



7 wrestlers make state/Page 18

The Wakulla Sun

WAKULLA WeatherSTEM
Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
Hi: 78° Lo: 62° 18% Sunrise 6:58 AM Sunset 6:39 PM	Hi: 79° Lo: 62° 12% Sunrise 6:57 AM Sunset 6:40 PM	Hi: 79° Lo: 61° 20% Sunrise 6:56 AM Sunset 6:40 PM



\$1
One Section

"It's a New Day"

Locally Owned & Operated

Our 5th Year 10th Issue
Thursday, March 5, 2026



Avery Vick, second from left, won the competition with her Zuppa Toscana. Looking on, from left are competitors Oliver Reed-Liotino, Thomas Rex Nelson and Kade Gerrell.

Four elementary students given professional staff cook for judges

By **LYNDA KINSEY**
Staff

Four students were all geared up with prep gloves, aprons, chef hats or team bandanas, and a couple with step stools, ready for the Future Chefs culinary Competition National Challenge by Sodexo at Wakulla High School on Thursday night.

One child was chosen from each elementary school in the district to participate in the challenge.

Each student was to choose their own recipe. Marina Mudry of Sodexo said "The theme this year was a recipe from a country or culture."

The students teamed up with a Sodexo staff member to help them through the process. They were told that "they were in charge tonight, they were the chef and we are only here to assist you."

There were thoughtful suggestions and learning moments from the staff members to aid the students. There was a lot of stirring, mixing, garnishing and smiling going on.

Oliver Reed-Liotino,



Avery Vick, 7, of Riversink Elementary, gives her soup a stir as Kayla Dougherty helps.

10 years old, came from Crawfordville Elementary was paired with Chris Robinson and Lead Cook Halie Andrews. Team Oliver prepared smoked salmon bites over rice, marinated cucumbers, cream cheese, parsley and lemon.

Second grader Avery Vick, age 7, came from Riversink Elementary and was teamed with Kayla Dougherty. They were team Zuppa Toscana. Hers was a soup made with spicy Italian sausage, bacon, garlic, potatoes, heavy cream and kale.

Thomas Rex Nelson, a 1st grader at Medart Elementary, and his

team consisting of Sherrill Dudley and daughter Sage Dudley, prepared Italian Penicillin "Star Soup." His was made with chicken broth, noodles, chicken, cheese and parsley.

Kindergartner Kade Gerrell came from Shadeville Elementary and was teamed with Janiece McCarthy, Catalaya McCarthy along with Kade's dad, Eli Gerrell. Kade wanted to prepare the Game Winning Touchdown Sliders. They were small patties for the sliders and Kade thought it would be a good idea to add some shredded cheese to the hamburger mixture before cooking

them. The patties were topped with cheese, tomato, lettuce and rested on a grilled slider bun.

He was a busy guy back in the kitchen, at one point leaning back and looking over at Oliver, saying: "Hey chef, how you doing over there?"

Each chef garnished and plated samples in front of each of the judges and then went back through the line of judges to be interviewed about their culinary decisions.

The judges had various judging criteria to compare the entries.

The winner ultimately was Avery Vick for her Zuppa Toscana, second place was Oliver Reed-Liotino with his Salmon Bites, and third place was Kade Gerrell with his Game Winning Touchdown Sliders.

The judges were Chef Jorge Sanchez, Dept. of Agriculture; Angie Nichols, school board member; Laura Lawhon, school board member; Kathleen Newton, district Finance & Food Service; Evelyn Rummel, 2025 Future Chef Winner; Eddie Hand, school board member; and Andy Riddle, State Farm/Rotary.

History program set on Apalachee Indians

Special to The Sun

The Wakulla County Historical Society invites you to attend our Second Tuesday History Talk on thatching and the history of the Apalachee Indians.

The slideshow presentation by Nelson Martin will be held on Tuesday, March 10, at 6 p.m. at the Wakulla County Public Library, 4330 Crawfordville Hwy. Martin will also talk some about the Calusa Indians who are the focus of the museum of Natural History.

"I entered the University of Texas school of Architecture in 1966 pursuing my passion for building," Martin said. "After 2 years I realized that architects don't build anything. They spend their lives at desks in cubicles. I switched to Anthropology and studied Mayans and Indians of the Southeast. I graduated in 1970 and visited the Southeast for the first time. My parents had recently moved from Maryland to Tallahassee to teach at FSU. I moved to Sopchoppy in 1972 to homestead on the river.

"After volunteering to help build a palm-thatched hut at River Sink, my brother and I decided to build a thatched roof house. In 1975 I started Sopchoppy Thatch Co. and built gazebos, huts and tiki-bars primarily along the coast. I did some volunteer thatching at Mission San Luis in the '90s. In 1998 the State decided to re-create this historic site, beginning with the church. While working on this building, the State got a call from someone in Louisiana claiming to be the chief of the Apalachee Indians which were thought to be extinct. The State was highly skeptical, but the Indians had their parish records going back to 1656 when they built the church. The Apalachee now visit Mission San Luis annually. This project led to extensive work at the New Museum of Natural History in Gainesville and other museums."

For more information, call 850-926-1110.

Special session needed for property tax, DeSantis says

By **JIM TURNER**
News Service of Florida

Gov. Ron DeSantis said the effort to offer voters property tax relief will require time beyond the regular session.

With the regular 60-day session set to end March 13, DeSantis claimed that despite the House approving property tax relief legislation (HJR 203), the Senate agrees with him that the creation of a November ballot item on homestead property taxes will be addressed after that date.

"I applaud the House for getting into this fight. I think they've got a lot of folks that brought forth a lot of good ideas," DeSantis said while at Anderson Circle, Plaza de la Constitución, in St. Augustine on Wednesday. "But what I've also said, and I said from the beginning, I didn't see this necessarily happening in this regular session. And I think the Senate agrees with that. We're going to be coming back. There's going to be opportunities to be doing it. I think you have to do it right."

The remarks were a marked departure from his characterization of the House property tax proposals as "milquetoast" when they were first unveiled in October.

DeSantis hasn't put forward his own proposal, but on February 19 the Republican-controlled House voted 80-30 along party lines on its bill to put a measure on the 2026 general election ballot that would eliminate all non-school taxes for properties with a homestead exemption.

Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Ed Hooper last week said the Senate was working on its own proposal, which wouldn't be as "generous" as the House effort. Hooper said the Senate is concerned about assisting small, fiscally constrained counties that would be hardest hit by reducing the revenue from homesteaded properties. But Hooper wouldn't put a timeline on releasing the proposal.

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Kade Gerrell from Shadeville Elementary and his dad Eli Gerrell in the Wakulla High kitchen making some sliders.



Thomas Rex Nelson, from Medart Elementary, gets a helpful boost from Sage Dudley as he adds seasoning.



Oliver Reed-Liotino from Crawfordville Elementary with Chris Robinson and Lead Cook Halie Andrews.

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Student of the Week
Kade Gerrell – Shadeville Elementary
 Principal: Tim Wheeler

Achievements/Reason for Nomination: We are so proud to recognize Kade Gerrell as Shadeville Elementary School's Student of the Week! Kade is a wonderful kindergarten student who brings joy, curiosity, and kindness into our school each day. His positive attitude and eagerness to learn make him a standout in the classroom, and we are thrilled to celebrate him for all the great things he's doing. Way to go, Kade! Keep shining bright, buddy — your Shadeville family is proud of you!

STUDENT OF THE WEEK FEATURES A DIFFERENT SCHOOL EACH WEEK.



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Wyatt Brown and Auvion Thomas signed football scholarships last week: Brown with Webber University and Thomas with St. Thomas University.

2 players sign college scholarships

By **LINDA ANN McDONALD**
Correspondent

Wakulla High School hosted two scholarship signing ceremonies on Wednesday, Feb. 25, at the high school.

Stand-outs Auvion Thomas and Wyatt Brown signed with college universities based on stellar athleticism and academics. Both athletes were supported by coaching staff, educational staff, family, and friends present at the event.

Thomas will be pursuing a business management degree while playing cornerback and defensive back positions for the St. Thomas Bobcats football team. St. Thomas University is in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). The Bobcats are members of the Sun Conference, fielding its team in the TSC since 2022. The Bobcats play their home games at AutoNation Field in Miami Gardens.

"It's a big pick up for St. Thomas," said Wakulla War Eagle Defensive Coordinator Grady Guess. "He's good. He's been with us on the high school track team as well.

He is a 3-year varsity start who is coachable, dedicated, committed and I'm happy to see him go."

"Auvion was picked right off the bat, he has fought through injuries and he's an exceptional athlete," said Head Coach Scott Klees.

"I want to thank my family and coaches for helping me get this far," said Thomas. "It's great to represent Wakulla County."

Thomas' brother, Anthony Blake, said, "I've always looked up to him; he is my hero."

Tracy Blake, Thomas' mother, said, "This is very exciting and I am very happy for my son."

Thomas' youngest brother, Airston Blake, said, "This is just what he does."

Jordan Barnes, a friend of Thomas, said, "He is a great person, and I wish him the best."

Brown, pursuing a sports management degree, was recruited by Webber International University.

Webber International University is a private, not-for-profit university located in Babson Park in Polk County. The university competes in the NAIA and primarily in the Sun Conference.

Playing the position of tight end, Brown was recognized by Coach Klees as "a phenomenal worker who is fast and who played really physical this year. He's a hyper player and was great at the high school level and I'm sure the folks at Webber University will like him."

Brown was supported by his parents, Herb and Mary Brown.

"I want to thank my coaches and tell my parents I love them and thank you for the support, if it were not for them, I couldn't of done this," said Brown.

Karlos Williams, former FSU football athlete, worked directly with Brown by training with him at the Wakulla Rec Park. "He is definitely dedicated to football, and I honestly believe if I had more time with him to train, he would be playing division 1 football," said Williams.

Brown said, "I want to thank Coach Klees for always being there for me and it will be great to represent Wakulla in college."

Brown's parents said, "We are excited for him. He did the work in school and in the field and we are very proud of him."

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.

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

WAKULLA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
WAKULLA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
INVITATION TO BID No.
ITB 2026-04
MASHES SANDS PIER REPLACEMENT
ADVERTISEMENT BEGIN DATE:
MARCH 5, 2026
RELEASE DATE: MARCH 5, 2026
BIDS DUE TO BOCC:
APRIL 7, 2026 @ 3:00 PM EST

Sealed bids to construct a timber pier over land and a concrete pier for the portion located over water will be received at the office of the Board of County Commissioners, 3093 Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville, FL 32327; until **3:00 P.M.**, Local Time, on April 7, 2026, at which time the bids will be opened and read aloud. Bids received after the deadline **will not be accepted.**

The principal feature of this procurement by the County is known as **MASHES SANDS PIER REPLACEMENT**. The specifications of this procurement are stated in **ITB 2026-04**.

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

All technical inquiries and clarification requests shall be submitted in writing to Berkleigh Nowak, Procurement and Contracts Coordinator, bnowak@mywakulla.com in accordance with the ITB. Verbal clarifications will not be provided.

