage facility
Tax ID Number: 00-00-074-157-10204-8A2
Existing FLU Map: Urban Fringe (FLUE Policy 1.2.7)
Current Zoning: C-3 (Section 5-39, LDC)
FEMA Flood Info: "X" zone on Panel 0250E
Parcel size: 0.51 +/- acres
Location: 2473 Crawfordville Highway
Hearings Required: Planning Commission: Monday, February 9, 2026 @ 6:00 PM

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

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



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

The Wakulla County Planning Commission and Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners propose to consider the following ordinance. Public Hearings are scheduled before the **Wakulla County Planning Commission on Monday, February 9, 2026, beginning at 6:00 P.M. and before the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, and Monday March 2, 2026 beginning at 6:00 P.M. or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard.** All public hearings will be held at the County Commission Chambers located west of the County Courthouse at 29 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida 32327. All affected parties may appear at the public hearings, be heard, and submit evidence and written comments on the application.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA, PERTAINING TO ZONING DISTRICT REGULATIONS; AMENDING SECTION 2-4 OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE RELATING TO DEFINITIONS AND TERMS; AMENDING SECTION 5-38 OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE RELATING TO GENERAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT REGULATIONS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

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

Vendors can register for Wakulla Wonderful Wait for investigation in deaths of protesters

Editor, The Sun:

Wakulla County 4 H and UF/IFAS Extension Wakulla County are excited to announce the return of Wakulla Wonderful 2026, a community celebration honoring 183 years of Wakulla County history. This year’s festival will take place on Saturday, March 14, 2026, from 10 a.m. to 2: p.m. at the Wakulla County Extension Office.

Wakulla Wonderful celebrates the county’s founding on March 11, 1843 and showcases its rich history, community spirit, and local talent. Guests can enjoy an historical timeline exhibit, guided history tours, live music, food trucks, birthday cupcakes, and an interactive “Passport to Wakulla Adventures” activity for the first 100 youth.

Local vendors—including artisans, food trucks, community groups, and youth entrepreneurs—are invited to

participate in this year’s festival. Spaces are limited, and pre registration is required.

Interested vendors may apply at <https://wakullacountyfl.rja.revize.com/forms/13098>.

Special thanks is due to all the Wakulla Wonderful partners, volunteers, and committee members. This event would not be possible without support from Wakulla Sun, the Wakulla Library, Friends of the Library, Wakulla County Sheriff’s Office, Lamar Advertising, the Wakulla County Historical Society, the Wakulla County Chamber of Commerce, UF/IFAS Wakulla County Extension, the Wakulla County Clerk of Court, Visit Wakulla, Rockulla, and the Wakulla Board of County Commissioners.

Rachel Pienta
4-H Director/
Wakulla Wonderful organizer

Editor, The Sun:

Well, that didn’t take long. And it didn’t matter if one was in Florida or Kolorado. The Monday Morning quarterbacks, regarding the tragic circumstances of two progressive protesters in Minneapolis, was swift, almost as if the events had been anticipated and an orchestrated response was in place long before the untimely deaths.

I suppose Rahm Emmanuel is correct- “...never let a tragedy go to waste.”

There are many opinions offered, opinions formed by hearsay and opinionated versions of the events and local eyewitness accounts from comradesly protesters. This clutching of pearls serves no purpose other than incite further distractions from the true origins of the protests. Some accounts resemble a front-row seat to the events. Other accounts lofty ramblings have little relevance other than to be noticed because the author doesn’t like something or ICE or some plow driver being denied critical medication. Huh?

While the events are disturbing, the circumstances, justified or not, are subject to a thorough investigation, provided that local assistance is objective. Government has no business

in minimizing the headcount of its citizens. By the same token, government officials, local/state/federal have an obligation to stay in their lane and collaborate for the betterment of its citizens. Clearly, this is not the case in Minnesota.

Today, however, as citizens, we should respectfully voice our concerns, assist in the betterment of our society and not judge. We can wait for a thorough investigation. Truth eventually breaks into the sunlight. Piling on, announcing one’s version or opinion of what you think happened serves no purpose. The point is You Were Not There. You Were Not The Law Enforcement Officer facing the chaos and circumstances. Those two protesters lives are gone. Nothing you can say or do is going to bring them back. So, instead of spewing your opinions of grainy videos, be a responsible citizen and hold your ire until the facts come out. Don’t let TDS cloud your objectivity.

We are a polarized nation. Nothing is going to change that, nothing. Our contribution to the betterment of our society is to be objective, respectful and to critically think.

Robert Franco
Surf Road

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. 29th– Feb. 4th.

Thursday, January 29th
•Creative Writing I 10am

Friday, January 30th
• Quilting Guild 10am

Saturday, January 31st
• No Programs

Sunday, February 1st
• Closed

Monday, February 2nd
• No Programs

Tuesday, February 3rd
• Book Bunch 10am
• Creative Writing II 10am
• Lego Club 4:30pm
• Big Bend AHEC

Tobacco-Free 5:30pm

Wednesday, February 4th
• Book Babies 10am
• Wakulla County Garden Club Board 10am
• WCCY 12:30pm
• Mahjong 1pm
• Knitting Group 4pm
• WCYFCA 6pm

On the Horizon

Calendar of events for the week of January 29

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.
- “Falling off the Edge,” a play by Paul Donnelly, will be performed at Palaver Tree Theater at 8 p.m. This performance is pay-what-you-can.
- The Rotary Club of Wakulla County meets at the TSC Wakulla Center at 8:30 a.m. on Thursdays.
- Gentle Yoga and Stetching Class, every Thursday, 11:30 a.m. at First Baptist Church. Bring a mat. Come early to sign in. Chair Yoga participants welcome. \$2 per class.
- The VFW Auxiliary Bingo Night will

be held at 7 p.m. at 475 Arran Road in Crawfordville, every Thursday. There are concessions and raffles.

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

Friday, January 30

- “Falling off the Edge,” a play by Paul Donnelly, will be performed at Palaver Tree Theater at 8 p.m. Tickets \$15 advance, \$20 at the door.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon and 8 p.m. every Friday at 54 Ochlockonee St.

Saturday, January 31

- Market Days Jazz and Blues Edition, and fundraiser for Battle 14, will be held at Hudson Park from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be vendors and music.
- Sopchoppy Opry will be held at the historic Sopchoppy Auditorium begin-

ning at 7 p.m. Southbound and Friends will perform country, bluegrass and gospel music. Tickets are \$15.

- “Falling off the Edge,” a play by Paul Donnelly, will be performed at Palaver Tree Theater at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Tickets \$15 advance, \$20 at the door.

Sunday, February 1

- 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, February 2

- County commission meets in the commission chambers at 6 p.m.
- 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, February 3

- 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, February 4

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

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William Snowden
Editor & Publisher
The Wakulla Sun

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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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– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

**Polled at Wakulla War Eagle Band’s yard sale at Palayer Tree on Saturday:
What do you look for at yard sales?**



LISA GRINER
Florida Farm Bureau

“I look for two things, the holiday décor and children’s toys.”



EVELYN SMITH
WHS Band Volunteer

“Jewelry, nautical items, yard statuary, planters, bird baths or feeders and knick-knacks.”



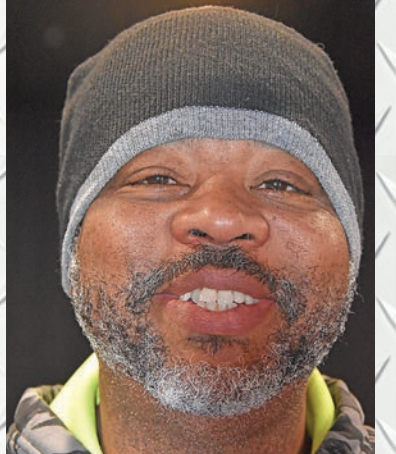
MOLLIE ROBINSON
WHS Teacher

“Legos, jewelry and knick-knacks.”



LINDA HALL
Retired Security Guard

“Jewelry. I also look for clothing, kids clothes and Christmas items.”



MICHAEL COTTON
Wakulla Sheriff’s Office

“Used workout equipment, that’s about it.”

Wakulla Crossroads

By **VERNA BROCK**

It looks like we managed to dodge a bullet Sunday evening, while so many of our neighbors to the north will be digging out for days. As much as I dislike frigid weather, I am very grateful to have power and safe roads to traverse. We are in the middle of winter, after all. So we must grin and bear our sub-freezing nights.

Out of curiosity Ed did a search to discover if our memories of winters past are accurate. And they absolutely are. Used to be, North Florida

would experience temperatures in the teens and 20s every year. For a while now, we have been spoiled by years of winters that never dropped below freezing, let alone gave us a hard freeze. Now we struggle once again to protect tender plants from the cold damage they aren’t equipped to handle.

I’m taking advantage of this year’s cold snap to catch up on my reading. My tastes are pretty eclectic, but one of my favorite authors is David Baldacci. A skilled wordsmith, his greatest talent is character develop-

ment. I am an impatient fan, always waiting for the next book to be published. I’m afraid authors can’t write as fast as I read, so I spend far too much time waiting and far too little time reading!

