



Battle of Natural Bridge/Page 16

# The Wakulla Sun

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

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Thunderstorms	Partly Cloudy	Sunny
Hi: 72° Lo: 48° 87% Sunrise 7:51 AM Sunset 7:44 PM	Hi: 76° Lo: 55° 8% Sunrise 7:49 AM Sunset 7:44 PM	Hi: 80° Lo: 61° 19% Sunrise 7:48 AM Sunset 7:45 PM



\$1  
One Section

"It's a New Day"

Locally Owned & Operated

Our 5th Year 11th Issue  
Thursday, March 12, 2026

# Derek Allen Jr. is new coach

Former player, Allen will take the helm of football program from retiring coach Scott Klees

Special to The Sun

Wakulla County Schools has named Derek Allen Jr. as the new Head Football Coach of the Wakulla High School War Eagles.

A Wakulla High School graduate and former student-athlete, Allen returns to his alma mater with coaching experience at both the high school and middle school levels. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Health, Physical Education, and Recreation from Florida A&M University and is a certified Physical Education

teacher.

Allen brings high school coaching experience as an Offensive Coordinator and Quarterbacks Coach at Blountstown High School, as well as Wide Receivers Coach/Pass Game Coordinator at Harris County High School.

Superintendent Rick Myhre said Allen's connection to the community and commitment to student development made him a strong choice to lead the program.

"What excites me most about Coach Allen is his desire to not only lead



DEREK ALLEN/HC

our WHS program, but to expand and build a connection with younger athletes as well. Un-

doubtedly, that is what it will take to ensure this football-rich community continues to thrive. In

his interview with me, I asked him to define success for the program, and while of course winning matters, he stated that he felt success is when every player, whether they are a starter or a substitute, feels they are achieving their best and knows they are important to the team. I couldn't help but think to myself, that's the team I would want my child to play on."

Allen's coaching philosophy emphasizes student-athlete development and building strong relationships.

"As a coach, I am first

committed to player development at every level of their lives. I believe that creating positive, caring relationships is the foundation of their growth... It is essential to create an environment that is conducive to learning and the 'want' to grow."

Allen takes over from Klees, who won 178 games and reached the state championship game in 2011 and 2015.

In Klees' final season last year, the War Eagles reached the region quarterfinal round of the Class 3A FHSAA state playoffs, falling to Bishop Kenny of Jacksonville.

## STATE CHAMPION



## Kendal Haynie is state champion

Kendal Haynie made history at the FHSAA state championships this weekend by becoming the first girl at Wakulla High School to win a state title in any sport.

Haynie is seen here pinning Caitlin Bohrer of Fort Pierce Central to win the state title. See story on Page 18. (Photo by Walt Jacobs)

## KWCB picks up tons of trash in forest cleanup

By TAMMIE NASON  
KWCB Director

More than 60 volunteers rolled up their sleeves to help protect the Apalachicola National Forest during Wakulla County's kickoff of the Keep America Beautiful Greatest American Cleanup, hosted locally by Keep Wakulla County Beautiful in coordination with the U.S. Forest Service.

The event also highlighted the organization's Leaders Against Litter initiative, which encourages community leaders to set an example by participating in litter prevention efforts. Earlier this month, the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners approved a proclamation recognizing both the Greatest American Cleanup and the Leaders Against Litter initiative, reinforcing the county's commitment to environmental stewardship.

The Greatest American Cleanup (GAC250) is Keep America Beautiful's nationwide effort to cleanup and beautify America's parks, public spaces, and waterways by July 4, 2026, making America look its best for our nation's 250th birthday celebration.

During the cleanup event hosted at Hudson Park in Crawfordville, volunteers filled two full dumpsters of illegally dumped debris from the forest.

Among the items collected were way too many tires, mattresses, photos, construction debris, broken concrete believed to have come from a driveway or sidewalk, a refrigerator, a camper, and a freezer that had clearly been sitting in the woods for quite some time.

"The freezer was still full of chicken," said organizers. "Let's just say the smell made it very clear it had been there a while."

Volunteers also encountered an unusually high number of deer carcasses left behind in the forest, raising concerns about environmental impacts and proper disposal practices.

Participants included local residents, ROTC students, and U.S. Forest Service staff, all working together to restore the forest.

Community leaders also stepped forward to lead by example. Wakulla County Clerk of Court Greg James and County Administrator David Edwards joined volunteers in the field and helped collect trash from the forest.

"This is exactly what Leaders Against Litter is about," said organizers. "When community leaders show up and get their hands dirty, it sends a strong message that protecting our environment matters."

The cleanup also highlighted a troubling trend organizers have observed. "I have never seen so many tires removed from the forest during one cleanup," organizers said. "What's frustrating is that we've secured grant funding for the past four years to offer a Tire Amnesty program, allowing residents to dispose of tires for free and legally. Why risk the penalties for illegal dumping on Federal land?"

