



Wrestlers finish regular season/Page 14

The Wakulla Sun

WAKULLA WeatherSTEM
Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Partly Cloudy	Sunny	Partly Cloudy
Hi: 71° Lo: 43° 44%	Hi: 71° Lo: 47° 55%	Hi: 70° Lo: 54° 40%
Sunrise 7:19 AM Sunset 6:24 PM	Sunrise 7:18 AM Sunset 6:24 PM	Sunrise 7:18 AM Sunset 6:25 PM



\$1
One Section

"It's a New Day"

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Our 5th Year 7th Issue
Thursday, February 12, 2026

Scott Klees stepping down

The longtime War Eagle football coach wants to spend more time with family

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

Scott Klees announced this week that he will retire as Wakulla War Eagle football coach.

Klees, who will still be teaching at the high school, said he wants to spend more time with his family.

"During the football season, I work all day every Saturday and Sunday," he said, making it difficult to see his son Haden play college football at Samford (he recently entered the transfer portal and will play next year at Valdosta State). Another son, Owen, is graduating high school this year and is also expected to play at the college level. A third son, Brody, will be playing JV football for Wakulla next year.

"It's just the right time," Klees said of retiring from coaching.

Since joining the Wakulla War Eagles in 2002, the program has made the playoffs 21 out of 23 years

Klees has compiled a



Scott Klees coaching his team in this year's playoff game against Bishop Kenny in Jacksonville.

178-55 record, averaging 9 wins per season. The War Eagles were hampered by injuries this season, but were district champs and made it to the playoffs as the No.6 seed.

In January, Klees was inducted in the the Florida Athletic Coaches Hall of Fame. Last month, the Wakulla coaching staff earned Program of the Year from the Florida Coaches Coalition for the

North Central Region of the State.

Under Klees, the War Eagles won two state runner-up titles – in 2011 and 2015 – and made it to the Final Four in 2019, and the Final Eight in 2021.

Klees said he doesn't know who will be named to replace him as head coach.

"I do know Wakulla gets it right," he said. "There have been two

head coaches in 50 years here – so they obviously care." (The other was Hall of Fame Coach J.D. Jones.)

He thanked boosters, players, school administrators and fans – and his wife Nicole – for support through the years.

And he ended the conversation saying, "None of this would have been possible without Lord Jesus Christ."

Woman charged with fraud for false returns

Natosha Beard is charged with more than 30 counts of forging tax returns, pocketing refunds

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

A woman working at the Crawfordville office of Jackson Hewitt was charged with more than 30 counts of preparing fraudulent tax returns for customers and pocketing the refunds.

Natosha Beard was charged in January 2025 with felony fraud. She was in court last week before Wakulla Circuit Judge Layne Smith who set her case for trial in November.

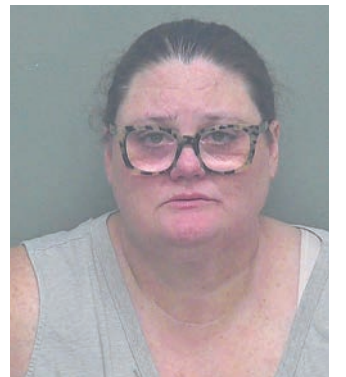
Assistant State Attorney Marc Simmons announced to the court that, if found guilty, Beard faces a minimum/mandatory sentence of 10 years in prison.

Beard appeared in court in a wheelchair and it was indicated that she faces health issues.

Beginning in December 2024, customers at the income tax preparation service began coming forward to question tax returns filed by Beard. One woman went to the sheriff's office noting that there were irregularities with her tax return, including a child's name as a dependent – the woman didn't have a child. But Beard had allegedly added a child to the woman's tax return to get additional tax credit and then routed the tax refund to herself.

When another customer stepped forward with concerns about the tax preparer, the Chief Operating Officer for Jackson Hewitt did an audit of Beard's records and determined she had likely committed fraud against at least 30 victims.

Beard was arrested in April 2025 on a warrant after a months-long investigation, and bonded out in May after posting a \$35,000 bond. She was initially represented by the public defender's office.



Natosha Beard

Dr. Faith Hughes is retiring from practice

After 36 years of veterinary medicine, she will retire in July

By LINDA ANN McDONALD
Correspondent

After 36 years of practicing veterinary medicine, Dr. Faith Hughes, DVM has reached the finish line. Dr. Hughes announced she will be retiring at the end of July.

Originally from Bainbridge, Georgia, Hughes graduated University of Auburn in 1990, landing her first job as a DVM at Haines Road Animal Clinic in St. Petersburg. Two years later, she moved back to Bainbridge and worked for Allied Veterinary Emergency Hospital in Tallahassee.

"At the time, I also did some relief work on the side for Forest Animal Hospital," Hughes recalled. "The whole staff back then – which was Tammy Vernon, Margaret Williams, Massie Williams, Patty Elsner, and Karol Porter Chapman – decided I was the one for a job with them and called me to work. I was happy to come; it didn't bother me at all; what's there not to love about Wakulla? I feel in love with the seafood, I was a good fit, I am a small-town girl, and I was just a good fit for Wakulla."

Officially in 1993, Hughes began her career in Wakulla at Forest Animal Hospital with Dr. Jolly Rogers, ultimately moving to Wakulla County. Hughes said, "The first place in which I lived in here was a two-story unfinished



Dr. Faith Hughes, DVM

rental house surrounded by a creek, close by Michael Drive; this was full on Wakulla County, and I loved it."

In 2008, after changing management several times throughout the years, Forest Animal Hospital is now VCA Wakulla Animal Hospital. Hughes was promoted to Medical Director in 2008.

Hughes was also active in the Wakulla community, volunteering her professional services as volunteer Medical Director and running the CHAT adoption center at the animal shelter. You could also find Hughes fundraising at PAWS dog washes and active with

the Trap and Release (TNR) events.

Hughes credits her outdoors country raising as what sparked her interest in animals and the decision to pursue a career in veterinary medicine.

"As a child, I grew up in the country in Bainbridge. My father took me hunting and fishing and I was his bird dog in the dove field, retrieving his birds for him," she says. "He finally got a lab to do that instead of me," she says with a laugh.

"I discovered I enjoyed anatomy from the experiences I had cleaning birds and fish. I was a tomboy and in school, I enjoyed science and

math. I thank God it all worked out becoming a veterinarian because I did not have a back up plan if I was not accepted in vet school. I was that determined."

Discussing the demands of being a veterinarian, she says: "I feel when someone brings in their pet, it's my job to explain all their options. I know some people will do everything possible, but some must be practical, it's called the spectrum of care. It doesn't matter if someone brings in their prized hunting dog or a chihuahua that can't use the steps in bed at night, the family is offered all the same care."

"Working in a Wakulla where everyone knows everybody, I like seeing family members and their pets and the generations of family and pets."

"I enjoy putting Wakulla family trees together and I like to keep up with my patients on Facebook. I get on there and wish the pets happy birthday."

Retirement is a new beginning, a time to enjoy life, pursue dreams, and embrace freedom. "This is not goodbye, this is see you later," Hughes says. She will still volunteer and do some relief work.

Moving forward, Hughes said, "I have good people that will take care of everyone; I'm sure. For those of you who remember Dr.

Turn to Page 9

Wakulla man signs record deal



Wakulla's Madden Metcalf, center, has announced signing a record deal with producer Freddy Wexler and MCA.

By LINDA ANN McDONALD
Correspondent

After being discovered on social media for his musical talent, Wakulla native Madden Metcalf has signed a record deal with Freddy Wexler, a Grammy-nominated songwriter/producer, and MCA Records.

Metcalf's first single, "IDWK" came out in November 2025. Metcalf released his next single, "Like My Hometown" on Jan. 26th. Metcalf has been playing guitar and singing since he was 7 years old.

"Like My Hometown is about sometimes you get to know someone on the molecular level, when you know someone miles more than just surface level," he said. "I have always loved Panacea, and I wanted to share that connection in my song."

"Growing up, we always had music playing, everywhere," he said. "My dad plays guitar and his playlist genres jump all over the place, from Jimmy Buffet, Bob Marley, Johnny Cash to east coast rap."

Metcalf's parents are Eddie Metcalf and Heidi Grantham.

Speaking of musical influences, Metcalf said, "I was with my dad at a Riley Green concert in Tallahassee. I saw him entertaining the crowd and I

Turn to Page 9

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Student of the Week

Serenity Holcomb – 5th grader at Crawfordville Elementary

Principal: Alana Crawford.

Achievements/Reason for Nomination: Serenity is a 5th grade student here at Crawfordville Elementary School. While she has not been with us long, she has already made quite the impression. Currently she is leading the school with 3,401,710 words read! She has worked incredibly hard and earned all A's throughout the entire school year. Serenity's teachers say that she is an outstanding 5th-grade student who always goes above and beyond in everything she does. Serenity is kind and respectful to others. She consistently gives her best effort and leads by example. Her dedication is clear in her incredible achievement of reading over 3 million words, showing both her strong work ethic and love of learning..



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Wakulla County Tax Collectors Office

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 Proceeds from "Save the Bees" plate sales will provide a steady income stream for the Tampa Bay Beekeepers Association, enabling continued funding for honeybee research and education. This includes member-directed research and support for the Honey Bee Research and Extension Lab at the University of Florida.

Girls weightlifting competes at district

By **WINDY JONES**
Coach

The WHS Girls Weightlifting team competed in the District Championship Saturday, January 24th at Arnold High School. Several lifters received medals and ribbons, and advanced to the Regional Championship.

Medalist:
Sian Garrett 2nd
Mia Withers 3rd
Allison Stephens 3rd
Blakely Wells 3rd
Ribbons:
Abigail Lawhon 4th
Mattie Harrell 5th



The Girls Weightlifting team at districts, above. Blakely Wells on the podium, lower left, and Sian Garrett on the podium, lower right.

The following lifters advanced to the Regional Championship: Allison Stephens, Mia Withers, Blakely Wells, Sian Garrett, Abigail Lawhon, Mattie Harrell, and Cylee Long.

The Regional Championship was held Saturday, Jan. 31st at Choctawhatchee High School. Sian Garrett and Blakely Wells medaled with 3rd place. Blakely Wells, who is a freshman, ad-



vanced to the State Finals in Lakeland on Feb. 12th. Overall, we had a very successful season, and I am very proud of our lifters. We are excited for Blakely and her opportunity to compete at the State Finals.

Andrew Nelson signs with Missouri S&T



Wakulla War Eagle strong safety Andrew Nelson signed a scholarship on National Signing Day, Wednesday, Feb. 4, with the Missouri S&T Miners, a Division II team in the Great Lakes Valley Conference. Nelson, center, was with family and coaches at the signing ceremony, above. Head Coach Scott Klees praised Nelson and the support of his family. Nelson said he chose Missouri S&T because he will get a great education at school and play for a great football team. He is the 106th player from Wakulla under Coach Klees to get a football scholarship. (Photo by William Snowden)

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.