A MANDATORY PRE-BID CONFERENCE AND MANDATORY SITE VISIT are scheduled for **MARCH 12, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. EST**. The meeting will be held at the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners Administration Office, 3093 Crawfordville Hwy., Crawfordville, FL 32327. The meeting is **MANDATORY** for all contractors who plan to submit bids. Attendees must sign in at the pre-bid conference in order to be authorized to bid on the project. All question(s) asked at the pre-bid meeting will not be formally addressed via addendum unless provided to the County in writing.

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

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

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March 5, 2026



Chamber Luncheon

Chamber members dined at the new Crawfordville restaurant, Paul & Asha's Kitchen, on Wednesday, Feb. 25. At right, chamber board member Niraj Patel with luncheon mistress of ceremonies Mary Wallace, restaurant owner Paul Gawde and chamber executive director Heather Bryan. (Photos by Lynda Kinsey)



New business cuts ribbon

The Wakulla Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon-cutting for the law firm, Anderson Givens Fredericks on Wednesday, Feb. 25. The law firm, located on the courthouse square, specializes in HOA and condo law and other real estate matters. (Photo by Lynda Kinsey)

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Opinions

THE FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Celebrate 183 years of Wakulla history on March 14th

By **RACHEL PIENTA**
Wakulla 4-H

Wakulla County is preparing to honor 183 years of rich history, community spirit, and hometown pride at this year’s Wakulla Wonderful celebration, scheduled for Saturday, March 14, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the UF/IFAS Wakulla Extension facility at 84 Cedar Avenue. The free, family friendly event – hosted annually by Wakulla 4 H – has grown from a modest youth service project into one of the county’s most beloved community gatherings.

What began on the courthouse lawn in 2019 has blossomed into a multi-venue celebration featur-

ing live music, historical exhibits, guided tours, food trucks, vendors, children’s activities, and a birthday themed nod to the county’s founding year. This growth, organizers say, reflects the strength of Wakulla’s partnerships and its enduring commitment to community.

A COMMUNITY EFFORT YEARS IN THE MAKING

Wakulla 4-H Agent Dr. Rachel Pienta announced this year’s schedule, which includes performances by Rockkulla and Hot Tamale, history talks led by Brent Thurmond, children’s activities through the Passport to Adventure program sponsored by

Clerk of Court Greg James, and tours hosted by the Wakulla County Historical Society.

The celebration is made possible by a broad coalition of community partners, including Wakulla Extension, the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners, the Clerk of Court, the Sheriff’s Office, The Wakulla Sun, the Wakulla County Chamber of Commerce, Rockkulla, the Friends of the Library, the Wakulla County Historical Society, the Wakulla County Health Department, and Lamar Advertising.

UF/IFAS Wakulla County Extension Director Dr. Clayton Bania says the event reflects the heart of Extension’s mission.

“The Wakulla Wonderful event celebrates the rich history of our vibrant community and how it shapes life in our county,” Bania said. “Extension’s mission is to engage and educate residents on a wide range of meaningful topics. Few things strengthen knowledge and community more than the lessons we draw from our shared past.”

The event’s schedule opens with a welcome and proclamation at 10 a.m., followed by music, activities, and rotating talks throughout the day.

At 12:30 p.m., Wakulla 4 H will host birthday cupcakes to mark the county’s 183rd year, and at 1 p.m., **Turn to Page 5**

LETTERS FROM READERS

Democrats have historically been racist party

Editor, The Sun:

These are such entertaining times. The Governor of Kalifornia, in typical pandering fashion, makes a statement that he is dumb and can’t read-just like black people. Furthermore, the prized hair-gel of a governor can’t seem to understand what the definition of “govern” is and he, more than likely, could not care less. Finally, Gov. Newsom is faced with a score-card of his impact on Kalifornia’s educational system and it is a doozy – a black student in Mississippi is 2.5X more likely to read proficiently by 4th grade than if he or she lived in Califor-

nia (NAEP 2024).

It seems one political brand just can’t seem to get out of their own way and I’m fine with that. The Democrats have pandered, lied, weaseled, enslaved and have been racist for as long as I can remember. Oh, for our friends on the Left, let’s remind them that racism is not the same as bigotry. Us critical-thinkers understand the distinction. However, for the Karens, the AWFLs and most Democrats, they probably cannot read Webster’s Dictionary, much less comprehend the distinction between the two terms.

But I digress.

Many individual Americans of col-

or, your humble servant included, appreciate the blessings of this wonderful country and we see political postures through a different lens. But, from time to time, it is worthy to refresh one’s memory of notable events regarding Americans of color:

- Gettysburg Address in 1863. Republican President Abraham Lincoln delivered the 272 word speech to usher in a renewed sense of equality

- Jim Crow laws. From 1877 to the 1960s, predominantly Democrat-governed states enforced laws to limit opportunities for folks of color

- Sen. Robert Byrd (D-WV), longest serving member of the US Senate and organizer and leader of the local Klu Klux Klan.

- In 1957, then President Dwight Eisenhower (R) federalized the Arkansas Nat’l Guard and deployed the 101st Airborne Division to Little Rock to enforce the integration of nine black students. Gov. Faubus was a Democrat and had resisted the federal court order to integrate.

- Civil Rights Act. Passed by Congress in 1964 after a long filibuster by

Democrats and the solid wall of Republican votes forced then-President Johnson (D) to not veto the bill which Democrats resisted the Civil Rights Act. Key Senators resisting the passage of the CRA included Al Gore Sr, the father of one of climate changes biggest fools- Al Gore Jr.

The aforementioned is merely a small sample of the continued legacy of the Democrats political ideology. The Dems wish to politically enslave through compromised values, corrupt voting practices, financial handcuffs such as welfare and denigration of everything not Democrat.

Folks of color don’t be fooled. Certainly the GOP is not perfect but it is a far sight better, for all of us, than the the Democrat party. Always, always, view a Democrat with a jaundiced look and suspicion.

There is no such thing as a good rabid skunk. Keep that in mind when listening to a Democrat.

Robert Franco
Surf Road

Something on your mind?

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

On the Horizon

Calendar of events for the week of March 5

Thursday, March 5

- The Rotary Club of Wakulla County meets at the TSC Wakulla Center at 8:30 a.m. on Thursdays.
- Coastal Optimist Club meets at noon at Myra Jean’s on the first and third Thursdays.
- Gentle Yoga and Stretching 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, March 6

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

Saturday, March 7

- Ducks Unlimited spring event will be held at 3Y Ranch, beginning at 5 p.m. Sponsorships/tables available; single tickets are \$125.
- Womanly Genius 3 – art, music and spoken word honoring International Women’s Day will be held at Palaver Tree Theater from 5 to 8:30 p.m. Tickets \$10 online at palavertreetheater.org or \$15 at the door.
- St. Marks Community Yard Sale will be held next to Bo Lynn’s from 9 a.m. to noon.

Sunday, March 8

- DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME RESUMES.
- Wakulla Giving Hands holds a food giveaway every Sunday from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the facility across from Medart Elementary on Highway 98.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Sunday at 6:30 p.m. at 54 Ochlockonee St.

Monday, March 9

- Planning commission meets in the commission boardroom at 6 p.m.
- City of Sopchoppy Commission meets at City Hall at 6:30 p.m.
- VFW Post 4538 and Auxiliary holds monthly meetings on the second Monday of the month with fellowship at 6 p.m., meetings at 7 p.m.
- Crawfordville Woman’s Club monthly meeting is the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at 64 Ochlockonee St., in Crawfordville. Call (850) 566-5727 for more information.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6 p.m. for women and 8 p.m. for men every Monday at 54 Ochlockonee St.
- Gentle Yoga and Stretching 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 10

- Wakulla County Historical Society will present a program by Nelson Martin at the library at 6 p.m. speaking on the Apalachee Indians.
- 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 11

- Wakulla County Garden Club meets at the Wakulla County Library from noon to 2 p.m. Guest speakers will be Amanda Beckett and Teresa Shaffer. Taylor County Master Gardeners, discussing their Garden Gala Days and developing a similar program for Wakulla.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon and 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday at 54 Ochlockonee St.

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William Snowden
Editor & Publisher
The Wakulla Sun

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“It’s A New Day!”

The Wakulla Sun

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Polled at Crawfordville Quick Stop:

– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

What are your thoughts about Daylight Saving Time?



KOWBOY DEAS
Down and Dirty Pool Service

“I like it! I want it to stay on Daylight Saving Time always.”



NORINE DUNN
FHP Dispatcher

“I wish it could stay on Daylight Saving time. It gives families more time in the evenings to be together outside.”



NATALIE MORGAN
Ring leader/Juggler

“It really doesn’t affect me, I have no strict schedule or consistent sleep pattern.”



KORY PAYNTER
Extreme Carpet Restoration

“I never really think about it. I would rather though that there were no Daylight Saving Time. I like seeing the stars.”



JOE HARVEY
Electrician /Leon County

“Leave it like it is right now, leave it alone.”

Wakulla Crossroads

By **VERNA BROCK**

Ever notice how it feels like we never catch up? With life, I mean. This past year has been full of fun and exciting times, but whew! I sometimes think I'm so busy looking ahead and planning for the next thing that I can't enjoy the moment I'm in!

I loved seeing my old friends at my 52nd class reunion in South Jersey. I REALLY loved seeing my only surviving Aunt and Uncle at my family reunion in Fernandina Beach. Nobody relishes the holidays, and all that entails, more than I. Those who know me best, know I am a total “people person.” I pretty much can't say no to being involved, whether it's my Church, Optimist Club, 4-H, my be-

loved Woodville VFD and Founders Day Festival, writing class, or painting class...well, you get the drift. There is always another project, another event, looming on the horizon.

I will never refuse a chance to be with friends and family. But I also am craving some down time. Just a skosh, a day or two, every now and then. I recently found myself advising a friend to take a breather, to prevent burnout. Admittedly, her plate was way more full than mine, with very different pressures. But I realized the advice was good, even while empathizing with her. The only problem is how to actually take it to heart myself.

So my goal is to make time, after March, to reorganize and prioritize my calendar (again). I have some

thoughts on how to create space for slowing down while continuing all the things I love to do. We'll see how that works out in reality!

Speaking of March! This weekend is the annual reenactment of the historic Battle of Natural Bridge. This will be the 49th year the State Park has hosted it, and the 161st anniversary of the actual conflagration. If you have never attended, I highly recommend going. A word of warning for parents of small children: it is very loud when the battle begins. Those are real cannons being fired.

The Woodville United Methodist Church is hosting its Second Sunday Sing this week, at 6 p.m., followed by a fellowship supper at 7 p.m. It is free and open to the public, and everyone is welcome. The music is always lively and the meal is delicious, so y'all come!

Wakulla Wonderful, celebrating the

founding of Wakulla County, will be held on Saturday, March 14th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Wakulla County Extension Office. This annual event is sponsored by 4-H and will feature vendors, food trucks and booths. Be sure to drop by and check it out!

