



**Kendal Haynie gets the pin at Districts to remain undefeated/Page 18**

# The Wakulla Sun

*"It's a New Day"*

**Wakulla WeatherSTEM**  
 Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mostly Cloudy	Scattered Thunderstorms	AM Showers
Hi: 72° Lo: 61° 43%	Hi: 74° Lo: 59° 59%	Hi: 74° Lo: 56° 34%
Sunrise 7:06 AM Sunset 6:34 PM	Sunrise 7:05 AM Sunset 6:35 PM	Sunrise 7:04 AM Sunset 6:36 PM



\$1  
One Section

Locally Owned & Operated

Our 5th Year 9th Issue  
Thursday, February 26, 2026

## Shadeville School offered to county

Christian Coalition expresses disappointment with school board

By **WILLIAM SNOWDEN**  
Editor

The Wakulla County School Board followed the recommendation of Superintendent of Schools Rick Myhre and offered the county commission the opportunity to take the old Shadeville School property.

The school was most recently known as Wakulla Education Center, or WEC, where Pre-K classes were held.

The county had expressed interest in using the land for additional ball fields for recreation leagues, as well as use of the school gym.

The school board voted unanimously to follow Myhre's recommendation at the meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 17.

Members of the Wakulla County Christian Coalition had expressed

disappointment that the school board had broken off negotiations with the group, which wanted to preserve the historic legacy of the school, which served as Wakulla's only black high school during segregation.

Jennie V. Jones, president of the Christian Coalition and a graduate of Shadeville, told school board members that "Our history is important to us, and we think it should be important to you."

Damon Rich said the coalition members "respectfully request (the school board) refrain from voting" on the matter – but, after hearing from Myhre, they moved forward.

Myhre said that he had reservations about turning over taxpayer-owned property and buildings valued at \$1.2 million to

a local non-profit.

He noted that shortage of rec space faced by the county and noted that the offer proposed to the county includes several conditions – including that the county used the Shadeville site specifically for the creation of additional fields to be used for football and soccer, and the gym for basketball and volleyball.

The proposal also stipulated that the county should work with the Christian Coalition to procure historical preservation grants to improve the original buildings, and provide space for the coalition to operate and hold meetings as the group is a valuable partner in assuring the upkeep and future success of the site; and provide the coalition with discounted usage of the

cafeteria/auditorium and gym for official uses.

Another condition is for the county to use the property for public good in perpetuity – it cannot be sold or leased for private commercial uses. If the county no longer wishes to maintain the property, it would revert back to the school board.

School Board Member Cale Langston commented that he felt this was the best way to preserve the buildings and the history.

It passed unanimously – with Langston, Chair Laura Lawhon, Angie Nichols and Eddie Hand voting for. School Board Member Josh Brown appeared by telephone at the meeting as he was attending Tuesday night's soccer game at Wakulla High, and he also voted for.

## BOCC approves Jack Crum development

Staff Report

Social media was burning up over a proposed subdivision off Jack Crum Road that was up for approval at Tuesday night's county commission meeting. As Chair Ralph Thomas noted, people online were portraying the zoning change as "a massive subdivision," he said. "It's not."

Builder Robby Miller of Golden Construction had proposed a five-unit subdivision on 30 acres of land – more than 5 acres per home.

Numerous citizens spoke out against the proposal – some claiming it would worsen traffic on Jack Crum or was part of a larger plan to build a bigger subdivision.

Commissioner Quincee Messersmith said she had received "a barrage of emails" on the matter, but claimed most came from people who had recently moved to Wakulla in the past year or two.

Commissioner Valerie Russell, who cast the lone dissenting vote against the rezoning, pointed to the county's needs analysis from 2017 that found there was no need for new residential lots in the county until 2035.

## Black History events



### Gala held

The Wakulla County Christian Coalition held its annual Arthur Andrews Scholarship Gala on Friday night, the traditional kickoff to a weekend of Black History activities. (Sgt. Andrews was a Wakulla veteran of the Vietnam War who was killed there.) Friday night's gala honored



clergy – from above left, Jocelyn Hayes accepted recognition on behalf of her father, Samuel Hayes, who was in the hospital and unable to attend; Elder Patrick White, center, and Damon Rich, with his wife Tamika, who was mistress of ceremonies for the gala. Damon Rich was also the keynote speaker for the night and spoke about identity, and



who we are and who am I becoming? 'Let God rename you,' he said. And urged the audience to take time to slow down and listen. All these questions, he said, were the second most important questions to ask oneself. The most important, he said, was 'do I know Jesus as my Lord and Savior?' (Photos by William Snowden)



### Saturday Parade

Festivities continued on Saturday morning with a parade and festival in the



park. Clockwise from from above left, Christian Coalition members; Sheriff Jared Miller's float with dancers from Studio 88; Buckhorn Masonic Lodge

members; and Stanley Youmans, Freddie Miller and Jarvis Rosier of the 2nd Infantry Regiment U.S. Colored Troops. (Photos by Linda Ann McDonald)



### Sunday Read-In

On Sunday afternoon, the day's events were held at Palaver Tree Theater with young people reading, including, at left, Cynecia Welch and son Jaxson Welch reading 'A Blind Man Catches a Bird,' a story from Zimbabwe; and Jaxton Powell, a 2nd grader, who read 'I Believe I Can.' (Photos by Linda Ann McDonald)



## Wakulla Sun open house



Chamber President Megan Smith, Quincee Messersmith, Chamber director Heather Bryan and Jessica Revell.



Tents set up outside the newspaper office gave a place for people to socialize at the event on Thursday.



Retired educator Jo Ann Daniels with Sheriff Jared Miller and Megan Smith.

PHOTOS BY GERALD BROWN

## Correction

• A list of cast members appearing in the play "Murder under the Moose Big Top" in last week's paper omitted the last name of one performer – that of Charlene Meyer.

We regret the error.

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 Monday-Friday 8-6:30  
 Saturday 8-5



## Student of the Week

**Avery Vick – 2nd grader at Riversink Elementary**

Principal: Louis Hernandez

**Achievements/Reason for Nomination:** I am proud to nominate Avery as Student of the Week. Avery consistently demonstrates an exceptional work ethic and takes pride in doing her very best each day. She has earned A/B Honor Roll while also committing to competition dance four days a week, showing impressive dedication and responsibility. Avery is respectful to her teachers and classmates, consistently kind, and always willing to lend a helping hand. She leads by example and represents our school with positivity and grace. I am so proud of her hard work, determination, and outstanding character!



STUDENT OF THE WEEK FEATURES A DIFFERENT SCHOOL EACH WEEK.

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formerly  
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**850-926-4544**  
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## Big Bend Hospice Wakulla Volunteers Wanted

**Become a Hospice Volunteer Today!**  
 No prior experience needed – just an open heart and a desire to help.

At Big Bend Hospice, Volunteers are essential to our mission of compassionate care. Whether you're supporting patients or helping behind the scenes, your time makes a lasting difference.



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A Wakulla Wild Animal Rescue  
**WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP?**

We always need donations of these items:

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

**Florida Wild Mammal Association**  
 198 Edgar Poole Road  
 Crawfordville, FL 32327  
[FWMA.org](http://FWMA.org)  
**363-2351**

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 Lisa Craze, CFC  
 Wakulla County Tax Collector

**NEW LICENCE PLATE SAVE THE BEES**  
  
 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.



## Mudbugs & Music

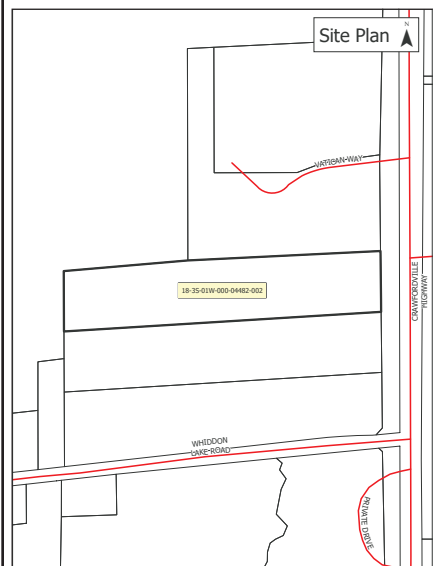
Keep Wakulla County Beautiful held a Mudbugs & Music fundraiser on Saturday at Woolley Park in Panacea that drew a huge crowd. Teams of cooks whipped up their best crayfish recipes, and a panel of judges, right, including Dana Brooks, Sheriff Jared Miller, county commissioners Ralph Thomas and Quincee Messersmith and the high school culinary arts teacher Ryan Warner chose the best tasting mudbugs. (Photos by Gerald Brown)



More Public Notices appear on Page 17

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS CONCERNING AN APPLICATION FOR CHANGE OF ZONING

The Wakulla County Planning Commission and Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners propose to consider the following application and/or adopt the following by ordinance and has scheduled Public Hearings before the **Wakulla County Planning Commission on Monday, March 9, 2026, beginning at 6:00 P.M.** and before the **Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners on Monday, March 16, 2026, beginning at 6:00 PM**, or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard. All public hearings will be held at the County Commission Chambers located west of the County Courthouse at 29 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida 32327. Interested parties are invited to attend and present testimony.



**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE WAKULLA COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE, ORDINANCE NO. 85-4, AS AMENDED; CHANGING THE ZONING DISTRICT CLASSIFICATION AND OFFICIAL ZONING ATLAS FROM RR-5 TO C-2 FOR PROPERTY**

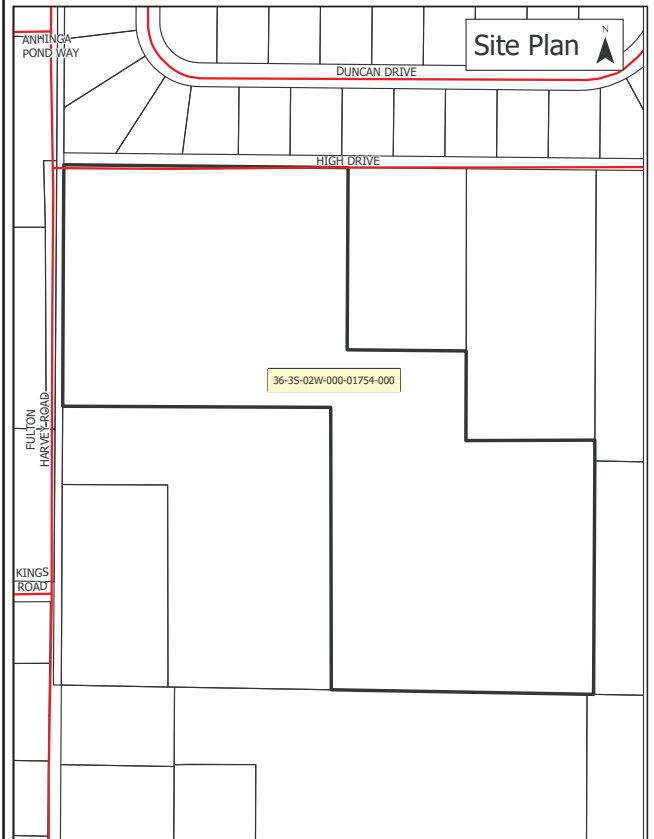
**DESCRIBED AS ATTACHED EXHIBIT "A" TO THE ORDINANCE; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, IN CONFLICT HERewith; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**1. Application for Change of Zoning: R26-01**  
 Applicant: HL Development Ventures, LLC  
 Agent: Edwin Brown & Associates, Inc./Wade Brown  
 Proposal: rezone from rural residential to general commercial  
 Tax ID Number: 18-3S-01W-000-04482-002  
 Existing FLU Map: Rural 2 (FLUE Policy 1.2.5)  
 Current Zoning: RR-5 (Section 5-26, LDC)  
 Proposed Zoning: C-2 (Section 5-38, LDC)  
 FEMA Flood Info: "X" and "A" zones on Panel 0250E  
 Parcel size: 6.206+/- acres  
 Location: 1818 Crawfordville Highway  
**Hearings Required: Planning Commission: Monday, March 9, 2026 @ 6:00 PM**  
**BOCC: Monday, March 16, 2026 @ 6:00 PM**