FLORIDA PUBLIC NOTICES
WWW.FLORIDAPUBLICNOTICES.COM

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners will hold a Public Hearing on **March 16, 2026 at 6:00p.m.** in the Commission Chambers, 29 Arran Rd., Crawfordville, FL., 32327.

Purpose of Hearing:
To Consider a Purchase and Sale Agreement for the Acquisition of Property Along Woodville Hwy. (Parcel ID #33-2S-01E-000-04995-027) for the Purpose of Constructing Wakulla County Fire Rescue Station 3.

Legal Description:
LOT 31, LONGLEAF, (UNRECORDED):
COMMENCE AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SECTION 14 (MARKED BY A CONCRETE MONUMENT), TOWNSHIP 3 SOUTH, RANGE 1 EAST, WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA AND THENCE RUN SOUTH 89 DEGREES 52 MINUTES 30 SECONDS EAST ALONG THE NORTH BOUNDARY OF SAID SECTION 4 A DISTANCE OF 2776.95 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT ON THE EAST RIGHT-OF-WAY OF STATE ROAD NO. 363, THENCE RUN NORTH 10 DEGREES 37 MINUTES 21 SECONDS WEST ALONG SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY 933.55 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING. FROM SAID POINT OF BEGINNING CONTINUE NORTH 10 DEGREES 37 MINUTES 21 SECONDS WEST ALONG SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY 309.49 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT, THENCE RUN SOUTH 89 DEGREES 55 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST 712.40 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT. THENCE RUN SOUTH 10 DEGREES 37 MINUTES 21 SECONDS EAST 310.03 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT, THENCE RUN NORTH 89 DEGREES 52 MINUTES 30 SECONDS WEST 712.42 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

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.

February 12, 2026

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT
WAKULLA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
2026-01
PROFESSIONAL CEI SERVICES FOR MASHES SANDS PIER RECONSTRUCTION
ADVERTISEMENT BEGIN DATE:
FEBRUARY 12, 2026
RELEASE DATE: FEBRUARY 12, 2026
PROPOSALS DUE TO BOCC:
MARCH 13, 2026 @ 3:00 P.M.

Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Board of County Commissioners, 3093 Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville, FL 32327; until 3:00 P.M., Local Time, on **MARCH 13, 2026**, at which time the proposals will be opened and read aloud. Proposals received after said time will be returned unopened.

The principal features of this procurement by the County are known as: **PROFESSIONAL CEI SERVICES FOR MASHES SANDS PIER RECONSTRUCTION**. The specifications of this procurement are stated in **RFQ 2026-01**

The RFQ and any addenda issued will be posted to the County's Website at www.mywakulla.com or can be obtained by contacting the County Purchasing Office at 850-926-0919 or bnowak@mywakulla.com.

A person or affiliate who has been placed on the convicted vendor list following a conviction for a public entity crime may not submit a bid on a contract to provide any goods or services to a public entity, may not submit a bid on a contract with a public entity for the construction or repair of a public building or public work, may not submit bids on leases of real property to a public entity, may not be awarded or perform work as a contractor, supplier, subcontractor, or consultant under a contract with any public entity, and may not transact business with any public entity in excess of the threshold amount provided in Section 287.017, Florida Statutes, for CATEGORY TWO (\$35,000) for a period of 36 months from the date of being placed on the convicted vendor list.

The Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners reserves the right to waive informalities in any bid; reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part; re-bid a project, in whole or in part; and to accept a proposal that in its judgment, is the lowest and best bid of a responsible bidder. In accepting a bid, Wakulla County may award a contract based only on the base bid, the base bid plus all alternates, or the base bid plus any alternates which Wakulla County selects -- with all decisions being made based upon what Wakulla County believes to be the best interests of its ratepayers, in the reasonable exercise of its discretion. Wakulla County further reserves the right to increase or decrease quantities as may be required to meet the needs of Wakulla County, at the unit price which was bid.

Wakulla County does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, marital status or disability/handicapped status in employment or provision of service.

Wakulla County is an Equal Opportunity Employer
MBE/WBE businesses are encouraged to participate
Wakulla County strictly enforces open and fair competition

ADA - Special Accommodations: Any person requiring accommodations by the County due to a disability should call the Purchasing Office at 850-926-0919 at least five (5) days prior to any pre-response conference, response opening, or meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the County Purchasing Office by the Florida Relay Service, which can be reached at 1-800-955-8771 (TDD).

February 12, 2026

The Total Care Dental
Retirement Announcement –
Dr. Tom Wollschlager

After many years in practice, I sadly announce my retirement from dentistry due to a back injury that required multiple surgeries last spring. Despite efforts to continue seeing patients part-time, ongoing pain made it difficult to provide the level of care my patients deserve.

I am pleased to share that Dr. Margaret Marino has taken over the practice. She filled in for me during the summer, and I am confident she will continue to provide excellent care.

I am deeply grateful for the trust and support of my patients and the community over the past 30 years.

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Opinions

THE FIRST AMENDMENT

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

How Mobile Response Teams alleviate mental health crises



By **JOSHUA PRATER**
Special to The Sun

“I don’t know what to do,” the 17-year-old boy muttered over the phone. “I know that I don’t feel safe, but I don’t know how I’ll live without her.”

I was familiar with the young caller and knew he lives with bipolar disorder. This was not his first time calling MRT; he called frequently at night, but this time was noticeably different.

Through the boy’s fear-filled voice, I knew he needed someone to talk to, someone he could trust. That’s my role as a Mobile Response Team (MRT) counselor for Apalachee Center.

He explained that his girlfriend broke up with him and threatened to come to his home and stab him. He had no thoughts of suicide or homicide and did not meet criteria for a Baker Act, but he did ex-

press that he could not sleep for the past few days and felt uncomfortably sad. The boy shared with me why she was so important to him. I listened.

Then, the two of us practiced and reviewed a few mental health exercises that he could use now and in the future to deal with his grief.

To ensure he was safe, we created a safety plan in the instance of his ex-girlfriend coming to harm him. After our conversation, he was relieved and ready to sleep.

This is just one of many examples of calls received 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, by Apalachee Center’s MRT counselors.

Our team responds to calls ranging from mental health crisis, food and housing assistance, counseling services, and more and are available to respond in-person, over the phone or via video chat.

We can be reached at 800-342-0774. Each call is important – even those with questions that seem simple. We are here to help.

MRT is designed to stabilize individuals in mental health crisis situations through crisis counseling and de-escalation, divert individ-

uals from emergency rooms and the criminal justice system, and prevent unnecessary psychiatric hospitalizations.

When a call is received, our counselors listen and assess the situation. De-escalation and crisis counseling is provided, and a Baker Act may be initiated when necessary.

Once the situation is under control, individuals and families are linked to long-term services to help prevent a future crisis. MRT services are funded by the Florida Department of Children and Families through Apalachee Center’s managing entity partner, Northwest Florida Health Network (NWF), and are offered completely free of charge.

We work to prevent what our work was born from – tragedy.

Statewide MRTs were created in the aftermath of the Parkland shooting with the passing of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Act in 2018 by then-Gov. Rick Scott.

Since then, Mobile Response Teams have increased across the state from 18 teams in 10 counties to 39 teams covering 67 counties.

While I reside in Wakulla County, I work

in Gadsden County. Both are served by Apalachee Center’s MRT along with Leon, Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Liberty, Madison and Taylor counties.

Wakulla County MRT Counselor Regina McQueen works closely with the Wakulla County community to provide mental health education and advocacy.

“MRT’s goal is to keep the community safe,” Regina said. “It is important to work together in the Wakulla community to ensure clients’ safety when they reach out to us. Understanding the proper steps in mental health care is vital.”

According to the Florida Bar, there has been a 20% decrease in Baker Acts (involuntary psychiatric examinations) over the last five years.

At home in Wakulla County, Baker Acts conducted by the Wakulla County Sheriff’s Office decreased from 220 in 2021 to 177 in 2023.

The decrease in Baker Acts is partly a result of the success that MRTs have had in helping people access emergency behavioral healthcare from their homes, schools or com-

munity.

Those experiencing distress can make a call and speak to us themselves. Others, like parents, teachers, school resource officers and others can also call.

I once received a call from a local middle school about a student. After her father died, the student was bullied and fell into a depression. She was expressing suicidal thoughts and struggling with grief.

When I arrived, the girl told me about her plans to end her life. She felt like no one was there to help her and there was nothing left to live for.

I reminded her of everyone around her who cared – her teacher who made the call to MRT, her mother who was in the hallway crying, and me, who was here for her now. She soon realized that she was not alone.

Her mother and I worked together to create a safety plan for the students, and I followed up with them the next day and found that the girl was doing much better.

Work as an MRT counselor is impactful. I’ve worked as law enforcement, in child welfare investigations, and case management with

foster children. It was great work, but I didn’t feel like I made an impact to create a change.

MRT is different because a change can be seen. I can see simple things such as educating a parent and child on how to care for mental health leads to proactivity and self-efficacy by the family. MRT is a bridge between the community to mental health services.

Growing up on the southside of Tallahassee, my family did not know much about mental health services outside of ADHD medication for my younger brother. Having a counselor to reach out to could have avoided some of the issues my brother had growing up in the late ‘90s and early 2000s.

If you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health crisis or just needs someone to talk to, give us a call. We’re available 24/7 at 800-342-0774.

You can learn more about Apalachee Center’s MRT at ApalacheeCenter.org/MRT.

Joshua Prater is counselor of Apalachee Center’s Mobile Response Team.

On the Horizon

Calendar of events for the week of February 12

Thursday, February 12

- 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, February 13

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

Saturday, February 14

- VALENTINE’S DAY
- Celebrate Heart Month with Walk with a Doc at 9 a.m. at Azalea Park. Enjoy a free,

family-friendly walk and heart-healthy tips from Dr. Hartiage. No registration required.

- Rotary Valentine Festival begins with a parade at 10 a.m. followed by entertainment and vendors in Hudson Park.

Sunday, February 15

- 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 16

- PRESIDENTS DAY – Government offices, schools and banks will be closed.
- VFW Post 4538 and Auxiliary holds monthly meetings on the second Monday of the month with fellowship at 6 p.m., meetings at 7 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 17

- School board meets at the district office beginning at 5:45 p.m.
- County commission meets at 6 p.m. in the commission chambers.
- Sarracenia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society meets at 6:30 p.m. at the Wakulla County Public Library. Dr. Tom Miller of the FSU Biology Dept. will be discussing carnivorous pitcherplants. Learn about the planned field trip. For a Zoom link, email Sarracenia.nps@gmail.com. Free and open to the public.
- Sopchoppy community dinner is held every week at the Towles House at 6:30 p.m.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Tues-

day at 6:30 p.m. at 54 Ochlockonee St.

Wednesday, February 18

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

UPCOMING

Friday, February 20

- Arthur Andrews Memorial Scholarship Gala will be held at the community center beginning at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$50 and will not be available at the door.

Saturday, February 21

- African American History Festival kicks off with a parade at 10 a.m. followed by entertainment and vendors in the park.
- Mardi Gras, a fundraiser for Friends of the Wakulla County Public Library, will be held at the community center from 6 to 9 p.m. The event features dinner, live jazz and a cash bar. Tickets are \$60.