The Woodville Founders Day Festival is quickly approaching. It is a major fundraiser for the VFD and a way to raise the profile of fabulous Woodville. Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 21st, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the J. Lewis Hall Recreation Park and Fields. The Mountain Dew Cloggers will perform at noon, and we have a wide variety of musicians and performers scheduled for the day. There will also be historical demonstrations and a large vendor fair with food trucks. Free and open to the public, it promises to be a fun-filled day for the entire family.

Library News

By **LINDA OAKS**
Library Director

Library News March 5th-11th.

Thursday, March 5th

- Tiny Tummy Time 9:30am
- Creative Writing I 10am
- Hammock 2-5 HOA 6pm

Friday, March 6th

- Quilting Guild 10am
- Dementia Care-Healthy Aging Series 11am

Saturday, March 7th

- Zeta Amicae 9am
- Girl Scouts 9:30am

Sunday, March 8th

- Closed

Monday, March 9th

- American Legion Post 114 PEC 5:30pm

Tuesday, March 10th

- Bible Chat 9:30am
- Book Bunch 10am
- Creative Writing II 10am

- Historical Society 4pm

Wednesday, March 11th

- Book Babies 10am
- Legal Services of North Florida 11am
- Wakulla County Master Gardeners Volunteers 11am
- Wakulla County Garden Club 11:30am
- Mahjong 1pm
- Knitting Group 4pm

183 years of Wakulla history

From Page 4

participants in the Walk Across Wakulla program will be recognized in a medal ceremony.

A TRADITION ROOTED IN YOUTH LEADERSHIP

Longtime supporters of the celebration emphasize that its origins – and much of its ongoing success – stem from the vision and

energy of Wakulla's young people.

4-H Advisory Council member Desiree Mosley highlighted the community spirit the event represents:

“Wakulla Wonderful isn't just an event—it's a celebration of the heart and spirit that make Wakulla County so special. This community shows up for one another in ways that are generous, resilient, and deeply rooted in history and heart,” she said.

For youth leaders like Caden Gruebel, president of the 4-H Future Leaders of Wakul-

la (FLOW), the celebration is both a service project and a point of pride.

“Wakulla Wonderful is an event created by Wakulla 4-H youth for the local community,” said Gruebel. “It brings people together while giving us a chance to celebrate our county's birthday and history. I hope to see everyone come out to enjoy the vendors, listen to the historical talks, see the featured 4-H projects, and enjoy some birthday cupcakes!”

The event schedule includes:

- Live music from Rockulla and Hot Tama-le
- History talks with Brent Thurmond
- Historical Society exhibits and tours at

both the Extension facility and the museum on High Drive

- Vendors and food trucks
- Passport to Adventure activities and prize drawings for children
- A Walk Across Wakulla medal ceremony
- Birthday cupcakes hosted by Wakulla 4-H

As the day concludes at 2 p.m., organizers say the celebration's legacy will continue—an annual reminder of the stories, resilience, and shared identity that make Wakulla County truly wonderful..”

Property taxes

From Front Page

Senate President Ben Albritton added last Thursday that, “I have said, by the way, in concert with the Governor, is that getting it right is more important than doing it quickly or having that particular timeline set in stone.”

Wakulla and other small counties that rely heavily on property taxes have expressed concern about the possible fiscal impact of property tax reform being eyed by the legislature to put before voters in November.

DeSantis vowed to hold harmless the fiscally constrained counties in the state, including Wakulla.

In January, DeSantis called a special legislative session for the week of April 20 to redraw congressional districts as Republicans seek to maintain control of the U.S. House in this year's elections.



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Outdoors

outdoor sports

HOME ON THE RANGE

Revolvers or semi-automatics?



By MARJ LAW

“I don’t know whether to buy a revolver or a semi-automatic for my first handgun,” confesses Abby to her friend Sally.

“Well, why don’t you ask the person you know who has been shooting longest and who understands the most about guns?” suggests Sally.

“That’s a great idea!” agrees Abby. “I’ll ask Big George to take me to the Wakulla County Sheriff’s Office range and show me a couple of his guns.” As an afterthought, she adds: “You can come too, Sally.”

“I’d love to!” Sally says brightly, covering up that Abby didn’t think of her first to help with gun selection.

“Yes, I’m sure George will take us to the range. He can teach me a whole lot, and you’ll probably learn something too.”

The next weekend comes, and Abby, Sally, and George are meeting at the WCSO range. They all have hearing protection and safety glasses: also known as ‘ears’ and ‘eyes’.

“What’s your question?” asks Big George

to Abby.

“I’d like to purchase a handgun, but this is my first gun and I don’t know whether to buy a revolver or a semi-automatic,” she replies. “Which is better?”

Sally stands by, listening, but not offering ideas.

“First of all, why do you want a gun?” asks George.

“I’d like one for defense, should anyone break into the house. I live alone. If someone were to break the door down, I want to be able to defend myself. Also, my friend Sally here, meets with some other gals. They go to the range on Wednesdays and practice shooting. After that, they usually go to lunch. It seems like fun. I’d like to join them.”

Sally nods and smiles. “You’ve come to the right place,” declares Big George. “First of all, you need to know the difference between a wheel gun or a semi-automatic.”

“I really do want a real gun,” says Abby firmly. “No,” grins BG. “You misunderstood. I meant a revolver when I said ‘wheel’ gun. Let’s talk about the two. Handguns are basically divided into two categories: revolvers or ‘wheel’ guns and semi-automatics.

A revolver is one that has a cylinder or wheel. This cylinder houses revolving chambers. Each chamber holds a round. When you pull the trigger, the cylinder turns. This lines up a new chamber to fire the next round. With a revolver, all you have to do is point and

shoot.

The semi-automatic requires more of a learning curve than just pointing and shooting,” he continues. “With a semi, you need to fill a magazine with your ammunition. This magazine fits into the grip of the gun. Then you pull back the slide to load the first round in the chamber. Then, as you pull the trigger, the semi fires a round and it ejects the spent casing. Then it loads a new round from that magazine.

Since you’re new to shooting, Abby, I’d suggest a revolver. As I said, you just point and shoot. This here gun is a Smith & Wesson Model 10. It’s a .38 caliber weapon. A .38 has plenty of take down power to neutralize a bad guy.”

He hands the gun to Abby. Sally bites her bottom lip, but doesn’t say anything.

Abby holds the .38. “This is much too heavy for me,” she says. “I couldn’t carry it in my purse, and I think it’s too big and fat to wear in a holster.”

“Well, try it anyway to get the feel of it,” offers George. “Line up the two dot rear sight with the front sight. The x-ring of the target will be sitting right above the center sight. Just squeeze the trigger, don’t yank it.”

Abby aims and fires. Her arms fly up in the air.

“Oh my!” she yells. “That has much too much

kick!”

George is grinning. “You’ll get used to it. Just get a firm grip next time.”

Abby shakes her head. “There isn’t going to be a next time. The .38 has too much recoil for me and it’s far too heavy.”

George is surprised, but then he rallies. “Well, Abby, I do have a different .38 for you. It is very lightweight, so you won’t have any trouble fitting it in your special purse. Looky here. It’s even pink! They call it an ‘Airweight.’

Abby picks it up. “It sure is light and small.” She turns to George. “May I shoot it?”

“By all means!” George steps back. “Remember to squeeze that trigger!” he reminds her.

Blam! Both Abby’s hands fly in the air.

“Wow! Even though the gun is smaller and lighter, it packs a bigger kick than the full-sized .38! Maybe I don’t want a gun, after all.”

“I don’t have a problem with it.” George is surprised. But George is a large man with large bones. He is able to absorb the recoil. Abby, on the other hand, is a mature woman with a small bone structure. As proarmory.com says: “If getting one shot off is a chore, the next one won’t be any easier.” And, like Abby noted, she wouldn’t want to shoot this one. If she could be coerced to use a .38 as a defensive

weapon, would she ever practice with it? And if she didn’t practice, would she be able to defend herself with it?

“Why don’t we try one of my guns?” Sally suggests. She opens a pistol case and brings out a Ruger Mark IV.

“That’s just a .22,” snorts George derisively. “And it’s heavy,” adds Abby.

“Sure it is,” agrees Sally. “But I’d like you to try it anyway. You line up the sights just like you did before. You’ll find, however, that it doesn’t have much, if any, recoil.” Abby pick up the gun dubiously. She grips tightly and aims.

Blam! Abby looks at the gun in amazement. “That was really easy!” she says happily. “May I shoot a few more?”

Sally nods. Abby shoots a few more times. The holes get closer and closer to the center of the target.

“Are you ready to try a different gun?” asks Sally. “It is stronger than the .22, but much easier to manage than the .38. She picks up the Smith & Wesson .380 EZ.

“Well, a .380 handgun is better than a .22.” George is a bit less disparaging.

Abby picks up the .380 and shoots again.

Blam!

“I did it!” she crows triumphantly.

“You did well!” agrees

Sally. “Now let’s try one more gun. It’s a Smith & Wesson 9mm Equalizer. I think you’ll be able to manage this one too!”

Abby grip is nice and tight.

Blam!

“I can shoot this one, too!” she smiles. “I didn’t know shooting would be this easy!”

Yes, revolvers can be simpler to operate. They are lower maintenance and have fewer chances of malfunction. However, due to the cylinders, they are fatter. This makes them more difficult to wear in a holster and to conceal.

Revolvers usually can carry 5-8 rounds. If you’re new to shooting, you may want to know you have many more opportunities to shoot.

Semi-automatics can hold many more rounds. That 9mm Equalizer comes with a 15-round magazine. That’s three times the capacity of the basic revolver.

Semi-automatics are slimmer, as they have no round cylinder. This gives them easier portability; both in a purse or in a holster. It also makes them easier to conceal.

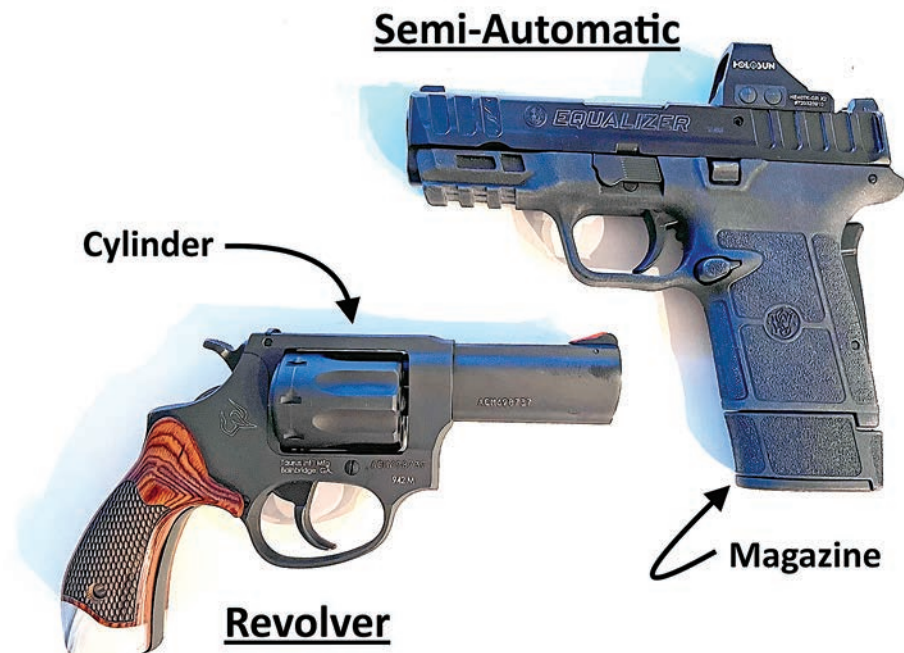
If Abby is out plinking with her friends, the semi is fun because it holds so many rounds, and is easier to shoot, and generally has less recoil than the revolvers.