Despite these efforts, illegal dumping continues to occur in remote areas of the forest. KWCB would like to remind residents that illegal dump-



## Ducks Unlimited banquet

The annual Ducks Unlimited banquet was held Saturday night at 3Y Ranch. Auctions of hunting trips, shotguns, fine art and more were offered with a goal of outreasing the \$80,000 raised last year. At right, Jeanette Burdette with puppy of the year Fenley Boone of Southwind Plantation which drew a winning bid of \$5,000. (Photos by Gerald Brown)



Turn to Page 3

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## Student of the Week

**Sam Harris Jr. – 8th grader, Riversprings Middle School**

Principal: Joshua Sandgren

**Achievements/Reason for Nomination:** Riversprings Middle School proudly recognizes Sam Harris Jr. as our Student of the Week. Sam is not only a dedicated student in the classroom but also a committed athlete who represents the school with pride. He consistently demonstrates a strong work ethic, positive attitude, and respect for others. Teachers and coaches describe Sam as responsible, hardworking, and a great teammate. His dedication both academically and athletically makes him a great role model for his peers. We are proud to celebrate Sam's achievement and look forward to his continued success. Congratulations, Sam!



STUDENT OF THE WEEK FEATURES A DIFFERENT SCHOOL EACH WEEK.

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Lisa Craze, CFC  
 Wakulla County Tax Collector

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# Talquin provides students with educational tour

## Special to The Sun

Talquin Electric Cooperative, Inc. ("Talquin"), a Member-owned, not-for-profit electric Cooperative, selected twenty-four high school juniors from Gadsden, Leon, Liberty and Wakulla Counties to participate in the Talquin Youth Tour.

"It is my sincere pleasure to congratulate the students chosen for this year's Talquin Youth Tour," said Tracy Bensley, General Manager of Talquin. "Their dedication, character, and leadership potential truly set them apart. Talquin is proud to support the next generation of leaders and we look forward to the positive difference these students will make in their schools, communities, and beyond."

The two-day experience focused on learning about Talquin Electric and affiliated careers, meetings at the Florida Capitol, where students heard from a variety of state representatives and Florida Senate President Ben Albritton, and built relationships with other students. Participants had the opportunity to observe the Florida House of Representatives cast a vote on the House Floor during session, meet with committee staff to learn how the legislative process begins, and tour the Capitol building—from the Lower Level all the way up to the 22nd floor.

Out of the twenty-four exceptional participants, four student delegates and two alternates were selected to represent



Area high school students at the state Capitol as part of the Talquin Youth Tour.

Talquin Electric Cooperative at the National Rural Electric Association's Youth Tour in Washington D.C. in June and will receive a \$1,000 scholarship for college or post-secondary education. The national delegates are: Emily Zak,

Wakulla High School; Mason Bonfanti, Lawton Chiles High School; Mattie Harrell, Wakulla High School; and Silas Latimer, St. John Paul II Catholic High School. The alternates are: Haley Heitmeyer, Lawton Chiles High School and

Delmas Jackson, Wakulla High School.

The students who will receive a \$50 scholarship for representing their schools at the Talquin Youth Tour in Tallahassee are Allison Mullis, Liberty County High School; Andrew Guyer, Maclay

School; Bryson Wombles, Wakulla High School; Caleb Thompson, Wakulla High School; David Barton, Maclay School; Ella Dorn, North Florida Christian School; Gavin Mullins, Wakulla High School; Hadley Brown, Wakulla High School; Julia Oliver, Leon High School; Kaitlin Smith, Wakulla High School; Kaylie Kosec, Wakulla High School; Kimbrel Graven, North Florida Christian School; London Brown, Gadsden County High School; Matthew Thaxton, Wakulla High School; Payton Roberts, Liberty County High School; Salome Hines, Wakulla High School; Thomas Howell, Liberty County High School; and Zara Khan, Lawton Chiles High School.

## Felony court shorts

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN  
Editor

Some of the actions taken in this month's felony court cases in front of Wakulla Circuit Judge Layne Smith:

- Dalton McClure entered a plea to charges of false imprisonment and was sentenced to 36 months in state prison.

The charges stemmed from domestic violence in which McClure and the victim were arguing, he prevented her from leaving and grabbed her by the hair on the back of her head and slammed her to the floor.

McClure also had a misdemeanor battery charge as part of the case, and two other misdemeanor cases of battery.

McClure pleaded no contest to the misdemeanor cases and was sentenced to time served.

After the prison term, McClure will face 24 months of probation with conditions that include batterer's intervention.

- Jesse Ward was sentenced to 36 months in state prison on new charges of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. The new charge was a violation of probation for a prior felony charge of grand theft



Dalton McClure

more than \$20,000.

Ward entered to the plea to the charge on Thursday, March 5, as part of a negotiated plea.

He was adjudicated guilty and ordered to serve prison time with credit for 83 days time served.

According to the arrest report, Ward seen on video removing two long rifles from a home on Smith Creek Highway. The rifles—a .30-30 lever action and a .25-35 bolt action with a scope—were seen being loaded by Ward into a pickup truck.

As a felon, Ward is not allowed to possess firearms. He was previously convicted of a grand theft charge in 2021 over the theft of a Marsh Master—a piece of heavy equipment—stolen from River Plantation. In that case, detectives tracked



Brannon Stringer

video of a truck that loaded the machine onto a trailer—and were able to identify the truck as belonging to Ward.