Copies of applications, draft ordinances, and any related public record files may be viewed at the County Planning Department located at 11 Bream Fountain Road, Crawfordville, FL 32327, 8 AM to 4:30 PM M/F; Phone (850) 926-3695. Any person desiring to appeal a decision of a County Board must ensure a verbatim transcript or copy is made of the testimony and exhibits presented at said hearings. Persons with a disability needing a special accommodation should contact the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners Administration Office at least two (2) days prior to the meeting at (850) 926-0919; Hearing and Voice Impaired at 1-800-955-8771; or email at [ADARquest@mywakulla.com](mailto:ADARquest@mywakulla.com).  
 February 26, 2026

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS CONCERNING AN APPLICATION FOR CHANGE OF ZONING

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**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE WAKULLA COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE, ORDINANCE NO. 85-4, AS AMENDED; CHANGING THE ZONING DISTRICT CLASSIFICATION AND OFFICIAL ZONING ATLAS FROM AG TO LDR FOR PROPERTY DESCRIBED AS ATTACHED EXHIBIT "A" TO THE ORDINANCE; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, IN CONFLICT HERewith; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**1. Application for Change of Zoning: R26-03**  
 Applicant: James M. High Estate  
 Agent: Edwin Brown & Associates, Inc./Wade Brown  
 Proposal: rezone from agricultural to low density residential  
 Tax ID Number: 36-3S-02W-000-01754-000  
 Existing FLU Map: Urban Fringe (FLUE Policy 1.2.7)  
 Current Zoning: AG (Section 5-25, LDC)  
 Proposed Zoning: LDR (Section 5-68, LDC)  
 FEMA Flood Info: "X" zone on Panel 0225E  
 Parcel size: 21.48+/- acres  
 Location: 229 High Drive  
**Hearings Required: Planning Commission: Monday, March 9, 2026 @ 6:00 PM**  
**BOCC: Monday, March 16, 2026 @ 6:00 PM**

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 February 26, 2026

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



In accordance with Section 121.55, Florida Statutes, Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners intends to designate the following position to the Senior Management Service Class in the Florida Retirement System: **Planning & Community Development Director**  
 February 19, 26, 2026

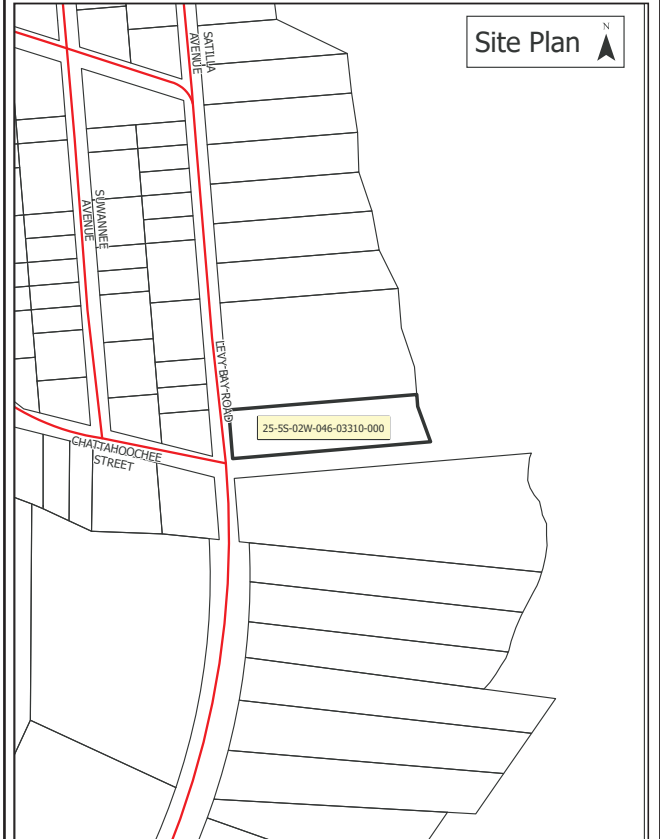
### THE SCHOOL BOARD OF WAKULLA COUNTY ANNOUNCES THE FOLLOWING:

**EVENT:** School Board Meeting  
**DATE:** Monday, March 9, 2026  
**TIME:** 5:45 pm  
**PLACE:** School Board Room, 69 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida  
**PURPOSE:** Monthly School Board Meeting

For further information please contact:  
 Superintendent's Office  
 Wakulla County Schools  
 Post Office Box 100, 69 Arran Rd  
 Crawfordville, Florida 32326  
 850-926-0065  
 February 26, 2026

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**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE WAKULLA COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE, ORDINANCE NO. 85-4, AS AMENDED; CHANGING THE ZONING DISTRICT CLASSIFICATION AND OFFICIAL ZONING ATLAS FROM P-2 TO RSU-2 FOR PROPERTY DESCRIBED AS ATTACHED EXHIBIT "A" TO THE ORDINANCE; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, IN CONFLICT HERewith; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**1. Application for Change of Zoning: R26-02**  
 Applicant: Hannon Investments, LLC  
 Agents: Christopher and Nicolette Hannon  
 Proposal: rezone from conservation to semi-urban single-family residential  
 Tax ID Number: part of 25-5S-02W-046-03310-000  
 Existing FLU Map: Urban Fringe (FLUE Policy 1.2.7)  
 Current Zoning: P-2 (Section 5-24, LDC)  
 Proposed Zoning: RSU-2 (Section 5-28.1, LDC)  
 FEMA Flood Info: "VE" zone on Panel 0370E  
 Parcel size: 1.03+/- acres  
 Location: 182 Levy Bay Road (Lot 1, Blk C, Aqua De Vida Subdivision)  
**Hearings Required: Planning Commission: Monday, March 9, 2026 @ 6:00 PM**  
**BOCC: Monday, March 16, 2026 @ 6:00 PM**

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 February 26, 2026



# Opinions

THE FIRST AMENDMENT

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

## Thanks for helping us celebrate The Wakulla Sun



By **WILLIAM SNOWDEN**  
Editor

As we prepared to host an open house last week, I looked over at the conference table where a lot of food was laid out – too much food, it seemed to me at the time.

I was wrong. A couple of hours later, all that food was gone.

Thanks to all the people who came out on Thursday evening

for an Open House/ Chamber After Hours event. It was an opportunity for us to say thanks to so many people in the community who have supported the newspaper over these four years.

There was a good crowd, good food and conversation.

And I heard so many words of encouragement over

the past several days – people who told me how important a local newspaper is to them.

It means a lot to a lot of people.

And thanks to everyone who helped out with the event. It was a lot of fun.

*William Snowden is editor and publisher of The Wakulla Sun.*



Attendees at our Open House included my mom, Joan Snowden.

### LETTERS FROM READERS

#### Florida must combat invasive plant species

Editor, The Sun:

Florida’s unique subtropical climate, diverse ecosystems, and status as a major international port of entry make it exceptionally vulnerable to environmental invaders. While many people think of Florida as a paradise of native flora, a silent, green takeover is occurring, with invasive plant species displacing native vegetation at an alarming rate. These non-native plants, which have been introduced—either accidentally or on purpose—have no natural predators or diseases in the region, allowing them to spread unchecked and cause severe environ-

mental and economic harm. That is why this week, Feb. 23-27, has been designated as National Invasive Species Awareness Week.

The primary danger of invasive plants is their ability to outcompete and replace native species, resulting in a significant loss of biodiversity. Familiar, aggressive invaders like the carrotwood tree, Chinese tallow, Mimosa and cogongrass do not simply exist alongside native plants, they create dense, monocultural thickets that push out native vegetation. For instance, the Japanese climbing fern can reach 125 feet, smothering trees and altering fire regimes by carrying

fire into treetops, destroying ecosystems that are adapted to only low-intensity fires.

Invasive aquatic plants present a unique and costly problem for Florida’s waterways. Species like Hydrilla and water hyacinth form thick, tangled mats that obstruct navigation, destroy fish habitats, and interfere with boating and fishing. These aquatic pests can hinder water flow, reducing oxygen levels and increasing the risk of flooding, while also creating mosquito-breeding grounds. The economic cost of these invasions is staggering, with Florida spending tens of millions of taxpayer dollars annually to manage invasive plants in waterways and conservation lands.

Being aware of these species is important because the problem often starts in our own backyards. Many common landscape plants sold in nurseries, such as Mexican petunia, nandina and sword fern are highly invasive. When these plants are introduced into local landscapes, they spread rapidly into adjacent natural

areas, making them incredibly difficult to manage. Public awareness is key to reducing this spread. By learning to identify and remove invasive plants, homeowners can play a crucial role in preventing further ecological damage. Organizations like the Florida Invasive Species Council have lists of the plants considered invasive in our state and also help you learn to recognize these plants and know what to do when you find them. The Florida Natural Areas Inventory also maintains a list of invasive species including specific information on their geographic location in our state.

Invasive plant species pose a severe, second-only-to-habitat-destruction threat to Florida’s natural environments. They destroy biodiversity, disrupt natural processes, and incur massive financial costs. Awareness, coupled with active removal efforts and the planting of native species, is essential to protecting Florida’s fragile environment for future generations.

**Jack Richardson Jr.**

### Something on your mind?

Email Letters to the Editor to [editor@thewakullasun.com](mailto:editor@thewakullasun.com); or mail it The Wakulla Sun, 12 Arran Road, Crawfordville FL 32327; or drop it by the office on the courthouse square.

## On the Horizon

### Calendar of events for the week of February 26

#### Thursday, February 26

- 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 27

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

#### Saturday, February 28

- Talquin Member Update Event will be held at Riversink Elementary School beginning at 10 a.m.
- Panacea Gumbo Cook-off, presented by Big Bend Maritime Center, will be held at Woolley Park in Panacea from noon to 4 p.m. Music will include performances by Sawgrass Zoo and Dusty Gravelers. Free entry.
- Black History Unplugged with Kip Bordelon will be held at Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church in Wakulla Station fro 10 a.m. to noon.

#### Sunday, March 1

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

dart Elementary on Highway 98.

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

#### Monday, March 2

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

#### Tuesday, March 3

- Sopchoppy community dinner is held every week at the Towles House at 6:30 p.m.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at 54 Ochlockonee St.

#### Wednesday, March 4

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


#### UPCOMING

#### Saturday, March 7

- Ducks Unlimited spring event will be held at 3Y Ranch. beginning at 5 p.m. Sponsorships/tables available

*“It’s A New Day!”*


# The Wakulla Sun




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You can support The Wakulla Sun with a tax-deductible donation to help us cover the stories that matter to you.

By donating, you help us keep citizens informed, hold officials accountable and cover the most important topics in our community.

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

That means:

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

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

We would very much appreciate your contribution.

William Snowden  
Editor & Publisher  
The Wakulla Sun

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– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey  
**Polled at the annual African American Heritage Celebration at Hudson Park:  
Who from our black history has inspired you?**



**DAMON RICH**  
Consultant

“Malcom X, he started out very extreme then grew in a fuller extent with commitment to community and brotherhood.”



**TIFFANY SCOTT**  
Registered Nurse

“Martin Luther King, he didn’t just fight for his rights but for the rights and equality of all people. I strive to be that person everyday.”



**STEVE SANABRIA**  
Sleep in Heavenly Peace

“Frederick Douglass, born a slave then became a free man. He overcame the temptation for resentment, whose counsel and lessons for governance are still relevant today.”



**APRELL BORDELON**

“Barack Obama, our first African American President. He offered so much hope and stood for unity.”



**JARVIS V. ROSIER**  
Colored Troops Project

“Frederick Douglass, he was a great recruiter for the U.S. Colored Troops. His two sons also became soldiers all after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation.”

# Wakulla Crossroads

By **VERNA BROCK**

Last week, this newspaper celebrated another year of providing local, original news to our community. Kudos to editor Bill Snowden for persevering and surviving in a very difficult newspaper environment. I had to drop by a little early to congratulate him on his success (and stubbornness!), as I had another stop later that afternoon. I am pleased to report Wakulla County turned out, in force, to help him toast another year of accomplishments.

I strongly believe in public education, public libraries and freedom of the press. They are essential build-

ing blocks for a healthy democracy. I have watched with a large measure of sadness as the great tradition of print publications has gradually succumbed to the pressures of digital media, rising costs, and loss of interest. Our old standby, The Wakulla News, became a victim of these forces, its bones picked bare by an out-of-town conglomerate.

Thank goodness for Bill Snowden, a true journalist with smudgy ink in his veins. Unwilling to abandon his calling when his offers to purchase the News were rebuffed, he tackled what might have seemed like a Sisyphean task. He stepped out in faith, against all odds, to begin a brand new

venture, the spunky “Wakulla Sun”!