Baldacci’s latest, “Nash Falls,” has been devoured, while the second in the series, “Hope Rises,” has been duly ordered and paid for (to arrive in April...aghhh!).

As always, his stories are inhabited by complex and interesting personalities. The plots are full of mystery and danger that keep readers’ attention riveted to the end. If there was ever a time when distractions are welcomed, it is now.

What could be better than finding a comfortable chair in a cozy corner, a cup of hot tea or coffee and a delicious book? Whatever your reading taste, staying in with a captivating story is a wonderful way to spend time. I honestly don’t require an excuse to while away hours reading, but chilly days certainly reinforce my inclination to do so!

Since I almost always have three or four books in rotation, I never have difficulty taking advantage of free time. In fact, I’m pretty adept at making time to entertain myself, cold weather or not, and a good book is the perfect instrument for just that!

Buckhorn News

By **ETHEL SKIPPER**

Hello to all our readers. The new year is here and first month is almost past and gone. So many things have happened in the new year.

I live on Surf Road in Sopchoppy. The old home of Charlotte and John Rosier is not there anymore. It was a first of many for the community: a home for the sick, people who need-

ed a caretaker, hospice care, foster care, funeral home care, until service arrived. When there were homeless people, the Rosiers could always find an extra place for them to stay.

One of the things I remember about the Rosier home was no one went hungry. There was always a pot of some kind of food and cornbread was in the oven.

Skipper Temple Church of Christ will have its annual Woman Conference on Jan. 31 at noon. There will be great speakers, powerful testimonies, praise and worship, a hat show and much more. You are invited to come enjoy this fellowship.

The Spirit and Truth Christian Fellowship will have a breakfast fellowship on Feb. 7 at 11 a.m. with a \$15 donation. Sit-in or to go. Host pastor Elder Bernard Plummer.

We wish a happy birthday to Legend Fryson, Feb. 8; Bernard Ross, Feb. 12; Jolesia Wood, Timothy Wood, both Feb. 14; Dionte Ceavin, Furmesia Rosier, both Feb. 22. We wish a happy belated birthday to Mother Vera Gavin.

Our prayers and concern go out to all the sick and shut-in, those in the nursing homes, hospitals, jails, the homeless, and all those in need.

Volunteers remove significant debris at River Cleanup

By **TAMMIE NASON**
of **KWCB**

Keep Wakulla County Beautiful (KWCB) hosted a successful river cleanup this past weekend, bringing together dedicated volunteers to help restore and protect one of Wakulla County’s treasured waterways.

Volunteers worked along the Wakulla River collecting debris on, in, and along the water, removing more trash than at any cleanup since KWCB’s post-Hurricane Michael efforts. Volunteers participated by boat, diving, paddleboarding, canoeing, kayaking and walking the shorelines. Items recovered included numerous cans and bottles, a tire, a cushion, a grill cover, a couple of lost cell phones, and even an entire box of amendment petitions that was dumped, underscoring the continued impact of litter in and on local waterways.

In addition to trash removal, volunteers gave the monofilament fishing line collection tube a much-needed facelift, helping prevent discarded fishing line from harming wildlife.

Adding a bit of fun to the day, KWCB’s newest member, an otter mascot, made a special appearance to lend support to the cleanup effort. While the otter was enthusiastic, it remained silent on its name, and KWCB is inviting the community to help choose one.

Volunteers also encountered a couple of live crawfish during the cleanup, which were safely left in the river and not recruited early for next month’s Mudbugs & Music event.

KWCB extends sincere thanks to all volunteers who participated. Their efforts play a vital role in protecting water quality, wildlife habitat, and the natural beauty of Wakulla County.

For more information on upcoming cleanups and volunteer opportunities, visit KWCB.org.



Clockwise from upper left: monofilament fishing line collection tube got a much-needed facelift; volunteer Paul Parker with a crayfish that was returned to the river; and the debris picked up included a box of constitutional amendment petitions that had been tossed.

PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE SUN

Outdoors

outdoor sports

HOME ON THE RANGE

Sig 365 X-Macro or the S&W Shield EZ 30 Super Carry?



By MARJ LAW

Joe and I are about to visit the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) range. It's a Wednesday morning around 10. This is the day and time when we're there to assist any new shooter who'd like a little moral support, support with their handguns, with safety rules, and with rules of the range.

If you'd like to come visit the WCSO range, and you're new to shooting, we'd love to help. And, if there's no one there who needs any help, we go to compare our own handguns or handguns lent to us by friends.

This particular Wednesday, Joe has a gleam in his eye. He wants us to compare the Smith & Wesson Shield EZ 30 Super Carry with his Sig Sauer P365 X-Macro. He really likes his Sig. It's difficult for me to dislike the Sig. After all, the Sig is a striker-fire handgun. Joe usually prefers hammer-fired guns and I prefer striker-fired, but in this case, Joe makes an exception. He really likes the 365.

So, what's this gleam in his eye?

Oh. He wants me to

compare the Super Carry with his 365. Well, no problem. It'll be interesting to compare two striker-fired handguns.

"No, Marj," says Joe, all but grinning. "The Super Carry is a hammer-fired gun."

What? Those little Smith & Wessons are striker-fired. Right?

"Just look," he instructs.

So, I lock the slide back, turn the gun upside-down and look under the slide. What do you know? There's a firing pin. There is no striker. Therefore, the Super Carry is a hammer-fired gun.

Drat. And here I thought it was a striker.

An interesting thing about these two guns is that they both shoot similar ammunition. Yes, the Super Carry 30 is neither a .380 or a 9mm handgun, but it does shoot 115-grain ammunition. The Sig 365 is a 9mm handgun and it also shoots 115-grain ammunition as well as 124 and 147-grain ammunition.

For this comparison, we'll be shooting Blazer Brass Super Carry 30 115-grain ammo and 9mm Luger 115-grain ammo. Will these similar-size handguns feel similar when shooting because of the ammunition with the same bullet weight?

Giving a quick visual check, the Super has a grip safety. I'm not crazy about the added width the safety makes on the grip. I prefer a smaller grip. Also, as I check the grip, I notice the magazine inside is



single-stacked, so it only holds 10 rounds.

The Super has three big fat white dot sights. I like big white dots. They're easy to see.

The Super has deep front and back serrations. They make handling the slide quite easy. Doesn't take much strength to manipulate it.

The Super has a curved trigger. I don't know which you prefer, but I'm okay with either curved or flat.

Let's talk similarities before I talk specifically about the 365.

The Super is 6.8 inches long, 5.05 inches high and is 1.04 inches wide. It weighs 23.6 ounces.

The 365 is 6.6 inches long, 5.2 inches high and is 1.1 inches wide. It weighs 21.5 ounces. You can see these two guns are similar in size.

The weight, though, depends. Notice that the Super holds 10 rounds and the 365 holds 17 rounds. By the time you add in the weight of the additional 7 rounds on the 365, the difference in weight becomes negligible.

Looking over the 365, I notice right away that there's no grip safety. Instead, the grip has a deep beavertail to hold your hand high as you shoot. It also makes for a narrow

grip. I like a narrow grip.

Sights are 2 tritium in the rear, and a big green circle sight up front, which has a small white dot tritium within. The front sight is super easy to see. The rear back sights don't do well in the daytime.

The trigger is flat and the slide has deep serrations like the Super.

There are a couple holes sliced into the top of the slide. They're supposed to lighten the slide and compensate some of the recoil.

As I said before, in this comparison, we're using 115-grain Blazer Brass ammunition in both handguns. The difference is in the width of the rounds. The Super has a narrower round. Just out of interest, we looked up the velocity of the 115s shooting out of both guns. Velocity on the Super is 1150 feet per second (fps) and the 365's velocity is 1145 fps.

We shoot five rounds of each gun into the two targets.

Joe finds trigger pull and trigger pull travel to be light in both guns. I find them a bit heavier, but he's big-boned and stronger. I expect he will find the trigger easier to manipulate. He gives easy marks for recoil, though he finds recoil on

the Super to be stronger than on the 365.

I find trigger pull and travel to be light in both guns, as well. For my small hands, I find the Super's grip with the safety in it to be less comfortable than the ergonomic 365's grip.

Kick? Recoil?

Ah. That's the question. Joe notes that the Super's recoil is stronger than the Sig's.

Me? I find the Super's recoil to be unexpectedly hard. Sharp, too. I was only too happy to be shooting just five rounds in the Super.

But here's the surprise. I get three x-ring hits with the Super! Another shot is on the target, but not near the center. The last shot is completely off target. I expect that the sharp, hard recoil has worn me out, and I don't have the strength to continue shooting.

All 10 bullets have hit the 365's target. Both handguns are accurate at the range of 21 feet. Both guns are about the same size and weight, if you're interested in carrying them. Both guns shoot at about the same velocity (if you're using 115-grain bullets in the 365).

I'm really happy with those three bull's-eyes.

But if Newbie wants to know about recoil?

Recoil in the Super is really super. As in strong.