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William Snowden
Editor & Publisher
The Wakulla Sun

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“It’s A New Day!”


The Wakulla Sun




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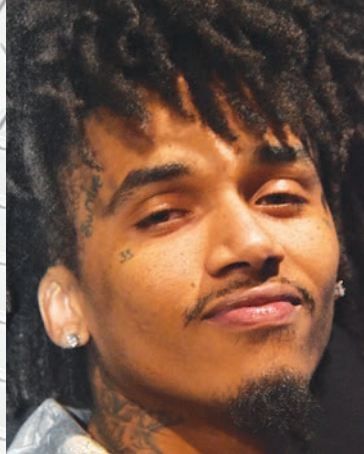
– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

What is your favorite love song?



BULLETPROOF
Musician

“I would say KC & Jojo’s All My Life. This song came out when I was younger. it is a song about being with someone forever.”



LOWLIFE JXMY
Rapper

“That would be If It’s Love by Kem. He says if it’s love, it will last for a lifetime.”



HERB DONALDSON
Palaver Tree Theater

“All This Love by DeBarge. It’s just a beautiful song and speaks of absolute devotion.”



JOHN GILBERT
Musician/Business owner

“Saved by Love by Chris Knight!”



JAMIA WRIGHT
Retired Nurse

“Can You Stand the Rain by New Edition.”

Wakulla Crossroads

By **VERNA BROCK**

This past weekend a Facebook post about Wakulla Station gained a boatload of responses, as debate raged over a couple of neighborhood buildings from the 1920s and 1930s. The conversations centered around what is now “Sandy Bottoms,” which was also known as “Beep’s” before that. Built in a very common style of the era, the old wooden building primarily belonged to my longtime neighbor, Mr. Bennie Rogers.

Ed and I had moved into our home in December 1977. Our original structure was built in 1930 by Sam Smith. Meant for his daughter before her marriage, it once was very basic, with hand-selected lumber, throughout six rooms; it lacked indoor plumbing, electricity or closets. I’ve been told, by people who were born and raised here, that what is now Woodville Highway was once a two-rut road, and Old Woodville Road (which parallels what is now the Rails to Trails State Park) was the area’s primary paved road.

At some point, Mr. Rogers sold the property to John and Kathy McDevitt shortly before Ed and I moved into the neighborhood. Directly south of there was Mrs. Branch’s historic store, shaped in another iconic North Flori-

da style, the A-frame gas station. Her store was still open in 1977, but the building has been slowly disintegrating over the last nearly 50 years.

Another store, owned by the Hagler and Jernigan families, was located directly across from Sandy Bottoms. Also built in the same style as the Rogers’ store, this old wooden building soon became an antique store for Lamar Garner. He spent his days restoring everything from Chipendale furniture to primitive pieces and turn-of-the-century tiger oak items. I loved visiting his shop and still have some items purchased from him.

In April 1982, on a drizzly Saturday morning, a newly filled Sing Oil tanker came through the caution light at Woodville Hwy. and 267. Despite the speed limit set at 35 mph, the driver was flying. He passed Bruce Alford by her mailbox, and seconds later clipped a Scotty’s delivery truck turning north from what is now Lovett Lane.

The tanker attempted to swerve around the smaller truck, lost control on the damp pavement, and rolled over several times, sliding through the front of the Jernigan’s store and onto the corner of our property. It brought down a live power pole while spilling 8,000 gallons of leaded and unleaded

gasoline across the ground. No sound emanated from the crushed cab.

I was standing in my yard, preparing to make a trip to the library storytime with my toddler, when this all transpired. I watched in horror as what seemed like armageddon unfolded before me. Everything went dead silent, and then a loud whoosh sounded. Flames raced down the slight incline towards the stand of trees, following the flow of gas away from the broken wreckage. Immediately, deafening explosions racked the morning air as black smoke and roaring white hot fire leaped toward the sky.

I turned to Ed and shouted for him to call 911, but the line went dead before he could get two words out. As we shook off the stunned disbelief, we realized we needed to move our vehicles away from the intense heat. For the next seven hours, explosions shook the neighborhood. Jernigan’s wooden building, along with Lamar’s entire inventory of beautiful antiques, was reduced to ash in under five minutes.

One lasting effect of the fire was the death of the driver. Another was the infiltration of gasoline and all of its carcinogenic components into the Florida Aquifer. As Ed pointed out, if even one percent of the truck’s load managed to percolate through the sandy soil, that would equal 80 gallons of gas. Judging from the reek of gasoline that lingered for months, it’s

no wonder our deep well tested positive for contamination. Now, nearly 45 years later, we have drilled a new well into the aquifer that seems gasoline free. Fingers crossed!

What seems really curious to me is how such impactful events recede in the collective memories of community. Living our day to day lives, year in and year out, time passes. Fresher events move to the forefront and new neighbors move in unaware of the history of their environs. Next thing you know, people are astonished to learn that there was a suspected pyromaniac roaming two counties, a full-fledged railway stop where mail was delivered to the Post Office daily, two boarding houses for train travelers just around the corner and a thriving lumber business down the road in the other direction.

After so many decades, all physical traces begin to be erased from the landscape, much like what is happening at Branch’s store.

We’re so focused on the here and now, or sometimes the future, we let the past slip away. Suddenly, no one recalls how it was, what delivered us here in the first place. But these things are the warp and weave of our lives’ fabric, a tapestry that we shouldn’t allow to become unraveled.

I hope my sharing about our history helps readers to see the community with a new perspective!

Buckhorn News

By **ETHEL SKIPPER**

We have had another week of cold weather. Someone said to me that it’s been cold like this many times. I just can’t remember when.

Last week I went out on my front porch and my flowers weren’t standing up, but laying over.

It’s been colder than I can remember right now.

On one of the coldest days, Jan. 31, at Skipper Temple Church of Christ was a spiritual-filled service with the woman presider, Pastor Tawanna Morris from Tallahassee.

Speakers for the conference included Evangelist Gwen Williams, Evangelist Philise Holloman, and Pastor Patricia Harrison. The women had a parade of hats and modeled hats for all occasions.

Spirit and Truth Women’s Prayer Breakfast was held on Saturday, Feb.

7, with Minister Tala Hagan, Evangelist Barbara Johnson, Pastor Mary Kelly, Elder Pamela Cotton, Mother Jewel White, and words of wisdom from Dr. Elder Ethel Skipper, pastor of Skipper Temple Church of Christ Written in Heaven. Following the service was a breakfast. Everyone was appreciated and thank you for prayers.

New Hope Pentecostal Holiness Church of Christ W.I.H. will have a program on Saturday, Feb. 14 to celebrate the love of God, and memories of Elder Leila Reed and her love for the people of the Lord.

Happy birthday to Pastor Sarah Battle, Pastor Renita Dixon.

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 of prayer.

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HOME ON THE RANGE

Shooting the most simple handgun



By MARJ LAW

If you've read some of these articles over the past years, you'd probably say to yourself: "That Marj hates revolvers. In particular, she hates the .38 special."

Well, that's mostly true and it's untrue.

Joe has a Smith & Wesson Model 36 Chiefs Special. His is a very well-broken-in .38 snub nose, with a barrel of 1.75 inches. Joe has large bones. His training began in the Navy. That was many years ago, but he practices shooting regularly and has kept up his skills. He thinks his .38 is a sweet-shooting gun. It's a great defensive weapon for him.

I don't want a .38 for my own self-defense. For a middle-aged or senior person with small bone structure and maybe some arthritis or carpal tunnel problems, I wouldn't suggest it for 'most any of these people. In my opinion, the .38's trigger pull is hard, hard, hard. In my opinion, the .38's recoil is hard, hard, hard. I

Charter Arms Target Pit Bull 9mm

- Hard Trigger Pull in DA
- 5 Rounds
- Big recoil



.38 Chiefs Special Model 36

- Hard Trigger Pull in DA
- 5 Rounds
- Big recoil

don't hate the .38. I just don't like it for me or for Newbie.

Newbie doesn't need a gun with a hard trigger and a lot of recoil. Newbie needs a handgun he/she can manage. That's why I don't like a .38 for Newbie.

"But my husband/father/nephew said I need a .38 because I don't have any background of shooting handguns. He says I need one where all I have to do is point and shoot if I ever have to defend my life," Newbie says.

In fact, Newbie may have a .38 already because it was purchased for her but a well-meaning guy.

"Yes," the guy will concede, "the trigger is hard and so is the recoil. However, when your life is at stake, your adrenalin will pump and give you the oomph you need to pull that trigger. All

it'll take is one shot, and Mr. Bad will be down because the .38 has great take down power."

And it's likely true. One well-placed shot from the .38 can bring down an evil-doer. But is Newbie able to manage a well-placed shot?

I doubt it. Newbie often comes to the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office range with a .38. She now has a "point and shoot" gun. She's pretty confident because the gun is so easy to use.

Besides being a point and shoot gun, the .38 is easy to load. This is another good confidence booster. Plop in your 5 rounds and click the cylinder shut. Easy peasy.

Now Newbie pulls the trigger. Nothing happens. She pulls harder. Still nothing. She sticks both index fingers onto the trigger and pulls super hard. She finally gets her shot off.

"I didn't know it would be so hard," she complains. And she's right. You can buy something called a Lyman Digital Trigger Pull scale. This measures how many pounds of pressure it takes to pull the trigger. While many semi-automatic guns have trigger pulls from about 4 to 7 pounds, what about the .38 revolver?

The Lyman scale

measures trigger pull up to 12 pounds. Well, the .38's trigger is so strong, it's off the Lyman scale. I looked on the internet trying to find a scale that would measure a pull more than 12 pounds. Couldn't find one.

Newbie's husband's answer to the strong trigger pull is: "Yes, it is hard. However, if you cock the hammer first, then trigger pull is extremely light. No problem."

Yep. That's true. But remember, the wonder of the revolver is that all you have to do is "point and shoot." So now Newbie has to remember to cock the hammer first and then point and shoot. It's one more action to have to remember in a time of enormous stress. Will Newbie remember?

On the other hand, Newbie can rely on the adrenalin rush to give her that oomph needed to pull the trigger to take down Mr. Bad. Is this going to be a well-placed shot?

I doubt it. When Newbie is at the range practicing, she'll cock the hammer first, and then shoot because it's much more pleasant to have the easier trigger pull. However, when Mr. Bad surprises her in a real-life situation, she probably won't re-

member to cock the hammer first. And now, since she hasn't cocked the hammer first, she's going to have that very hard trigger pull.

This means she's going to need to practice shooting at the range without cocking the hammer, just like she would if Mr. Bad came at her. She'll practice one or two shots, then she'll sit down on the bench and say: "I'll just watch now." So, how much practice does she really get? Little. And will it be a well-placed shot? Not likely, since she hasn't practiced. One shot is not practice.

Then there is the matter of recoil. Whether or not you cock the hammer for easier shooting, the recoil is going to be the same. So, Newbie won't practice because of the trigger pull and also because of the recoil.