In doing so, he joined a steadily shrinking number of local news outlets still doggedly clinging to life. Instead of giving up, our intrepid newspaperman filled the void. HUZZAH! However daunting it may have seemed at the time, even as local news outlets closed or were destroyed, the tradition of serving up “what’s happening now” continued.

Consider that print circulation has dropped 70% over the past 20 years. The vast majority are weeklies, just like the Sun. There are fewer than 1,000 dailies produced nationwide; 213 U.S. counties have NO local news outlets, while 1,500 have access to only one. In practical terms, that means 1 in 4 households has little or no access to local news. As neighbors

to Florida’s capital city, we in Wakulla County have a few more, albeit limited, options. But let’s face it. The Sun stands head and shoulders above the much diminished Tallahassee Democrat when it comes to covering OUR local news!

I may be a little biased, but I am very proud of our local paper. It repeatedly wins awards, and outperforms much larger publications. We are so fortunate to have this little gem of a newspaper right here in Wakulla County, maintaining a long tradition of excellence in journalism.

Be sure to let Bill and his staff know how much you appreciate everything they do for our community the next time you see them at a function, event, or meeting.

# Caden Gruebel, Emily Zak selected to speak on podcasting

From 4-H

Two Wakulla County 4-H members, Caden Gruebel and Emily Zak, have earned a prestigious opportunity that places them on a national stage. This March, the pair will travel to Washington, D.C. to present at the Ignite by 4-H Conference, a gathering that brings together thousands of teens, educators, and youth development professionals from across the country. Their session will focus on a topic they know well and have spent months mastering: the art and

impact of podcast production.

Caden and Emily’s interest in podcasting began with a simple question: How can young people use their voices to create change? Through Wakulla 4-H, they explored the full spectrum of audio production – storyboarding episodes, writing scripts, interviewing community members, recording and editing audio, and publishing final episodes. Along the way, they developed confidence, communication skills, media literacy, and technical expertise.

Their podcast projects highlight local stories and youth perspectives, providing a platform for issues that matter to young people. Whether they are discussing leadership, community involvement, or personal development, their work reflects the heart of 4-H: empowering young people with the skills to thrive.

The Ignite by 4-H Conference is known for its interactive, teen-led learning experiences, and Caden and Emily’s proposal stood out for its creativity, clarity, and real-world application.

During their presentation, they will guide fellow teens through the process of designing and producing a podcast episode from start to finish. Participants will learn about equipment, sound quality, interviewing strategies, editing tools, and how to share their stories with a wider audience.

Being selected to present at Ignite is an honor reserved for a small number of youth-led workshops each year. Caden and Emily now join the ranks of Florida 4-H teens who have taken leadership to the

national stage. Their achievement reflects not only their hard work but also the strong support system of their families, volunteers, and the Wakulla 4 H community.

The Ignite by 4 H Conference will take place in March, bringing together innovators, leaders, and change makers from across the nation. Caden and Emily are eager to represent Wakulla County and inspire other youth to explore digital media, storytelling, and the many opportunities offered through 4-H.

Their success is a reminder of what young

people can accomplish when given space to lead and tools to create.

Caden and Emily were awarded a conference scholarship that included their hotel, event registration. The youth have been working to fundraise to offset the cost of their airfare as well as the travel expenses for their adult chaperones.

Community members can make a donation directly or donate for a chance to win the basket. Donations can be made online to [ufgive.to/Wakulla4H](http://ufgive.to/Wakulla4H).

**WAKULLA 4-H PRESENTS 2026**

# Wakulla Wonderful

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# Outdoors

outdoor sports

## HOME ON THE RANGE

### Age and self-defense



By MARJ LAW

Many years ago, my family celebrated my birthday. Son #1 says: “Now you are over the hill.”

Son #2 replies: “No. Now you are not only over the hill, but you’re at grandmother’s house already!”

Let me see... Why do we have children?

But the truth is, getting older does affect us. It affects how and what we choose for self-defense.

Survival Sullivan puts it this way: “The bottom line is that no matter how strong or healthy a senior is, they will never be as strong or as healthy as their younger selves...”

What we must do, then, is everything we can to maximize specific equipment choices for elderly folks in our lives in order to give them the biggest edge possible and maintain their independence when it comes to self-defense.”

Now, I’m not talking about old as decrepit, I’m just talking old as being, well, mature. So,

I ask Joe that when it comes to aging and what to look for in a handgun for the mature person, he gives me a list of what he thinks is most important. We don’t always think alike.

“Number one,” Joe says, “is that the gun must have a good grip for arthritic hands to grasp and control.”

Yes, I agree mentally. Almost everyone over 60 has some kind of arthritis or carpal tunnel problem. A good grip makes a difference.

“Next, the gun should be easy to load, whether that means in a magazine or in a cylinder.”

When he means “easy to load,” he’s referring to the ability of your thumbs to push the rounds into the magazine of a semi-automatic.

That one I don’t agree with. Joe has big hands, and he thinks nothing of taking his thumbs and pushing the rounds into the magazine. “Easy to load” depends on the strength of the individual. “Easy to load” to me means using an UpLula to get those rounds pushed in. Joe thinks using an UpLula is cheating because that’s not how he was taught in the Navy.

Next, Joe cautions to find a gun that has a slide that’s easy to operate. I totally agree. If you can’t yank that slide back, the first round won’t get into the chamber. When you see an older person grabbing



#### S&W M&P Shield EZ

Look for a handgun like this having:

- low recoil
- good grip
- easy to see sights
- easy to rack, load, fieldstrip

at the end of the slide and performing some sort of body contortion, you know the slide is too difficult for that person.

“Cocking the hammer has to be relatively easy, too,” says Joe. Now, I haven’t seen him have trouble with cocking a hammer on a gun, but I do have a friend who couldn’t manage hers.

This friend brings a gun to the Wakulla County Sheriff’s Office range. When she can’t cock the hammer with her thumb, she tries to cock it by pulling back with two thumbs. Really. How hard can that be?

She offers me her gun. I take it. Taking my thumb, I try to cock the hammer. It doesn’t move. This time, I use the thumbs of both hands. My friend looks at me hopefully.

“What can I do?” she asks.

“The name of this gun is Misery,” I say disgustingly. “Sell it.” She can’t handle it and neither can I. Should her life depend on this gun? I don’t think so.

“The cylinder of a revolver should be easy to load and operate,” says Joe.

Sure. Push the cylinder lever. Push, push, push. No. Wait a moment. Don’t push. If it’s all that difficult, it’s not for you.

“The sights should be clear and manageable,”

Joe says. Well, some of the older models I’ve seen have had a groove along the slide for the rear sights and a black blade for the front sight.

Let’s get real. Do you think aging eyes can line up these sights? No! Give me some big white dot sights. Give me bright fiber optic sights in red, green, orange... Anything but a groove for a rear sight.

And, if I had my druthers, I’d like a red or green reflex sight. These sights place a dot smack where you want. No more lining up front and rear sights. I like easy.

“Furthermore,” says Joe, “the gun should be easy to fieldstrip, clean, and put back together.”

How true. Many newbies learn by shooting on a .22. If you’ve ever had the displeasure of trying to fieldstrip an older Ruger Mark II or III, well, I’m sorry for you. .22 ammunition is notoriously dirty. That means you need to clean your gun frequently, or you’ll experience misfires.

When you experience a failure with a gun, it’s time to drop the magazine, and inspect the gun for reasons why you have a problem. Once cleared, you have to replace the magazine and try again. That’s pretty demoralizing for a new shooter.

So, yes. Those new to shooting will need a gun

that’s easy to take down, clean and put back together. I totally agree with Joe on this one.

“Caliber should be considered for defense, economy and availability,” says Joe. “Remember the newbie whose friend persuaded her to buy a Judge? Sure, it’s great for a defensive handgun. However, for a frail, mature lady, it didn’t work. Her shoulder was in a sling for three weeks after that experience and it took even longer for the pain to go away. Also, ammunition of .410 or 45 Colt is expensive. She could afford it, but who wants to pay dearly for target practice?”

So, what caliber ended up being best for her? She was able to handle a 9mm handgun, and was very happy to practice at the range with it.”

“Weight is an issue that should be addressed,” says Joe. “You need to consider weight of the gun for ease of carrying and for holding when you shoot it. Also remember that a super light gun has a heavy recoil, and a super heavy one has to be carried somehow.”

Aha! Finally, I heard the word I would have considered first. Recoil. When a mature person asks about a gun, almost always the first question is: How much kick does the gun have?

Mature newbies do not want recoil. When you ask a big guy about a gun for Newbie, recoil is the very first thing that comes to my mind, but often the last thing a big, strong guy would think of.

Will Newbie be able to handle the recoil? Is the recoil easy enough to handle when shooting at the range for an hour or so?

Finally, gun manufacturers have realized that all shooters are not in their 20s and in top physical condition. Finally, they have addressed recoil. Many are doing a fine job of making guns that are easy to load, easy to operate, and easy to fieldstrip and clean.

It’s about time. Sullivan sums up: “On the inside, you might feel like you are still in your prime, but your body, your very flesh, begins to betray you.”

He continues: “It manifests as lower energy levels, less tolerance to injury with much lower times to heal and recuperate, a reduction in dexterity, and often deteriorating strength and coordination.”

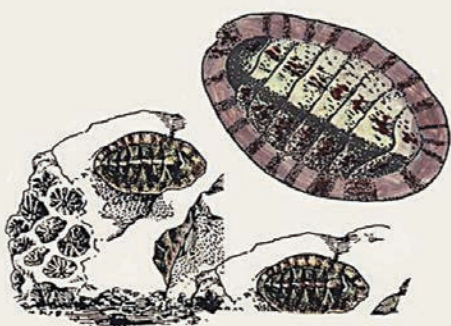
Joe advises that the mature person should bring someone with firearm knowledge when purchasing a handgun.

My main suggestion is to visit a range where they rent out handguns. Try out a few that your handgun nerd friend thinks you might like.

Whether your main concern is recoil, grip strength, easy to see sights, ease of fieldstripping, lightweight for carrying, or general ease of operating, gun manufacturers have done a good job in making handguns for the mature person’s needs.

I’ll worry about that when I get there.

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



**EASTERN BEADED CHITON**  
(*Chaetopleura apiculata*)

Chitons are tiny (<0.5”) primitive mollusks with eight shell plates or “valves”. Chiton use unique scraping teeth to crush shells and eat attached algae. Some species eat solid rock! The teeth have a magnetite cover interlaced with sodium and magnesium. Engineers are fascinated by the strong material. There are over 1000 different species, many of which are larger and beautifully colored. Some larger species are also edible.

Eukarya, Animalia, Mollusca, Polyplacophora, Chitonida, Chaetopleurida

Gulf Specimen Marine Laboratory  
www.gulfspecimen.org

## WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO



Retired park ranger Robert Thompson’s photo of a Great Egret at Wakulla Springs Park.