If you can choose only one handgun in your life, look to see how many rounds it carries, how heavy and wide it is, how much recoil can you tolerate, and whether you would bother to practice with it. And whether you would like to practice with it.

Handgun choice depends on what you need, what you like, what you can comfortably manage and what you can afford.

Abby is going for the 9mm Equalizer. Which gun do you like?

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



CALICO CRAB
(*Hepatus epheliticus*)

Considered to be the most attractive crab in Florida, it lives in costal areas from Chesapeake Bay to the Dominican Republic at depths to 150ft. Its brightly colored 3” carapace, often with an anemone on it, provides camouflage. It stays buried beneath the sand, with it eyes showing. When worms, small clams, fish or other prey appear, the crab pops up and shreds it with sharp pincers. The crab spawns in summer and females carry eggs until hatching. Crabs have five larval stages. Calico crabs are a favorite food of Ridley sea turtles.

Eukarya, Animalia, Arthropoda, Malacostraca, Decapoda, Aethridae



WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO



A photo from a couple of years ago: Perry Dissmore shot this of a pelican and dolphin playing in the water at the lighthouse and sent it back in March 2024.

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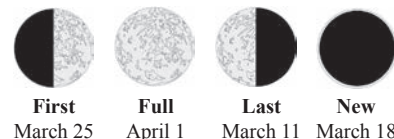
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Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac March 5 - March 11



Tide charts by
tides4fishing.com



Best fishing days this month
Best fishing day(s) is in the center of date ranges.
March 1-6, 11, 15-21

Thursday 5
Sun rise/set 6:58 AM 6:39 PM
Moon rise/set 8:02 PM 8:00 AM
Moon Illumination 95%
Friday 6
Sun rise/set 6:57 AM 6:39 PM
Moon rise/set 9:00 PM 8:28 AM
Moon Illumination 89%
Saturday 7
Sun rise/set 6:56 AM 6:40 PM
Moon rise/set 9:58 PM 8:58 AM
Moon Illumination 82%
Sunday 8
Sun rise/set 6:55 AM 6:41 PM
Moon rise/set 10:55 PM 9:32 AM
Moon Illumination 75%
Monday 9
Sun rise/set 6:54 AM 6:41 PM
Moon rise/set 11:53 PM 10:09 AM
Moon Illumination 66%
Tuesday 10
Sun rise/set 6:53 AM 6:42 PM
Moon rise/set 12:51 AM 10:52 AM
Moon Illumination 57%
Wednesday 11
Sun rise/set 6:51 AM 6:43 PM
Moon rise/set 1:46 AM 11:40 AM
Moon Illumination 48%

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	3:00 am ▲ 3.2 ft	8:59 am ▼ 0.2 ft	3:05 pm ▲ 3.4 ft	9:31 pm ▼ -0.3 ft
Fr	3:37 am ▲ 3.0 ft	9:18 am ▼ 0.5 ft	3:23 pm ▲ 3.4 ft	10:06 pm ▼ -0.3 ft
Sa	4:14 am ▲ 2.8 ft	9:37 am ▼ 0.7 ft	3:41 pm ▲ 3.4 ft	11:43 pm ▼ -0.2 ft
Su	5:54 am ▲ 2.5 ft	10:57 am ▼ 1.0 ft	4:58 pm ▲ 3.3 ft	
Mo	12:25 am ▼ 0.0 ft	6:42 am ▲ 2.2 ft	11:19 am ▼ 1.3 ft	5:19 pm ▲ 3.1 ft
Tu	1:21 am ▼ 0.2 ft	7:54 am ▲ 1.9 ft	11:41 am ▼ 1.5 ft	5:44 pm ▲ 2.9 ft
We	2:47 am ▼ 0.4 ft	6:18 pm ▲ 2.7 ft		

City of St. Marks

Th	3:36 am ▲ 3.0 ft	10:03 am ▼ 0.2 ft	3:41 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	10:35 pm ▼ -0.3 ft
Fr	4:13 am ▲ 2.8 ft	10:22 am ▼ 0.4 ft	3:59 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	11:10 pm ▼ -0.3 ft
Sa	4:50 am ▲ 2.6 ft	10:41 am ▼ 0.7 ft	4:17 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	
Su	12:47 am ▼ -0.2 ft	6:30 am ▲ 2.3 ft	12:01 pm ▼ 0.9 ft	5:34 pm ▲ 3.0 ft
Mo	1:29 am ▼ 0.0 ft	7:18 am ▲ 2.0 ft	12:23 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	5:55 pm ▲ 2.9 ft
Tu	2:25 am ▼ 0.2 ft	8:30 am ▲ 1.8 ft	12:45 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	6:20 pm ▲ 2.7 ft
We	3:51 am ▼ 0.4 ft	6:54 pm ▲ 2.5 ft		

Shell Point, Spring Creek

Th	3:25 am ▲ 3.3 ft	9:31 am ▼ 0.2 ft	3:28 pm ▲ 3.4 ft	9:54 pm ▼ -0.2 ft
Fr	4:02 am ▲ 3.1 ft	9:51 am ▼ 0.5 ft	3:47 pm ▲ 3.4 ft	10:28 pm ▼ -0.3 ft
Sa	4:39 am ▲ 2.9 ft	10:10 am ▼ 0.7 ft	4:06 pm ▲ 3.4 ft	
Su	12:04 am ▼ -0.3 ft	6:19 am ▲ 2.7 ft	11:32 am ▼ 1.0 ft	5:27 pm ▲ 3.4 ft
Mo	12:44 am ▼ -0.1 ft	7:05 am ▲ 2.4 ft	11:56 am ▼ 1.2 ft	5:52 pm ▲ 3.3 ft
Tu	1:35 am ▼ 0.1 ft	8:06 am ▲ 2.1 ft	12:26 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	6:22 pm ▲ 3.1 ft
We	2:48 am ▼ 0.3 ft	9:44 am ▲ 2.0 ft	1:07 pm ▼ 1.7 ft	7:03 pm ▲ 2.9 ft

Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay

Th	2:52 am ▲ 2.4 ft	9:10 am ▼ 0.1 ft	2:57 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	9:42 pm ▼ -0.2 ft
Fr	3:29 am ▲ 2.3 ft	9:29 am ▼ 0.3 ft	3:15 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	10:17 pm ▼ -0.2 ft
Sa	4:06 am ▲ 2.1 ft	9:48 am ▼ 0.5 ft	3:33 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	11:54 pm ▼ -0.1 ft
Su	5:46 am ▲ 1.9 ft	11:08 am ▼ 0.7 ft	4:50 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	
Mo	12:36 am ▼ 0.0 ft	6:34 am ▲ 1.6 ft	11:30 am ▼ 0.9 ft	5:11 pm ▲ 2.3 ft
Tu	1:32 am ▼ 0.2 ft	7:46 am ▲ 1.4 ft	11:52 am ▼ 1.1 ft	5:36 pm ▲ 2.2 ft
We	2:58 am ▼ 0.3 ft	6:10 pm ▲ 2.0 ft		

St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.

Th	3:12 am ▲ 2.4 ft	9:13 am ▼ 0.3 ft	3:05 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	9:37 pm ▼ -0.2 ft
Fr	3:55 am ▲ 2.3 ft	9:36 am ▼ 0.5 ft	3:26 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	10:13 pm ▼ -0.3 ft
Sa	4:38 am ▲ 2.1 ft	9:57 am ▼ 0.8 ft	3:50 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	11:50 pm ▼ -0.3 ft
Su	6:23 am ▲ 1.9 ft	11:17 am ▼ 1.0 ft	5:16 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	
Mo	12:33 am ▼ -0.2 ft	7:14 am ▲ 1.7 ft	11:33 am ▼ 1.2 ft	5:45 pm ▲ 2.4 ft
Tu	1:25 am ▼ -0.1 ft	8:25 am ▲ 1.5 ft	11:40 am ▼ 1.3 ft	6:19 pm ▲ 2.3 ft
We	2:40 am ▼ 0.1 ft	7:06 pm ▲ 2.2 ft		

Dog Island West End

Th	3:24 am ▲ 2.1 ft	9:27 am ▼ 0.3 ft	3:25 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	9:50 pm ▼ -0.1 ft
Fr	4:08 am ▲ 2.0 ft	9:51 am ▼ 0.5 ft	3:45 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	10:27 pm ▼ -0.2 ft
Sa	4:50 am ▲ 1.8 ft	10:14 am ▼ 0.8 ft	4:08 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	
Su	12:06 am ▼ -0.2 ft	6:32 am ▲ 1.7 ft	11:32 am ▼ 1.0 ft	5:31 pm ▲ 2.1 ft
Mo	12:47 am ▼ -0.2 ft	7:19 am ▲ 1.4 ft	11:41 am ▼ 1.2 ft	5:56 pm ▲ 2.1 ft
Tu	1:34 am ▼ -0.1 ft	6:23 pm ▲ 2.1 ft		
We	2:40 am ▼ 0.1 ft	6:53 pm ▲ 2.0 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.

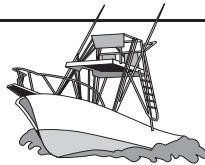


Mary Grant, at left, receives the Coast Guard Auxiliary Sustained Service Award for 750 hours of service on Feb. 14. At right, Flotilla Staff Officers being sworn-in in January.



Coast Guard Auxiliary Reports

By Emory Smith



Change of watch and attention to awards!

On Jan. 10, Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 08-01-02 held a change of command ceremony at the Lake Jackson Library Branch on Fred George Road in Tallahassee.

Auxiliarist Phil Hill was sworn in as Flotilla Commander replacing the outgoing Commander, Norma Hill.

Auxiliarist Raye Crews was sworn in as the Vice Flotilla Commander replacing Mike Casey.

We thank both Norma and Mike for their outstanding service and thank Phil and Raye for their commitment. The Flotilla also swore in its on-coming Flotilla Staff Officers (FSOs) for the year.

Boating Emergencies

Coast Guard Station	
Panama City	(850) 234-4228
Coast Guard Station	
Yankeetown	(352) 447-6900
Coast Guard Auxiliary	
Apalachee Bay (Flotilla 12)	(850) 942-7500
or	(850) 284-1166

On Feb. 14, the flotilla also held their monthly meeting at B.L. Perry Library on Orange Avenue in Tallahassee where Auxiliarist Mary Grant was awarded the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Sustained Service award for devoting over 750 hours to the missions of the United States Coast Guard and United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. This award represents Auxiliarist Grant's dedication and commitment to our missions.