Will any other revolver be easy to manage? Joe is dubious. He explains that with a revolver, the gun is like an extension of your hand. The recoil comes directly back to your arm. However, with a semi-automatic, the slide takes up a lot of recoil, so perceived recoil is much less.

I'd like to think another revolver will be easier to manage. On Wednesday, Joe and I visit the range. We bring 2 revolvers: a 9mm Charter Arms Pit Bull with a 4.2" barrel and Joe's snub nose Smith & Wesson .38.

Will the 9mm revolver be any easier to shoot than the .38?

I was hoping so. I'm not surprised that when we shoot the 2 guns, we find trigger pull on the .38 is lighter since the gun is old and broken in.

To me, recoil feels a bit stronger on the 9mm than on the .38, but they are pretty similar. While bullet diameter on these two revolvers is practically the same,

the .38's bullet weight is heavier. The .38 is a larger round. However, 9mm rounds are faster and hotter.

These differences make the two guns feel quite similar in two main concerns that Newbies have: too much trigger pull and recoil. Last week, I would have said that the .38 is not the gun for Newbie. This week, I'd say that the 9mm revolver isn't right for Newbie, either.

As you can see, my opinion is that for either handgun, there is no just "point and shoot" anymore. Now, it's cock the hammer first and then point and shoot. If she forgets to cock the hammer first, then she'll have the added problem of the hard trigger pull that she hasn't practiced. Is it likely she'll get in a shot to neutralize the threat when she hasn't practiced?

In the past 15 years of helping people out to learn safety rules of the range and to handle their guns, I've seen two mature women who did shoot their .38s well and with good accuracy. .38s work for them as "point and shoot" guns, just like the .38 works for Joe and other well-trained or strong people.

The vast majority of others who had .38s either stopped coming to the range to practice or they purchased new semi-automatic handguns so they could shoot comfortably and well.

What good has "point and shoot" done for them?

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

EDITOR'S NOTE: Marj is under the weather this week. This is a repeat of a column that ran last February. Get well soon, Marj.



RED DRUM
(*Sciaenops ocellatus*)

If it hits like a freight train, and tries to wrap your line around the pilings, it's probably a Redfish. Otherwise known as Red Drum, they have a beautiful coppery color with one tail. Rarely a fish may have two or none. Young grow in estuaries, feeding on crustaceans, small fish and mollusks for 4 years before migrating nearshore. During the Aug-Nov spawning, they move into brackish and tannin stained inshore waters. There they turn into the rich bronze they get their name from. Red drum can be killed by a cold snap in shallow waters. They can reach 4 ft.

Eukarya, Animalia, Chordata, Actinopterygii, Perciformes, Sciaenidae



WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO



On his weekly survey of Wakulla Springs, retired park ranger Bob Thompson shared this photo of a grey heron. Of the 35 animals monitored on these surveys, the total number of animals observed on February 1, 2025 was 302. The three most abundant were 123 Hooded Mergansers, 60 White Ibis, 45 Common Gallinule. A total of 13 manatees were observed.

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Thursday 12
Sun rise/set: 7:19 AM / 6:23 PM
Moon rise/set: 3:56 AM / 1:50 PM
Moon Illumination 22%
Friday 13
Sun rise/set: 7:18 AM / 6:24 PM
Moon rise/set: 4:47 AM / 2:46 PM
Moon Illumination 14%
Saturday 14
Sun rise/set: 7:18 AM / 6:25 PM
Moon rise/set: 5:33 AM / 3:45 PM
Moon Illumination 8%
Sunday 15
Sun rise/set: 7:17 AM / 6:25 PM
Moon rise/set: 6:14 AM / 4:47 PM
Moon Illumination 4%
Monday 16
Sun rise/set: 7:16 AM / 6:26 PM
Moon rise/set: 6:51 AM / 5:49 PM
Moon Illumination 1%
Tuesday 17
Sun rise/set: 7:15 AM / 6:27 PM
Moon rise/set: 7:23 AM / 6:50 PM
Moon Illumination 0%
Wednesday 18
Sun rise/set: 7:14 AM / 6:28 PM
Moon rise/set: 7:54 AM / ---
Moon Illumination 2%

Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

Feb. 12 - Feb. 18

GO FISH!

Tide charts by tides4fishing.com

Best fishing days this month
Best fishing day(s) is in the center of date ranges.
Feb. 14-20, 24, 28, March 1-6

Thursday 12
Major Times: 7:53 AM / 8:19 PM
Minor Times: 3:26 AM / 1:20 PM
Friday 13
Major Times: 8:46 AM / 9:12 PM
Minor Times: 4:17 AM / 2:16 PM
Saturday 14
Major Times: 9:38 AM / 10:03 PM
Minor Times: 5:03 AM / 3:15 PM
Sunday 15
Major Times: 10:28 AM / 10:52 PM
Minor Times: 5:44 AM / 4:17 PM
Monday 16
Major Times: 11:17 AM / 11:40 PM
Minor Times: 6:21 AM / 5:19 PM
Tuesday 17
Major Times: 12:26 AM / 12:03 PM
Minor Times: 6:53 AM / 6:20 PM
Wednesday 18
Major Times: 1:12 AM / 12:49 PM
Minor Times: 7:24 AM / ---

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

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

St. Marks River Entrance

Th	5:27 am	12:33 pm	4:42 pm	10:41 pm
Fr	6:13 am	12:58 pm	5:51 pm	11:40 pm
Sa	6:50 am	1:23 pm	6:33 pm	12:37 pm
Su	7:22 am	1:51 pm	7:09 pm	1:09 pm
Mo	7:50 am	2:19 pm	7:42 pm	1:37 pm
Tu	8:14 am	2:43 pm	8:16 pm	2:01 pm
We	8:41 am	3:13 pm	8:51 pm	2:30 pm

City of St. Marks

Th	6:31 am	1:09 pm	5:46 pm	11:17 pm
Fr	7:17 am	1:34 pm	6:55 pm	12:06 pm
Sa	7:54 am	2:03 pm	7:37 pm	1:29 pm
Su	8:25 am	2:24 pm	8:13 pm	2:01 pm
Mo	8:53 am	2:47 pm	8:46 pm	2:30 pm
Tu	9:20 am	3:09 pm	9:20 pm	3:00 pm
We	9:45 am	3:31 pm	9:55 pm	3:29 pm

Shell Point, Spring Creek

Th	5:34 am	12:28 pm	4:12 pm	10:29 pm
Fr	6:29 am	1:07 pm	5:44 pm	11:43 pm
Sa	7:11 am	1:40 pm	6:42 pm	12:44 pm
Su	7:47 am	2:09 pm	7:25 pm	1:21 pm
Mo	8:18 am	2:36 pm	8:03 pm	1:50 pm
Tu	8:46 am	3:00 pm	8:40 pm	2:20 pm
We	9:12 am	3:23 pm	9:16 pm	2:49 pm

Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay

Th	5:38 am	12:25 pm	4:53 pm	10:33 pm
Fr	6:24 am	1:25 pm	6:02 pm	11:32 pm
Sa	7:01 am	1:15 pm	6:44 pm	12:11 pm
Su	7:32 am	2:02 pm	7:20 pm	1:01 pm
Mo	8:00 am	2:03 pm	7:53 pm	1:30 pm
Tu	8:27 am	2:25 pm	8:27 pm	2:00 pm
We	8:52 am	2:47 pm	9:02 pm	2:30 pm

St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.

Th	5:20 am	1:42 pm	4:55 pm	10:00 pm
Fr	6:10 am	1:43 pm	5:57 pm	11:07 pm
Sa	6:48 am	1:54 pm	6:36 pm	11:58 pm
Su	7:21 am	2:08 pm	7:10 pm	12:44 pm
Mo	7:50 am	2:25 pm	7:43 pm	1:31 pm
Tu	8:19 am	2:43 pm	8:17 pm	2:09 pm
We	8:48 am	3:04 pm	8:54 pm	2:47 pm

Dog Island West End

Th	5:36 am	9:38 pm	1:18 pm	7:58 pm
Fr	6:32 am	3:02 pm	6:12 pm	10:42 pm
Sa	7:10 am	2:52 pm	6:55 pm	11:45 pm
Su	7:40 am	2:54 pm	7:26 pm	12:11 pm
Mo	8:08 am	3:01 pm	7:58 pm	12:44 pm
Tu	8:36 am	3:13 pm	8:32 pm	1:17 pm
We	9:05 am	3:30 pm	9:11 pm	1:46 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.

BIRDING AT THE REFUGE

Owl talk

By DON MORROW

I got down to St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge early and walked along Lighthouse Road at the Double Bridges under a bright half-moon. The East River crosses under the road here. Barred Owls nest in the hammock along the river and I was hoping to hear one. Just after first light, when day birds began to call, I realized that I would be disappointed.

I can do a reasonable Barred Owl call and when I was younger, I often used it to attract owls. Hooting up owls can be done to survey them or be used as an environmental education tool, but owl calling is a minor form of owl harassment. You're not really talking to the owl. What you are doing is challenging them by apparently being another owl in their territory. This causes an owl to stop feeding while it investigates the intruder. As I have gotten older, I have become content to walk in the dark and let the owls pick their moment.

One night, though, I did have a conversation with an owl. It was 45 years ago, during my second year of graduate school. Memory can morph over time, sharpening and elaborating some details, blurring, and eliminating others. As best I can remember, this is how it happened.

I lived on Old Chesterfield Road on the outskirts of Winchester, New Hampshire, a small town down near the Massachusetts border. A few hundred yards beyond our house, the pavement ended and the road continued into a thirteen-thousand-acre undeveloped state park. I would sometimes stay up late writing papers and drinking coffee. Wide awake at two or three in the morning, I would go walking in the park until sunrise.

Snowfall had been light that year and there was only about a half foot of new snow on the ground as I set out down the road in the moonless dark. New Hampshire winters are very cold – sub-freezing to sub-zero, but I was dressed for it with heavy boots, wool pants and sweater, a down

vest under a heavy parka, a wool hat, mittens, and scarf.

I had no plan that night, nor on any other. Starlight reflecting off the snow had turned the landscape black-and-white. As my eyes quickly adjusted to the night, it was easy to see my way. The park had a welter of twisting, unmarked dirt roads, and trails. I followed Old Chesterfield Road as it shifted from snow-covered pavement to snow-covered dirt. Then, based solely on whim, I turned onto a connecting trail and wandered out into the night.

When my path led me into thick evergreens the surrounding forest edge was black and I walked down a white pathway roofed with stars. When I passed through leafless deciduous forest, the night opened up and the trunks of the maples and oaks stood in ranks of black silhouettes against the lighter snow.

Some nights the wind howled through the trees, sending snow down on me from the branches above. That night was still and quiet. No sounds intruded from the surrounding rural countryside. I walked making random decisions when I came to intersections until I found myself on the edge of a pond. It was not big – maybe an acre across. Its frozen surface was a white expanse of snow-covered ice. The sky above was black and spotted with stars. As I stood there quietly, listening to the silence, a Barred Owl called from the far side of the pond with its standard eight-part call: *Who-cooks-for-you, who cooks for y'all*.