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# Water Ways

a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences



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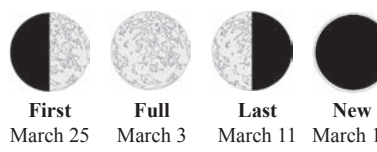
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Thursday 26	
Sun rise/set	Moon rise/set
7:06 AM	1:35 PM
6:34 PM	3:33 AM
Moon Illumination 74%	
Friday 27	
Sun rise/set	Moon rise/set
7:05 AM	2:44 PM
6:34 PM	4:29 AM
Moon Illumination 83%	
Saturday 28	
Sun rise/set	Moon rise/set
7:04 AM	3:53 PM
6:35 PM	5:17 AM
Moon Illumination 91%	
Sunday 1	
Sun rise/set	Moon rise/set
7:03 AM	4:59 PM
6:36 PM	5:57 AM
Moon Illumination 96%	
Monday 2	
Sun rise/set	Moon rise/set
7:02 AM	6:03 PM
6:37 PM	6:32 AM
Moon Illumination 99%5	
Tuesday 3	
Sun rise/set	Moon rise/set
7:01 AM	---
6:37 AM	7:03 AM
Moon Illumination 100%	
Wednesday 4	
Sun rise/set	Moon rise/set
6:59 AM	7:04 PM
6:38 AM	7:32 AM
Moon Illumination 98%	

## Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

### Feb. 26 - March 4

Tide charts by [tides4fishing.com](http://tides4fishing.com)



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

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

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

#### St. Marks River Entrance

Th	4:19 am ▼ -0.5 ft	11:41 am ▲ 2.4 ft	3:20 pm ▼ 2.0 ft	9:11 pm ▲ 2.9 ft
Fr	5:30 am ▼ -0.7 ft	12:25 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	5:07 pm ▼ 1.7 ft	10:58 pm ▲ 3.0 ft
Sa	6:23 am ▼ -0.8 ft	12:59 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	6:11 pm ▼ 1.2 ft	
Su	12:06 am ▲ 3.2 ft	7:05 am ▼ -0.8 ft	1:29 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	6:59 pm ▼ 0.8 ft
Mo	12:58 am ▲ 3.4 ft	7:41 am ▼ -0.7 ft	1:57 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	7:41 pm ▼ 0.4 ft
Tu	1:42 am ▲ 3.4 ft	8:11 am ▼ -0.4 ft	2:22 pm ▲ 3.3 ft	8:20 pm ▼ 0.0 ft
We	2:23 am ▲ 3.4 ft	8:37 am ▼ -0.1 ft	2:45 pm ▲ 3.4 ft	8:56 pm ▼ -0.2 ft

#### City of St. Marks

Th	5:23 am ▼ -0.4 ft	12:17 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	4:24 pm ▼ 1.8 ft	9:47 pm ▲ 2.7 ft
Fr	6:34 am ▼ -0.6 ft	1:01 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	6:11 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	11:34 pm ▲ 2.8 ft
Sa	7:27 am ▼ -0.7 ft	1:35 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	7:15 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	
Su	12:42 am ▲ 3.0 ft	8:09 am ▼ -0.7 ft	2:05 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	8:03 pm ▼ 0.7 ft
Mo	1:34 am ▲ 3.2 ft	8:45 am ▼ -0.6 ft	2:33 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	8:45 pm ▼ 0.3 ft
Tu	2:18 am ▲ 3.2 ft	9:15 am ▼ -0.4 ft	2:58 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	9:24 pm ▼ 0.0 ft
We	2:59 am ▲ 3.1 ft	9:41 am ▼ -0.1 ft	3:21 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	10:00 pm ▼ -0.2 ft

#### Shell Point, Spring Creek

Th	4:40 am ▼ -0.5 ft	12:05 pm ▲ 2.3 ft	3:22 pm ▼ 2.1 ft	9:32 pm ▲ 2.9 ft
Fr	5:54 am ▼ -0.7 ft	12:51 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	5:28 pm ▼ 1.9 ft	11:23 pm ▲ 3.0 ft
Sa	6:50 am ▼ -0.8 ft	1:25 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	6:38 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	
Su	12:31 am ▲ 3.2 ft	7:34 am ▼ -0.8 ft	1:55 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	7:26 pm ▼ 1.0 ft
Mo	1:23 am ▲ 3.4 ft	8:10 am ▼ -0.7 ft	2:21 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	8:07 pm ▼ 0.6 ft
Tu	2:07 am ▲ 3.5 ft	8:42 am ▼ -0.5 ft	2:46 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	8:45 pm ▼ 0.2 ft
We	2:48 am ▲ 3.4 ft	9:08 am ▼ -0.2 ft	3:08 pm ▲ 3.3 ft	9:20 pm ▼ -0.1 ft

#### Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay

Th	4:30 am ▼ -0.3 ft	11:33 am ▲ 2.0 ft	3:31 pm ▼ 1.2 ft	9:03 pm ▲ 2.3 ft
Fr	5:41 am ▼ -0.5 ft	12:17 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	5:18 pm ▼ 1.2 ft	10:50 pm ▲ 2.3 ft
Sa	6:34 am ▼ -0.6 ft	12:51 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	6:22 pm ▼ 0.9 ft	11:58 pm ▲ 2.4 ft
Su	7:16 am ▼ -0.6 ft	1:21 pm ▲ 2.3 ft	7:10 pm ▼ 0.6 ft	
Mo	12:50 am ▲ 2.5 ft	7:52 am ▼ -0.5 ft	1:49 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	7:52 pm ▼ 0.3 ft
Tu	1:34 am ▲ 2.6 ft	8:22 am ▼ -0.3 ft	2:14 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	8:31 pm ▼ 0.0 ft
We	2:15 am ▲ 2.5 ft	8:48 am ▼ -0.1 ft	2:37 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	9:07 pm ▼ -0.1 ft

#### St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.

Th	4:18 am ▼ -0.6 ft	8:51 pm ▲ 2.3 ft		
Fr	5:33 am ▼ -0.8 ft	1:37 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	5:39 pm ▼ 1.6 ft	10:36 pm ▲ 2.3 ft
Sa	6:28 am ▼ -0.8 ft	1:47 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	6:31 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	11:52 pm ▲ 2.5 ft
Su	7:12 am ▼ -0.8 ft	2:00 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	7:12 pm ▼ 0.9 ft	
Mo	12:51 am ▲ 2.6 ft	7:49 am ▼ -0.6 ft	2:14 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	7:50 pm ▼ 0.6 ft
Tu	1:41 am ▲ 2.6 ft	8:20 am ▼ -0.3 ft	2:29 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	8:26 pm ▼ 0.2 ft
We	2:28 am ▲ 2.5 ft	8:48 am ▼ 0.0 ft	2:46 pm ▲ 2.3 ft	9:01 pm ▼ 0.0 ft

#### Dog Island West End

Th	4:41 am ▼ -0.6 ft	9:05 pm ▲ 2.0 ft		
Fr	5:59 am ▼ -0.7 ft	2:19 pm ▲ 1.7 ft	6:15 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	10:30 pm ▲ 2.1 ft
Sa	6:53 am ▼ -0.7 ft	2:22 pm ▲ 1.8 ft	7:00 pm ▼ 1.2 ft	11:49 pm ▲ 2.1 ft
Su	7:32 am ▼ -0.7 ft	2:30 pm ▲ 1.8 ft	7:35 pm ▼ 0.9 ft	
Mo	12:58 am ▲ 2.2 ft	8:05 am ▼ -0.5 ft	2:41 pm ▲ 1.8 ft	8:07 pm ▼ 0.6 ft
Tu	1:52 am ▲ 2.2 ft	8:34 am ▼ -0.3 ft	2:52 pm ▲ 1.9 ft	8:39 pm ▼ 0.3 ft
We	2:39 am ▲ 2.2 ft	9:01 am ▼ 0.0 ft	3:07 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	9:13 pm ▼ 0.1 ft

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

## BIRDING AT THE REFUGE

# February at the refuge

By **DON MORROW**

A pair of Barred Owls called as I passed the Double Bridges at St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, but after that, there was only silence. It was the dark of the moon and the night was cold, clear, and still.

At first light cat-birds began calling and the dawn revealed wraiths and streamers of ground fog floating low over the surrounding marsh. The morning flight consisted of just two Wood Ducks and a Wilson's Snipe. A slow start to the monthly duck survey.

Although snow still covers Canada and most of the north-eastern U.S., I had expected the refuge's ducks to begin staging northward. Duck numbers usually show a big drop in mid-February, but so

far most of the ducks are staying. I recorded 1,235 ducks, mostly Green-winged Teal and 15 other species. This is over twice the number of ducks that I expected. Northern Pintail and Hooded Merganser numbers have decreased sharply, but were offset by a big jump in Blue-winged Teal. Most blue-wings winter south of us and I have seen a bump in their February numbers in previous years as they begin to migrate.

In February winter holds on while Spring begins to creep in slowly. Life at the refuge is always in a state of flux as different species of plants and animals play out their annual cycles, simultaneously interacting with each other and with the forces of weather and climate.

Each year follows

the same pattern, but at the same time is always different.

This has been one of the best shore-bird winters in the last 10 years. More than 4,000 wintering shorebirds gather on the interior ponds at high tide and their numbers won't begin to drop until the Dunlin start north in March. Avocets have been sparse this winter, but Marbled Godwits are at record high numbers.

Leafout is still a month away and most of the tree branches along the East River are bare, but the tardily deciduous oaks – water, laurel and live – are just now dropping their old leaves. Many of those leaves turn yellow and brighten the woods before they cascade down in a cycle repeated each February.

The ongoing

drought and a stretch of unusually cold weather have resulted in fewer insects. It is the hunger time for the refuge's birds, but they are resilient.

Chickadees are feeding on the newly emerged elm buds. Hermit Thrushes compete with robins, grackles, bears and blackbirds for the remaining cabbage palm berries. Desperate Yellow-rumped Warblers are hawking for no-see-ums.

The pace of life is about to accelerate as wintering birds leave, resident birds nest, and summer birds arrive. Over the next few months 10-million migrant birds will transit the refuge.

Come down to St. Marks, bring popcorn, and watch the show.

*Don Morrow can be contacted at [donaldcmorrow@gmail.com](mailto:donaldcmorrow@gmail.com)*



## Underwater Wakulla

By **Gregg Stanton**

### Threat Fish Project. May 17, 2012

As an important part and learning exercise for our underwater crime scene investigation students, they had to pick and devise a semester project.

In a previous column, Gregg Stanton alluded to the fact that it was imperative for the students to finish the project, even if unsuccessful in the stated objective. This provided a sharp contrast to the theoretical classroom thinking. Just as in real life, it is pragmatic problems that inhibit clever ideas, and simpler very often is better.

An example of a very successful undertaking was the threat fish project: We all know, from experience, that throwing food out onto a pond will have fish snatch it up very fast – it is free food, after all, so who wouldn't.

Making food available in the context of a "feeding station," presented under water on a little plate, showed similar behavior. Even in the presence of people, such as swimmers, fish will leave their shelter to gobble up the offered delicacies. This was demonstrated and recorded on video in the kiddie pool at the Panama City jetties. Swimmers and kids playing in the chest-deep water all the time at this site, and fish got used to people. The fish learned that they need to keep their distance from people, but that there is no immediate threat if everyone is careful.

A barracuda, on the other hand, poses a significant danger to the fish. But how good are fish in recognizing a barracuda threat, and how do they change their behavior?

To answer that question, a photo of a barracuda was printed to a size of approximately two feet. The photo was glued onto cardboard, and the whole board was cut to the shape of the barracuda. The whole assembly was laminated to be water proof.

Equipped with floating foam on top, the "Baracuda" was tied to weights using thin fishing line. This created an underwater object the shape and colors of the predator, floating mid-water.

The threat fish was deployed near feeding stations. The results were immediate and drastic – no more fish helping themselves to a meal, swimmers present or not. The efforts for this project were minimal – one dollar spent on food for fish, and a day spent on the beach. The outcome was clear and significant, even today we still talk about it.

An example for an "unsuccessful" project was the corrosion-experiment: How fast do various metals corrode (rust) in a saltwater environment?

A collection of metal pipes (copper, steel, galvanized steel) was mounted on a board using cable ties. The assembly was then transported out into the bay by boat, and deployed at a depth of 10 feet. The location was marked using GPS. No marker buoy was deployed due to the fear of theft both of the experiment and the buoy. A month later, the day was spent trying to find the assembly, unsuccessfully. The efforts for the project were quite significant: a lot of time wasted and money spent for fuel.

The message learned was also very clear: The ocean is huge, and lots of things happen in it, making finding objects in it like finding the needle in a haystack. Corrosion projects may be better done in a tank in a laboratory.

Who do you believe actually learned more from their project? Both parties spent a lot of time thinking about their project. In case of the former project, thinking was done in advance, resulting in a successful project outcome. In the case of the later project, thinking was done afterwards in the form of "lessons learned."

I can't remember who came up with this, so I quote without reference: Good judgment comes from experience, experience comes from bad judgment.

Is that not true for life in general?  
**Editor's Note: This is a repeat of a column from 2012.**



## Becoming the person you crave to be



By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

How would your friends or your boss describe you?

Would your spouse, roommate or sibling (those who live with you every day) describe you

differently?

Many of us might feel nervous imagining how others would describe us. Their words could be sobering ... perhaps even uncomfortably revealing. Yet reflecting on these questions can motivate us to become people worthy of honorable words.

Taking this thought a step deeper, if you consider how you've lived so far, how do you believe God would describe you? Wouldn't it be incredible to hear Him say something like He said about David in Acts 13:22 (ESV): "I have found in

David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will."

I love both parts of this verse. I long for God to see me as someone who pursues His heart – and strives to follow His will.

Yet, I fail miserably at being the person I want to be.

We know David didn't obey God perfectly. He committed heinous sins, including adultery and arranging for the woman's husband to be killed. Still, God saw that in his heart, he honestly sought after Him.