In court, as part of the plea, Ward admitted to violating his probation and received a concurrent sentence of 36 months in state prison with credit for 83 days.

Ward had a second case of possession of a firearm by convicted felon in which deputies served a search warrant on his property and found a .22 rifle and a .270 Remington, as well as two compound bows and numerous drugs.

- Jessica Weatherly was sentenced to 270 days in the Wakulla County Jail on two felony counts of possession of a controlled substance.

Weatherly entered a plea of no contest in felony court on Thursday,



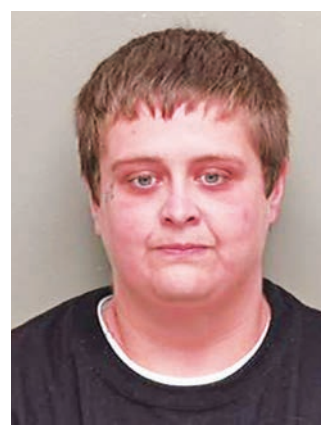
Jesse Ward

March 5 before Judge Smith to the charges as part of a negotiated plea deal. She was adjudicated guilty of the charges and ordered to serve the jail time with credit for 75 days already served.

Weatherly was arrested in July 2025 after deputies served a search warrant on her home on Sue Lane. She was detained and placed in a patrol car as deputies served the warrant.

Returning to the car where Weatherly was detained, deputies found a clear baggy inside the car with a white powder that tested positive for cocaine. There were also three pills in the backseat.

When Weatherly arrived at the jail, she was searched and a container containing a crystal-like substance was found that tested positive for



Jessica Weatherly

methamphetamine.

- Brannon Stringer entered a plea to a reduced charge of petty theft and was adjudicated guilty and ordered to serve a year on county probation.

The charges stemmed from 2024 when a woman who was reportedly involved with Stringer reported that items were

missing from her home, and that Stringer had agreed to feed her pets and take care of the home while she was in jail.

In July 2024, a traffic stop was conducted on a vehicle Stringer was driving and he was arrested on a charge of possession of meth. A Smith & Wesson .38 caliber revolver reported stolen was recovered in the vehicle. There were also DeWalt tools and other items in the vehicle that were reported stolen.

Stringer was recorded in jailhouse phone calls to the victim telling her he would fix everything, and in another call that he should have sold everything.

### PUBLIC NOTICES:

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



### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Wakulla County Special Magistrate will hold a **Public Hearing On March 27, 2026 at 9:00 AM** in the Wakulla County Courthouse, Courtroom B, 3056 Crawfordville Hwy, Crawfordville, FL 32327.

Interested parties are invited to attend and participate.

Persons with a disability needing a special accommodation should contact the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners Administration Office at least two (2) days prior to the meeting at (850) 926-0919; Hearing & Voice Impaired at 1-800-955-8771; or email at [ADARequest@mywakulla.com](mailto:ADARequest@mywakulla.com).

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

March 12, 2026



### Notice of Public Meeting:

The Wakulla County Historic Preservation Committee is holding a Public Meeting on Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at 3:30p.m. in the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners Administration Conference Room, 3093 Crawfordville Hwy., Crawfordville, FL., (850) 926-0919.

### Purpose of Meeting:

To review and make recommendations to the BOCC on matters related to the designation, regulation and administration of historical, cultural and architectural resources in the County based on the criteria set forth in Ordinance #13-04.

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

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March 12, 2026

## KWCB cleanup

From Front Page

ing is not only harmful



KWCB organizers noticed a disturbing trend of more used tires thrown in the forest, despite efforts to hold free Tire Amnesty days to get rid of old tires.

to wildlife and water quality but also illegal. If offenders are identi-

fied, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission officers can issue citations and fines.

At the same time, another large cleanup effort was taking place nearby. The Florida Dog Hunters Association organized a simultaneous cleanup effort in the Apalachicola National Forest, removing multiple dumpsters of trash and tires from areas in north Wakulla and Leon County, showing the power of community collaboration.

Volunteers participating in the cleanup were also invited to sign a pledge committing to do their part to keep Wakulla County's environment litter-free.

"The Apalachicola National Forest is one of our region's most important natural resources," organizers said. "Keeping it clean protects wildlife, preserves water quality, and ensures future generations can continue to enjoy its beauty."

### Public Service Announcement Meeting Announcement

The Apalachee Regional Planning Council announces a meeting to which all persons are invited. The Wakulla County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board will meet on Wednesday, March 18th, 2026, at 10:00 am Eastern Time, at the Wakulla County Community Center, 318 Shadeville Rd., Crawfordville, FL 32327. The agenda will include its regular quarterly business items, and a review of the Annual Community Transportation Coordinator Evaluation. For additional information, please contact Austin Britt, TD Program Coordinator at the Apalachee Regional Planning Council at 850-312-1862, or by email at [abritt@arpc.org](mailto:abritt@arpc.org).

Oct. 30, 2025

Please Recycle

# Opinions

THE FIRST AMENDMENT

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

## LETTERS FROM READERS

### Disappointed with tone of last week’s letter

**Editor, The Sun:**

Re: “Democrats have historically been racist party,” Letters, March 5.