That night there was no need to hoot up the owl, it was there and had already announced its presence. But, when it called again, on impulse I pulled the scarf covering my face down, inhaled a lungful of freezing air and hooted my Barred Owl call out into the night. I waited a few seconds and then the owl responded. I was enthralled and began to duet with the owl. The owl would call; I would call back and then the owl would answer me. After a few minutes I began to wonder if we were really talking or was

the owl simply calling rhythmically and I just happened to call in the gaps between its calls?

Barred Owls have a number of calls. The eight-part Who-cooks-for-you, who cooks for y'all is the most common, but they sometimes do a variant five-part call, sort of Who, who, who, who wah. The pattern is reminiscent of a Great Horned Owl call, but louder and more exuberant. I switched to the variant Barred Owl call and from the far side of the pond, the owl switched its call to match mine.

We continued hooting to each other for a few minutes until the owl switched back to the eight-part call, which I matched. We continued duetting and I was beginning to wonder if the owl had just been humoring me. Then it switched back to the five-part call. I matched it and we continued hooting to each other across the frozen pond. Sometimes I switched the cadence of the call and sometimes the owl switched, but regardless, the other changed to match the new cadence.

We continued until my face and lips were frozen and I was chilled from standing in the snow. I stopped hooting. The unseen owl continued, switching between the five-part and eight-part calls. Then it fell silent.

I had duetted with Barred Owls before and have done so since, but this was different, more intimate. The owl and I had had a conversation. I was aware that there was an intelligence on the other side of the pond and hoped that the owl felt the same way. I'm still not entirely sure what we were talking about. Sort of, "Can you do this?" but it was enough.

The sky was beginning to lighten in the East. It was time to head home. I had a general sense of where I was and I always managed to find my way. I adjusted the scarf to cover my face and began the long walk back home through the snow.

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



Underwater Wakulla

By Gregg Stanton

The Research Cruise. May 3, 2012

For eight years I sponsored a summer cruise aboard my 46-foot sailboat, the S/V Olapa. Students would register for a class at FSU called Applications of Diving to Research.

But these cruises began many years earlier with Joe Barber, our marine lab boat captain, who took my classes down to the Florida Keys and the Bahamas on self-directed research. I designed a class where students designed underwater research that with the help of their classmates, they would conduct on intense weekend projects.

They would take us anywhere they could on their very limited budgets. Good people like Barber, Bobby Millender, Mr. Oaks, George Fischer, Jim Dunbar, Robert Warner and many others always had ways and means.

In the end, I attended more than 300 such projects before retiring in 2004. So here is how it worked.

Each year (since 1980), a department would provide limited funds and a teaching assistant to support my class in Applications of Diving to Research. Dedicated students from many disciplines would apply and be selected based upon their need to know. Many were early graduate students. We warned them the class was both brutal as in time consuming and fun in that we were in the field.

To pass the class, each student had to select a topic, design and test a hypothesis, build a research team and conduct a pilot study lasting at least one day. Concept, cruise plan, budgets, reports and ultimately a grant proposal was required (which generated a grade). Each student selected a date and worked with others to make that project a success.

Some failed, some made it and some excelled, as you might have expected. But as long as their reports documented their journey, they passed the class.

Imagine anthropology, biology, oceanography, criminology, art, chemistry and engineering students working together in the same class, bound together by a common research site (underwater). The revelations between disciplines were common, their terms were different, but their descriptions were similar and their tools could be shared.

The relationship between two objects is called provenance by the anthropologist, interpersonal distance by the biologist and relational evidence in criminology. Team building over a semester was an awesome experience for the students and for me to witness.

In one class, during a swim down the Ichneetucknee River, an anthropologist saw an ivory tip protruding from the bank. We reported it to Dr. Jim Dunbar (a frequent sponsor) at the Florida Archives, and were invited by him to excavate the site. The anthropology student took on the project and built his team which included an engineer and photographer. The entire excavation was video documented.

The engineer designed a device that successfully removed a full mammoth tusk from the site – undamaged – back to the state's preservation lab in Tallahassee. Dunbar said it was a first!

George Fischer sponsored students on numerous surveys of national park forts up and down the Gulf and East Coasts, exciting opportunities in search of lost historic boats or relics thrown from defender's walls.

I became a sponsor in 1995 when I began summer research on diseases in marine organisms along the Florida Keys with Dr. Rob Werner, the university veterinarian. Students had to learn how to run the boat, conduct their research, and of course, be safe while living afloat with like-minded colleagues.

We made stops to survey marine organisms on the reef every eight nautical miles from Miami to west of the Dry Tortugas in a three-week period. The fourth week was make up should we have had weather or breakdowns along the way. In future columns, I will share these cruises with you.

The true heroes are the creative students and sponsors that became my inspiration.

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

God's love transforms us

By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

Unresolved conflict has a way of consuming us. It occupies our minds, tightens our stomachs and sets our hearts racing.

The longer disputes continue, the more resentment grows and the

harder it is to forgive. Eventually, reconciliation can feel completely out of reach.

When this happens, our spiritual journey often gets sidetracked.

Have you noticed that when your heart is filled with unforgiveness toward one person, you're more likely to also feel anger toward others? Conflict has a way of spreading, quietly reshaping who we are.

This forces us to ask hard questions: What kind of person am I becoming? More importantly, do my attitudes and responses jeopardize my

witness as a follower of Christ?

Scripture speaks clearly to this struggle. "Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you" (Ephesians 4:31-32, ESV).

The harm caused by anger and unforgiveness often outlasts the conflict itself. Does this reality grieve us enough to confess our unforgiving attitudes as sin – and recognize that they don't

reflect the heart of a genuine Christ-follower?

I know how deeply I need God's mercy. Every day. All day. If God treated me according to what I deserve, especially on my worst days, I could not stand under His just judgment. His mercy toward me calls me to extend mercy to others, even when they're having their worst days too.

When we refuse God's love, we cheat ourselves, grieve the Holy Spirit and shortchange our families and communities.

Bitterness changes us, making us less than the person we want to

model to our children and grandchildren. God's love transforms us into a person whom our children and grandchildren will want to emulate. A person who models forgiveness because we too fall short. Way too often.

With Valentine's Day approaching, we think of love shown through cards, chocolates and romantic gestures. However, Scripture directs us to a more profound love – one that calls for humility and forgiveness.

Bitterness is different. It hardens us. We see it everywhere on social media, in our communities,

even in our homes. But during this month of love, our hearts (and lives) can be transformed by God's incredible love for us.

The more secure we are in Christ's love, the more peace we experience in our relationships and the more faithfully we respond to conflict. Mercifully, we find that grace can survive. Love can endure.

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.

Made first in the waiting

By **CHERYL CRUCE**

As a sideline, my daughter decided to take up photography to supplement her income. Before long, it became common to see her walk into family events with a camera and accessories strapped to her, always ready to capture a moment others might miss. On one particular occasion, she captured a scene that could've easily fallen within the lines of a Norman Rock-

well painting.

Her twin brother's wife was giving birth to their first child, a baby girl. It was also her son's first birthday. Tired from the long wait and too young to understand all that was happening, little Malakai finally fell asleep in the waiting room. His mother saw the perfect opportunity — a moment worth remembering. There he was, sleeping on a bench seat, a little chubby face framed by red curls and ivory skin, blissfully unaware that a little cousin was making her entrance into the family. The photograph captured a moment in time and was given the caption, "Waiting on a Woman."

Waiting. It seems so simple in a photo-

graph — a child resting, unaware that life is changing just down the hall, that birthdays and new beginnings are unfolding nearby. There is a peacefulness in his waiting. Nevertheless, most of us know that waiting rarely feels peaceful when we are the ones living in it.

Much of our lives are spent in waiting rooms — waiting for answers, healing, open doors, or prayers to be answered. Some waiting lasts only a moment; some stretches into years, wearing on the soul. Daniel knew this kind of waiting. When he prayed for understanding, the answer did not come immediately. It was held back for twenty-one days while the angel Gabriel wrestled

with spiritual forces opposing the message, until Michael, the archangel, came to release it. Daniel waited, yet God's answer was never absent — it came on His timing, carried through heavenly intervention Daniel could not see (Daniel 10:12-14).

In John 5, we read about a man who wondered if change would ever come. He had waited thirty-eight years by the Pool of Bethesda, hoping for healing, watching for the stirring of the waters, and seeing others step in ahead of him year after year. His life had become defined by paralysis, and waiting had become normal; he had grown accustomed to being last—until Jesus stepped into his

waiting and made him first. Jesus did not see only a condition; He saw a man. He did not see wasted years; He saw possibility. And He asked if he was ready to be healed.

Not all paralysis is physical. Sometimes it is fear that keeps us from moving forward. Sometimes it is guilt that convinces us we cannot rise again. Sometimes it is habits, disappointments, or wounds we have carried so long that they begin to feel permanent. We learn to live beside what has held us down.

But Jesus still steps into our waiting places. He steps into the places where we feel stuck, where change seems impossible. With Him comes the invitation

to rise — in body and in spirit. The healing He brings is not only about walking again; it is about living again. Whatever has us waiting, whatever has left us feeling paralyzed, the good news remains the same: Jesus is not absent from our waiting. He meets us there, and in His time, He calls us to stand — in Him.

The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. — Lamentations 3:25-26 (ESV)

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

OUT TO PASTOR

What happened to global warming?

By **JAMES SNYDER**

For 30 years, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I have lived here in Florida, enjoying the beautiful weather. The other morning, I got up, got my coffee, and sat down to begin the day.

No sooner had I sat down than I felt cold and began to shiver, as I hadn't shivered in a long time. The temperature was below my appreciation. I don't like it when it is cold. The only cold I like is in my iced tea and ice cream.

About that time, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came into the room and said, "What happened to global warming?"

I was thinking the same thing at the time. We have heard about global warming for all this time, and now, all over the country, it is freezing, and snow is at an all-time high. If this is global warming, I need to see a psychiatrist.

Really, I do not understand what this global warming is all about. I hear it through the media, but I've reached a point where I question it. They will report one thing one day, and by the next day, it will be completely the opposite.

Handling cold weather

is something I'm not very good at. I grew up in Pennsylvania, where we had lots of snow and cold weather. I loved it back then, but I was younger and could handle cold much better than I can today.

One result of getting older is that you can't handle cold. That's why people move to Florida. At least that is why we moved to Florida to get away from all that cold weather and snow.

A relative of mine who still lives up north asked me if I missed the cold, wintry, snowy weather. I told them, "Yes, I do miss all of that cold weather, and I plan to miss it the rest of my life."

In getting older, I have noticed that handling cold weather becomes more challenging. I heard it said here in Florida that when the temperature drops below your age, it is cold. When I first heard that, I chuckled, but I'm beginning to think it's somewhere close to being true.

Where people get the idea of a change in the weather is beyond me. This year, I'll turn 75, and as I look back through those years, there has been constant climate change. Spring leads into summer and summer into fall and fall into winter. That hasn't changed.

What has changed is my ability to handle cold weather. Once, I could handle 32 degrees, but now I struggle with 50. It can never be too hot for me, but it sure can be too cold.