If you want to be proficient with your gun, you'll need to practice. I don't see a lot of practice with the Super in my future. Yes, accuracy is exciting, but saving my shoulder is more important.

According to Gun Test, the Super is "intended to up the ante in power, energy, velocity, and penetration over the 380 ACP. On the other hand, it is intended to perform as closely to the 9mm as possible..."

According to Guns & Ammo, of the 365 X-Macro they say: "The tagline for the Macro is 'More.' It offers more capacity, shootability, and concealability." It continues: "The pistol is well balanced and the grip module allows the hands to climb high while providing room for an aggressive grip."

Bottom line is that both handguns fit slightly different needs.

And the best handgun for you?

It's the one that fits your needs the best.

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



GRAY SAND STAR
(*Luidia clathrata*)

A common starfish in Florida, it ranges from Virginia and Alabama to Brazil in shallow soft bottom coastal waters. It is nonetheless seldom seen because it hides from light by burying in the mud and hunting only during darkness. It spawns once each year and it has a fast growing larvae that metamorphose into the adult form after only one month. If the gray sand dollar loses an arm it quickly regenerates a new one.

Eukarya, Echinodermata, Asteroidea, Paxillosida, Luidiidae

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 a Pie-Billed Grebe.

Wakulla Lawn Ranger

Gene Darby
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Thursday 29

Sun rise/set: 7:29 AM / 4:39 PM
Moon rise/set: 2:41 PM / 4:39 AM

Moon Illumination 86%

Friday 30

Sun rise/set: 7:28 AM / 6:12 PM
Moon rise/set: 3:49 PM / 5:42 AM

Moon Illumination 93%

Saturday 31

Sun rise/set: 7:28 AM / 6:13 PM
Moon rise/set: 5:00 PM / 6:37 AM

Moon Illumination 98%

Sunday 1

Sun rise/set: 7:27 AM / 6:14 PM
Moon rise/set: 6:10 PM / 7:23 AM

Moon Illumination 100%

Monday 2

Sun rise/set: 7:27 AM / 6:15 PM
Moon rise/set: 8:01 AM

Moon Illumination 99%

Tuesday 3

Sun rise/set: 7:26 AM / 6:16 PM
Moon rise/set: 7:17 PM / 8:35 AM

Moon Illumination 96%

Wednesday 4

Sun rise/set: 7:25 AM / 6:16 PM
Moon rise/set: 8:20 PM / 9:05 AM

Moon Illumination 91%

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

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

Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac
Jan. 29 - Feb 4

GO FISH! Tide charts by tides4fishing.com

Best fishing days this month
Best fishing day(s) is in the center of date ranges.
Jan. 29-Feb. 4, 9, 14-20

St. Marks River Entrance

Th	5:35 am ▼ -1.0 ft	12:37 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	5:00 pm ▼ 1.7 ft	10:46 pm ▲ 3.1 ft
Fr	6:33 am ▼ -1.2 ft	1:21 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	6:08 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	11:56 pm ▲ 3.3 ft
Sa	7:21 am ▼ -1.3 ft	1:58 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	7:02 pm ▼ 1.2 ft	
Su	12:53 am ▲ 3.5 ft	8:04 am ▼ -1.3 ft	2:31 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	7:49 pm ▼ 0.8 ft
Mo	1:42 am ▲ 3.5 ft	8:40 am ▼ -1.1 ft	3:02 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	8:32 pm ▼ 0.5 ft
Tu	2:27 am ▲ 3.4 ft	9:12 am ▼ -0.7 ft	3:28 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	9:13 pm ▼ 0.3 ft
We	3:09 am ▲ 3.2 ft	9:39 am ▼ -0.3 ft	3:52 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	9:53 pm ▼ 0.1 ft

City of St. Marks

Th	6:39 am ▼ -0.9 ft	1:13 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	6:04 pm ▼ 1.6 ft	11:22 pm ▲ 2.9 ft
Fr	7:37 am ▼ -1.1 ft	1:57 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	7:12 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	
Sa	12:32 am ▲ 3.1 ft	8:25 am ▼ -1.2 ft	2:34 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	8:06 pm ▼ 1.0 ft
Su	1:29 am ▲ 3.2 ft	9:08 am ▼ -1.2 ft	3:07 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	8:53 pm ▼ 0.7 ft
Mo	2:18 am ▲ 3.3 ft	9:44 am ▼ -1.0 ft	3:38 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	9:36 pm ▼ 0.5 ft
Tu	3:03 am ▲ 3.2 ft	10:16 am ▼ -0.7 ft	4:04 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	10:17 pm ▼ 0.2 ft
We	3:45 am ▲ 3.0 ft	10:43 am ▼ -0.3 ft	4:28 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	10:57 pm ▼ 0.1 ft

Shell Point, Spring Creek

Th	5:59 am ▼ -1.0 ft	1:02 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	5:09 pm ▼ 1.8 ft	11:05 pm ▲ 3.1 ft
Fr	6:59 am ▼ -1.3 ft	1:47 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	6:26 pm ▼ 1.6 ft	
Sa	12:17 am ▲ 3.3 ft	7:49 am ▼ -1.4 ft	2:24 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	7:24 pm ▼ 1.3 ft
Su	1:15 am ▲ 3.4 ft	8:32 am ▼ -1.4 ft	2:57 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	8:12 pm ▼ 1.0 ft
Mo	2:06 am ▲ 3.5 ft	9:10 am ▼ -1.2 ft	3:26 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	8:56 pm ▼ 0.7 ft
Tu	2:51 am ▲ 3.4 ft	9:42 am ▼ -0.9 ft	3:53 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	9:38 pm ▼ 0.4 ft
We	3:34 am ▲ 3.3 ft	10:10 am ▼ -0.5 ft	4:17 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	10:18 pm ▼ 0.1 ft

Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay

Th	5:46 am ▼ -0.7 ft	12:29 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	5:11 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	10:38 pm ▲ 2.3 ft
Fr	6:44 am ▼ -0.9 ft	1:13 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	6:19 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	11:48 pm ▲ 2.5 ft
Sa	7:32 am ▼ -1.0 ft	1:50 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	7:13 pm ▼ 0.8 ft	
Su	12:45 am ▲ 2.6 ft	8:15 am ▼ -0.9 ft	2:23 pm ▲ 2.3 ft	8:00 pm ▼ 0.6 ft
Mo	1:34 am ▲ 2.4 ft	8:51 am ▼ -0.8 ft	2:54 pm ▲ 2.3 ft	8:43 pm ▼ 0.4 ft
Tu	2:19 am ▲ 2.6 ft	9:23 am ▼ -0.5 ft	3:20 pm ▲ 2.3 ft	9:24 pm ▼ 0.2 ft
We	3:01 am ▲ 2.4 ft	9:50 am ▼ -0.2 ft	3:44 pm ▲ 2.3 ft	10:04 pm ▼ 0.1 ft

St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.

Th	5:35 am ▼ -1.1 ft	1:48 pm ▲ 1.9 ft	5:06 pm ▼ 1.7 ft	10:19 pm ▲ 2.4 ft
Fr	6:33 am ▼ -1.2 ft	2:15 pm ▲ 1.9 ft	6:13 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	11:31 pm ▲ 2.5 ft
Sa	7:23 am ▼ -1.3 ft	2:39 pm ▲ 1.9 ft	7:04 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	
Su	12:33 am ▲ 2.6 ft	8:06 am ▼ -1.2 ft	3:01 pm ▲ 1.9 ft	7:50 pm ▼ 1.0 ft
Mo	1:29 am ▲ 2.6 ft	8:45 am ▼ -1.0 ft	3:22 pm ▲ 1.9 ft	8:35 pm ▼ 0.7 ft
Tu	2:22 am ▲ 2.5 ft	9:20 am ▼ -0.8 ft	3:42 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	9:19 pm ▼ 0.4 ft
We	3:13 am ▲ 2.4 ft	9:51 am ▼ -0.4 ft	4:03 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	10:03 pm ▼ 0.2 ft

Dog Island West End

Th	6:05 am ▼ -1.0 ft	2:56 pm ▲ 1.7 ft	5:38 pm ▼ 1.6 ft	10:24 pm ▲ 2.2 ft
Fr	7:01 am ▼ -1.2 ft	3:05 pm ▲ 1.7 ft	6:54 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	11:34 pm ▲ 2.2 ft
Sa	7:45 am ▼ -1.2 ft	3:22 pm ▲ 1.7 ft	7:36 pm ▼ 1.2 ft	
Su	12:43 am ▲ 2.5 ft	8:23 am ▼ -1.2 ft	3:39 pm ▲ 1.7 ft	8:13 pm ▼ 1.0 ft
Mo	1:41 am ▲ 2.5 ft	8:59 am ▼ -1.0 ft	3:55 pm ▲ 1.8 ft	8:54 pm ▼ 0.7 ft
Tu	2:32 am ▲ 2.2 ft	9:33 am ▼ -0.7 ft	4:10 pm ▲ 1.8 ft	9:38 pm ▼ 0.5 ft
We	3:22 am ▲ 2.0 ft	10:05 am ▼ -0.4 ft	4:26 pm ▲ 1.8 ft	10:24 pm ▼ 0.3 ft

Thursday 29

Major Times: 8:39 AM / 8:07 PM
Minor Times: 4:09 AM / 2:11 PM

Friday 30

Major Times: 9:44 AM / 9:12 PM
Minor Times: 5:12 AM / 3:19 PM

Saturday 31

Major Times: 10:16 AM / 10:16 PM
Minor Times: 6:07 AM / 4:30 PM

Sunday 1

Major Times: 11:43 AM / 11:16 PM
Minor Times: 6:53 AM / 5:40 PM

Monday 2

Major Times: 12:10 AM / 12:35 PM
Minor Times: 7:31 AM / ---

Tuesday 3

Major Times: 1:00 AM / 1:23 PM
Minor Times: 8:05 AM / 6:47 PM

Wednesday 4

Major Times: 1:46 AM / 2:08 PM
Minor Times: 8:35 AM / 7:50 PM

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

Patty Wilbur recognized as a Resource Manager of Year

From DEP News

Today, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission recognized three exceptional land managers as the 2024 Jim Stevenson Resource Managers of the Year.