Wow, Bill. I am surprised that you published that hateful letter to the editor. Just WOW

You allowed someone to tell readers to view Democrats with suspicion and compare them to a “rabid skunk.”

Political disagreement is one thing, but openly insulting a portion of your own community is another. Don’t you have any editorial standards? Why would you

allow anyone to degrade people or reduce fellow citizens to caricatures?

In a small community, a newspaper plays an important role in setting the tone for civic discussion. I would expect our local paper to encourage thoughtful dialogue, not amplify language that demeans neighbors based on their political affiliation. Many people in this community, friends, coworkers, volunteers, and family members, hold a wide range of political views. Reducing them to caricatures does nothing to unite our community and serves only to divide it.

There is “no such thing as a good skunk” when referring to Democrats is particularly troubling. Those Democrats are not strangers — they are our neighbors, the people we see in the grocery store and the people we sit beside in church.

Strong opinions are welcome, but basic editorial standards should ensure that debate remains respectful and worthy of all the readers it serves.

Readers reasonably expect their local newspaper to exercise that judgment with care.

Our community deserves better.

**Name withheld by request**

**Editor’s Note:** We don’t typically withhold names for writers of Letters to the Editor, but I made an exception for this one.

When I first read the letter in question I took its political posturing as being more tongue-in-cheek than literal and intended to provoke a laugh. I didn’t read it as urging readers to distrust their neighbors with different political views, but of a political writer speaking stridently.

Still, the criticism of me is fair. Given how polarized our current society is, it is worth saying that everyone should be respectful of those with different views.

### Missionary deserves community support

**Editor, The Sun:**

An open letter to Wakulla County businesses, churches and individuals:

We have a fulltime missionary

in our Wakulla County Schools: Donny Bennett with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA).

This missionary felt lead of the Lord Jesus and gave up a very good salary with 8 years working experience in the Florida Senate

so that he could become that missionary.

He is in need of monthly financial support and there are many businesses, churches and individuals who can help with that monthly need.

I pray and trust that many more of you will see and begin to help. You can donate by writing a check to Wakulla Fellowship of Christian Athletes and mail it to Donny Bennett, Suite 2889 C Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville, FL 32327, or you could drop it in the box in the door of 2889 C, or you could go online to my.fca.org and donate.

All donations are tax deductible. This ministry operates strictly by faith and our donations.

A Wakulla County Native and friend of Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Donny Bennett – Janie Ruth Ward Thurmond and husband J. Harold Thurmond. (After a combined total of 55 years working in the schools, and Janie 12 years at Sopchoppy High graduating in 1952, we see that a missionary in our schools is very important).

**J. Harold & Janie Thurmond**  
Crawfordville

## Something on your mind?

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

# On the Horizon

## Calendar of events for the week of March 12

### Thursday, March 12

- St. Marks City Commission meets at the St. Marks Yacht Club at 6 p.m.
- 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.
- 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 13

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

### Saturday, March 14

- Wakulla Wonderful, the celebration of

Wakulla’s founding in 1843, will be held at the extension office, 84 Cedar Ave., from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be historical materials, vendors and food trucks

- The Wakulla Caregiver Support Group meets at the Wakulla County Public Library at 10 a.m. every second Saturday of the month.

### Sunday, March 15

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

### Monday, March 16

- School board meets at the district office beginning at 5:45 p.m.
- County commission meets in the commission boardroom at 6 p.m.

- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6 p.m. for women and 8 p.m. for men every Monday at 54 Ochlockonee St.

- Gentle Yoga and Stetching Class with Margaret every Monday at 11 a.m. First Baptist Church CLC Building in Crawfordville. Bring a mat. \$2 donation.

- 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 17

- St. Patrick’s Day – wear green.
- Sarracenia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society meets at 6:30 p.m. at the Wakulla County Library. Will Mather with WSP Engineering will explore the Hwy 98 “Living Shoreline” stabilization project where oyster reefs and seagrass are tended along a 6-mile coastal stretch in Franklin County. For a Zoom link email: Sarracenia.nps@gmail.com. Free and open to the

public.

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

### Wednesday, March 18

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

### UPCOMING

#### Saturday, March 21

- Lions Club St. Patrick’s Day Festival kicks off with a parade at 10 a.m. followed by entertainment and vendors in Hudson Park.
- Woodville Founders Day will be held at J. Lewis Hall Park from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Panacea Beer and Oyster Festival will be held at Woolley Park in Panacea.

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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

# Who would you nominate for International Women's Day?



**JUSTIN BERNHAUSER**  
D & J Housekeeping

**"My beautiful wife, Danielle Bernhauser. She is the most hardworking and caring woman I've ever met."**



**JASON MILLER**  
Maintenance Supervisor

**"My mom, Valerie Blanchard. She basically taught me the true meaning of resiliency."**



**JOHN FLINKMAN**  
Mechanic

**"Rhonda Harvey. I have known her for a very long time. She is active in the community and just a very good lady."**



**JAMIE JOINER SCOTT**  
EThe Tatted Temple

**"My sister, Kristin Dyal. She is a single mom who has struggled in life. She always perseveres and never gives up, no matter what."**



**MITCHELL KAUFFMAN**  
State Trooper

**"My wife, Alex Kauffman. She does everything. She home schools our three children and soon our fourth. She is my one and only everything."**

## Wakulla Crossroads

By **VERNA BROCK**

I believe everyone has had the experience of meeting someone, and "clicking": immediately. It has happened to me many times over my lifetime. We all recognize that indefinable something when you hit it off, and just know you're going to be fast friends forever. Call it chemistry, fate, Kismet or Karma. A lucky happenstance brings two people together, and a new friendship is born!