As The Gracious Mis-

triss of the Parsonage and I were sitting together, we had a shivering contest. I think she thought she could outshiver me, but I won that one. I can shiver like nobody you've ever seen. My shivering is to tell the cold to go north, where it belongs.

It puzzles me why these scientific organizations spend all their money and time on figuring out how old the Earth is, and that the climate is changing. Don't they have something better to spend their time and money on?

As we were shivering together, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I reflected on our times up north, where we experienced all the cold and snow. She grew up in New York, where there was much more snow than in Pennsylvania.

One thing I have learned about running away from the cold is that it is healthier for me to stay warm than to get cold. I love to be warm. But I don't love shivering in the cold as though I have nothing else to do.

Maybe one of these days I'll become accus-

tomed to the cold here in Florida. But until that time, I'm not a very happy camper with all of this cold.

I want to sue the weather broadcasters because I think it's their responsibility for all of this cold weather that I'm experiencing. Why can't they get on their media platform and say, "It's going to be a perfect day to day, enjoy it." But no, they have to say it's going to be colder today than yesterday.

Why can't all these weather broadcasters across the country get together and plan perfect weather every day? No more cold, or snow, or rain, but everything would be absolutely perfect. I could handle that.

Of course, I know that if the weather were perfect every day, all of those people would lose their job. However, I'm willing to take the chance.

If everything in the world were perfect, what would I have to complain about?

As I shivered in my chair over a cup of hot coffee, I was reminded of a verse in the Bible.

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Romans 12:2).

Nothing in this world is perfect. My hope rests in the transforming power of God, grounded in

God's perfect will.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, email jamesnyder51@gmail.com, website www.jamesnyderministries.com.



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Obituaries

DEATH NOTICES

- **Gwendolyn L. Alcorn**, 87, of Crawfordville, died February 4, 2026.
- **Thomas “Randy” Bradley**, 64, of Sopchoppy, died February 4, 2026.
- **Jeffrey Grimes**, 54, of Crawfordville, died February 6, 2026.

- **Christopher Harrell**, 62, of Crawfordville, died February 5, 2026.
- **Barbara Sue Huskey**, 80, of Alligator Point, died February 1, 2026.

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

Sheriff's Report

This report is for activity Jan. 30 to Feb. 6. There were 1,139 total calls for service during the week.

FRIDAY, JAN. 30

- A traffic stop was conducted on a vehicle for reckless driving. During the investigation, the driver was determined to be impaired. Further investigation revealed the driver was in possession of a canister of Nitrous Oxide and had been huffing while driving. The driver was placed under arrest and transported to the Wakulla County Jail without incident.

SATURDAY, JAN. 31

- A citizen reported \$4,000 in bills and \$4,000 in coins stolen from his residence. He advised he had a gathering of friends at his residence the previous night. Upon going to bed, the currency and coins were accounted for and present in the home. Once he woke up and left the home he returned and noticed the items missing. He contacted the other guests and no one claimed to have the items. A possible suspect has been identified.
- A citizen reported a scooter being stolen from her garage. She advised the last time

the scooter was seen was on Jan. 20. She further stated when she went to get it from the garage, she noticed it was not there. She advised none of the other residents knew where the scooter was either. No suspects have been identified in this incident at this time.

SUNDAY, FEB. 1

- The manager of Dollar General Market reported a retail theft. He advised while handling customers in the checkout line, he heard the alarm for the back door go off. When he went to see what was happening, he observed the back door open. He stepped outside and observed two unknown males loading two containers into their truck. He stated the males did not speak to him, and left immediately. As they were leaving, one of the containers fell off the truck. He advised he retrieved the container and placed it back inside the store. At this time, it was undetermined what was stolen. He was also unable to provide a receipt/inventory of the stolen items.

- A citizen reported losing her wallet at some point on Jan. 31. After attempting to cancel her bank cards, fraudulent activity on her accounts was dis-

covered. She advised she will be going to her bank on Feb. 2 to gather a detailed summary of how much she is at a loss.

- Deputy Lia Sammons conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of Spring Creek and Coastal highways on a vehicle due to faulty equipment. Upon making contact with the driver he was advised the reason for the stop. While speaking with him, the odor of marijuana was detected coming from the interior of the vehicle. After confirming through dispatch, along with his admittance of not possessing a valid medical marijuana card, a probable cause search was conducted. During the search, a small amount of marijuana was located, seized, weighed, and submitted to property and evidence for destruction. The marijuana produced a pre-packaged weight of 2.8 grams.

MONDAY, FEB. 2

- Lt. Anthony Paul responded to the front lobby of the sheriff's office in reference to a citizen sending a total of \$152,500 to a person, who stated he was a Lieutenant in the U.S. Army and needed cash for a medical emergency. Case forwarded to Criminal Investigation Division.

- Lt. Gibby Gibson responded to Mount Pleasant Lane in ref-

erence to a delayed burglary. The victim advised her gun cabinet and firearms were missing. She stated she last saw the guns approximately six months ago. A possible suspect has been identified.

- Lt. Gibby Gibson responded to Circle K in Medart in reference a delayed theft. An employee reported a male subject entered the store and stole a \$30 lottery ticket. The male was identified and was previously arrested at Rocky's. He was charged accordingly for the Circle K theft.

- Deputy Jackson Kittrell responded to Tram Circle in reference to an active fire. Multiple vehicles were damaged during this event.

TUESDAY, FEB. 3

- Lt. Anthony Paul conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle. The driver was already given a warning for driving with a suspended/revoked license on Dec. 22. She was issued a traffic citation and had her tag removed due to there being a seize tag order. She was released from the scene with a court date.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 4

- A citizen came to the WCSO lobby, in reference to a fraud complaint. She recently discovered her Bank of America credit card was compromised.

She made contact with her banking institution and discovered someone attempted to charge \$30,000 to the account. The account was flagged and closed out by the bank. At this time she is not out of any funds. She has been issued a new card and assigned a new secure account.

- A citizen reported a theft that occurred between Sept. 4, 2025 and Jan. 30, 2026. He stated during this time a person was helping him renovate and move items in the residence. He advised during this time he noticed things around his house start to go missing. He advised he did not have evidence; however, the subject admitted to taking the items. He stated the subject told him there was nothing he could do due to not having any video surveillance. He advised the total value of items taken was approximately \$950. He provided a sworn statement and an affidavit for prosecution for this case.

THURSDAY, FEB. 5

- A citizen reported she misplaced her recently filled prescription in the CVS drug store at 2668 Crawfordville Hwy. She advised she filled the prescription on Feb. 2 and misplaced the prescription possibly in the parking lot of the business. She requested the incident

be documented in order to possibly obtain a replacement prescription.

- A citizen called to report a theft. Upon arrival she advised a subject known to her had taken her wallet, vehicle, and other items. She stated the items were taken within the last 24 hours and that the subject resides in the apartments a short distance away from her home. During the investigation, she was unable to elaborate on any information regarding the vehicle. Her statements changed a few times throughout the investigation. While on scene, she described the truck as a Chevy. However, upon checking her information, it was discovered that she does not have a Chevy truck registered to her. Due to a lack of information and evidence, the report was written for informational purposes.

FRIDAY, FEB. 6

- A known suspect was observed on video taking merchandise without purchase at Walmart. She passed all point of sale with approximately \$180 worth of unpaid merchandise.

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

Dr. Faith Hughes is retiring

From Front Page

DeLeo, he is coming back to join the VCA team.”

Hughes looks forward to traveling with her husband of 30 years, Bobby Inlow, to all the National Parks and her first destination is the Mammoth Caves National Park in Kentucky. As for traveling abroad, Hughes said, “I am good with the

mainland, I'll stay here; there is just so much to see here in the U.S.”

Hughes looks forward to arts and crafts projects with her cricut machine and working on fused glass.

Hughes shared that her daughter Sammie is the fourth in line of Sammies starting with her grandfather, Walter Samuel, who was called

Sammie. “The first born daughter is my mother, Sammie Angelyn Hughes, the second is myself, Sammie Faith Hughes, and my first and only daughter is Sammie Elizabeth Inlow.”

Hughes owns two dogs, both local rescues, Scruffy and Doodlebug and a cat Johnny who was adopted when CHAT was running the adop-

tion center.

Many know Hughes' support for her alma mater, Auburn University. Hughes proudly wants to share a loud “War Eagle!” upon embarking on her retirement. (War Eagle is a greeting or salutation among the Auburn family.)

Cheers to the next chapter, Dr. Hughes.

Madden Metcalf signs record deal

From Front Page

knew I wanted to be a part of that; I want to entertain.”

Freddy Wexler is a Grammy-nominated songwriter, producer, and entrepreneur who's made a significant impact in the music industry. He's worked with top artists like Ariana Grande, Justin Bieber, Post Malone, Lady Gaga, Selena Gomez, and more.

“Madden has all the things you can't teach – great instincts, authenticity, charisma, star power,” says Wexler.

“He's also someone with an infectious sense of gratitude. It makes you want to move a mountain for him. I'm incredibly excited to work with MCA as we help Madden build something real and lasting.”

“Madden has a clear voice and uncommon level of conviction for someone so early in his career,” said Mike Harris, President and CEO of MCA. “His music reflects real life, real place, and really identity-and that's the foundation of what makes an artist stand out. We're proud to be his

label home and help amplify what he's building.”

“I still can't believe that a Gulf Coast kid from a small fishing town of about a thousand people gets an opportunity like this,” Metcalf adds. “I'm just incredibly thankful to God, to my family, to my team, and to everyone

who's been with me from the start.”

“I just signed with MCA, and it's been a wild year. I will not forget Wakulla County, hopefully I can buy a house on Surf Road, drink an ice-cold drink at Tropical Trader with head on shrimp,” said Metcalf.

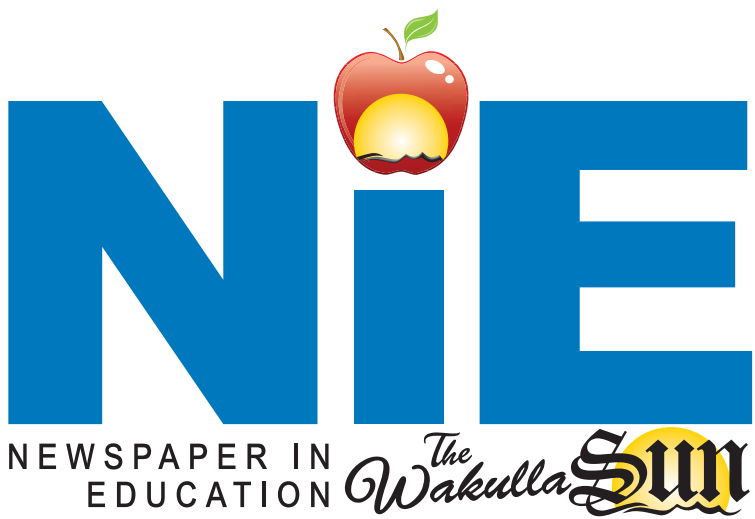
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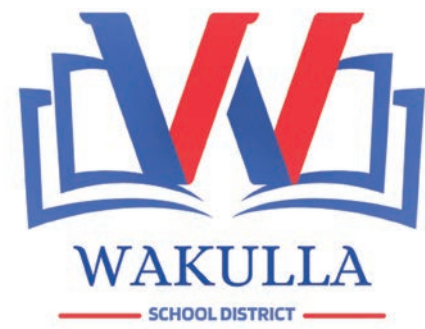
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USE THE NEWS

1. SKI RACER WINS OLYMPIC GOLD

Breezy Johnson won a gold medal in the women's downhill skiing race at the Winter Olympics in Italy. She skied down a very steep and icy mountain faster than all the other racers, becoming the first American to win Olympic downhill gold in 16 years. Johnson had worked toward this moment for a long time and had to overcome serious injuries and setbacks along the way. When she crossed the finish line, she felt proud knowing she had skied her very best run. Her win was also the first medal for the United States at these Olympic Games. Imagine you are a sports reporter writing a short blurb for kids your age who did not watch the race. Write 4 to 5 sentences explaining what downhill skiing is, what made Breezy Johnson's win special, and one challenge she had to overcome to reach this moment. End with one sentence explaining what this story teaches about not giving up after setbacks.