As we head into the warmer months and the beginning of the boating season, please keep a watch on this column for tips, ideas and events that your local United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla will be providing and participating in.

As Sherrie says, "Safe boating is no accident."

If you would like to learn more about vessel safety checks, please contact Steve Hults, Staff Officer for

Vessel Examinations at steve.hults@uscgaux.net.

Please contact us for more information about our safe boating classes or learning more about getting involved in the Auxiliary, check out our website at www.uscgaux.net follow us on Facebook @ Apalachee Bay Flotilla 12 or contact our Flotilla Commander Phil Hill at pnkhill2000@yahoo.com

The Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed civilian volunteer component of the U.S. Coast Guard and supports the Coast Guard in nearly all mission areas. The Auxiliary was created by Congress in 1939. For more information, please visit www.cgaux.org.



Underwater Wakulla

By Gregg Stanton

Emerald Sink. May 24, 2012

My most recent cave class visited several dive sites in search of clear water. Emerald Sink came to mind, but is currently unavailable to visitors seeking training. In its day however, Emerald was very popular.

I first visited Emerald Sink as a checkout dive site for our FSU scuba classes in the early 1980s. Local divers had constructed a ladder down the steep slopes of the sink, replacing the rope used by swimmers who jumped from trees.

The annual floods usually demolished the ladder, necessitating periodic new investments. In the 1990s a very nice stairway was constructed that lasted several years.

We would bring a dozen students at a time, dive them to 60 feet in the open water for two dives before moving on to ocean dives the next weekend. Emerald Sink was convenient, shallow and usually clear.

Midday, the light would shine down the shaft in deep blue emerald rays. The University of Florida would bring their entire class of several hundred students for checkout dives, overwhelming the site but only for one weekend a semester.

This site became a favorite cave dive of mine because it connected under the road, to other sinkholes close by. I could swim upstream at a shallow 70 feet to Twin and Cheryl, climb out and walk back to my car. Or I could swim 1,000 feet to the Dark Abyss, turn around and get back in under an hour. These became our after-work swims for exercise.

Then one day I was told kids had stolen a car and dumped it in Emerald Sink! Fuel leaked out and contaminated our beautiful dive site. I called friends I knew in state government to get the car out as soon as possible, but found little interest.

I finally threatened to go to the press regarding the threat to our county's drinking water. The car was quickly removed, but so was our access. The property was soon acquired by the Wakulla Springs State Park and diving was forbidden.

Jonny Richards managed to get the attention of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to open Emerald Sink to diving if that community could raise the funds to build proper steps and facilities. Approximately \$10,000 was raised, more than enough, and volunteers recruited to do the work.

My group alone contributed \$1,000 and seven helpers, only to find out later that overbearing standards eliminated all of our contributors but two. The two of us have boycotted ever since out of protest.

Today, with an average of only 40 people diving the site a year, the parking lot is overgrown from lack of attention.

Heated debate continues about opening our local dive sites to the public while still maintaining the security of our watershed.

And the emerald blue waters still flow relentlessly on its way to the sea, passing briefly by this beautiful sinkhole.

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

Grey triggerfish opened March 1

From FWC News

Recreational harvest of gray triggerfish opened in Gulf state and federal waters on March 1.

Open Season: March 1-May 31 and Aug. 1-Dec. 31

Minimum Size Limit: 15 inches fork length

Bag Limit: one per person

To learn more about cur-

rent recreational triggerfish regulations, visit MyFWC.com/Marine, click "Recreational Regulations," "Reef Fish" and "Triggerfish" or download the Fish Rules App.

FOLLOW THE SUN.

Tired of your lack of faith?

By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

We all face seasons of doubt due to financial and health challenges, depression, uncertainty, problems with loved ones or recurring sin that tests our resolve, no matter how hard we try.

During trials, responding in a Christlike way can seem nearly impossible. We ask God for strength, but frequently walk away frustrated, wondering why we're not maturing in our Christian walk as quickly as we hoped.

What's the missing link between how we respond to trials and the faith needed to live a truly transformed life?

Could it be that we lack a real appreciation for God's Word?

I want to share something simple that can totally transform any moment. I've started car-

rying a Scripture Memory Card (SMC) in my pocket or purse – a verse or two, written on an index card that I can keep with me everywhere I go.

I find myself pulling out my SMCs all the time. I'll sneak in a quick read while standing in a long line at the grocery store, waiting for the light to turn green at an intersection or while sitting in a doctor's waiting room.

The impact this practice has had on me is undeniable.

When I don't use my SMCs, I'm more stressed, impatient and reactive. When I do, I experience

God's peace more quickly, make better decisions and respond to others with gentleness.

God's greatest desire for us is that we draw near to Him. To know Him. To trust Him. He wants us to experience spiritual and emotional transformation through our relationship with Him.

Let's turn to God's Word throughout our day, especially when we're feeling worried or when we've been waiting "forever" for that miracle.

When faced with a tough decision, let's remember what God has al-

ready told us. And when temptation tries its old trick and says, "Just this one time," let's hide God's Word in our heart and let it help us fight sin (Psalm 119:11).

Jeremiah 29:12-13 (ESV) says, "Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart."

If you're tired of your lack of faith but don't know how to grow stronger ...

Start with something simple: pick up your Scripture Memory Card

and read the words God is speaking to you.

Perhaps the change you seek won't come from trying harder or believing more, but from drawing closer to God. Maybe carrying a single verse with you will become the quiet place where God reveals His faithfulness, His wisdom, His power, and His love to you.

Sheryl H. Boldt is a sales executive for Wave 94 and author of the blog, www.TodayCanBeDifferent.net. Connect with her at SherylHBoldt@Wave94@gmail.com.

Spring cleaning

By **CHERYL CRUCE**

I must admit spring fever has hit pretty hard this year. Whether at the office or home and deep into the task of spring cleaning, I find myself longing to be outside in the bright sunshine. The sunny days and March breezes just beyond my window are enough to tease the most focused souls.

As a child, I was always the student star-

ing out the window, wishing for the beach and a fishing pole. Or maybe those March winds that would carry our homemade kites soaring high above the Gulf waters. My oldest brother always made the best kites.

Even now, as an adult, I still stare out the window, knowing that a kite is resting on my truck's back seat. It is not only a workday that needs to be accomplished. At home, I have started the spring cleaning that used to be assigned to our Mother. She taught us to empty closets, sort clothing, restack storage boxes, and dust everything. Cushions and pillows were to sunbathe as the chores were completed.

Despite everything that needs to be accomplished, my mind often wanders from spring cleaning to thoughts of running away and being a kid again. At the moment, I have a guest room filled with the debris of three empty closets. The closets have been reorganized, and the leftovers are packaged and ready to be donated to a thrift store. As I sorted through my belongings, deciding what to keep and what to give away, I began to wonder about the clutter in my soul. What should I hold on to, and what should I let go of?

In 1 Peter 5:7, I am reassured that I can let go my worry and anxiety to God because He cares for me. I know

that when I entrust my life to Him, He will guide me in all that I do (Psalm 37:5).

I take comfort in the promise of Jesus to leave His peace with those who trust in Him (John 14:27), but at times, fear and worry still creep in. I find myself concerned about the well-being of my loved ones, illnesses, making the wrong decisions, and the hurtful words of others. Some challenges are difficult to overcome, but I find solace in knowing that God is with me every step of the way.

I will hold onto the knowledge that arguments and wrongful opinions can be defeated when I rely on the Word of God (2 Cor-

inthians 10:5). Those harsh words or opinions that say I am not good enough have no place in my spiritual being. I will remember that when I rely on the teachings of the Bible, I can overcome any arguments or opinions that are wrongfully stated. Negative words that bring me down have no power over me because I know that I am strong enough to conquer all obstacles with the help of God. No one can make me doubt my faith or the love that God has for me. I am not living my life to please others but to do good and serve my Lord (Ephesians 6:6).

Maybe we can all put spring fever off a little longer and make time for some much-needed

spiritual (spring) cleaning. We all have closets full of things slowing down our relationship with God and others. Our world will be a much better place when we do.

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit to sustain me. Psalm 51:10&12

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

This is a repeat of a column from March 2024.

OUT TO PASTOR

Hocus-pocus, my sanity has disappeared

By **JAMES SNYDER**

For more than 70 years, I believed sanity was a very important part of a person's identity. Being sane enables one to be successful in life. Who doesn't want to be successful?

I've made it my business to focus on my sanity and make sure it's working just fine. Of course, I'm not sure how to build my sanity.

It wasn't until I hit my 70s that I realized my sanity had disappeared. I have no idea where it went, and believe me, I have searched for it for a long time. I even watched a Three Stooges movie and still did not find it. Where else would it be?

All of this came together this past week.

I was working on a project that needed to be finished by the end of the month. Sometimes those projects stress me out. But finishing a project is a wonderful experience. I enjoy it very much.

Then my phone rang, interrupting my moment at the time. When I answered it, I was rather surprised. According to the person on the other end of the phone, I had made a marvelous victory. According to the person on the phone, I had won over \$5 million plus a brand-new Mercedes. I can't tell you how happy

I was.

I couldn't thank the person on the phone enough for this marvelous win. I didn't know if I had regained my sanity or if I had dropped to a lower level of sanity.

Do you know what I could do with that kind of money? Neither do I.

When he told me about my winnings, I laughed hysterically and couldn't thank him enough over the phone.

"When can I expect my winnings?" I asked the guy on the phone.

"We can send it to you today," he said very happily. "Just give us your address and it'll be on its way."

Then I had an unusual sane moment. Thinking about it, I asked, "How much is this going to cost me?"

"Oh, my lucky friend. All you have to do is pay a \$1,500 processing fee and the package will be yours."

Sanity started knocking on my door, and I began thinking, "It'll only cost me \$1,500 to get \$5 million. That shouldn't be too much to ask for."

Sanity began whispering in my ear, suggesting a question. So, I responded to the person on the phone and said, "That sounds great. Just deduct that \$1,500 from my \$5 million winnings, and we got a plan."

If you think about it, that makes a lot of sense. He gets his fee, and I get my winnings. What's wrong with that?

From the other end of the phone, I heard, "That's not possible. I've already wrapped your cash money in a box and I am not able to unwrap it and take money out.

You will have to send me the \$1,500 through some gift card that you can get at the store."

Yeah, right, a gift card. I continued my phone conversation and asked an important question: "Sir, how do I know I can trust you to send me the money?"

He chuckled on the phone and then said most bravely, "You can trust me with anything. I'm not here to scam anybody I'm just here to get you your winnings to you as fast as possible. Believe me, you can trust me. Everybody trusts me."

He then sent me photographs of other people

who had won millions of dollars. As if I'm going to believe that.

Responding to those pictures, I said, "How can you prove to me that those are real people with winnings and not some AI production?"

"Oh my friend," he said most enthusiastically, "you can trust me I would never lie to someone like you."

If this wasn't a scam, I've never heard of one. I responded by saying, "When you send me my winnings, I will pay you the processing fee plus a \$500 tip. How does that sound?"