Occasionally, we experience the phenomenon of love at first sight. It may seem like the stuff of fairy tales, but the world is full of people who

claim this life changing moment happened to them. They had no doubt when they met the ONE, their soulmate. Sometimes, they even live happily ever after.

I have often wondered how we "just know" who our kindred spirits are. As someone who spent her youth moving from pillar to post, I had ample opportunity to meet new people and make new friends. To this day, I have maintained friendships with people I met as a child. There absolutely is something magical when you discover the spark of kinship in a stranger destined to become a close friend. It's a mystery how we recognize the in-



**Robert Manning is led into his surprise 70th birthday party by his wife, Kenny.**

scrutable, gauzy, enigmatic attraction that calls us together. I still can't tell you the what or why of it, but when I encounter it, I am always excited. It feels like catching lightning in a bot-

tle.

This past weekend we celebrated our friend Robert Manning, who seems to be that sort of friend to everyone he meets. He is universally kind to everyone, and never seems to meet a stranger. Friends and family were excited to honor him, throwing a surprise birthday party that was planned and successfully implemented despite all odds.

It was a great night of feting one of Wakulla County's favorite sons. He and his wife Kenny are two of the most dedicated public servants you could ever meet, and we gathered with great joy to wish him a happy natal day.

If you see Robert around town, be sure to congratulate him on being another year older. As my Dad would remind me, it beats the alternative!

## Sopchoppy News

By **DJ BUTCH**

What up from Sopchoppy!

I provided the sound for Mudbugs & Music festival. This was a crawfish cook off. It was held in Panacea. It was really cool to see the different cooking styles. Good Music, good food, good friends and good times.

I saw flowers blooming In Sopchoppy. They are beautiful. I wish the nature trail was fixed up like when I was a child. Those flowers are still there and I see the different ones. It just needs a little love. Cleaned up, bring the trail back through it. It would make a great garden and walk area. I use to cut through there from my grandmother's house to go to school

and then back through to go to grandma's after school. Many kids did this because my grandma watched A LOT of Sopchoppy kids....

We all also enjoyed playing in the nature trail. I don't know where the name came from. We just always called it that. It also had a small bridge on the school side. Beautiful place. The history that I heard was that block was originally the garden to grow vegetables for the school lunches. Later flowers were planted all through it. A trail went through it and all the different colors of flowers were amazing!

I went to the city park recently and noticed the wild azaleas were blooming too.

I took my mom on a golf cart ride and we rode by the old Sopchoppy gym. My mom randomly tells me that her dad and grandad helped do the lime rock on the building. I'm like, "Mom, why have you not ever told me this?" The more I learn and research the more I find out how much my family contributed to Sopchoppy history.

Went to another Worm Gruntin' Festival meeting! Ohhhhhh it just keeps getting better! I saw the art work! I saw the bands booked. I heard more about all the stuff happening at the heritage stage. Mullet, honey, turpentine, Worm Gruntin'! This year is going to be huge! I'm hosting the Worm Gruntin competition.

I went to the crawfish cook off and the gumbo cook off in Panacea and I enjoyed them both. We have a lot of cool festivals in our area. I'm coming to Carrabelle this weekend. The His-

toric Crooked River Lighthouse! I'm doing a worm gruntin' demonstration and promoting the festival....

Ben and I rode around Sopchoppy on the golf cart and picked up trash all through town. We want to keep Sopchoppy beautiful. Please don't throw your trash on the side of the road and if the bear gets in your trash pick it up. It wasn't bad but it definitely helped. I appreciate Ben going over and beyond on cleaning up our community.

Sopchoppy is a special place. If you come and visit or are new to the area please stop at stop signs. Drive slow and clean up your trash. Locals too, but most of them already do a great job.

I love Sopchoppy and we want to keep it beautiful easy living..... love from my small town.

## Buckhorn News

By **ETHEL SKIPPER**

**CHRISTIAN RELATIONSHIPS.**

We are to be followers of Christ, and to live like Christ. You will have an opportunity to consider that Christ-likeness in our relationships points others to Christ.

Don't be a fault-finder. Matthew 7:1: "Judge not, that ye be not judged." That is one of the most quoted, most used, and most misused or corrected verses.

Some use it as a defense against any sort of criticism or correction. Jesus commended a right judgment that is not based on appearances. Some people are always sizing up everyone

else and they feel good condemning them for their faults.

Jesus taught about faultfinding and then he taught about prayer.

Matthew 7:7: "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."

We ask God for what we need and for His Kingdom to come.

We begin to seek for the answer. We know that He hears us. Christians move forward to see God moving and knock so they can enter into the answer for which they have prayed.