How can we develop

this kind of devotion?

Read Matthew 22:37 (ESV): "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."

Most people find loving God with such intentionality challenging. Yet through His presence working within us, we can choose to love Him with our whole being, even when temptation pulls us in another direction.

We do this one choice at a time – one difficult, deliberate choice at a time.

Meditating on Scripture has kept me from giving up when my constant failures make me want to quit. I find great comfort in knowing that God helps shape both my desire and my ability to follow His will (Philippians 2:13).

Most of all, our heavenly Father's love for me provides a moment-by-moment example of how I should love and serve those around me, including my friends, coworkers and family. His love for me also becomes my strongest motivation to love Him in return.

I pray constantly that God will shape me into a person after His own heart. It's no coincidence that the more we seek God's heart, the more we become someone we want others to see and the kind of person we crave to be.

And most importantly, we become the person God is calling us to be.

*Sheryl H. Boldt is a sales executive for Wave 94 and author of the blog, [www.TodayCanBeDifferent.net](http://www.TodayCanBeDifferent.net). Connect with her at [SherylHBoldt.Wave94@gmail.com](mailto:SherylHBoldt.Wave94@gmail.com).*

## Head in the clouds



By **CHERYL CRUCE**

When I was a child, I was often the one with my head in the clouds, daydreaming quietly. I would sit at my desk, staring out the classroom window, watching the trees sway or the clouds drift by, imagining other places I would rather be. More than once, I missed recess because I hadn't finished my work. While everyone else ran outside to play, I sat at my

desk completing assignments I could have done earlier – if only I had stayed focused instead of dreaming about recess. It's funny how some things follow us into adulthood, and I have to admit, there are moments when I feel a twinge of envy toward people who work from home so efficiently.

Not because the opportunity isn't available to me – I have everything I need: books, a computer, notes, a quiet desk. The tools themselves are not the problem; it's the mindset. Home is full of distractions – laundry waiting to be folded, dishes calling from the sink, floors in desperate need of cleaning. And there are still those windows, whispering that spring

is coming soon. It isn't laziness; it's drift – the same drift that once carried my eyes out a classroom window. I don't mean to envy those who work from home, but I sometimes admire their ability to remain attentive while life hums around them. Productivity isn't about the setting; it's about the staying.

Perhaps that is the lesson I am still learning. Focus is not about having the right tools. It is about deciding that the task before you matters enough to resist the noise around you. In many ways, it mirrors the spiritual life. We can have access to Scripture, prayer, quiet time – all the tools – and still find our minds wandering to everything

else that seems urgent or easier.

Jesus once told a parable about seeds scattered on different kinds of soil. Some grew quickly but were choked by thorns, which he explained represented "the worries of this life" – the everyday concerns that quietly crowd out what is trying to grow. It wasn't rebellion that stopped the growth; it was distraction (Matthew 13:22). I recognize those thorns. They look like laundry baskets and blinking notifications. They sound like "just one more thing" before I sit down to write or study. The thorns are the wandering thoughts that creep in when I try to pray. They whisper that everything else deserves

attention first.

It isn't that the soil is bad. It is the overcrowding of everyday distractions that hampers growth. Slowly, quietly, what matters most gets pushed to the edge. Perhaps that is why Jesus tells the parable – not to condemn the soil, but to invite tending, to ask us gently what we have allowed to take root and what we have neglected. Growth happens not in grand gestures, but in quiet, careful attention. What is crowding our hearts? What have we been seeking first? What small thorns have we learned to live with?

When I think about the child who once stared out classroom windows, I find comfort: she was not incapable of learning, only still

learning how to focus and what truly mattered in the moment. Perhaps that is where grace meets us now – not as finished disciples, but as learners. Still growing. Still tending the soil. Still choosing, again and again, to seek first the Kingdom of God, trusting that when we do, the rest will fall into its rightful place (Matthew 6:33).

Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to fear your name. Psalm 86:11

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

### OUT TO PASTOR

## Nobody's perfect, at least that's what I'm told



By **JAMES SNYDER**

People often say nobody is perfect. I've said that at least 100 times, but there are times when I am not quite sure that it applies to me.

There are some situations when I think I am perfect. I do not say it aloud because I do not want to step on anybody's toes. But I believe I am perfect, I keep believing it, and then reality hits like a pie in my face.

When I think I am perfect, I reach a stage so imperfect that I am ashamed. I work hard at trying to be perfect. My goal I have in life is to do things perfectly. Up until now, I have not reached my goal, but I've come close.

To be truthful, the only person I know who is perfect is The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. I have known her for over 55 years, and if she is not perfect, she has put up a good face for all those years.

She knows how to fix anything and everything.

I will never forget when the front bumper of my truck broke. I was going to take it to the garage to have them fix it, but as I was looking at the bumper, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came out of the house and said,

"What's the problem with your truck?"

I looked at her and said, "The front bumper of my truck is broken and I'm going to have to take it into the garage to get fixed."

"No," she said, "let me look at it before you take it to the garage. Maybe it's something I can fix."

She looked at it for a moment and then said, "OK, I see what's wrong and I think I can fix this. Let me go to my craft room and get something I think might work."

She went into the house and, within a few moments, came out with several of those large paperclips. She went over to the bumper and began working on it, and within a few moments, she said, "OK, I think I fixed the bumper, you don't have to spend any of your money taking it to the garage."

Looking at me with one of her smiles, she said, "You're welcome." Then she walked back into the house.

That was about five years ago, and those paperclips are still holding my bumper to the truck. Who would have guessed?

With that in mind, I have concluded, after all these years, that she is as close to being perfect as anyone I know.

The only difference is that she likes broccoli and I hate broccoli, and I like Apple Fritters, and she hates Apple Fritters. All those years, this has been the only problem we have.

Occasionally, she will cook broccoli for supper, but makes sure it does not come anywhere near my plate. I know when she's cooking broccoli

because I can smell it, and I do not like that smell.

The other night at supertime, she brought me my supper plate, and then went out and got one for herself, and came back. We sat in the room and enjoyed our supper together while watching TV.

I saw something on my plate that puzzled me. It was something green. I did not pay too much attention because the rest of the plate was very delicious. However, I could not help but look at that little green thing. It looked like a leaf of some sort, but it was so small.

As I looked at it, sighed very deeply and said to myself, "Oh, no, it is not that!"

I looked at it, picked it up with my fork, and it was exactly what I thought it was. I called the attention of The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, showed it to her, and said, "Can you explain this for me?"

She gasped for a moment, looked at the little green thing on my fork, and sighed very deeply, "Oh, no, it isn't." She looked at it a little more and said, "I'm so sorry, it is a piece of broccoli."

I could not believe it, but as I looked at it, I had to agree with her.

This is the one time that I can remember when she was not perfect.

Thinking along this line, I remembered a Bible verse about this. "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect" (Matthew 5:48).

I cannot be perfect from the human standpoint, but I can achieve perfection in the spiritual realm. The pattern

of my perfection is not anything in this world, but according to God's aspiration for me.

*Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, email [jamesnyder51@gmail.com](mailto:jamesnyder51@gmail.com), website [www.jamesnyderministries.com](http://www.jamesnyderministries.com).*

## Church Briefs

### • Baptism to be held at Shell Point on March 8

A Christian baptism for men and women will be held at no cost in the water at Shell Point beach on Sunday, March 8, at 10:30 a.m. following the regular 9:30 a.m. worship service at Seafarer's Chapel of Shell Point, 1557 Shell Point Road, followed by a complimentary fried chicken lunch.

Participants should dress modestly, bring a towel and a change of clothes. Guests are welcome to attend. Interested individuals should contact Charles or April Simpson, 850-300-0068 between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. to register before March 7.

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**Sopchoppy United Methodist Church**  
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Worship 11 a.m.  
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Pastor Cheryl Mixon-Cruce 850-962-2511

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**850 745-8359**  
Office Hours: Mon./Wed./Fri. 9:00am – 3:30pm  
Pastor: Rev. Michael Hartley: [office@seas.ptdiocese.org](mailto:office@seas.ptdiocese.org)  
Deacon David Harris • E-Mail: [dendoc@comcast.net](mailto:dendoc@comcast.net)  
Masses: Saturday 5:00 pm • Sunday 11:00 am  
Monday, Thursday and Friday 8:30 am  
Wednesdays at 7:00 pm  
Rosary: Mon., Thurs. and Fri. - after 8:30 Mass  
Wednesday 6:30 pm  
Sunday 9:45 am  
First Saturday: Mass at 9:00 am  
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or the Church Office at:

# Obituaries



**Ann P. Causseaux**

Ann P. Causseaux of Sopchoppy passed away Tuesday, February 17

with UTI and diabetic complications. She was surrounded by family and friends until her passing.

Ann was born on April 22, 1935 in Tampa to Lewis Wesley and Henrietta Johnson Petteway. She graduated from Leon High School and was active in the band playing the clarinet.

Ann attended Baylor University and earned a Bachelor of Science in Home Economics. She played the clarinet in the Baylor University Golden Wave Band and drums in the pep band. Upon their graduation she married Donald Lynn Sparks of Waco, Texas and they relocated to Tallahassee, Florida. Don passed away in 1964.

Ann returned to school to earn a cosmetology degree from Lively Vocational Tech. She raised her two children and married Joe Earl Causseaux, Sr. When her children were in middle school she enrolled at Florida State

University and earned an accounting degree as well as a Masters in Taxation. She also passed the CPA exam and earned her CPA license.

Ann worked for the Florida Public Service Commission as the Bureau Chief of Tax and later as the Bureau Chief of Safety in the Electric and Gas department. Following her retirement from the Public Service Commission she did not quit working. She was very active in her church, Sopchoppy Southern Baptist Church. She supported missions and went on several mission trips. She also supported the Good News Club via the backpack ministry. She helped cook Wednesday night meals as well as donating food to families that had lost a family member. She worked with many of the youth.

She loved flowers and planting them in her yard as well as oil painting. She was also an avid reader.

She was preceded in death by her parents, both husbands and her son, Russell A Sparks Causseaux. She is survived by two children, Sherri Meador (Joseph) and Joe Earl Causseaux, Jr (Michelle) and two bonus daughters Carla Sparks and JoAnne Causseaux, two grandchildren Evelyn Sparks and Lewis Sparks and one great grandchild Katie Hayes.

A visitation will be held at Culley's MeadowWood on Riggins Road on Thursday, Feb 26, 2026 from 4 pm to 7 pm in Tallahassee, Florida.

A visitation and Memorial Service will be held at Sopchoppy Southern Baptist Church on Saturday, February 28, 2026 from 11 AM to 3 PM.

In lieu of flowers donations to Sopchoppy Southern Baptist Church for missions, or the Humane Society.

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

## DEATH NOTICES

• **James Espy**, 72, of Tallahassee, died February 16, 2026.

# Sheriff's Report

This report is for activity Feb. 13 to Feb. 20. There were 1,442 total calls for service during the week.

### FRIDAY, FEB. 13

• A citizen called in reference to a burglary complaint. Contact was made with the reporting person who discovered two Boy Scouts of America trailers and a shed burglarized. It is unknown when the incident occurred. There were \$150 in missing items were reported.

• Walmart personnel called the Sheriff's Office in reference to a retail theft. Asset Protection advised an unknown female failing to scan all her items at the self-checkout area. The suspect was identified and was escorted to the loss prevention office prior to deputies arrival. The woman said she did not realize she failed to scan some of her items. Upon review of the surveillance video, it displayed her failing to scan multiple items and placing them directly into her reusable shopping bags. She was issued a Notice to Appear and a No Trespass warning.

### SATURDAY, FEB. 14

• Deputy Jonathan Kilbourn responded to Walmart in reference to a theft that just occurred and the suspect still in the store. While speaking with Walmart Asset Protection, it was advised the suspect was seen on video, replacing price tags of various items with tags that had a lower price. After obtaining the evidence, a sworn statement, and an affidavit of prosecution, The subject was placed under arrest. Prior to transporting her to the county jail, a search incident to arrest was conducted which resulted in locating a glass smoking device. Inside the glass smoking device, a crystal like subject was located. A field test on the crystal like substance was conducted which produced a presumptive positive for methamphetamine. She was then transported to the county jail. The methamphetamine was weighed and produced a weight of 0.2 grams and submitted to property and evidence.