The only sound I heard was "click," and

he was no more. I love it when my sanity shows up with a smile every once in a while.

As I was thinking about this, a verse of scripture came to mind. "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (2 Timothy 1:7).

True sanity comes from God. He gives me everything I need to be

all He wants me to be. He is the only one I can truly trust, and that's my daily discipline..

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

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.

Bonnie
THE LIFE COACH

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Sopchoppy United Methodist Church
Pastor Cheryl Mixon-Cruce 850-962-2511

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Worship 11 a.m.
Bible Study Wed. 6 p.m.

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Office Hours: Mon./Wed./Fri. 9:00am – 3:30pm
Pastor: Rev. Michael Hartley: office@seas.ptdiocese.org
Deacon David Harris • E-Mail: 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
Confessions: Every Saturday 9:30am – 10:30am
Saturdays 4:30 pm - 5:00 pm
Or by appointment

Cemetery lots and **850-509-7630**
Cremaim spaces available. 850-745-8359
or the Church Office at:

Obituaries

DEATH NOTICES

- Gary Ashburn, 73, of Crawfordville, died February 22, 2026.
- David Deater, 59, of Crawfordville, died February 22, 2026.
- Noah Gentry, 26, of Crawfordville, died February 23, 2026.
- Carolyn Gilley, 70, of Woodville, died March 1, 2026.
- Tommy Henderson, 49, of Crawfordville, died February 22, 2026.
- Anne Johnson, 79, of Crawfordville, died February 24, 2026.
- Doris Berta May, 94, of Crawfordville, died February 21, 2026.

- Kim Moseley, 66, of Crawfordville, died February 21, 2026
- Robert Murray, 63, of Carrabelle, died February 25, 2026.
- David Randall, 64, of Crawfordville, died February 20, 2026.
- Jimmie Paige Reinbold, 67, of Tallahassee, died February 22, 2026
- Charles Wesley Revelss, 75, of Sopchoppy, died February 24, 2026.
- Daniel Selfe, 45, of Crawfordville, died February 27, 2026.
- Larry Stephens, 85, of Crawfordville, died February 22, 2026

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

Sheriff's Report

This report is for activity Feb. 20 to Feb. 27. There were 1,259 total calls for service during the week.

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, the bank informed her the check was fake and to report this incident to law enforcement.
- A citizen reported the theft of his newly installed well pump and damage to the PVC pipes. A possible suspect has been identified. Crime Scene responded and processed the scene. Case forwarded to Criminal Investigations Division.

SATURDAY, FEB. 21

- Deputy Arturo Cordoba conducted a traffic stop on a white Ford Van for an expired tag. Contact was made with the driver who was found to only have a Florida ID card. The driver was issued a Criminal traffic charge for Driving While License Suspended or Revoked (DWLSR) with knowledge and released from the scene.
- A citizen reported his dog being attacked by another dog. Animal Control arrived on scene and took over the investigation.

SUNDAY, FEB. 22

- Deputy Shay Sullivan conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle going 94 mph in a posted 55 mph zone on Martin Luther King Jr Memorial Road. The driver failed to stop for approximately 1.7 miles and continued to drive. Due to cues of intoxication, a DUI investigation was conducted. He was subsequently placed

under arrest and transported to the Wakulla County Jail. Once at the jail he refused to provide a breath sample and was turned over to the correctional staff.

MONDAY, FEB. 23

- Deputy Jonathan Kilbourn responded to Zion Hill Road in reference to a Criminal Mischief. The subject was later located on foot, he was given a Miranda warning and subsequently admitted to breaking the windows in a nearby church. The owner at the time was uncertain if he wanted to press charges. Due to the erratic behavior demonstrated by the subject he was placed under a Baker Act, which allows for involuntary commitment for up to 72 hours for observation for possible mental health issues. After he was Baker Acted the property owner called in stating he would like to pursue charges. A warrant will be forthcoming.
- Deputy Dylan Buckhalt conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle in the 2100 block of Crawfordville Highway for a faulty tag light. Contact was made with the driver who

provided a Mexican Passport upon request for his driver's license. A query was conducted and it was determined the driver was never issued a license in all states. Subsequently, he was placed under arrest and transported to the Wakulla County Jail.

TUESDAY, FEB. 24

- A citizen came to the Sheriff's Office to make a fraud complaint. Contact was made with the reporting person, who advised she discovered a letter from Bank of America yesterday indicating she had an unpaid balance of \$350. The fee appeared to be associated with a check for a credit line for someone other than herself. She stated she does not know anyone by the name. At this time her account has been flagged and she is in the process of having her credit line corrected. She requested the incident be documented for information purposes.
- Deputy Dylan Buckhalt conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle in the area of Trice Lane and Wakulla-Arran for a stop sign violation. Con-

tact was made with the driver, who admitted to not having a valid driver's license. A driver's license query was conducted and indicated his license was suspended in 2001 and he has seven prior DWLSR convictions. Subsequently, he was placed under arrest and transported to the Wakulla County Jail.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 25

- A citizen awoke this morning and discovered her mailbox had been damaged. She estimated the damages around \$100. Case forwarded to CID.
- A citizen reported his shed had been burglarized. A smart television was stolen valued at approximately \$530. Case forwarded to CID.
- A citizen reported being scammed out of \$175 for a booth to sell her baked goods. This incident occurred in Taylor County. Case forwarded to Taylor County.

THURSDAY, FEB. 26

- Deputy Jeremiah Post conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle due to the registered owner not

having a valid Driver's License. Contact was made with the owner who was the driver of the vehicle. A consent search of the vehicle was conducted and yielded 5.2 grams of suspected marijuana. The suspected marijuana was seized and impounded at the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office for destruction.

FRIDAY, FEB. 27

- Deputy Aimee Hoagland responded to Powhatan Road in reference to a delayed vehicle burglary. Miscellaneous items were taken from the vehicle. Due to lack of investigative leads, this case will be closed until further information becomes available.
- Deputy Jeremiah Post took a report from a citizen who stated someone used his credit card and made a hotel reservation under his name. At this time the reporting person advised he was not out any money.

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

Weekly Roundup: A weekend off

By **JIM TURNER**
News Service of Florida

Most lawmakers got a somewhat unexpected weekend off as the House and Senate didn't begin the budget conference phase at the conclusion of the regular session's seventh of nine scheduled weeks.

With talks growing that extra time will be needed on a property tax cut amendment to put before voters, a top priority of Gov. Ron DeSantis, the chambers did release tax cut packages this week. And while the size of the cuts isn't as large as in prior years, there are still significant differences between the chambers that could complicate budget talks.

'SEE YOU NEXT WEEK'

As for negotiations over the \$113.6 billion fiscal year spending plan from the House (HB 5001) and the Senate's \$115 billion proposal (SB 2500), those remain on hold.

House Budget Committee Chairman Lawrence McClure advised the chamber late Wednesday budget conference talks with the Senate will not get underway this weekend.

"It looks like we are not going to conference this weekend. I intend to go home. And I'll see you next week," McClure, R-Dover, told the chamber.

Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Ed Hooper, R-Trinity, made similar comments at the start of the Senate floor session on Thursday.

Lawmakers are slated

to end the 60-day session on March 13, which to finish on time with a completed budget would require a targeted deadline of March 10 to craft a single spending plan. That deadline involves a law requiring a 72-hour "cooling off" period once the final budget is made public before lawmakers can vote on it.

GUNS, FISHING, BEER

Last year lawmakers passed a tax cut bill worth an estimated \$1.6 billion in savings for taxpayers. That included making the back-to-school "tax holiday" an annual August-long event in state law and permanently lifting sales taxes on many of the individual items tied to the hurricane season --- such as batteries, portable generators and tarps.

This year's version looks like it will be more modest.

The Senate's tax cut plan (SB 7046) has \$34.1 million in savings. It seeks to revive the hunting, fishing and camping "tax holiday" to run from mid-September to the end of the year. The holiday lifts sales taxes on select ammunition, firearms, bows, crossbows, and related accessories.

The proposal also permanently lifts sales taxes on liquified petroleum gas tanks with a capacity of 20 pounds or less. The House goes deeper with its \$152.6 million plan (HB 7031).

The package calls for moving the back-to-school holiday dates to July 20 through August 20 and running

the hunting, fishing and campaign holiday from Sept. 1 through the end of the year. The plan also cuts the tax rate on American-made beer for the fiscal year. A separate one-year exemption is sought on firearm accessories, including holsters, magazines, muzzle devices, sights and suppressors.

SPEED MEETINGS

Gov. Ron DeSantis and the Cabinet rushed through the Cabinet meeting on Tuesday and an Executive Clemency Board meeting on Wednesday.

"Forty-eight minutes. Let's see someone else beat that," DeSantis said after the Clemency panel granted 29 pardons and denied 14 others.

In the even shorter Cabinet meeting, clocking in just under 30 minutes, the panel approved \$19.8 million for three conservation easements, allocated about \$40 million in grants to local law enforcement for immigration enforcement, and agreed to designate 22 acres at Hillsborough College into talks regarding a stadium and mixed-use development with the Tampa Bay Rays.

"What today is just a bunch of parking lots will be completely renovated to a live-work-entertain district that is going to have significant economic benefits to the state," said Attorney General James Uthmeier. "I also think there's a lot of great opportunities for the students to do internships, apprenticeships; walk right across the street and

have job opportunities right there."

DATA CENTERS

New restrictions on large-scale data centers, part of Gov. DeSantis' push to tamp down on the maturing field of artificial intelligence, passed in the Senate on Thursday.

The measure (SB 484) addresses key issues such as electricity and water use needed to maintain the data centers and generally requires public notice of when plans are filed for a data center in the region.

The House has started to advance a similar data center measure (HB 1007), but has yet to show movement on DeSantis' call for an "Artificial Intelligence Bill of Rights." House leadership prefers to defer more universal regulations over the field to the federal government.

Asked about the future of the "AI Bill of Rights" effort (SB 482), which was postponed before a vote on the Senate floor this week, Senate President Ben Albritton, R-Wauchula, replied that the "Senate believes in the policy."

FSU PRESIDENT

Florida State University President Richard McCullough was given a three-year contract extension from the Board of Trustees on Thursday.

"I look forward to the next chapter, and I appreciate the support," McCullough told the board.

McCullough was vice provost for research at

Harvard University before becoming FSU's 16th president in 2021. His most recent contract from August 2025 increased his base salary to \$1.25 million a year.

The extension needs to be approved by the state university system's Board of Governors.

STORY OF THE WEEK: Budget talks between the House and Senate haven't formally started, but legislative leaders said they're ex-

changing offers on top-line numbers.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "I hope you won't consider this bad news. For planning purposes, at the conclusion of today's sitting, you're all free to go home for the weekend. There will be no conference this weekend." --- Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Ed Hooper, R-Trinity, on Thursday.