2. THE MAGIC BEHIND SUPER BOWL CONFETTI

Every year at the Super Bowl, colorful confetti rains down on the field to celebrate the winning team. A man named Noah Winter has been in charge of this confetti drop for 30 years, carefully planning the timing, colors, and shapes so it looks perfect on TV. The confetti is made from recycled paper and is designed to flutter slowly through the air instead of falling straight down. There are even two confetti drops, one when the game ends and another when the team receives the trophy. For players and families, the confetti

turns a big win into a joyful, playful moment. Write a short paragraph explaining how the confetti drop is carefully planned and why the timing and colors matter so much. Include at least one reason why the confetti being recyclable and biodegradable is important, even during a big, exciting event.

3. N.A.S.A. WAITS TO SEND ASTRONAUTS AROUND THE MOON

NASA has delayed its next astronaut mission to the moon because of dangerous hydrogen fuel leaks during a rocket test. Hydrogen is

very powerful but also hard to control, so engineers stopped the countdown to keep everyone safe. The astronauts were training to fly around the moon, which would be the first human trip there in more than 50 years. NASA plans to use the extra time to fix the problem and test the rocket again before launch. Even though delays are disappointing, scientists say safety and learning from mistakes are more important than rushing. Write 4 to 5 sentences explaining what went wrong during the rocket test and why scientists decided to stop the count-

down. Include one example from everyday life where stopping, fixing a problem, and trying again later is safer or smarter than rushing ahead.

4. CAN APES USE THEIR IMAGINATION?

Scientists studied a bonobo named Kanzi to learn whether apes can play pretend like young children do. In an experiment, researchers pretended to pour juice into cups and asked Kanzi which cup he wanted. Most of the time, Kanzi chose the cup that was supposed to still have pretend juice, showing he understood the idea. When real juice was used, he clearly

chose the real drink instead of the imaginary one. Some scientists think this shows early imagination, while others believe more proof is needed to know for sure. Write a paragraph explaining what the pretend juice experiment was meant to test and what Kanzi's choices showed.

5. NIAGARA FALLS STATE PARK IS GETTING BIGGER

Niagara Falls State Park, the oldest state park in the United States, is expanding to include two nearby parks called Whirlpool and Devil's Hole. This expansion will add more land, new hiking trails, and better paths so vis-

itors can explore more than just the famous waterfalls. The goal is to help people discover quieter areas with river views, wildlife, and outdoor activities. Park leaders hope visitors will stay longer and learn more about the area's nature and history. The added parks will still be free to enter, making it easier for everyone to enjoy them. Write 4 to 5 sentences describing how adding new trails, signs, and park zones could change the way people experience Niagara Falls State Park. Then explain one reason why spreading visitors across a larger space can help protect nature and make visits more enjoyable.

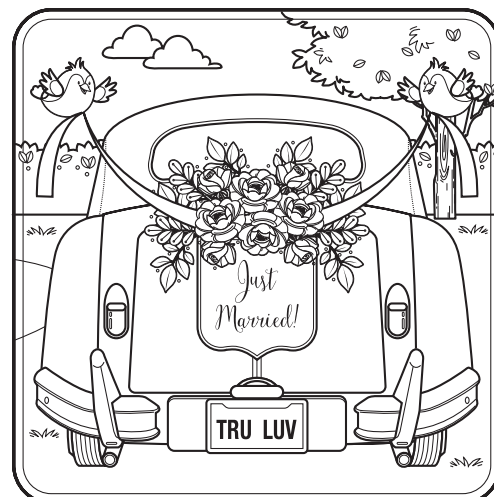


The average cost of this event is between \$30,000 and \$40,000.

Answer: A wedding

Creative Coloring

Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.



Double Word Puzzle

Unscramble the individual words to reveal letters for the phrase.

TLAAR
 LVIE
 PTYAR
 TACRE

H H O U

Answers: Altar, Veil, Party, Cater, The Happy Couple



1837: Richard Johnson becomes the first and only Vice President of the United States chosen by the Senate.

1910: The Boy Scouts of America is incorporated by William D. Boyce.

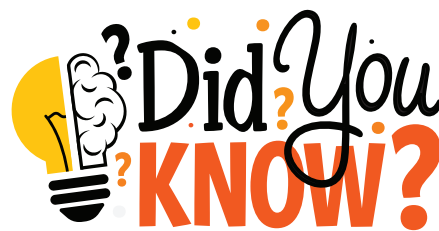
1960: The Hollywood Walk of Fame is founded.



the person who performs a wedding ceremony



English: Vow
Spanish: Juramento
Italian: Promessa
French: Serment
German: Schwur



Early brides carried bouquets made of herbs, designed to help ward off evil spirits on their special days.



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Wedding cake

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NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE Public Sale

Pursuant to the Florida Self-Storage Facility Act, notice is hereby given that Crawfordville Self Storage, located at 3291 Crawfordville Hwy., Crawfordville, FL 32327; will sell or otherwise dispose of the contents of the following self-storage units to satisfy its lien for unpaid rent and other charges. The sale will be **"online ONLY."** Pictures and item descriptions can be viewed at www.storage-treasures.com. Bidding will end at 8pm on Sunday, 2/22/26. Unless otherwise noted on www.storage-treasures.com, the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Christopher Davis, B37 & E12; Roger Carroll, Jr., C30. **Published Feb. 12 & Feb. 19, 2026**

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

VANDERBILT MORTGAGE AND FINANCE, INC., Case #: 2025-CA-000057
Plaintiff,

-vs.-
MARYLYNN M. HARPER; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF MARYLYNN M. HARPER; BENNIE MAE MILLER; and UNKNOWN TENANT,
Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment dated September 11, 2025, entered in Case No. 2025-CA-000057 of the Circuit Court in and for Wakulla County, Florida, wherein **MARYLYNN M. HARPER, BENNIE MAE MILLER, and UNKNOWN TENANT n/k/a Mike** are the Defendants, that Greg James, the Clerk of Court, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, in person at the Wakulla County Courthouse on the first floor in lobby at 3056 Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville, FL 32327, on **March 12, 2026 at 11:00 AM**, the following described real property as set forth in the Final Judgment:

Legal Description:
BEGIN AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THAT CERTAIN TRACT OF LAND CONVEYED TO C. K. GREEN BY JOHN C. HODGE BY DEED DATED NOVEMBER 29, 1941 AND RECORDED CN PAGE 10 OF DEED BOOK 26 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND RUN WEST ALONG THE NORTH BOUNDARY LINE OF SAID TRACT OF LAND THE DISTANCE OF 50 FEET, THENCE RUN SOUTH PARALLEL WITH THE EAST BOUNDARY LINE OF SAID TRACT OF LAND THE DISTANCE OF 300 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE NORTH BOUNDARY LINE OF U.S. HIGHWAY NO. 319 (OLD STATE ROAD NO. 10), THENCE RUN EAST ALONG THE NORTH BOUNDARY OF THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF SAID U.S. #319 THE DISTANCE OF 50 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE EAST BOUNDARY LINE OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED TRACT OF LAND, THENCE RUN NORTH ALONG THE EAST BOUNDARY LINE OF SAID TRACT OF LAND 300 FEET, MORE OR LESS TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, BEING IN THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW 1/4 OF SW 1/4) OF SECTION FOUR (4), TOWNSHIP FIVE (5) SOUTH, RANGE TWO (2) WEST.
TOGETHER WITH A 1999 HOMES OF MERIT 28x48 MANUFACTURED HOME BEARING VIN/SERIAL NOS: DCA M763-D1409B.

NOTICE IF YOU ARE A PERSON CLAIMING A RIGHT TO FUNDS REMAINING AFTER THE SALE, YOU MUST FILE A CLAIM WITH THE CLERK NO LATER THAN THE DATE THAT THE CLERK REPORTS THE FUNDS AS UNCLAIMED. IF YOU FAIL TO FILE A CLAIM, YOU WILL NOT BE ENTITLED TO ANY REMAINING FUNDS. AFTER THE FUNDS ARE REPORTED AS UNCLAIMED, ONLY THE OWNER OF RECORD AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MAY CLAIM THE SURPLUS.
Dated this 2nd day of February, 2026.

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



NOTICE

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Court Administration at Wakulla County Courthouse, 3056 Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville, Florida 32327-0337, 850-926-0905 telephone, within two working days of your receipt of this notice; if you are hearing impaired, call 1-800-955-8771; if you are voice impaired, call 1-800-955-8770. February 12, 19, 2026

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

0212-0219 TWS NOFS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC, CASE NO. 25000125CAAXMX
Plaintiff,
vs.
CASSANDRA CHARLENE KRIMMEL A/K/A
CASSANDRA KRIMMEL, et al.,
Defendants

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated January 06, 2026, and entered in 25000125CAAXMX of the Circuit Court of the SECOND Judicial Circuit in and for Wakulla County, Florida, wherein LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC is the Plaintiff and CASSANDRA CHARLENE KRIMMEL A/K/A CASSANDRA KRIMMEL; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF CASSANDRA CHARLENE KRIMMEL A/K/A CASSANDRA KRIMMEL; FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ACTING ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT 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 March 12, 2026, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

LOTS 4 AND 5 IN BLOCK A OF WAKULLA HEIGHTS UNIT 1, AS SHOWN BY PLAT OF SAID SUBDIVISION OR RECORD ON PAGE 68, PLAT BOOK 1, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA. TOGETHER WITH IMPROVEMENTS LOCATED THEREON, INCLUDING THE 1999 MOBILE HOME WIHT VIN NUMBERS OW65172A AND OW65172B, AND TITLE NUMBERS 79331230 AND 79331278.

Property Address: 19 ATKINSON RD, 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.

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.

Dated this 5th day of February, 2026.