### SUNDAY, FEB. 15

• Deputy Dustin Saba responded to Dakota Drive in reference to a

citizen reporting her vehicle stolen by a known suspect. She stated she was able to make contact with the man to advise him to return the vehicle; however, he advised her he would leave it at another location. During the course of this investigation, the victim did not want to complete any paperwork nor did she wish to pursue charges. Due to this, law enforcement departed the scene. Some time after concluding this investigation, she called back in and advised she had located the vehicle abandoned on Tiger Hammock, near Shadeville Road. Upon arrival, She stated the subject had busted the windshield and the vehicle would not crank. She once more declined to pursue charges or complete any paperwork.

### MONDAY, FEB. 16

• Deputy Ian Kilbourn

and Deputy Zachary Godwin conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle being. A probable cause search of the vehicle was conducted and yielded 4.1 grams of suspected marijuana and paraphernalia. These items were seized for destruction.

### TUESDAY, FEB. 17

• Deputy Terry Marshall responded to the front lobby of the Sheriff's Office in reference to a fraud. The reporting person stated she believed her ex-boyfriend paid his T-Mobile account with her bank card. The total for all the unauthorized charges amounted to \$611.30.

### WEDNESDAY, FEB. 18

• A traffic stop was conducted on a vehicle in the area of Bloxham Cutoff and Card Lane for an expired registration. Contact was made with the driver, who indicated his license was suspended and a query confirmed it was suspended indefi-

nately in December 2024. He was placed under arrest and transported to the Wakulla County Jail without incident.

• Walmart Asset Protection called the Sheriff's Office in reference to a retail theft. Asset Protection advised they located an unknown male exiting the store with multiple items in a shopping cart and a bicycle. The suspect was last seen fleeing the scene in a black sedan with black rims. Later in the shift, the suspect returned to the business. The suspect changed some of his clothing, but still appeared to be wearing the same shorts and the vehicle he arrived in matched the video footage from the earlier incident. The suspect did not appear to steal any items during his second visit to the business. The suspect was detained, identified, read his Miranda Warn-

ings, and interviewed. He admitted to visiting the business earlier in the day and stated he transported the stolen items to his residence. He was arrested and transported to the Wakulla County Jail without incident. The vehicle was towed from the scene by Quality Wrecker and he was issued a trespass warning.

### THURSDAY, FEB. 19

• A citizen reported a theft of her prescription medication. She advised when she returned home today from running errands, she noticed her pill bottle only had seven Xanax. She further stated she had just recently filled the prescription and suspected her son to have taken them while she was away. She stated she suspected him due to her accidentally burning the wood he was saving for building a house. At

this time, he did not wish to pursue charges and completed a request for non-prosecution.

### FRIDAY, FEB. 20

• A citizen reported receiving a fraudulent check in the mail. She advised the check was sent to her from a man she had met on a dating app. She advised they were scheduled to meet; however, the man canceled last minute due to a work schedule conflict. She further stated he requested her to deposit a check at the bank for him in the amount of \$25,000. When she called the bank, she was informed the check was fake and to report the incident to law enforcement.

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

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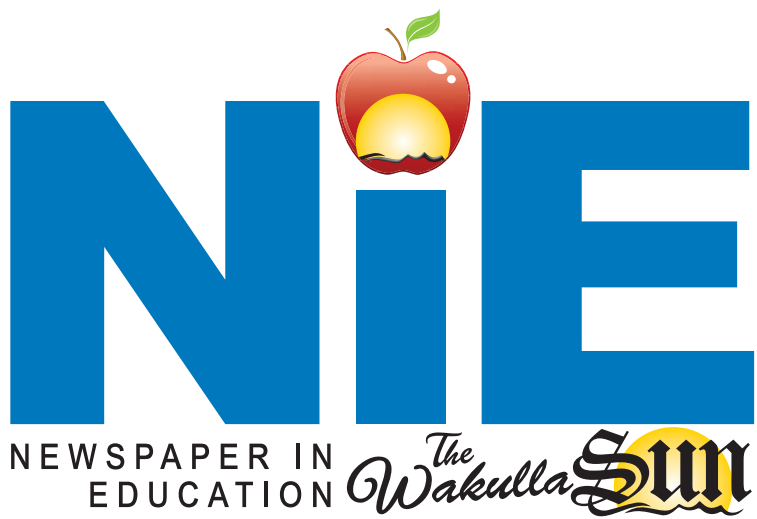
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## USE THE NEWS

### 1. SKI MOUNTAINEERING JOINS THE OLYMPICS

Ski mountaineering became a brand-new Olympic sport at the 2026 Winter Games, the first new Winter Olympic sport in 28 years. In Bormio, Italy, athletes raced up a snowy mountain with skis, poles, and backpacks, then switched their gear quickly before skiing back down. They used special “skins” on the bottoms of their skis so they would not slide backward while climbing. Many racers said the sport feels tough but exciting because it pushes their bodies and lets them be out in wild mountain weather. The day ended with big wins for Switzerland’s Marianne Fattouh and Spain’s Oriol Cardona Coll, and athletes like Anna Gibson showed that loving an activity and working hard can sometimes lead to surprising success. Create an illustration that teaches a classmate what ski mountaineering is. Describe the main parts of the race in order and draw pictures to go along with each step.

### 2. ALYSA LIU SKATES WITH JOY

Alysa Liu won a gold medal in figure skating at the 2026 Winter Olympics by performing with unusual freedom and confidence. After retiring from competitive skating at 16, she later returned on her own terms, focusing less on pressure and more on artistry. Her skating was described as smooth and flowing, with expressive movements that matched the music and showed her personality. While other skaters struggled under Olympic stress, Liu seemed relaxed and fully present, moving with warmth instead of fear. Her performance showed that figure skating can be more than jumps and scores; it can also be a powerful form of self-expression and joy. Think about an activity you do that can feel stressful sometimes, like a sport, music, art, or even a big school project. In a paragraph of 5 to 6 sentences, explain one part that usually makes people feel pressure and one change that could help someone feel more “free” while doing it. Then describe what “doing it for joy” would look like, sound like, or feel like, and end with one encouraging sentence you would say to a friend who is nervous.

### 3. THE EMT TEAM THAT CHANGED

### AMBULANCES

In the late 1960s, when someone had a medical emergency in many cities, they were often transported in a police wagon or hearse and received little or no treatment on the way to the hospital. In Pittsburgh, a group called the Freedom House Ambulance Service changed that by training mostly Black men and women to provide advanced emergency care before patients reached the hospital. They learned to perform CPR, start IVs, use defibrillators, and give other lifesaving treatments that were rare at the time. Their work helped create the modern emergency medical services system that communities across the country now depend on. Although their program was eventually replaced and their contributions were largely forgotten for

years, lawmakers are now working to honor Freedom House for transforming emergency care in the United States. Representative Summer Lee, a Democrat from Pittsburgh, introduced a resolution to Congress that would award Freedom House with the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor a person or institution can receive from Congress. Representative Mike Kelly, a Republican from western Pennsylvania, is co-sponsoring the bill with Lee along with a bipartisan group of Congresspeople. Create a short museum label as if Freedom House is being featured in a history exhibit. In 5 to 7 sentences, explain who Freedom House was, what problem they were trying to fix, and two examples of important skills they used to save lives. Then add one sentence that tells why it matters to

remember helpers from the past, even if they were not celebrated at the time.

### 4. A GIANT MURAL THAT TELLS A CITY'S STORY

In Kalamata, Greece, a huge mural on the side of a building won the “Best Mural of the World” award for 2025. The artwork shows opera singer Maria Callas in a way that stands for the city itself, mixing “high-level” art with local pride. The mural includes Kalamata’s famous foods, like olives, figs, and grapes, and also shows natural elements like birds and tree branches to connect people to the land. City leaders hope the mural helps residents understand ideas like sustainable development and Kalamata’s goal of becoming climate-neutral by 2030. The mural is also bringing attention to the city, helping tourism, and inspiring conversations about how pub-

### School distribution sponsored by



lic art can teach and build community pride. Imagine your town or school is getting a giant mural that represents what makes your community special. In 5 to 8 sentences, describe what the mural would show, including at least two local details (like a landmark, food, animal, hobby, or tradition) and one message you want people to learn from it. Explain where the mural would go and why that spot matters.

### 5. ALL ABOUT ALIENS?

President Trump said he had told his administration to begin the process of releasing government files related to aliens, extraterrestrial life, and “unidentified flying objects” or U.F.O.s. His comments came after he criticized former President Barack Obama for making a joke in a podcast interview that spread online. The article explains that many sightings people call

U.F.O.s can be caused by things like drones, satellites, weather balloons, or secret aircraft, and that some cases remain unsolved. It also says the Pentagon has reported that it has found no evidence that the government has proof of alien technology or alien visits to Earth. Even so, many people remain curious and excited by the mystery, and Trump did not say when the files would be released. Write a paragraph that shows how to think responsibly about big mysteries. In 5 to 7 sentences, explain the difference between a question, a theory, and evidence, and use the U.F.O. story as your example. Include one sentence describing a normal, non-alien explanation for a strange sight in the sky and one sentence explaining what kind of evidence would be needed before people should claim something is definitely aliens.



### People FACT:

Approximately 73 percent of the world’s population uses this.

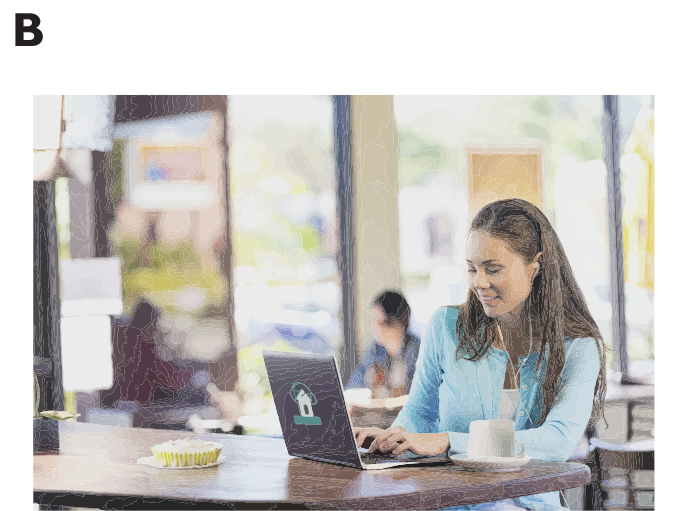
Answer: The internet

### How they say that in...

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

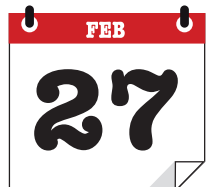
### What’s the Difference?

Find the four differences between the two pictures.



Answers: 1. Logo on laptop 2. Pastry on table 3. Cup upside down 4. Missing sunglasses

### THIS DAY IN HISTORY



**1860:** Abraham Lincoln delivers a speech at Cooper Union in New York that affects his presidential campaign.

**1964:** Italy asks for help keeping the Leaning Tower of Pisa from toppling.

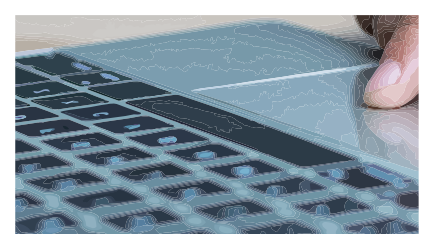
**1991:** George H.W. Bush announces “Kuwait is liberated.”

### NEW WORD

### WEB

resources interconnected by the internet

### Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Laptop

### Did You Know?

Parents should monitor their children’s internet usage to make sure that they are safe while online.



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**NOTICE OF FICTITIOUS NAME**

FICTITIOUS NAME

Notice under Fictitious Name Law, pursuant to Section 856.09, Florida Statutes. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, Scion Management Solutions, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of **DIVERSITY INCLUSION AND EQUITY TRUSTEES** Located at 53 Bridle Gate Dr Crawfordville, Fl. 32327 In the County of Wakulla Intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporation of the Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida.

Published on February 26, 2026

**NOTICE OF ACTION**

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

ANA DANIELA BULL, PLAINTIFF,  
V.  
HELEN S. FORT, IF ALIVE, AND IF DECEASED, UNKNOWN SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEEES, 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

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: Spokan 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

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: Spokan 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.