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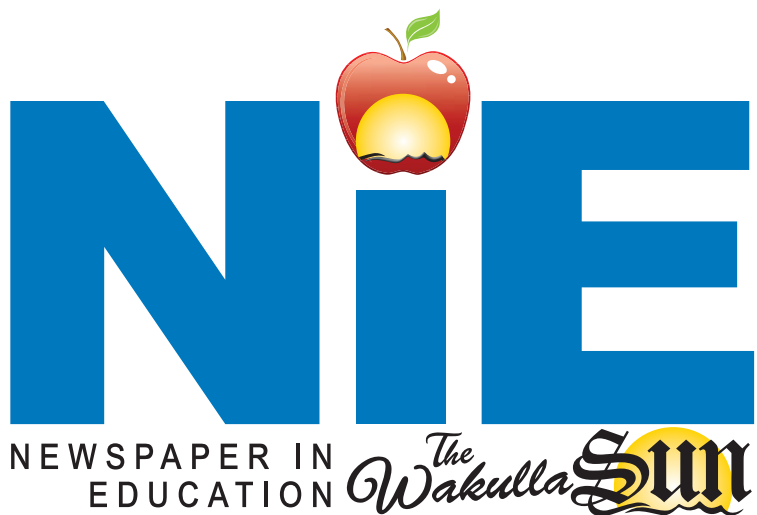
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USE THE NEWS

1. A RED MOON

A total lunar eclipse will soon turn the moon a deep reddish color, sometimes called a “blood moon.” This happens when Earth moves between the sun and the full moon, casting a shadow over the moon. The red color appears because sunlight passes through Earth’s atmosphere and filters onto the moon. The eclipse will be visible in North and South America and parts of Asia and Australia, and the full red glow will last about an hour. Unlike a solar eclipse, you do not need special glasses to watch – just a clear view of the sky. Create a labeled diagram that shows how a total lunar eclipse happens. Draw the sun, Earth, and moon in the correct positions. Then write 3 to 5 sentences explaining what causes the moon to turn red and why this event does not require special eye protection.

2. WHO MAKES THE RULES FOR THE OCEAN?

Deep under the ocean floor are valuable minerals like cobalt and nickel that companies want to mine. For years, countries around the world have been trying to agree on rules for how deep-sea mining should work in international waters—parts of the ocean that do not belong to any single country. Some leaders say clear rules are needed to protect the environment and make sure all countries benefit. Others worry that rushing could harm sea creatures and delicate ecosystems that scientists are still studying. If countries cannot agree, some fear the ocean could become a “Wild West,” where each nation makes its own rules. Write 5 sentences explaining why you think it’s important for all countries to work

together to keep our oceans clean and protect sea creatures. Who do you think should be in charge of keeping the ocean protected? How would they accomplish this job?

3. A 1,700-YEAR-OLD COFFIN

Archaeologists in Budapest, Hungary, uncovered a sealed Roman stone coffin that had not been opened for about 1,700 years. Inside, they found the skeleton of a young woman along with glass bottles, bronze figures, 140 coins, jewelry, and traces of gold-threaded fabric. Because the coffin was carefully sealed and never

looted, everything inside was still in place. Experts believe the woman may have been wealthy or important, and the many objects placed beside her show that her family cared deeply for her. Scientists will now study her remains to learn more about her life and health. Choose three objects found in the sarcophagus. In 4 to 6 sentences, explain what each object might tell historians about the young woman’s life. Then write one sentence explaining why discoveries like this help us understand people from long ago.

4. WHY DO BASKETBALL

SHOES SQUEAK?

If you have ever watched a basketball game, you have probably heard the loud squeak of sneakers on the court. Scientists recently discovered that the sound happens when the soft rubber soles of shoes ripple and wrinkle very quickly as they slide across the floor. These tiny ripples happen thousands of times per second and create the high-pitched squeak we hear. The patterns on the bottom of shoes help organize the ripples into a clear sound. Understanding this kind of friction may even help scientists learn more about earthquakes or design quieter shoes in the future. Conduct a simple

observation experiment at home or school. Gently rub the bottom of a rubber-soled shoe against different surfaces, such as tile, wood, or carpet. In 4 to 5 sentences, describe what sounds you notice on each surface and explain why the surface might change the sound. Finish by explaining what this tells you about friction.

5. HOW HORSES MAKE THEIR WHINNY

Horses use their whinnies, or neighs, to greet friends and show excitement. Scientists have discovered that a horse’s whinny is made of two sounds at once — a low sound like singing and

a high sound like whistling. The low sound comes from vibrating tissues in the voice box, similar to how humans speak. The high sound happens when air passes through a small opening in the voice box, creating a whistle. Horses are the first known large animals that can whistle and sing at the same time. Write a short paragraph comparing how humans make sounds and how horses make their two-toned whinnies. Describe at least one similarity and one difference. Then explain why having two different tones might help horses share different feelings with other horses.



Craft FACT:

This craft involving yarn gets its name from a French term meaning “small hook.”

Answer: Crochet

How they say that in...

English: Blanket
Spanish: Manta
Italian: Coperta
French: Couverture
German: Decke

Math Blocks

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-20. The numbers in each row add up to the totals on the right. The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

	3		9
19		20	57
	15	14	45
37	36	38	

Solution

14	15	9
20	18	19
4	3	2

Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

BBYA LBKNATE

Answer: Baby blanket

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

MAR 5

1766: Antonio de Ulloa, the first Spanish governor of Louisiana, arrives in New Orleans.

1953: Joseph Stalin dies in Moscow.

2021: Pope Francis begins an historical visit to Iraq during the COVID-19 pandemic.

NEW WORD CHAIN

the starting stitches of crochet

Did You Know?

In crochet, the thickness of the yarn should coordinate to the gauge of the crochet hook being used.

Get the PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Crochet project

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NOTICE OF SALE

0305-0315 TWS NOS
NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO SECTION 328.17 NON-JUDICIAL SALE OF VESSELS:

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 328.17 Non-Judicial Sale of Vessels, that Sembler's Marina will hold a sealed bid on March 20th, 2026 at 10:00 AM at 28 Lynn Circle, St. Marks, FL. Vessel will go to highest cash bidder. Vessel will be sold as-is and must be removed by the buyer immediately following the sale.

1985 Sea Ray Sedan, Registration number: FL 0995 EX, HIN: SER-F4939B585, Owner: Jerry Foutz.

For more information, call (850) 925-6083 March 5, 12, 2026

NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is given pursuant to the Florida Self-Storage Facility Act, Florida Statutes, Chapter 83, Part IV, that **Townsend's Nads Mini Storage** will hold a sale by **ONLINE AUCTION** of the contents of a mini warehouse containing personal property of:

JOHN SMITH, MANDY MCCRANIE, JOHN GILBERT, JESSICA POTTER, WENDY SHIELDS

Before the sale date of **March 19, 2026**, the Owner may redeem the property by payment of the Outstanding Balance and costs by mailing certified funds to **P.O. Box 541, Crawfordville, FL 32327**, or paying in person at the facility location or paying over the phone. March 5, 12, 2026

NOTICE OF ACTION

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

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

NOTICE OF ACTION

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

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

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

Address: DR MLK JR MEMORIAL RD, Crawfordville, Florida

has been filed against you and others, and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it, to ANA DANIELA BULL, 19 MARDI GRASS WAY, ALLIGATOR POINT, FLORIDA, 32346, no more than thirty (30) days from the first publication date of this Notice of Action, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiff or immediately thereafter, otherwise, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.

DATED this 8th day of January, 2026.

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

February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 2026

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

PAFFORD PROPERTIES & CONSTRUCTION, LLC, A FLORIDA LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, PLAINTIFF,
V.
HELEN L. HOWARD, IF ALIVE, AND IF DECEASED, UNKNOWN SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, CREDITORS, ASSIGNS, AND ALL OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST HER, DEFENDANTS.

NOTICE OF ACTION

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

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

LOT FOURTEEN (14), BLOCK "M", MAGNOLIA GARDENS, AS PER PLAT OF SAID SUBDIVISION RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 37, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA. Wakulla County Parcel ID No. 00-00-078-013-11217-000

Address: Melody Lane, Crawfordville, FL

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

WITNESS my hand and seal of said court at Crawfordville, Florida 24th day of February, 2026.

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

February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 12, 2026

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, Robert Gates, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of **319 GOLF CARTS AND POWERSPORTS**

Located at 2273 Crawfordville Hwy, 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 March 5, 2026

NOTICE OF ACTION

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

RANDOLPH SMITH, Case No.: 2025 CA 14 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, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, CREDITORS, ASSIGNS, AND ALL OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST HIM; JOEL R. LAY AND BARBARA N. LAY, DEFENDANTS.

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 SOUTHEAST 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 1/2 SE 1/4 SW 1/4 OF SW 1/4) OF SECTION 24, TOWNSHIP 2 SOUTH, RANGE 1 WEST, AND CONTAINING FIVE (5) ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

AND
THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW 1/4 OF SE 1/4 OF SW 1/4 OF SW 1/4) CONTAINING 2.50 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

AND
THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW 1/4 OF SW 1/4 OF SW 1/4) 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 36.82 FEET TO A RE-ROD (MARKED #4261), MARKING THE POINT OF BEGINNING. FROM SAID POINT OF BEGINNING, CONTINUE 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 659.92 FEET TO 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 EAST 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



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Lori L. Lewis
Chief Executive Officer

Mental Health/Medical Billing

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Fax 717-256-7199
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NOTICE OF ACTION

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

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

NOTICE OF ACTION

To: **RICHARD F. CRAWFORD**; if alive, and if deceased, unknown spouses, heirs, devisees, grantees, creditors, assigns, and all other parties claiming by through, under or against him.

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

LOT NUMBERED SEVENTY-TWO (72) IN BLOCK SEVEN (7) OF WAKULLA GARDENS UNIT TWO, AS SHOWN BY PLAT OF SAID SUBDIVISION OF RECORD ON PAGE 42 PLAT BOOK NO. ONE OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

Wakulla County Parcel ID No. 00-00-034-009-08497-000
Address: Chanook 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, COLON & POWER, P.A., Plaintiffs 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 Plaintiffs 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 27th day of February, 2026.

{{County Court Seal}}

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



March 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, V. EMMA M. ROBINSON, IF ALIVE, AND IF DECEASED, UNKNOWN SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, CREDITORS, ASSIGNS, AND ALL OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST HER, DEFENDANTS.

NOTICE OF ACTION

To: **EMMA M. ROBINSON**; if alive, and if deceased, unlrnown spouses, heirs, devisees, grantees, creditors, assigns, and all other parties claiming by through, under or against her

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

LOT THIRTY-SEVEN (37), BLOCK "1", MAGNOLIA GARDENS, AS PER PLAT OF SAID SUBDIVISION RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 37, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

Wakulla County Parcel ID No. 00-00-078-013-11068-000
Address: Lance Lane, Crawfordville, FL

has been filed against you and others, and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on ANDREW J. POWER, ESQUIRE, SMITH, THOMPSON, SHAW, COLON & POWER, P.A., Plaintiffs 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 Plaintiffs 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 27th day of February, 2026.