Selected from the DEP's Florida Park Service, FDACS' Florida Forest Service and FWC, this year's honorees reflect the leadership, innovation and public service that position Florida as a national model for natural resource management. Their work exemplifies how Florida's resource managers combine expertise, innovation and dedication to protect our lands and wildlife while setting the standard for conservation nationwide.

Florida Park Service Patricia "Patty" Wilbur, Biological Scientist II, Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park.

Patricia "Patty" Wilbur has dedicated more than 20 years of service to Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park, where her work has advanced large-scale habitat restoration, fire management and resource protection efforts in north-west Florida. In 2018, Wilbur played a leading role in planning and implementing

Patty Wilbur, a biological scientist at Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park.

one of the most extensive upland pine restoration projects ever undertaken in the region, restoring 1,005 acres of flatwoods habitat critical to native wildlife.

A recognized leader in prescribed fire management, Wilbur has served as burn boss for 63 prescribed burns totaling 5,964 acres since becoming a certified prescribed burn manager in 2011. Over the course of her career, she has participated in 198 prescribed burns covering more than 21,000 acres, as well as seven wildfire responses.

Her experience also includes invasive species management, cultural resource protection and hydrological restoration,

supporting the long-term ecological health of Wakulla Springs and surrounding lands.

The others recognized were:

- **Florida Forest Service Charlie Pedersen, Biologist III, Waccasassa Forestry Center.**

A 28-year veteran of the Florida Forest Service, Charlie Pedersen has worked on more than a dozen state forests, managing diverse plant communities and endangered species.

- **FWC's Matthew Koenig, Fisheries and Wildlife Biologist III, Southwest Wildlife and Habitat Management Section/Division of Habitat and Species Conservation.**

Matthew Koenig serves as lead area biologist for Chinsegut, Perry Oldenburg and Janet Butterfield Brooks Wildlife and Environmental Areas. He also supports outreach and educational programs at the Chinsegut Conservation Center and assists with resource management across other public lands.

Underwater Wakulla

By Gregg Stanton

The survey of the Titanic debris field triggering memories.

April 19, 2012

"Turn the camera to the left five degrees and hold it steady," came a voice in my helmet from the surface tender. "Yes, right there, steady and don't move."

This last command was easy for them to ask but hovering mid water holding a large cylindrical video camera attached to the surface by a heavy cable was quite the challenge.

Such performance was required back in 1976 when I assisted State Underwater Archeologist Sonny Cockrell at Warm Mineral Springs.

Throughout that spring my wife worked at this underwater research site creating a three-dimensional map of the spring and its contents while I attended graduate school in Tallahassee.

My frequent visits resulted in an early exposure, under the close scrutiny of Larry Murphy the site's research manager, to underwater archaeology research techniques.

I later incorporated several into my own research on anemone symbioses with shrimp, crabs and fish on marine reefs. To measure this condition however, required the same tools and techniques, just called something different in each discipline. We both applied the Rosencrans Bubble Tube reference technique.

Three dimensional sites require a reference grid with an X and Y and Z value. On land you might measure the distance between objects in a two dimensional grid, then get the elevation using a transit tool (mounted on a tripod with a scope to see elevation over each object in the grid).

Because water quality is usually very poor on most underwater research sites, such optical tools do not work well.

Now visualize a clear plastic tube with an air bubble holding the tube in an upward arc between the object of interest in a grid of many such objects and a datum stake of known elevation. The air-water interface serves as an artificial reference, even at both ends, to which measurements may then be taken.

I am certain this technique was taken from masons who apply the principle in reverse to maintain a straight line of bricks on a land based construction site. Dr. George Bass, the father of Underwater Archaeology, describe this technique in 1960 in one of his texts on the subject.

Like the rest of you, my wife and I were transfixed to the History Channel last weekend watching the survey of the Titanic debris field, over two miles underwater. Today we have sophisticated measuring devices to create these gridded three-dimensional maps permitting scientists to study the provenience between objects at an underwater scene.

Propulsion vehicles with attached video or sonic cameras can produce transects of data that, using a computer, can produce an underwater mosaic picture, like the Titanic, in almost any water.

Several years ago, I assisted State Archaeologist Keith Meverden's (Wisconsin Historic Society) to survey the Rouse Simmons or Christmas Tree Wreck located in Lake Michigan.

Resting in 170 feet of cold water, this boat still held many secrets. We sought to find out how/why it sank. But first a photomosaic was created, a grid or term of reference, within which the diving scientists could recreate the sinking.

Ground-truthing followed, identifying structures and their provenience to the rest of the boat. By the end of the six-week project, a forensic study, with publications to follow, detailed the final moments of this tragedy.

We have come such a very long way from measuring a clear tube to video photomosaic in one career's life time. We may see more happen right here in Wakulla County.

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

How does God want to use you – today?



By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

What would you imagine Jesus saying if you asked Him, “What is Your plan for me, Lord?” We can easily rattle off a dozen spiritual answers. We could even

quote His words, right from the Bible: “Make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19) or “Love one another as I have loved you” (John 15:12). But what if we added one more word to the question: “What is Your plan for me – today?” Not someday. Not after life settles down. Today, as in the circumstances you’re living in right now. Without neglecting His commands, consider how Jesus might answer each of us in our present roles: as a parent, spouse, employee,

student or retiree. What might He say to you right where you are – perhaps even in the middle of what you’re doing at this very moment? We may hesitate to ask God, fearing He’ll send us to a foreign land or ask us to give away everything we own. Or if you’re disabled, struggling in school, recently laid off, or grieving a failed business venture, you might be convinced God can’t – or won’t – use you. Or, you may be experiencing professional success yet still wonder why you lack a

sense of purpose. Perhaps the better question isn’t “What am I supposed to be doing?” but “Who am I living for?” When we live to please God in every area of our lives, it changes our perspective. Asking God for direction, both in our failures and in our achievements, will protect us from making decisions we might later regret. This mindset could be our starting point in hearing God’s will (His next step) for us today. Right now. Proverbs 16:9 (ESV) says, “The heart of man

plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps.” How would it change us – and our relationship with God – if we truly believed our heavenly Father’s promise to direct our steps? God loves you and has a purpose for your life. In fact, Almighty, sovereign God has a plan for you ... today. When we keep our eyes focused on God and His Word – and train our ears to listen to His counsel – we are changed by the power of His Spirit. When we yield to His counsel, He

faithfully directs each necessary step. We grow in our purpose and find meaning in each day. As we continue to pursue Him and strive to totally submit our lives to His will, we’ll often discover that God is already at work today, right where we are — at this very moment. *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.*

Unspoken



By **CHERYL CRUCE**

A person’s head could go spinning thinking of all the pinky promises and “cross my hearts” that accumulate over a lifetime. Large families don’t always allow for much privacy; chances are, if you thought it, someone heard it. Being the youngest, it was often assumed I would “spill the beans” on everything – but even so, we learned we could

go to our parents and share the secrets of our hearts. In fact, we were encouraged to do so. That encouragement came alive for me when I was 10. Mom decided to trust me with a secret of her heart. While having her rings cleaned at the local jeweler, she spotted a diamond she said was made for Dad. Of all the people she could have told, I was the only one to know her secret. Every Saturday, after the bills were paid and the groceries bought, Mom and I went to Main Street to make a payment. I held that secret closer than any pinky promise ever made. Week after week, I carried it quietly – until one Saturday, with the final payment, the ring

was hers to give. That evening, Mom prepared a special meal. When I set the table, she slipped the ring beneath Dad’s plate without a word. As he lifted it, he discovered the small gift box. Looking back, I still see the surprise on his face – the joy in my mother’s eyes. The ring was perfect, and Dad received it with the love it was given. There are so many lessons woven into our ordinary lives if we are willing to slow down and see them. In that small breath of time, I learned what it meant to trust and to be trusted – and that some secrets, held close to the heart, unfold exactly when they are meant to be revealed. There is a

grace in patience, a quiet wisdom in waiting, and a deep joy in seeing a treasured secret bloom at just the perfect moment. Just as Mom trusted me with a secret of her heart, God invites us to bring our deepest thoughts, our longings, and even our worries to Him. Some of these we share only in the quiet of prayer, unspoken to anyone else. Jesus Himself often withdrew in secret to pray, stepping away from the crowds to speak heart to heart with the Father (Matthew 14:23). And yet, at times, He invited a few trusted companions – Peter, James, and John – to stand with Him in the weight of His most ten-

der moments, on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-9) and later in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-46). Even Jesus knew the wisdom of discernment: some burdens are carried alone with the Father, some are shared with trusted friends, and some are simply held. Mary, too, understood this kind of faith – Scripture tells us she pondered these things regarding her Son in her heart (Luke 2:19). She didn’t rush God’s promises or demand immediate understanding, but trusted the unfolding. So it is with us. Some prayers are whispered and never spoken aloud. Some hopes are tucked

away, waiting for God’s perfect timing. Some answers arrive as quiet surprises, revealed only when our hearts are ready to receive them. In the secret place, God is at work – shaping, preparing, and unveiling His plans in ways more beautiful than we could imagine. When you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly Matthew 6:6. *Cheryl Mixon-Cruce is Pastor of Ochlockonee Bay United Methodist Church and Sopchoppy United Methodist Church.*