Jesus used the present command to asking, seeking, and knocking. We are to be persistent in seeking God.

Prayer is about continued confidence that God will answer.

Matthew 7:8: "For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened."



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



**WAKULLA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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# Outdoors

outdoor sports

## HOME ON THE RANGE

### Are your friends mumbling?



By MARJ LAW

You must have hearing and vision protection when you visit the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office range.

Mark is a hunter. I overheard him scoffing: "What's the big deal? I've shot deer, quail, turkey, duck, pheasant, and even rats out in the woods. My hearing's just fine, thank you. I don't see why people make such a big deal over wearing hearing protection. Besides the fact that I don't have any hearing problems, those hearing protection muffs are bulky and hot here in Florida. And even the stick-in-your-ear pads get slick with sweat. I just don't get the point."

Myself, I don't like sudden harsh noises. This is reason enough for me to wear hearing protection. In fact, I wear the stick-in-your-ear spongy pads. On top of them, I wear the bulky earmuff-type hearing protection. Today, you can find the earmuffs which will not only suppress loud noises, but will make it easy to hear

a person talking. With these, when you're at the pistol range for instance, the sudden loud report of a shooter next to you will be muffled, but if someone were to call "hot" or "cold," you'd be able to hear him do so.

My Joe says when he worked in the engine room of a submarine in the Navy, the Navy did not issue hearing protection. He could even fall asleep with the high-pitched whine of the turbines in the engine room. Yes, that was many decades ago.

Today? According to Joe, I'm a mumblor. Joe can't seem to hear a lot of my girly high-pitched speech. Funny thing is, it seems he finds a lot of women mumble. "I wish she'd speak clearly!" he'll say.

Now, I'll be the first to recognize that some of his inability to hear me is inability-on-purpose. It seems to be difficult for him to hear: "Would you take out the trash?" But I notice he can hear better if I preface the question by saying his name first to get his attention. Like this: "Joe. Will you take out the trash?"

After a while, we realized this was not a result of selective hearing protection (although some was), but a real hearing difficulty. Upon visiting an audiologist, we found that indeed, he has a problem distinguishing high-pitched sounds.

Joe's family members do not have hearing difficulties. Tracing back



Ear Muff Style, Electronic



Stick it in Your Ear Style

Hearing Protection

to discover why he cannot hear higher-pitched sounds, he traced the problem to his time in the Navy. Apparently, other men who worked in submarine engine rooms experienced hearing loss as well. They, like Joe, didn't notice any hearing loss immediately after their Naval experience.

This happens to shooters as well. According to the article on [decibeldefense.com](http://decibeldefense.com): The Real Risk: Gunshot Noise and Hearing Damage: "And it's not just the immediate boom – hearing loss for shooters often creeps up over years, one session at a time. The article highlights how many shooters don't realize they're losing hearing until subtle signs appear: needing people to repeat themselves, difficulty hearing women or children, missing subtle sounds like birds or grandchildren."

A similar finding on [americanrifleman.org](http://americanrifleman.org) agrees in its article: The Problem...And Solutions: "Perhaps the most insidious aspect of hearing loss is that it can, and usually does, creep up on shooters throughout the course of years, and for a variety of reasons. If you're like me, in some cases, you weren't warned as a kid taking up the shooting sports that such protection was

required, particularly if you were 'only shooting twenty-twos.'"

Decades ago, many people didn't understand that loud noises, or continuous fairly loud noises could cause hearing damage. Today, however, the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has developed requirements for general industry, maritime and longshoring worksites to implement hearing conservation programs that should "prevent initial occupational hearing loss, preserve and protect remaining hearing and equip workers with the knowledge and hearing protection devices necessary to safeguard themselves."

So now, if Joe were back in the submarine engine room, hearing protection requirements would be established by OSHA.

And this is why shooters must wear hearing protection at the WCSO range. In an article in [wethepeopleholsters.com](http://wethepeopleholsters.com), "According to OSHA, the threshold of pain is 140 dB. A typical unsuppressed firearm generates between 150 and 170 dB. Consequently, the higher the NRR (noise reduction rating), the safer it is for your ears."

For instance, a .22 LR rifle can have a rating of 134-140 dB, and a

9mm handgun's rating can be around 160 dB. So, when you pick out hearing protection devices, you want to look for the highest noise reduction rating. NRR is the "numeric value representing the maximum amount of noise it can block, provided the shooter wears the protection correctly" according to [wethepeopleholsters.com](http://wethepeopleholsters.com).

So, what kind of hearing problems are common to shooters? According to ASHA.org, with their audiology information: "Firearm users tend to have high-frequency permanent hearing loss, which means that they may have trouble hearing speech sounds like 's,' 'th,' or 'f' and other high-pitched sounds." They go on to say that even a single gunshot of noise greater than 140dB can permanently damage hearing.

Just one shot?

Well dang. That's frightening. This means, when we visit the WCSO range, putting on hearing protection before we leave the car is a really good idea. The parking area is beside the firing range, putting us close to where someone else may be shooting.

What can these loud noises actually do?

American Rifleman says that "hearing loss falls within three general categories."