{{County Court Seal}}

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



March 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026

NOTICE OF SALE

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

LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC, Plaintiff, -vs.-

ELIZABETH E. ESSMAN; CHRISTOPHER ESSMAN; ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER AND AGAINST THE HEREIN NAMED INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS, Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sale will be made pursuant to an Order or Final Judgment. Final Judgment was awarded on February 9, 2026 in Civil Case No. 2024 CA 000130, of the Circuit Court of the SECOND Judicial Circuit in and for Wakulla County, Florida, wherein, LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC is the Plaintiff, and ELIZABETH E. ESSMAN; CHRISTOPHER ESSMAN; ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER AND AGAINST THE HEREIN NAMED INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS are Defendants.

The Clerk of the Court, Greg James will sell to the highest bidder for cash at 3056 Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville, FL 32327 on April 16, 2026 at 11:00:00 AM EST the following described real property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

LOT 21 AND THE EAST 1/2 OF LOT 20, BLOCK 28, GREINER'S ADDITION TO CRAWFORDVILLE, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 2, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

Dated this 24th day of February, 2026.

{{County Court Seal}}

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



Attorney for Plaintiff
ALDRIDGE PITE, LLP
401 W. Linton Blvd.
Suite 202-B
Delray Beach, FL 33444
Telephone: 561-392-6391
Facsimile: 561-392-6965
Primary E-Mail:
ServiceMail@aldridgepite.com

NOTICE

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT: If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact: Susan Wilson, ADA Coordinator; 301 South Monroe Street; Tallahassee, FL 32301; 850.577.4401; at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

March 5, 12, 2026

CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

1. Unit of dry measure
5. One who defies authority
8. Social media giant
12. Render holy
14. "Much ___ about nothing"
15. Computer manufacturer
16. Creed
18. Immoral act
19. Mountain pass
20. Winged nut
21. Don't know when yet
22. Elected officials
23. Corrupt tendencies
26. Popular adult beverage
30. Made a mistake
31. Morally correct
32. Type of whale
33. Portable conical tent
34. Native people of the Congo
39. More (Spanish)
42. Classroom implementers
44. Cognizant of
46. One who tells
47. Free from bondage
49. Thick piece of something
50. Containing two adjacent nitrogen atoms
51. Removed from the record
56. Legendary singer Turner
57. Broke up the earth
58. Hunting expedition
59. Contributes
60. Unit of work or energy
61. Wreckage on the sea bed
62. Affirmative! (slang)
63. Witness
64. Scrape (Archaic)

CLUES DOWN

1. "___ and flows"
2. Humble request for help
3. A position of leadership
4. Continent
5. Adherent of a particular religion
6. Things that can be eaten
7. Self-governing Netherlands territory
8. Long-tailed crow
9. Repeated
10. Bluish greens
11. Humanities
13. Someone who serves in the armed forces
17. Labor (Spanish)
24. Zero
25. Shared by involving three parties
26. Queens ballplayer
27. Consumed
28. Rest here please
29. Men's fashion accessory
35. American time
36. Sound unit
37. They ___
38. Soviet Socialist Republic
40. Places to play video games
41. A sudden attack of illness
42. When you hope to arrive
43. Charges
44. Actress Seyfried
45. A tributary of the Ohio River
47. Omit when speaking
48. Armored fish
49. Remain
52. From a distance
53. Adventure story
54. Geological times
55. Eat dinner

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Founder & Managing Member

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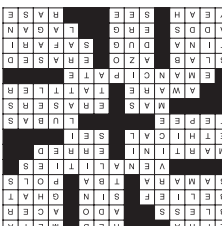

OPEN ENROLLMENT

Contact Leslie Kelly 850-926-1841
Wakulla Adult Education
<https://www.wakullaschooldistrict.org/o/ae>

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

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

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

Please Recycle

Thousands turn out for KWCB's Mudbugs & Music

By TAMMIE NASON
KWCB

On Saturday, Feb. 21, thousands gathered at Woolley Park in Panacea for the first-ever Mudbugs & Music on the Bay Crawfish Cook-Off, hosted by Keep Wakulla County Beautiful (KWCB).

With more than 60 vendors, 15 cook-off competitors, and five distinguished judges, the Mardi Gras-themed waterfront event exceeded expectations and marked a major milestone for Wakulla County.

Attendees enjoyed a full day of crawfish tasting, community spirit, and live entertainment provided by Chris "Cottonmouth" Perry and the Riverdogs, along with high-energy sets from DJ Butch, keeping the waterfront crowd engaged throughout the day.

The judging panel included Wakulla County commissioners Ralph Thomas and Quincee Messersmith, Sheriff Jared Miller, Attorney Dana Brooks, and Wakulla High School Culinary Arts Teacher Ryan Warner.



Wakulla's Josh Homan and the Spice is Right Gang won the People's Choice Award at the cook-off.

After a full day of spirited competition, the \$1,000 Grand Prize was awarded to the Veasey family of Crawdaddy's Roux Croux from Baker, Florida, who earned 225 out of 250 possible points.

Finishing in a close second was Mike Thai and Crawdad's Gone Wild of Tallahassee, scoring 220 out of 250.

Third place went to Tyler Sommer and the

Pinchin' Tails crew from Havana, with 214 out of 250 points.

The coveted People's Choice Award was claimed by Wakulla's own Josh Homan and the Spice is Right gang, voted the crowd favorite by tasting ticket holders.

The award for Best Decorated Booth went to Uramis Lavine and Krewe de Tatum, whose festive Mardi Gras setup stood out among com-

petitors. In addition to competing, Krewe de Tatum used the event to raise funds for a niece battling leukemia, adding a meaningful community impact to their participation.

Other competitors included:

- Seabreeze Cafe in Panacea (soon to reopen)
- Woodlake Bugs from Tallahassee
- Classic Customs in Panacea

- That Bearded Guy with the Crawfish and Crew from Crawfordville
- Crocket's from Crawfordville
- Salty Donkey's from Panacea

- Cajun Fred's from Tallahassee
- Barn's Liquor-sponsored team Mudbug Mafia

- Cigar City out of Tallahassee competing as Bugz & Sudz
- Aspin River Rose

Seafood

Event organizers shared that turnout far exceeded expectations for a first-year event.

"We were overwhelmed by the support," said a KWCB representative. "It was definitely a learning experience, but the feedback from vendors, competitors, and attendees has been incredibly positive. People had a great time, and that's what it's all about."

Proceeds from the event benefit KWCB's mission to preserve and protect Wakulla County's coastal and natural environment through programs such as Adopt-A-Road, Park-A-Tree, Amnesty Days, and coastal, river, and forest cleanups.

KWCB extended special thanks to sponsors Panacea Waterfronts, Seabreeze Cafe, Surfing's Evolution and Preservation Foundation, and Wakulla Tourist Development Council, as well as in-kind supporters Waste Pro, Cone Distributing, Tri-Eagle Sales, Barn's Liquor, Cigar City Brewing, Crooked Can Brewery, Best Day Brewing, and Ology.

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Wakulla Wonderful

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SATURDAY, MARCH 14 • 10AM - 2PM
at The Wakulla County Extension Office

ACCEPTING VENDORS

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You're Invited!

Champions for Change Brunch

Join us as we honor our incredible volunteers for their time, dedication, and passion for serving youth and our community. Enjoy a relaxing brunch, special awards, and a fun silent auction as we say thank you to those who make a difference every day. All proceeds will support Wakulla County Coalition for Youth as we continue fostering a safe, supportive environment where young people can learn, grow, and truly thrive.

Tickets:
Adults \$25
Youth \$10

May 2, 2026 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Wakulla Community Center (Crawfordville Room)
318 Shadeville Rd., Crawfordville FL 32327

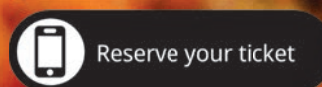
If you or your organization is interested in being a sponsor or would like to nominate a volunteer please reach out to Kimberly Mattox @ km24bm@fsu.edu



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WRESTLING

7 Wakulla wrestlers qualify for state tournament

By **WALT JACOBS**
Correspondent

On February 28th, in spite of only having nine wrestlers competing, Wakulla placed second as a team in the 1A Region 1 Championship.

Wakulla finished 8 points behind Florida High, which scored 153 points with 13 wrestlers.

North Bay Haven, South Walton, and Suwannee rounded out the top five.

Individually, William Harvey and Brady Jackson won their second consecutive Region Championships each on Saturday.

Harvey defeated Stanton Prep's Leonardo Torres 11-7 in the 128 pound finals.

Jackson defeated Mikah Ikeda of The Bolles School 8-7 in the 138 pound finals.

Clayton Manzi and Blake Barodte both placed second in their respective weight classes of 165 and 215 pounds.



Clayton Manzi qualifies vs Walt Maddox of Marianna.

Aaron Robinson and Troy Thaxton placed third in their weight classes of 144 and 150 pounds.

Robinson pinned Bishop Kenny's Ryan

Hancock. Thaxton won 8-5 over Ry Miller from Cornerstone Classical Academy.

Additionally, Patrick Cooksey placed 4th at 132 pounds.

All seven Wakulla wrestlers punched their tickets for the FHSAA State Championship in Kissimmee. The tournament will be held March 5th-7th.



Aaron Robison vs Wyatt Martin of St Johns Country Day School.



Blake Barodte vs Brannon Spurlin of Stanton Prep.



Brady Jackson pins Crew Richter of Fernandina Beach.



Patrick Cooksey qualifies vs Carter Delossantos.



Troy Thaxton qualifies vs Brady McAlister of NBH.



William Harvey vs Leonardo Torres of Stanton Prep.

WRESTLERS of the WEEK

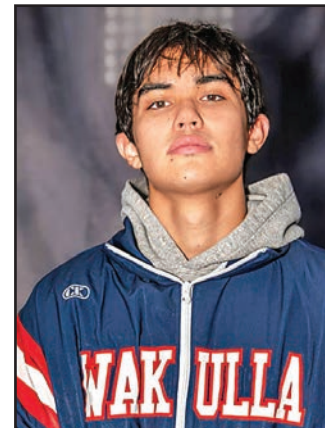
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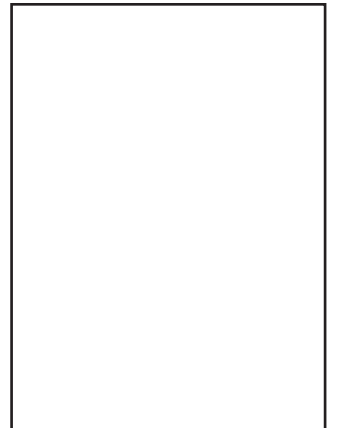
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CLAYTON MANZI
Boys Wrestler of Week



NO RECIPIENT
Girls Wrestler of week

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Join us
on Sunday Mornings
at 11 AM



COACH'S CORNER

"It's been a great week for our guys that competed. We were down 5 guys, we competed hard, and we took second in the Region."

- Coach Nate Litowsky

CORRECTION

Last week we mistakenly reported that Brady Jackson "set the all-time career takedowns record with 222." On February 19th, Jackson set the record for the most takedowns in a season with 222. The previous record was set by Julian Harvey in 2022 with 212. We regret the error. Congratulations, Brady.

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