OUT TO PASTOR

It’s not a mess, it’s my creative decor



By **JAMES SNYDER**

The greatest joy I have every morning is not only getting up but also stepping in my office. I step inside, pause for a moment, and look around at all the books on my shelves. I have almost 10,000 books. And yes, I read every one of them. Well, except for commentaries and dictionaries. I love looking through all my books, and most of them, I know where I got them. Every once in a while, I’ll take one down and spend some time reading it. What would I do without my books? If you saw my desk, you would not be able to find it. My desk is such a mess of papers and folders, my laptop, and other things. But I love every bit of it. When I retired, I had to have a room built at the back of our house for my office. I think it was one of the best things I’ve ever done. Walking into that office is a wonderful experience for me. Some days, I look at all of the books that I have written and remember working on that manuscript. I have over 30 books at the present time. Every once in a while, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage will

come into my office while I’m working. She will step in, pause, look all around my office and then say, “What a mess you have.” I will look up to her with a big smile on my face and reply, “Where do you see any mess?” With sort of a grunt in her voice, she says, “Just look all around this office. It’s a mess everywhere. I don’t know how you can work in this environment?” “It’s not a mess,” I respond to her, “it is my creative décor.” I’m sure she’s never heard that phrase before, especially coming out of my mouth. Several times, I walked into her Craft Room and noticed how pristine it is. When I walk in, I get a bit dizzy, and I’m not sure how to get out. Such organization is not my cup of tea. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is known for her organizing skills. If you want something organized, call her. I caught her once in my office trying to organize some things. I had to gently calm her down and walk her out of my office and set her in her chair. My philosophy is, if you can’t find something, you don’t need it. And if you need something, you’ll find it. I can tell how many times I couldn’t find what I wanted at that time. I have learned to stop looking for it and get back to work. When I do that, all of a sudden, I find what I need. I’m not sure how that works, but in my office, it works.

Unlike The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, I do not have to have everything organized. And the word “messy” is not part of my vocabulary. Often, I will ask The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, “What do you mean by messy?” Oh, she will go on a long tirade explaining to me what she considers messy. I listen, but I do not comprehend what she’s saying. Messy is a part of me. Not too long ago, while she was in her Craft Room, I peeked in and said, “Would you like me to organize your Craft Room?” She stared at me for a moment and then said, “I think I’m quite all right here. There is nothing here that you can do to organize this room. Just go to your messy office and get back to work.” I chuckled all the way down the hall towards my office. What would her room look like if I organized it? I’m pretty sure she would not be able to find anything she needed for any of her crafts. Whereas in my “messy office,” I can

find anything I want. If I can’t find it, I don’t need it. And if I don’t need it, I’m not going to worry about it. Life can bring you a lot of lemons, but I would rather have ice tea. Sometimes, as I walk around in my office looking at my library, I see a book I haven’t seen for a long time. With great delight, I go to my chair and begin reading it. All the books in my office have created a beautiful display that I enjoy every day. Since my retirement, I can go in and out of my office as I please. Recently, both The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I had the flu. All week I wore my pajamas when I went into my office. I could go in and out as I pleased, dressed as I pleased. As I was sitting in my office, thinking about this, I was reminded of a verse of scripture that addressed it. The Apostle Paul said, “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know

that your labour is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 15:58). According to The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, my office may be a mess. That’s not the important issue. The thing that must be organized is my service to the Lord. That is the only thing that is crucial in my everyday life.

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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Pastor Cheryl Mixon-Cruce 850-962-2511

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Obituaries



Norman Lipford

Norman Lipford, 78, of Crawfordville, died Sunday, January 18, 2026.

He was born June 1, 1947, at home in Marianna, to Mary and Jim Lipford. He graduated from Marianna High School, served honorably in the U.S. Army in Vietnam, where he received two Purple Hearts, and a Bronze Star, and later became a Master Electrician. He married his wife, Gail, in 1970, and they made their home in Crawfordville, where they raised their three children.

Norman loved to stay busy, and after his retirement as Chief Electrician for the City of Tallahassee, could often be found fixing things in his workshop, farming, or spending time with family and friends. He was avid outdoorsman, and a lifelong fisherman.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Carolyn Gail (Capshaw); his parents, Mary and

Jim Lipford; and his siblings, Pete Lipford, Preston Lipford, David Lipford, Hilburn "Punch" Lipford, and Sarah Lipford Harris.

He is survived by his children, Phillip Lipford, Michelle Lipford McNutt (Patrick), and Amy Lipford; his grandchildren, Ryan and Connor Lipford, Ethan, Addison, and Molly McNutt; and his brother, Herman Lipford (June), along with numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. on Friday, January 23, 2026, at James & Sikes Funeral Home Maddox Chapel. Interment will follow in Lipford Cemetery with James & Sikes Funeral Home Maddox Chapel directing.

The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service.

Expressions of sympathy may be made online at www.jamesandsikes.com.

DEATH NOTICES

- **Joycelyn Arnold**, 87, of Crawfordville, died January 18, 2026.
- **Alice McNiel**, 72, of Sopchoppy, died January 22, 2026.
- **Renee Morse**, 71, of Crawfordville, died January 18, 2026.

- **Annie Faye Shepard**, 89, of Crawfordville, died January 17, 2026

- **Jeffery Scott Thornton**, 60, of Crawfordville, died January 25, 2026.

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

Sheriff's Report

This report is for activity Jan. 16th to 23rd. There were 1,121 total calls for service during the week.

FRIDAY, JAN. 16

Walmart Asset Protection reported a retail theft which involved an unknown white female. Asset Protection advised while shopping, the female began replacing sales tags on merchandise with sales tags that had a lower price. The female then went to self-checkout, scanned and paid for the items containing the wrong tag using a debit card.

SATURDAY, JAN. 17

A citizen called in reporting he located a gun on the roadside near Spring Creek Highway and Wakulla Arran Road while on his way home. Deputy Kory Smith and Deputy Jonathan Kilbourn responded and collected, cleared, and submitted the firearm to property and evidence for safekeeping after running the serial number through dispatch.

Deputy Dylan Buckhalt, and Deputy Karius McMillan Jr. responded to Russel Drive in reference to a fraud complaint. Contact was made with the reporting party, who advised she discovered fraudulent charges on her debit card. The charges occurred from Dec. 24 to Jan. 6. The charges occurred in multiple locations. She advised she never authorized anyone to use her card information and does not recognize any of the charges. The fraudulent charges totaled \$400.58 dollars.

SUNDAY, JAN. 18

A citizen reported her vehicle being taken without permission

by a subject known to her around midnight. She reached out to him and he stated that he would return the vehicle prior to her having to go to work. While on scene, she advised she did not wish to pursue charges. She then signed a non-prosecution and deputies departed the scene. After departing the scene, she called back a few hours later and advised the vehicle was back in her possession; however, she wished to pursue charges against the subject for damaging her ignition switch and steering column. She advised he had used a screw driver and damaged the vehicle to get it started. She completed an affidavit for prosecution.

Deputy Dylan Buckhalt and Deputy Karius McMillan conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle in the area of Dixie Drive and Spring Creek Highway for a faulty taillight. Upon contact with the driver the odor of marijuana was detected emanating from the vehicle. The deputies also observed a clear mason jar in plain view containing suspected marijuana debris. A probable cause search of the vehicle produced a purple reflective baggie, which weighed out at 3 grams. The suspected marijuana was seized for destruction.

MONDAY, JAN. 19

A citizen reported her back windshield had been busted on her vehicle. She wished a report be written for informational purposes.

TUESDAY, JAN. 20

All units responded to Dux Liquors due to an alarm and the keyholder stating someone was attempting to enter the business. Upon ar-

rival, deputies located the subject in the parking lot. Upon reviewing surveillance video, he was observed opening the drive thru window, reaching in and stealing dog treats from the counter, then consuming the treat. The owner of Dux signed an affidavit for prosecution.