One is sensorineural hearing loss (SNHL). This is where inner ear nerves and hair cells are damaged which impedes the pathways from the inner ear to the brain." It's permanent. Once inner ear cells are damaged, they can't be restored. You might be able to treat this loss with hearing aids.

Conductive hearing loss is where you may have an obstruction or damage to the outer or middle ear. This one may be permanent, depending on what caused it.

Mixed hearing loss is a combination of the two above. This "usually occurs due to damage over time paired with trauma to the ear."

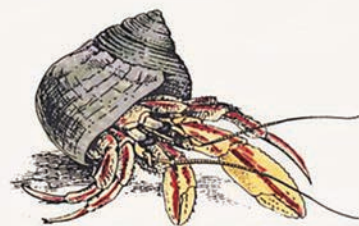
Whatever we call hearing problems, we don't want them. The risks of not wearing hearing protection at the range can include tinnitus: a ringing in the ears. It can also cause long-term hearing loss or distorted sound. You might experience high-frequency hearing loss or you may have difficulty comprehending speech.

The bottom line is that none of us want to lose our ability to hear. Some hearing loss is beyond our control. I didn't want to practically have to shout to make my grandmother understand me. My mother had to quit her job when she realized she couldn't hear well. My father often said: "Eh?" while cupping his hand to an ear. Now, it's possible that last example could have been just a way to irritate my mother.

So, yes. Always have hearing protection when visiting the WCSO range.

Your ears will thank you for it.

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



DWARF HERMIT CRAB  
(*Pagurus longicarpus*)

This 1" hermit crab is found scampering about tide flats in great abundance from Nova Scotia to Texas. Nearly white to dark brown, they tolerate huge fluctuations in temperature and salinity. These scavengers seek and eat whatever they can find. They use scent for communication. Empty shells (especially periwinkle) are left behind by predators and are used by the crab for protection. Hermit crab well being is tied to the well being of these predators. Crabs fight for the best shells. Crabs without shells, or fouled shells, do not eat. Females with good shells have more babies.

Eukarya, Animalia, Arthropoda, Malacostraca, Decapoda, Paguridae



## WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO



Photographer Perry Dissmore shared this photo of an alligator on a log in the Wakulla River.

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# The Wakulla Sun

# Water Ways

a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences

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## Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

March 12 - March 18



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

<b>Thursday 12</b>
Sun rise/set 7:50 AM 7:43 PM
Moon rise/set 3:38 AM 1:33 PM
Moon Illumination 38%
<b>Friday 13</b>
Sun rise/set 7:49 AM 7:44 PM
Moon rise/set 4:26 AM 2:31 PM
Moon Illumination 29%
<b>Saturday 14</b>
Sun rise/set 7:48 AM 7:45 PM
Moon rise/set 5:09 AM 3:31 PM
Moon Illumination 21%
<b>Sunday 15</b>
Sun rise/set 7:47 AM 7:45 PM
Moon rise/set 5:47 AM 4:33 PM
Moon Illumination 13%
<b>Monday 16</b>
Sun rise/set 7:45 AM 7:46 PM
Moon rise/set 6:21 AM 5:34 PM
Moon Illumination 7%
<b>Tuesday 17</b>
Sun rise/set 7:44 AM 7:46 PM
Moon rise/set 6:52 AM 6:36 PM
Moon Illumination 2%
<b>Wednesday 18</b>
Sun rise/set 7:43 AM 7:47 PM
Moon rise/set 7:23 AM 7:39 PM
Moon Illumination 0%

For tides at the following points add to  
Dog Island Listings:  
Carrabelle High Tide 28 Min. Low Tide 25 Min.  
Apalachicola 1 Hr., 53 Min. 2 Hrs., 38 Min.  
Cat Point 1 Hr., 13 Min. 2 Hrs., 31 Min.  
Lower Anchorage 1 Hr., 36 Min. 2 Hrs., 3 Min.  
West Pass 1 Hr., 26 Min. 2 Hrs., 39 Min.

**St. Marks River Entrance**

Th	4:32 am ▼ 0.4 ft	7:35 pm ▲ 2.4 ft		
Fr	5:47 am ▼ 0.2 ft	12:59 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	5:25 pm ▼ 2.0 ft	11:08 pm ▲ 2.5 ft
Sa	6:36 am ▼ -0.1 ft	1:23 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	6:35 pm ▼ 1.6 ft	
Su	12:18 am ▲ 2.7 ft	7:14 am ▼ -0.3 ft	1:46 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	7:15 pm ▼ 1.2 ft
Mo	1:05 am ▲ 3.0 ft	7:46 am ▼ -0.3 ft	2:09 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	7:50 pm ▼ 0.8 ft
Tu	1:48 am ▲ 3.3 ft	8:15 am ▼ -0.3 ft	2:30 pm ▲ 3.3 ft	8:24 pm ▼ 0.4 ft
We	2:28 am ▲ 3.5 ft	8:43 am ▼ -0.2 ft	2:50 pm ▲ 3.5 ft	8:59 pm ▼ -0.1 ft