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Chief Executive Officer

sendmethebillLLC@gmail.com  
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Alligator Point, FL 32346

**NOTICE OF ACTION**

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

RANDOLPH SMITH, PLAINTIFF, V.  
AKIRBY HOLDINGS, LLC; KATIE WILLIAMS RASHED; JEROME A. HAWKINS; DELVERNA RUTH HAWKINS HENRY; DOROTHY LEE HAWKINS; ALBERT HAWKINS, JR. DECEASED, ANY UNKNOWN SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISES, GRANTEEES, CREDITORS, ASSIGNS, AND ALL OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST HIM; JOEL R. LAY AND BARBARA N. LAY, DEFENDANTS.

Case No.: 2025 CA 14

**NOTICE OF ACTION - CONSTRUCTIVE SERVICE**

To: DELVERNA RUTH HAWKINS HENRY, DOROTHY LEE HAWKINS and ALBERT HAWKINS, JR. deceased, any 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 Access has been filed on the following property in Wakulla County, Florida:

THE WEST 15 FEET OF THE FOLLOWING PARCEL:  
THE SOUTH 8 ACRES OF THE NORTH 40 ACRES OF THE SOUTH-EAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 24, TOWNSHIP 2 SOUTH, RANGE 1 WEST, WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:  
BEGIN AT A CONCRETE MONUMENT MARKING THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 24, TOWNSHIP 2 SOUTH, RANGE 1 WEST, WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND THENCE RUN NORTH 01 DEGREES 54 MINUTES 39 SECONDS EAST ALONG THE EAST BOUNDARY OF SAID SOUTHWEST QUARTER 281.46 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT, THENCE RUN WEST 1357.63 FEET TO THE WEST BOUNDARY OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 24, THENCE RUN SOUTH 02 DEGREES 32 MINUTES 31 SECONDS WEST ALONG SAID WEST BOUNDARY 281.58 FEET TO A ST. JOE PAPER COMPANY CONCRETE MONUMENT, THENCE RUN EAST ALONG THE SOUTH BOUNDARY OF SAID SOUTHWEST QUARTER 1360.73 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING CONTAINING 8.78 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

AND THE SOUTH 15 FEET OF THE FOLLOWING PARCELS:  
THE EAST ONE-HALF OF SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SOUTHWEST QUARTER (E ½ SE ¼ SW ¼ OF SW ¼) OF SECTION 24, TOWNSHIP 2 SOUTH, RANGE 1 WEST, AND CONTAINING FIVE (5) ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

AND  
THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW ¼ OF SE ¼ OF SW ¼) CONTAINING 2.50 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

AND  
THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW ¼ OF SW ¼ OF SW ¼) OF SECTION 24, TOWNSHIP 2 SOUTH, RANGE 1 WEST, CONTAINING 10 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

AND  
COMMENCE AT A ST. JOE PAPER COMPANY CONCRETE MONUMENT MARKING THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 23, TOWNSHIP 2 SOUTH, RANGE 1 WEST, WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND RUN NORTH 00 DEGREES 02 MINUTES 59 SECONDS WEST ALONG THE EASTERLY BOUNDARY OF SAID SECTION 23 (AS MONUMENTED) A DISTANCE OF 711.07 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT (MARKED #2919), THENCE RUN NORTH 89 DEGREES 24 MINUTES 12 SECONDS EAST 264.88 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT (MARKED #2919), THENCE RUN NORTH 00 DEGREES 02 MINUTES 25 SECONDS WEST 699.64 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT (MARKED #2919), THENCE RUN NORTH 88 DEGREES 26 MINUTES 01 SECONDS WEST 308.37 FEET TO A ST. JOE PAPER COMPANY CONCRETE MONUMENT, THENCE RUN NORTH 89 DEGREES 31 MINUTES 26 SECONDS WEST 612.22 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT (MARKED #1254), THENCE RUN SOUTH 00 DEGREES 01 MINUTES 21 SECONDS WEST 377.29 FEET TO A RE-ROD (MARKED #4261), THENCE RUN EAST 655.92 FEET T A RE-ROD (MARKED #4261), THENCE RUN SOUTH 328.45 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING CONTAINING 10.00 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

TOGETHER WITH A 20.00-FOOT-WIDE INGRESS AND EGRESS EASEMENT BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCE AT A ST. JOE PAPER COMPANY CONCRETE MONUMENT MARKING THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 23, TOWNSHIP 2 SOUTH, RANGE 1 WEST, WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND RUN SOUTH 89 DEGREES 33 MINUTES 04 SECONDS WEST ALONG THE SOUTH BOUNDARY OF SAID SECTION 23 (AS MONUMENTED) A DISTANCE OF 592.49 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. FROM SAID POINT OF BEGINNING, RUN NORTH 00 DEGREES 01 MINUTES 21 SECONDS WEST 1044.62 FEET, THENCE RUN WEST 20.00 FEET TO A RE-ROD (MARKED #4261), THENCE RUN SOUTH 00 DEGREES 01 MINUTES 21 SECONDS WEST 1044.77 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT (MARKED #1254) LYING ON THE SOUTH BOUNDARY OF SAID SECTION 23, THENCE RUN NORTH 89 DEGREES 33 MINUTES 04 SECONDS EAST ALONG SAID SOUTH BOUNDARY A DISTANCE OF 20.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

has been filed against you and others, and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on JAMES C. THOMPSON, 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.

WITNESS my hand and seal of said court at Crawfordville, Florida 11th day of February, 2025.

{{County Court Seal}}

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

February 19, 26, March 5, 12, 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-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: Spokan 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/ Ethan Brown  
As Deputy Clerk

February 19, 26, March 5, 12, 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-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**

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DATED this 29th day of January, 2026.

{{County Court Seal}}

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

February 19, 26, March 5, 12, 2026



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# CROSSWORD

## CLUES ACROSS

- 1. What travelers must do
- 5. Calendar month
- 8. Hopefully quickly
- 12. Once more
- 14. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- 15. "Cheers" actress Perlman
- 16. Astronomy unit
- 18. Savings vehicle
- 19. Get your ducks in this
- 20. Right away
- 21. Popular sports league
- 22. Containers

- 23. Entireties
- 26. One who wassails
- 30. Turned-up position
- 31. Extreme modesty
- 32. Writing utensil
- 33. Rewards (archaic)
- 34. Ancient capital
- 39. S. American wood sorrel
- 42. General discomfort
- 44. Philippine island
- 46. A witty saying
- 47. One who summarizes
- 49. Covered in
- 50. Mimic

## CLUES DOWN

- 51. Henry was a notable one
- 56. Daughter of Hera and Zeus
- 57. Retired NFLer Newton
- 58. Playground equipment
- 59. Concept
- 60. Satisfaction
- 61. Fishing net
- 62. Hammer end
- 63. A father's male child
- 64. Japanese drink

## CLUES DOWN

- 1. Off-Broadway figure
- 2. Gelatinous substance
- 3. Concern
- 4. "Lick It Up" rockers
- 5. Serbian river
- 6. Part of a hat
- 7. Bowl-shaped drinking vessel
- 8. Semitic language
- 9. Utter a shrill cry
- 10. Long times
- 11. Animal parts
- 13. Causing annoyance
- 17. Amorous talker
- 24. Attempt
- 25. Harmonic effects

## CLUES DOWN

- 26. Cost per mile
- 27. They \_\_\_
- 28. Bitterly regret
- 29. Not even
- 35. A way to drop
- 36. Title of respect
- 37. World leader
- 38. Georgia rockers
- 40. National capital
- 41. Great Plains people
- 42. Duck-sized dinosaur genus
- 43. Architectural recesses

## CLUES DOWN

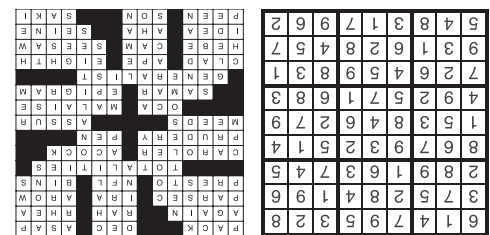
- 44. Member of U.S. Navy
- 45. Mountainous
- 47. Kite bird
- 48. Sweetheart (archaic)
- 49. Popular snack made of potato
- 52. 70s songsters The Bee \_\_\_
- 53. SE China port \_\_\_-men
- 54. Something to fill up
- 55. League of Legends character

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11	
12				13		14			15				
16					17		18		19				
20						21			22				
				23		24			25				
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33							34	35	36	37	38		
				39	40	41		42	43				
			44	45			46						
	47						48						
49					50			51		52	53	54	55
56					57			58					
59					60			61					
62					63				64				

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

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**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!



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G E D

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Wakulla Adult Education

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## Mardi Gras party

Friends of the Wakulla County Public Library held a Mardi Gras fundraiser on Saturday night at the community center. There was a blues band, jambalaya catered by Harry's, and a silent auction. This year's King was Jay Estes and Queen was Amber McIver, right, as they prepare to cut the King Cake after being introduced by Friends President Andy Riddle and Library Director Linda Oaks. (Photos 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.



More Public Notices  
appear on Page 3

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING AN AMENDMENT TO THE WAKULLA COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES

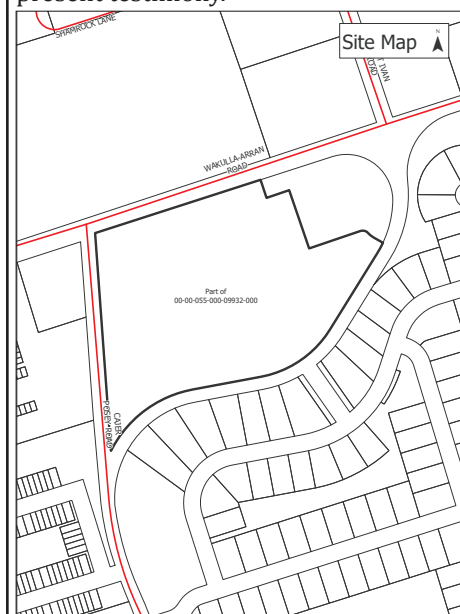
The Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners proposes to adopt the following ordinance. A Public Hearing is scheduled before the **Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners on Monday, March 16, 2026, beginning at 6:00 PM, or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard.** All public hearings will be held at the County Commission Chambers located west of the County Courthouse at 29 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida 32327. All affected parties may appear at the public hearings, be heard, and submit evidence and written comments on the application.

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA AMENDING SECTION 6.072 OF THE WAKULLA COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, ENTITLED "DEFINITIONS"; REPEALING AND REPLACING SECTION 6.081, OF THE WAKULLA COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, ENTITLED "DANGEROUS DOGS"; PROVIDING FOR APPLICABILITY, SEVERABILITY, AND CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Copies of applications, draft ordinances, and any related public record files may be viewed at the Wakulla County Administration Building located at 3093 Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville, FL 32327, 8 AM to 4:30 PM M/F; Phone (850) 926-0919. Any person desiring to appeal a decision of a County Board must ensure a verbatim transcript or copy is made of the testimony and exhibits presented at said hearings. Persons with a disability needing a special accommodation should contact the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners Administration Office at least two (2) days prior to the meeting at (850) 926-0919; Hearing & Voice Impaired at 1-800-955-8771; or email at [ADARquest@mywakulla.com](mailto:ADARquest@mywakulla.com).  
February 26, 2026

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING AN APPLICATION FOR PRELIMINARY PLAT

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



**1. Application for Preliminary Plat Approval: PP25-02**  
Applicant: Cajer Posey, LLC  
Agent: Urban Catalyst Consultants, Inc./William Colbert, P.E.  
Proposal: create 8-lot residential subdivision - Satulah Subdivision

Tax ID Number: part of 00-00-055-000-09932-000  
Existing FLU Map: Urban Fringe (FLUE Policy 1.2.7)  
Current Zoning: PUD (Section 5-50, LDC)  
FEMA Flood Info: "X" zone on Panel 0250E  
Parcel size: 2.85+/- acres  
Location: southeast intersection of Wakulla Arran Road and Old Cajer Posey Road

**Hearing Required: Planning Commission: Monday, March 9, 2026 @ 6:00 PM**

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

Copies of applications, draft ordinances, and any related public record files may be viewed at the County Planning Department located at 11 Bream Fountain Road, Crawfordville, FL 32327, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM M-F; Phone (850) 926-3695. Any person desiring to appeal a decision of a County Board must ensure a verbatim transcript or copy is made of the testimony and exhibits presented at said hearings. Persons with a disability needing a special accommodation should contact the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners Administration Office at least two (2) days prior to the meeting at (850) 926-0919; Hearing and Voice Impaired at 1-800-955-8771; or email at [ADARquest@mywakulla.com](mailto:ADARquest@mywakulla.com).  
Feb. 26, 2026

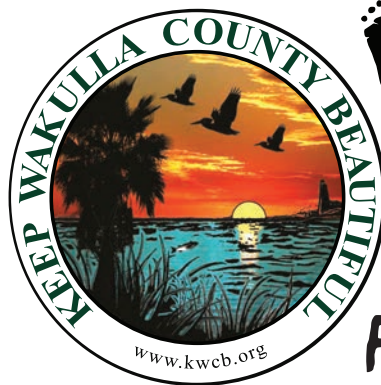
## NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPLY FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

The Panacea Area Water System is complying with requirements of 7CFR 1780.19(a) by publishing this Notice of Intent to Apply for federal financial assistance with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service.