A citizen reported possible threats via Facebook. She wished a report be written for informational purposes only.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 21

Deputy Austin Rivers conducted a traffic stop due to an expired tag. Upon contact with the driver the odor of marijuana was emanating from the vehicle. A search of the vehicle produced a small amount of suspected marijuana and miscellaneous paraphernalia. The items were seized for destruction.

Deputy Rosa Sammons responded to Walmart for a retail theft which already occurred. Walmart Asset Protection advised on Dec. 27 an identified white male entered the store scanning a lesser item while exiting the store with one pair of unpaid Wrangler pants valued at \$29.98.

THURSDAY, JAN. 22

A citizen came to the office to make a report in reference to lost property. Contact was made with the reporting person, who wished to report her wedding bands missing. She stated she last saw the rings over 6 months ago at her residence. She requested documentation for insurance purposes.

A citizen reported a possible stolen trailer located in the parking lot of Jimmy Johns. He advised he was contacted by the Realtor manager to have the vehicle towed due to it being there for approximately two weeks. He advised when he arrived on scene, he observed the trailer and stated who it belonged to based off the post and pictures he made on Facebook. The owner, who was on scene, advised he reported the trailer stolen through Tallahassee Police Department. After making contact with TPD, it was discovered the trailer was never entered as stolen and a report was not generated due to lack of evidence. The trailer was returned to the owner and a theft report was taken for further information due to him advising he allowed his friend who lived on Rehwinkel Road to use the trailer originally. A suspect has been identified in this incident.

FRIDAY, JAN. 23

A citizen reported her medication lost/stolen while at the laundromat. There was no video footage available for possible suspects.

Deputy Jeremiah Post responded to Walmart in reference to a delayed theft. Approximately \$755 worth of merchandise was stolen. Case forwarded to Criminal Investigations Division.

Report suspicious or illegal activity at 850-745-7100, or call 911 for emergencies.

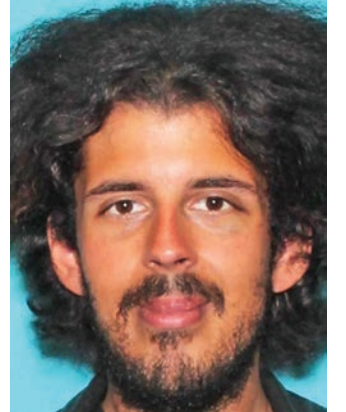
Human remains identified

From WCSO

On October 30, 2025, the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office initiated a death investigation after skeletal remains were discovered in the area of Curtis Mill Road near Sopchoppy, in unincorporated Wakulla County.

The decedent has been identified as Andrew Mason Esquilin of Asheville, North Carolina. Detectives with the Criminal Investigations Division are seeking information from anyone who knew or had contact with Esquilin prior to his death.

Anyone with information regarding Esquilin, his movements, or possible associates is asked to contact the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office or Detective Tiffany Spears at 850-745-7184.



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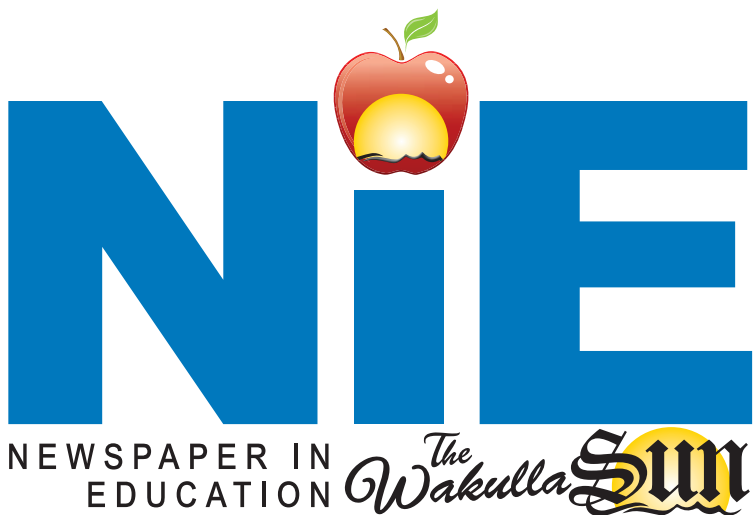
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USE THE NEWS

1. DOLLY PLOWTON

A new snowplow in Nashville has started clearing streets during a weekend snowstorm, and it has a fun name and design: “Dolly Plowton,” inspired by Dolly Parton. The story is current because this storm has people paying close attention to how well the city can handle snow and ice right now. Nashville does not get winter weather often, so even a small amount of snow or ice can make roads dangerous and cause problems for power lines and city services. City leaders say they have been preparing by adding new plows, training drivers, and using technology like iPads to help plan routes. Some people also say the city is changing because more residents have moved in from colder places and expect quicker snow removal. Write a paragraph of five to seven sentences explaining why a city might choose to spend money on snowplows even if it does not snow very often. In your paragraph, describe at least one way a snowplow helps keep people safe, one challenge Nashville might face when roads get icy, and one reason a creative name like “Dolly Plowton” could make residents pay more attention to safety messages.

2. PROTECTING YOURSELF FROM EXTREME COLD

A big winter storm brought snow, sleet, and freezing rain to many parts of the United States at the same time. Ice made tree branches and power lines snap, so hundreds of thousands of homes lost electricity, especially in places like Tennessee and Mississippi. The storm also caused dangerous travel, with many flight cancellations and delays and fewer people driving on icy roads. Weather experts warned that the cold would last, which means ice and snow may not melt quickly and repairs could take longer. Officials told people to stay home when possible and to check on friends and family who might need help. Pretend you are the “storm helper” for your household for one day. Write a short paragraph of 5–7 sentences explaining what you would do before the storm, what you would do during the storm, and what you would do after the storm to help everyone stay safe and calm. You should include at least one way you would save

warmth, one way you would stay informed without panicking, and one kind thing you would do for a neighbor or relative.

3. CITY SUES OVER MONUMENT CHANGE

At a historic site in Philadelphia where George and Martha Washington once lived, there was an exhibit that taught visitors about the people the Washingtons enslaved. Under directions from President Trump, workers removed the exhibit panels, and many people felt upset because they believed the site should tell the whole story of the past, including painful parts. The city of Philadelphia sued the federal government, saying there was an agreement that changes to the exhibit should be discussed

first. Some leaders said removing the panels is like hiding history, while the federal agency said it is reviewing materials for accuracy and values. The names of the enslaved people are still shown at the site, but many visitors want the full information restored. Imagine you are helping design a new display for the history site so visitors understand what happened there. Write 4–6 sentences that describe what you would include on the exhibit panels, such as facts, names, pictures, or quotes, and explain how each part would help people learn. Your last sentence should explain why learning about hard parts of history can help a community make better choices today.

4. HIGH CLIMB

A famous climber named Alex Honnold recently completed a very scary challenge live for millions of viewers on Netflix: He climbed a very tall building in Taiwan called Taipei 101, and he climbed it without a rope. Taipei 101 was the tallest building in the world from the time it was built in 2004 until 2010. Only a small number of people in the world do skyscraper climbing, and many climbers say it is risky and often illegal. Climbers explained that tall buildings can be harder in a different way than mountains because the moves repeat again and again, which tires out hands and muscles. Some climbers worry that seeing a big climb on TV could make kids try something dangerous without training. They warned that this is not a safe activity for most people and that

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mistakes can be very serious. Imagine you are interviewing a professional climber for a school magazine. Write 5–7 sentences that describe the three questions you would ask about training, safety, and decision-making, and then explain what you hope to learn from each question. Your writing should show that exciting achievements often come from careful preparation, not from copying dangerous actions.

5. STUDYING SONIC BOOMS

Scientists are studying how to track space junk that falls back to Earth. When large pieces of debris fall through the air very fast, they can create loud sonic booms, and earthquake sensors on the ground can sometimes “hear” those booms as vibrations. In one case, researchers used this

method to estimate that a falling object’s path was different from what radar predicted. The scientists said this could help people find any pieces that survive the fall more quickly, especially if the debris might be dangerous. Researchers also said space is getting more crowded with satellites, so it is important to improve tracking as more objects reenter the atmosphere. Draw your own design for a science museum exhibit called “Listening for Space Junk.” Using labels, explain what scientists are trying to figure out, what tools they use on the ground, and what a sonic boom tells them. Include one fun “Did you know?” sentence and one question that invites visitors to think, such as what else scientists might be able to track by listening.



Getting organized can help reduce this, which is good for personal health.

Answer: Stress



- English:** Clutter
- Spanish:** Desorden
- Italian:** Disordine
- French:** Désordre
- German:** Unordnung

What’s the Difference?

Find the four differences between the two pictures.



Answers: 1. Baskets on bottom 2. Teapot on second left shelf 3. Different basket on top center 4. Labels are missing on white bags

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1813: Jane Austen’s “Pride and Prejudice” is first published in the UK.