{{County Court Seal}}
Greg James
As Clerk of the Court
By: /s/ Rachel Howard
As Deputy Clerk



February 12, 19, 2026

NOTICE OF ACTION

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

PNC BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Case No.: 2025CA000141
PLAINTIFF,
v.
DOYAL W. HESTER; ET AL.,
DEFENDANT(S).

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: Doyal W. Hester
Last Known Residence: 56 Chickat Trl Crawfordville, FL 32327
TO: Unknown Spouse of Doyal W. Hester
Last Known Residence: 56 Chickat Trl Crawfordville, FL 32327
TO: Unknown Tenant #1
Last Known Residence: 56 Chickat Trl Crawfordville, FL 32327
TO: Unknown Tenant #2
Last Known Residence: 56 Chickat Trl Crawfordville, FL 32327

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in WAKULLA County, Florida:
LOTS 53 AND THE NORTHERN 27.74 FEET OF LOT 52, BLOCK "48" OF WAKULLA GARDENS, UNIT 5, AS SHOWN ON PLAT ON PAGE 56 OF PLAT BOOK NO. ONE OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on ALDRIDGE PITE, LLP, Plaintiffs attorney, at 401 W. Linton Blvd. Suite 202-B Delray Beach, FL 33444, on or before **March 14, 2026** 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 or petition.
WITNESS my hand and seal of said court at Crawfordville, Florida 4th day of February, 2026.

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



February 12, 19, 2026

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

ANA DANIELA BULL, CASE NO. 2025-CA-000152
PLAINTIFF,
v.
HELEN S. FORT, IF ALIVE, AND IF DECEASED, UNKNOWN SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, CREDITORS, ASSIGNS, AND ALL OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST HER, DEFENDANTS.

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: HELEN S. FORT; if alive, and if deceased, unknown spouses, heirs, devisees, grantees, creditors, assigns, and all other parties claiming by through, under or against her

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

LOT 48. BLOCK 9 OF WAKULLA GARDENS UNIT 2, ACCORDING TO THW PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 42, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA WAKULLA COUNTY PARCEL ID No. 00-00-034-009-08591-000


Address: DR MLK JR MEMORIAL RD, Crawfordville, Florida
has been filed against you and others, and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it, to ANA DANIELA BULL, 19 MARDI GRASS WAY, ALLIGATOR POINT, FLORIDA, 32346, 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 or immediately thereafter, otherwise, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.

DATED this 8th day of January, 2026.

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



February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 2026



Susan Schatzman
Broker Associate

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Agency Manager

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NOTICE OF ACTION

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

PAFFORD PROPERTIES & CONSTRUCTION, LLC, A FLORIDA LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, PLAINTIFF, CASE NO. 2025-CA-000137 V. DARRYL MOORE, SHELDON M. STONE AND TED EDWARDS, IF ALIVE, AND IF DECEASED, UNKNOWN SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEEES, CREDITORS, ASSIGNS, AND ALL OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST THEM, DEFENDANTS.

NOTICE OF ACTION

To: **TED EDWARDS; 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 4 OF WAKULLA GARDENS UNIT 2, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE(S) 42, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

Wakulla County Parcel ID No. 00-00-034-009-08216-000
Address: Spokane Trail, Crawfordville, FL

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

DATED this 29th day of January, 2026.

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



February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF JAMES MONROE HIGH, SR., DECEASED
DIVISION: PROBATE

CASE NO: 2026-CP-11

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the Estate of James Monroe High, Sr., deceased, File 2026-CP-11 is pending in the Circuit Court for Wakulla County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 3056 Crawfordville Hwy., Crawfordville, FL 32327. The name and address of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney is set forth below.

All creditors of the Decedent and other persons having claims or demands against Decedent's Estate including unmatured, contingent or unliquidated claims, on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the Decedent and persons having claims or demands against Decedent's Estate, including unmatured, contingent or unliquidated claims must file their claims with this Court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WITHIN THE PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 FLORIDA STATUTES, WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

The date of the first publication of this Notice is February 5, 2026.

Attorney for Personal Representative: Frances Casey Lowe, Esq. Florida Bar No. 521450 Frances Casey Lowe, P.A. 68-A Feli Way Crawfordville, Florida 32327 (850) 926-8245
Co-Personal Representatives: Patricia H. Langford 185 Fulton Harvey Rd. Crawfordville, FL 32327 James M. High, Jr. 197 High Dr. Crawfordville, FL 32327

February 5, 12, 2026

CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Breezed through
- 5. Consumer protection agency
- 8. Criminal syndicate
- 11. Moves back from
- 13. Satisfaction
- 14. Feel concern or interest
- 15. Monetary units
- 16. Congressman (abbr.)
- 17. Israeli city
- 18. Restaurants
- 20. 2,000 lbs.
- 21. Grandmother
- 22. North, South and Central
- 25. In an early way
- 30. Foes
- 31. Social networking platform
- 32. Early term for basketball player
- 33. Another name for sesame plant
- 38. Disallow
- 41. Provide greater detail
- 43. Inaccessible
- 45. Evoke emotions
- 47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- 49. Celtic punk rockers
- 50. A fencing sword
- 55. Actor Idris
- 56. Affirmative (slang)

- 57. Afflicted in mind or body
- 59. One point north of northeast
- 60. Born of
- 61. Social media hand gesture
- 62. Hong Kong food stall __ pai dong
- 63. Opposite of beginning
- 64. Email function

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Sign language
- 2. Fashionable
- 3. Borough in Helsinki
- 4. Inability to hear
- 5. More quickly
- 6. An idea accepted as a demonstrable truth
- 7. Shrewdly
- 8. Rooney and Kate are two
- 9. Mediterranean port
- 10. Benedictine monk
- 12. Midway between south and southeast
- 14. Town in Galilee
- 19. Satisfy
- 23. Mice genus
- 24. Brass instrument
- 25. Chest muscle (slang)
- 26. Transmits genetic information from DNA
- 27. Records electric currents generated by the brain
- 28. Woman (French)
- 29. Short route aircraft
- 34. Pitching statistic
- 35. Pointed end of a pen
- 36. Popular sports league
- 37. Body part
- 39. Inoffensive
- 40. Yellowish cotton cloth
- 41. Feline
- 42. Does not tell the truth
- 44. Seduced
- 45. Spiritual leader
- 46. Abba __, Israeli politician
- 47. Repair
- 48. Olive genus
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Prejudice
- 53. C. European river
- 54. Keep under control
- 58. Father

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10		
11			12		13				14				
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	18				19				20				
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	8			3	9		6	
6				4	1			8
	2		6				3	4
	7			8				
8	4			9				5
	5		4		2			
9				8	7			
					5	4		9
		7				2	8	1

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

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



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, Case No.: 2025-CA-000169 V. ROBERT D. WILLIX, JR., IF ALIVE, AND IF DECEASED, UNKNOWN SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEEES, CREDITORS, ASSIGNS, AND ALL OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST HIM, AND REGIONS BANK D/B/A REGIONS MORTGAGE, DEFENDANTS.

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

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, Case No.: 2025-CA-000170 V. ROBERT D. WILLIX, JR., IF ALIVE, AND IF DECEASED, UNKNOWN SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEEES, CREDITORS, ASSIGNS, AND ALL OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST HIM, DEFENDANTS.

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

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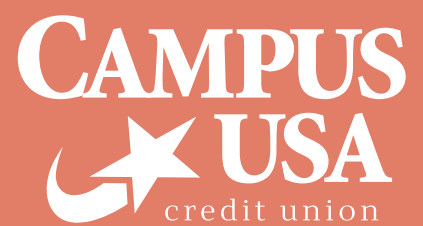
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Does your business want to participate in our Valentine's Day Festival? Go to www.wakullarotary.org/Valentines for all forms to participate.

All proceeds to benefit High School Scholarships the Rotary Club of Wakulla Provides!



WRESTLING

Wakulla finishes regular season strong

By **WALT JACOBS**
Correspondent

The Wakulla wrestling team closed out their regular season at the Ippolito Memorial Tournament held at Brandon High School. The War Eagles had a strong showing despite missing four wrestlers from their roster. No. 9 Brandon (2A) won the tournament with 274.5 points, followed by No. 7 Harmony (3A) with 200 points, No. 7 Aubrey Rogers (1A) in third, with 183 points, and Wakulla with 182.5 points for a fourth place finish.

Individually, Wakulla had three wrestlers in the championship finals and all three claimed 1st place finishes in their respective weight classes. At 126 pounds, Wakulla's fourth ranked William Harvey defeated Aubrey Rogers' 3rd ranked Lukha Zherka in sudden victory. It was a highly competitive match that went back and forth for the entire duration of the match. In the second period, Harvey broke a scoreless tie with an escape from bottom. Subsequently, Zherka answered with an escape of his own in the 3rd period. With the score tied at 1-1 at the end of regulation, the match went into overtime. In overtime, Harvey hit a go behind that turned into a single leg. The two ended up in a scramble with Harvey eventually securing the takedown and the win.

Wakulla's 5th ranked Brady Jackson dominated the 138 pound bracket with 4 technical falls, a major decision, and one pin. In the finals, Jackson defeated 5th ranked (2A) Joseph Scott of Archbishop McCarthy.

Wakulla's Aaron Robinson put on a pin clinic in the 144 pound bracket. His fifth and final pin of the tournament came in the championship finals over Dylan Williams of Bloomingdale Senior High. Robinson currently leads the team with 33 pins on the year.

PHOTO OF THE WEEK
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Aaron Robinson cradles Jacob Fetzner of Hernando High.



Brady Jackson vs David Moen.



Troy Thaxton vs Eli Smolanoff.

Wakulla also had three other wrestlers place in the tournament. Troy Thaxton and Colt Sanders placed third at 150 and 157 respectively. Gavin Mitchell placed 6th at 190 pounds.

Pleased with his team's performance, Coach Nate Litowsky said, "Being down 4 wrestlers once again this season our boys placed 4th in a very tough 41 team tournament." He continued,

"We are on to districts and these boys are locked in."

The War Eagles will host the FHSAA 1A District 2 tournament on Thursday, Feb. 19th at Wakulla High School.

WRESTLING PHOTOS BY JENNIFER THAXTON

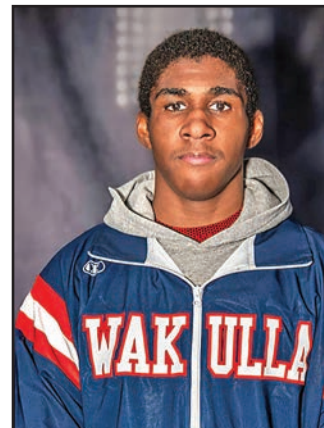
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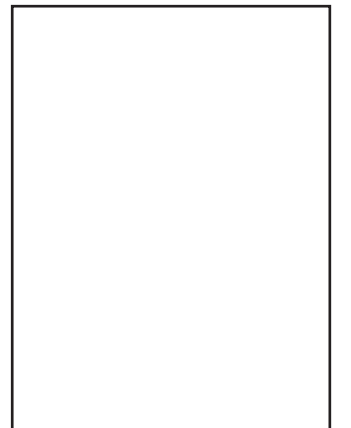
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