This project will consist of making improvements to the Panacea Area Water System's existing water system, which will serve the service areas of the Panacea Area Water, Wakulla County, Florida.

If you have any questions, call Ingrid Matlock, Office Manager at (850) 984-5301.

February 26, 2026



Leave Nothing But Your Footprints



**The Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners is Seeking a Volunteer to Serve on the Recreation Advisory Committee**

Are you a resident of Wakulla County and have an interest in recreational programs? If so, the Board of County Commissioners is seeking a volunteer to fill the Recreation Advisory Committee's Citizen At Large appointment.

This Committee meets quarterly, and their primary responsibilities are to advise and make recommendations to the Recreation Director regarding recreational programs within the County, assist in determining the needs of the community, and investigate issues as directed relating to recreational activities.

Interested citizens must submit a written statement of interest by March 13, 2026. Statements of interest can be emailed to Chad Linville at [clinville@mywakulla.com](mailto:clinville@mywakulla.com).  
Feb. 26, 2026

## PUBLIC NOTICE OF AGENCY ACTION

Notice is hereby provided that the Department of Environmental Protection, on October 8, 2025, issued an Environmental Resource Permit (Permit Number 0463684-002-EI/65) and on November 21, 2025 issued a Letter of Consent to use a General Permit (Permit Number 0463684-001-EG/65) (collectively, "Permits") to Lamar Baggett, 6726 Carandolet Lane, Tallahassee, FL 32312. The Permits authorize the fill of 0.07 acres or 3,243 square feet of cypress/mixed forested wetlands for the construction of a 196 ft x 11ft driveway across wetlands to access a buildable upland area for a single-family residence within the landward extent of Wakulla River, a Class III Aquatic Preserve, construct a 1,940 square foot single family dock comprised of 1,420 square foot access boardwalk traversing wetlands on the property and a 160 square foot terminal platform, within Wakulla River, a Class III Aquatic Preserve ("Project"). The Project is located at Lot 26, River Plantation Road (Parcel ID No. 20-3S-01E-154-05398-A26), Crawfordville, Florida 32327, in Section 20, Township 3S, Range 1E in Wakulla County, at 30° 12' 05.59"/86° 15' 47.46".

A copy of the Permits are available for public inspection during normal business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except legal holidays, at the Department of Environmental Protection, Northwest District, 160 W. Government Street, Suite 308, Pensacola, FL 32502. A copy of the Permit can also be obtained by contacting Kimberly R. Allen, Program Administrator, by telephone at (850) 595-0553 or by email at [Kim.Allen@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:Kim.Allen@FloridaDEP.gov).

The Department's agency action (issuance of the Permits) is final and effective on the date stated above unless a timely petition for an administrative hearing is filed under Sections 120.569 and 120.57, Florida Statutes, before the deadline for filing a petition. The procedures for petitioning for a hearing are set forth below.

A person whose substantial interests are affected by the Department's action may petition for an administrative proceeding (hearing) under Sections 120.569 and 120.57, F.S. Pursuant to Rules 28-106.201 and 28-106.301, F.A.C., a petition for an administrative hearing must contain the following information: (a) The name and address of each agency affected and each agency's file or identification number, if known; (b) The name, address, any e-mail address, any facsimile number, and telephone number of the petitioner, if the petitioner is not represented by an attorney or a qualified representative; the name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner's representative, if any, which shall be the address for service purposes during the course of the proceeding; and an explanation of how the petitioner's substantial interests will be affected by the agency determination; (c) A statement of when and how the petitioner received notice of the agency decision; (d) A statement of all disputed issues of material fact. If there are none, the petition must so indicate; (e) A concise statement of the ultimate facts alleged, including the specific facts that the petitioner contends warrant reversal or modification of the agency's proposed action; (f) A statement of the specific rules or statutes that the petitioner contends require reversal or modification of the agency's proposed action, including an explanation of how the alleged facts relate to the specific rules or statutes; and (g) A statement of the relief sought by the petitioner, stating precisely the action that the petitioner wishes the agency to take with respect to the agency's proposed action.

The petition must be filed (received by the Clerk) in the Office of General Counsel of the Department at 3900 Commonwealth

Boulevard, Mail Station 35, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000, or via electronic correspondence at [Agency\\_Clerk@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Agency_Clerk@dep.state.fl.us). Also, a copy of the petition shall be mailed to the applicant at the address indicated above at the time of filing.

In accordance with Rule 62-110.106(3), F.A.C., petitions for an administrative hearing by the applicant and persons entitled to written notice under Section 120.60(3), F.S., must be filed within 21 days of receipt of this written notice. Petitions filed by any persons other than the applicant, and other than those entitled to written notice under Section 120.60(3), F.S., must be filed within 21 days of publication of the notice or within 21 days of receipt of the written notice, whichever occurs first. You cannot justifiably rely on the finality of this decision unless notice of this decision and the right of substantially affected persons to challenge this decision has been duly published or otherwise provided to all persons substantially affected by the decision. While you are not required to publish notice of this action, you may elect to do so pursuant Rule 62-110.106(10)(a).

The failure to file a petition within the appropriate time period shall constitute a waiver of that person's right to request an administrative determination (hearing) under Sections 120.569 and 120.57, F.S., or to intervene in this proceeding and participate as a party to it. Any subsequent intervention (in a proceeding initiated by another party) will be only at the discretion of the presiding officer upon the filing of a motion in compliance with Rule 28-106.205, F.A.C. If you do not publish notice of this action, this waiver will not apply to persons who have not received written notice of this action.

Under Rule 62-110.106(4), F.A.C., a person whose substantial interests are affected by the Department's action may also request an extension of time to file a petition for an administrative hearing. The Department may, for good cause shown, grant the request for an extension of time.

Requests for extension of time must be filed with the Office of General Counsel of the Department at 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 35, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000, or via electronic correspondence at [Agency\\_Clerk@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Agency_Clerk@dep.state.fl.us), before the deadline for filing a petition for an administrative hearing. A timely request for extension of time shall toll the running of the time period for filing a petition until the request is acted upon.

Mediation is not available in this proceeding.

The applicant, or any party within the meaning of Section 373.114(1)(a) or 373.4275, F.S., may also seek appellate review of this order before the Land and Water Adjudicatory Commission under Section 373.114(1) or 373.4275, F.S. Requests for review before the Land and Water Adjudicatory Commission must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission and served on the Department within 20 days from the date when this order is filed with the Clerk of the Department.

Once this decision becomes final, any party to this action has the right to seek judicial review pursuant to Section 120.68, F.S., by filing a Notice of Appeal pursuant to Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure 9.110 and 9.190 with the Clerk of the Department in the Office of General Counsel (Station #35, 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000) and by filing a copy of the Notice of Appeal accompanied by the applicable filing fees with the appropriate district court of appeal. The notice must be filed within 30 days from the date this action is filed with the Clerk of the Department.  
February 26, 2026

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Membership is open to anyone in Wakulla county.<sup>2</sup>

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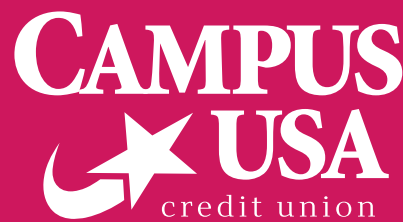
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1. Offer not available on existing CAMPUS loans. Offer is for new loans and subject to change without notice. Offer only available 02/25/2026 to 02/27/2026 and may not be combined with any other offer. Personal Loans, Simplicity Loans, Lines of Credit, Commercial Loans, CD/Shared Secured Loans, and Real Estate Loans are not eligible. Must mention offer at time of application. Offer is subject to credit approval. Your APR may vary based on your creditworthiness, loan amount, term of loan, and vehicle (2022 or newer). For example, a \$35,100 loan with no money down at 4.79% for 77 months would require 76 monthly payments of \$531.35 and a final payment of \$530.85, finance charge of \$5,913.45 for a total of payments of \$40,913.45. The amount financed is \$35,000, the APR is 4.88%. APR = Annual Percentage Rate. 2. Credit approval and initial \$5 deposit required. Other restrictions may apply. Insured by the NCUA.

**WRESTLING**

# Wakulla hosts District 2 championship

By **WALT JACOBS**  
Correspondent

On February 19th, Wakulla hosted the FHSAA 1A District 2 championship. It was a high energy event and a night of celebration. 7 seniors were honored, one of Wakulla's all-time greats was inducted into the Hall of Fame, and 4 wrestlers won District titles.

William Harvey won his 1st District title. Troy Thaxton and Blake Barodte won their 2nd career District titles. Brady Jackson added to his long list of accomplishments with his 4th District title. Jackson also set the all-time career takedowns record with 222. The previous record holder was Julian Harvey, who set the record in 2022 with 212 takedowns.

Brayden Hodges, Patrick Cooksey, Aaron Robinson, and Lonnie Pearce were all runners-up; Clayton Manzi and Gavin Mitchell placed 3rd.

The War Eagles were missing four wrestlers, which made it difficult to place first as a team. Florida High won the tournament with 220.5 points, followed by Suwannee with 185. Wakulla placed third with 181.5 points, followed by Marianna, Godby, and Liberty County.

All 10 Wakulla wrestlers will wrestle at the 1A Region 1 championship at Bay High on February 27th and 28th.

**SCOTT VARNER  
HALL OF FAME  
INDUCTION**

A year ago, the family and friends of Scott Varner mourned his unexpected passing.

**PHOTO OF THE WEEK**  
SPONSORED BY  
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**Kendal Haynie with a pin to win the Regional title.**

At the FHSAA 1A District 2 championship, wrestling fans from all over the Big Bend gathered to celebrate one of Wakulla's all-time greats.

Former Wakulla Head Coach John Wainwright had the honor of inducting Scott Varner into the Buddy Tomaini Wakulla Wrestling Hall of Fame. During his career at Wakulla, Varner won two State titles, he was a two-time Big Bend wrestler of the year, and a 2010 NHS-CA All-American.

**HAYNIE WINS  
REGIONS**

On February 21st, at Mosley High School, undefeated Kendal Haynie (20-0) punched her ticket to the FHSAA Girls State Championship.

At the Region 1 tournament Saturday, Haynie showed why she is ranked No. 1 in

the state and No. 7 nationally. In dominating fashion, she steamrolled through the competition, pinning each one in the first period, practically without breaking a sweat. Regarding Kendal's performance Coach Jon Sanchez said, "Every match she came out aggressive and took care of things rather quickly. Kendal is ready for State, and she's determined to win a state title."

Regarding Julia Baggett and Kameron Easter, Sanchez said, "The 125 and 130 weight class was loaded with great wrestlers. Julia and Kameron both held their own but unfortunately came up short." Sanchez continued, "Julia worked so hard all season and did all the right things. To see it not go the way we wanted is difficult. She knew she did everything she could and that's what mattered,

so there were no regrets."

Regarding Easter's performance, Sanchez said, "Kameron wrestled District champion Gabriela Gill from Beachside in her first match. Kameron had some favorable positions, but it just wasn't enough to win. In the consolation round, she wrestled tough against Lake Mary's Adrianah Downs. She let it fly right off the whistle and pinned her opponent in 0:39. In her third match against Andrea Sotomayor Rivera of Winter Springs, Kameron had her on her back looking for a pin but Sotomayor Rivera was able to get out of it and reverse Kameron. Both girls kept their composure and accepted defeat honorably. I can't say enough how great it was to be their coach this season in my first year."

**WRESTLERS of the WEEK**

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**KENDAL HAYNIE**  
Girls Wrestler of week

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**COACH'S CORNER**

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- Coach Nate Litowsky

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