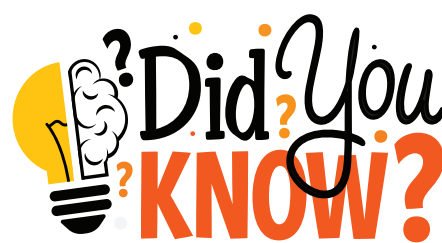
1878: “Yale Daily News” becomes the first independent daily college newspaper in the United States.

1915: An act of Congress creates the United States Coast Guard.

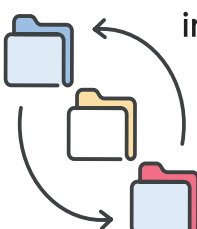
NEW WORD

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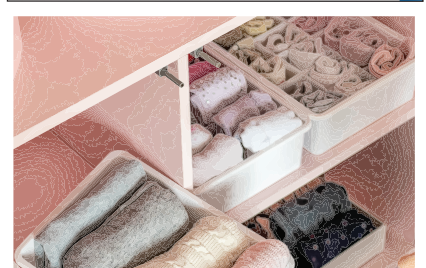
arranged in a tidy way



Creating a folder structure with logical names and using consistent names for individual files can help organize computer content.



Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Closet shelves

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
KATHRYN L. GOODFELLOW,
DECEASED

File No. 2025 CP 171

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of Kathryn L. Goodfellow, deceased, whose date of death was August 3, 2025, is pending in the Circuit Court for Wakulla County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 301 S. Monroe St., Tallahassee, FL 32301. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

The personal representative 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, Florida Statutes, applies, or may apply, unless a written demand is made by a creditor as specified under s. 732.2211, Florida Statutes. The written demand must be filed with the clerk.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of the first publication of this Notice is January 29, 2026.

Attorney for Personal Representative:
/s/ John A. Grant
Attorney
Florida Bar Number: 0946532
2121-C Killarney Way
Tallahassee, FL 32309
Telephone: (850) 702-9400
Fax: (850) 702-9410
E-Mail: john@johngrantlaw.com

Personal Representative:
/s/ Kristine M. Carroll
130 Dreamwood Stables Rd.
Crawfordville, Florida 32327

January 29, February 5, 2026




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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

0129-0205 TWS NOFS

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

WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, CASE NO. 25000096CAAXMX
FSB, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY
BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE OF LODO TRUST I,
Plaintiff,
vs.
CERISSA F FONDO A/K/A CERISSA FRANCINE FONDO, et al.
Defendant(s)

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated December 09, 2025, and entered in 25000096CAAXMX of the Circuit Court of the SECOND Judicial Circuit in and for Wakulla County, Florida, wherein WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE OF LODO TRUST I is the Plaintiff and CERISSA F. FONDO A/K/A CERISSA FRANCINE FONDO ; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ACTING ON BEHALF OF THE RURAL HOUSING SERVICE; RONALD S. FONDO; ANNA G. FONDO are the Defendant(s). Greg James as the Clerk of the Circuit Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at 3056 Crawfordville Hwy., the Front Lobby, Wakulla County Courthouse, Crawfordville, FL 32327, at 11:00 AM, on February 12, 2026, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

LOT 18, BLOCK "E" OF SONGBIRD SUBDIVISION PHASE I, A SUBDIVISION AS PER MAP OR PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGES 88-92 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

Property Address: 10 CARDINAL CT, CRAWFORDVILLE, FL 32327

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 in accordance with Florida Statutes, Section 45.031.

Dated this 20th day of January, 2026.

{{County Court Seal}}

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



IMPORTANT


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 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.

January 29, February 5, 2026



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PERMANENTLY.**

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**Gene
Lambert
Agency
Manager**

**FARM BUREAU INSURANCE
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NOTICE OF ACTION

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

CENTENNIAL BANK, PLAINTIFF, V. KEITH WARD, ET AL., DEFENDANTS.

Case No.: 25 CA 99

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

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

DATA MORTGAGE INC., DBA ESSEX MORTGAGE, PLAINTIFF, 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.

Case No.: 25000118CAAXMX

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 Plaintiffs 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

NOTICE OF ACTION

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

PAFFORD PROPERTIES & CONSTRUCTION, LLC, A FLORIDA LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, PLAINTIFF, V. ROBERT D. WILLIX, JR., IF ALIVE, AND IF DECEASED, UNKNOWN SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, CREDITORS, ASSIGNS, AND ALL OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST HIM, AND REGIONS BANK D/B/A REGIONS MORTGAGE, DEFENDANTS.

Case No.: 2025-CA-000169

NOTICE OF ACTION

To: ROBERT D WILLIX, JR.; if alive, and if deceased, unknown spouses, heirs, devisees, grantees, creditors, assigns, and all other parties claiming by through, under or against him

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

LOT 4, BLOCK P OF SURF, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 17, PAGE 222, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

Wakulla County Parcel ID No. 03-6S-02W-035-03792-004

Address: Surf Road, Panacea, FL

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

DATED this 21st day of January, 2026.

{{County Court Seal}}

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



January 29, February 5, 12, 19, 2026

NOTICE OF ACTION

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

PAFFORD PROPERTIES & CONSTRUCTION, LLC, A FLORIDA LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, PLAINTIFF, V. ROBERT D. WILLIX, JR., IF ALIVE, AND IF DECEASED, UNKNOWN SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, CREDITORS, ASSIGNS, AND ALL OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST HIM, DEFENDANTS.

Case No.: 2025-CA-000170

NOTICE OF ACTION

To: ROBERT D WILLIX, JR.; if alive, and if deceased, unknown spouses, heirs, devisees, grantees, creditors, assigns, and all other parties claiming by through, under or against him

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

LOT 5, BLOCK "P", SURF, FLORIDA, A SUBDIVISION AS PER MAP OR PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 17, PAGE 222, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

Wakulla County Parcel ID No. 03-6S-02W-035-03792-005

Address: Surf Road, Panacea, FL

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

DATED this 21st day of January, 2026.

{{County Court Seal}}

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



January 29, February 5, 12, 19, 2026

CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

1. Racket sport pros
4. Make tea
8. City South of Moscow
10. Spanish bullfighting term
11. Egg-shaped
12. Could not remember
13. French modernist painter
15. Persons
16. Painful intestinal obstruction
17. Professions
18. Is up to the task
21. Wood or metal bolt
22. Tax collector
23. A way to save for the future
24. Georgia rockers
25. Midway between north and northeast
26. High schoolers' test
27. Does not accept responsibility
34. One who prepares
35. Gout-indicative deposits
36. Place to play games
37. Book of Genesis character
38. Cleans oneself
39. Unloaded for money
40. Genus of flowering plants
41. Take a puff
42. Congressmen
43. God of battle in

Scandinavian mythology

CLUES DOWN

1. Type of bomb
2. South Pacific islands
3. Celestial body
4. Negotiates
5. Consider in a specified way
6. Type of group in organic chemistry
7. Buddhist monasteries
9. Inhabitant of Bering Sea island
10. Body part
12. Milestone birthday
14. Thyroid-stimulating hormone
15. More (Spanish)
17. Chicago ballplayer
19. Leaves a place
20. Cannot be found
23. One's internal body parts
24. Tell on
25. North American peoples of southwest
26. Soviet Socialist Republic
27. Extract used for jams and jellies
28. Greek goddess of the dawn
29. Old English letter
30. A way to exaggerate
31. Get up and leave
32. "Boardwalk Empire" character
33. More generous

GELLIS LAW PLLC
A CONCIERGE COUNSELOR

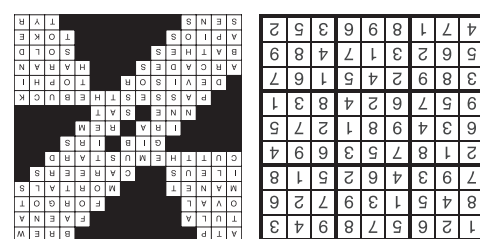
Local Wakulla Attorney ~ Resident & Neighbor ~

Sean W. Gellis, Esq
Founder & Managing Member

561-371-2848 / 2931 Crawfordville Hwy. Next to DQ Sean@gellislaw.com www.GellisLaw.com

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

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34. Hanging cloth used as a blind 36. Ancient Greek sophist

1	2	3					4	5	6	7			
8			9				10						
11						12							
13				14			15						
16							17						
18					19	20							
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		27				28			29	30	31	32	33
		34							35				
36								37					
38									39				
40									41				
42												43	



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WRESTLING

Wrestling team wins 1A Region-1 Dual Championship

By **WALT JACOBS**
Correspondent

On Friday, Jan. 23rd, the Wakulla High wrestling team defeated Baker County 64-15 to win the Region 1A dual championship in Kissimmee.

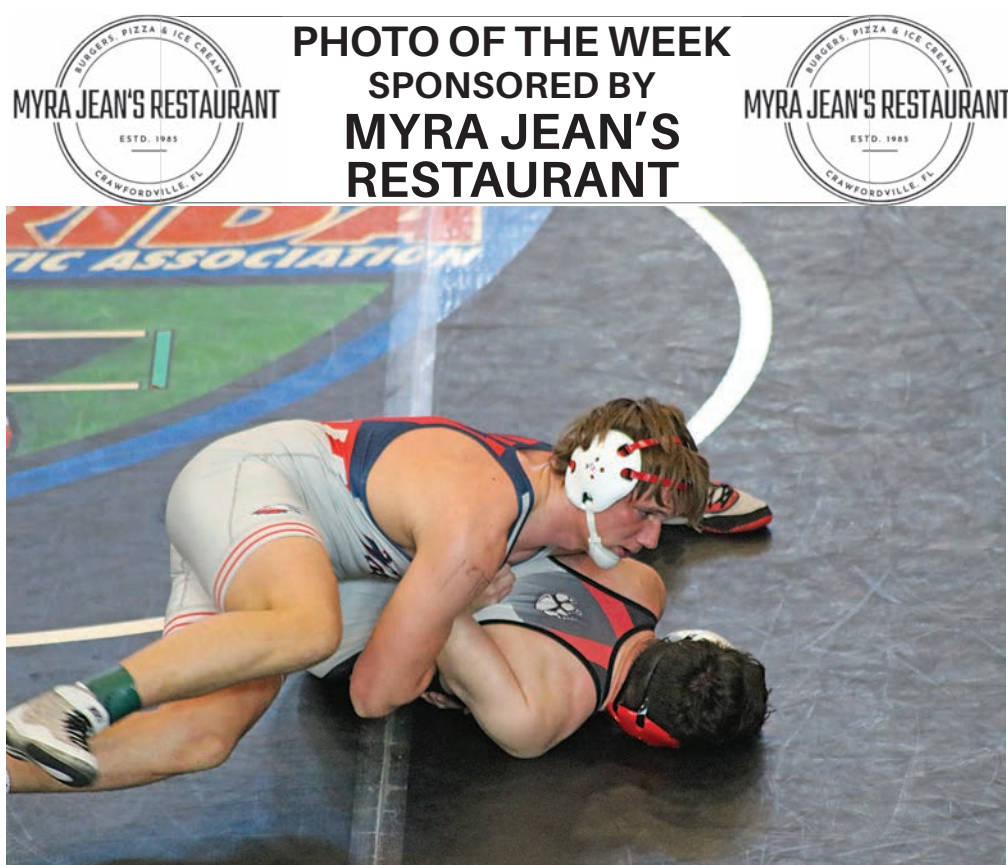
The dual against the Wildcats was mostly a display of domination by Wakulla, as the War Eagles had 8 pins and two technical falls throughout the dual.

The victory was Coach Nate Litowsky's 50th career dual win and the first region championship for Wakulla since 2021. The War Eagles' success came as no surprise to wrestling aficionados. Truly, even the most casual observer could have seen this coming. Wakulla's roster boasts 7 seniors, 7 state qualifiers, and two state placers, not to mention a group of experienced underclassmen which includes sophomore Colt Sanders, who is undefeated on the year and the reigning 1A District 2 champion. No one in the region could match the War Eagles' depth, experience, and collective talent.

RESULTS OF WAKULLA VS BAKER COUNTY

132 Patrick Cooksey (Wakulla Hs) over Robby Driggers (Baker County) Fall 5:16
 138 Brady Jackson (Wakulla Hs) over Kylee Hopkins (Baker County) TF 19-3 5.0
 144 Aaron Robinson (Wakulla Hs) over Ayden Prehaska (Baker County) Fall 0:29
 150 Taz Kinghorn (Baker County) over Troy Thaxton (Wakulla Hs) Dec 9-5
 157 Sebastian Overland (Baker County) over Unknown (Unattached) Forf
 165 Clayton Manzi (Wakulla Hs) over Collin Daniel (Baker County) Fall 5:03
 175 Cole Manning (Wakulla Hs) over Eli Leggett (Baker County) Fall 3:15
 190 Gavin Mitchell (Wakulla Hs) over Kristian Chancey (Baker County) TF 20-3
 215 Blake Barodte (Wakulla Hs) over Anthony Williams (Baker County) Fall 4:34
 285 Jordan Perez (Baker County) over Lonnie Pierce (Wakulla Hs) Fall 3:37
 106 Brayden Hodges (Wakulla Hs) over Connor Alexander (Baker County) Fall 1:25
 113 Kyle Manzi (Wakulla Hs) over Cooper Richardson (Baker County) Fall 0:37
 120 Matthew Thaxton (Wakulla Hs) over Unknown (Unattached) Forf
 126 William Harvey (Wakulla Hs) over Kenneth Watson (Baker County) Fall 2:46

In the state semifinal on Saturday, Wakulla faced Mater Lakes Academy who are a perennial power and the defending state champs. The Bears lived up to their hype and defeated the War Eagles 62-4. Although the team fell short, the War Eagles finished the season with an impressive 28-1 dual meet record.



Gavin Mitchell works to turn Baker County's Kristian Chancey.

Results of Wakulla vs Mater Lakes

106 Jack Cabrera (Mater Lakes Academy) over Brayden Hodges (Wakulla Hs) Fall 1:55

113 Ronn Stephen Flores (Mater Lakes Academy) over Kyle Manzi (Wakulla Hs) Maj 13-4

120 Jake Margolis (Mater Lakes Academy) over Matthew Thaxton (Wakulla Hs) Dec 6-1

126 Kellen Mesina (Mater Lakes Academy) over William Harvey (Wakulla Hs) UTB 3-2

132 Keagan Mesina (Mater Lakes Academy) over Patrick Cooksey (Wakulla Hs) Fall 2:12

138 Christopher Greene (Mater Lakes Academy) over Brady Jackson (Wakulla Hs) Dec 8-3

144 Bruce Li (Mater Lakes Academy) over Aaron Robinson (Wakulla Hs) Fall 2:33

150 Mason O'Dell (Mater Lakes Academy) over Troy Thaxton (Wakulla Hs) TF 21-5

157 Colt Sanders (Wakulla Hs) over Cesar Aguilar (Mater Lakes Academy) Maj 13-5

165 Christopher Benzan (Mater Lakes Academy) over Clayton Manzi (Wakulla Hs) Fall 1:33

175 Kalias Nazario (Mater Lakes Academy) over Cole Manning (Wakulla Hs) Fall 0:25

190 Darian Vargas (Mater Lakes Academy) over Gavin Mitchell (Wakulla Hs) TF 19-3

215 Daniel Perez (Mater Lakes Academy) over Blake Barodte (Wakulla Hs) Dec 11-9

285 Maximilian Garzaro (Mater Lakes Academy) over Lonnie Pierce (Wakulla Hs) Fall

0:41

LADY WAR EAGLES AT GIRLS KNIGHT OUT

On Friday, the Lady War Eagles competed at the Girls Knight Out wrestling tournament at Ocoee High School. Coach Jon Sanchez said, "The tournament had some good competition from different regions, and it allowed us to gain some experience going against unfamiliar opponents." Sanchez expressed concerns saying, "We're still not where we need to be. That's how wrestling goes sometimes. Some tournaments you have a good run and at others, it's just not your best showing. I believe that when you have a tournament like that, it's a time for growing. It forces a wrestler to reflect inwardly, and it shows what they are made of."

However, Sanchez accentuated the positives saying, "One shining moment was when Julia captured her 50th win, it was something really special."

Ultimately, he affirmed, "These girls have a lot of potential, and I believe we're going to see it shine in the postseason."

RESULTS OF GIRLS KNIGHT OUT Julia Baggett

Champ. Round 1 - Julia Baggett (Wakulla HS) received a bye (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Julia Baggett won by fall over Emily Frantzen (The Villages) (Fall 3:59)

Semifinal - R'Carde-

nay Michel (Matanzas) won by fall over Julia Baggett (Fall 2:48)

Cons. Semi - Haley Pease (Davenport) won by major decision over Julia Baggett (MD 11-1)

5th Place Match - Julia Baggett won by fall over Emily Frantzen (The Villages) (Fall 4:59)

Kameron Easter

Champ. Round 1 - Kameron Easter (Wakulla HS) won by fall over Halaela Nguyen (Edgewater) (Fall 3:06)

Quarterfinal - Savannah Fernandes (Ocoee) won by fall over Kameron Easter (Fall 5:00)

Cons. Round 2 - Kameron Easter won by tech fall over Dorica Alfred (Evans) (TF-1.5 2:34 (19-3)

Cons. Round 3 - Carrissa Torres (Innovation) won by fall over Kameron Easter (Fall 1:25)

BARODTE REACHES 100 WINS



Matthew Thaxton vs Jack Margolis of Mater Lakes.

WRESTLERS of the WEEK

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COACH'S CORNER

"This team was overlooked and under-supported, yet put together an incredible dual season. We are far from done, and we hope everyone comes out to witness what's next."

- Coach Nate Litowsky

On January 10th, at the Cradle Cancer tournament, senior Blake Barodte achieved his 100th varsity win. The career milestone was met on an 8-2 decision over Milo Moreno of Charlotte High School. Congratulations, Blake!

PHOTOS BY JENNIFER THAXTON

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