**City of St. Marks**

Th	5:36 am ▼ 0.3 ft	8:11 pm ▲ 2.3 ft		
Fr	6:51 am ▼ 0.1 ft	1:35 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	6:29 pm ▼ 1.8 ft	11:44 pm ▲ 2.3 ft
Sa	7:40 am ▼ -0.1 ft	1:59 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	7:39 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	
Su	12:54 am ▲ 2.5 ft	8:18 am ▼ -0.2 ft	2:22 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	8:19 pm ▼ 1.1 ft
Mo	1:41 am ▲ 2.8 ft	8:50 am ▼ -0.3 ft	2:45 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	8:54 pm ▼ 0.7 ft
Tu	2:24 am ▲ 3.1 ft	9:19 am ▼ -0.3 ft	3:06 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	9:28 pm ▼ 0.3 ft
We	3:04 am ▲ 3.2 ft	9:47 am ▼ -0.2 ft	3:26 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	10:03 pm ▼ -0.1 ft

**Shell Point, Spring Creek**

Th	4:28 am ▼ 0.4 ft	11:45 am ▲ 2.1 ft	2:31 pm ▼ 1.9 ft	8:20 pm ▲ 2.6 ft
Fr	5:54 am ▼ 0.2 ft	12:51 pm ▲ 2.3 ft	4:52 pm ▼ 2.0 ft	10:58 pm ▲ 2.6 ft
Sa	6:52 am ▼ 0.0 ft	1:29 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	6:30 pm ▼ 1.7 ft	
Su	12:25 am ▲ 2.8 ft	7:34 am ▼ -0.2 ft	1:59 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	7:24 pm ▼ 1.3 ft
Mo	1:19 am ▲ 3.1 ft	8:09 am ▼ -0.3 ft	2:26 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	8:06 pm ▼ 0.9 ft
Tu	2:05 am ▲ 3.4 ft	8:40 am ▼ -0.3 ft	2:50 pm ▲ 3.3 ft	8:44 pm ▼ 0.4 ft
We	2:48 am ▲ 3.5 ft	9:09 am ▼ -0.1 ft	3:14 pm ▲ 3.5 ft	9:21 pm ▼ 0.0 ft

**Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay**

Th	4:43 am ▼ 0.1 ft	7:27 pm ▲ 1.8 ft		
Fr	5:58 am ▼ 0.1 ft	12:51 pm ▲ 1.8 ft	5:36 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	11:00 pm ▲ 1.9 ft
Sa	6:47 am ▼ -0.1 ft	1:15 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	6:46 pm ▼ 1.2 ft	
Su	12:10 am ▲ 2.3 ft	7:25 am ▼ -0.2 ft	1:38 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	7:26 pm ▼ 0.9 ft
Mo	12:57 am ▲ 2.1 ft	7:57 am ▼ -0.2 ft	2:01 pm ▲ 2.3 ft	8:01 pm ▼ 0.6 ft
Tu	1:40 am ▲ 2.5 ft	8:26 am ▼ -0.2 ft	2:22 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	8:35 pm ▼ 0.3 ft
We	2:20 am ▲ 2.6 ft	8:54 am ▼ -0.1 ft	2:42 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	9:10 pm ▼ -0.1 ft

**St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.**

Th	4:20 am ▼ 0.1 ft	8:38 pm ▲ 2.0 ft		
Fr	5:42 am ▼ 0.0 ft	2:04 pm ▲ 1.8 ft	5:57 pm ▼ 1.6 ft	10:37 pm ▲ 2.0 ft
Sa	6:36 am ▼ -0.1 ft	1:56 pm ▲ 1.9 ft	6:50 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	11:55 pm ▲ 2.2 ft
Su	7:15 am ▼ -0.2 ft	2:04 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	7:24 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	
Mo	12:50 am ▲ 2.3 ft	7:47 am ▼ -0.3 ft	2:16 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	7:54 pm ▼ 0.8 ft
Tu	1:37 am ▲ 2.5 ft	8:17 am ▼ -0.2 ft	2:31 pm ▲ 2.3 ft	8:24 pm ▼ 0.5 ft
We	2:22 am ▲ 2.6 ft	8:46 am ▼ -0.1 ft	2:49 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	8:57 pm ▼ 0.1 ft

**Dog Island West End**

Th	4:18 am ▼ 0.1 ft	8:02 pm ▲ 1.9 ft		
Fr	5:48 am ▼ 0.0 ft	10:16 pm ▲ 1.9 ft		
Sa	6:56 am ▼ -0.1 ft	2:55 pm ▲ 1.6 ft	7:03 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	11:32 pm ▲ 2.0 ft
Su	7:39 am ▼ -0.2 ft	2:44 pm ▲ 1.7 ft	7:41 pm ▼ 1.2 ft	
Mo	12:42 am ▲ 2.1 ft	8:12 am ▼ -0.2 ft	2:45 pm ▲ 1.8 ft	8:12 pm ▼ 0.8 ft
Tu	1:47 am ▲ 2.2 ft	8:41 am ▼ -0.1 ft	2:54 pm ▲ 1.9 ft	8:42 pm ▼ 0.4 ft
We	2:41 am ▲ 2.3 ft	9:09 am ▼ 0.1 ft	3:10 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	9:15 pm ▼ 0.1 ft

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

## FWC proposes new management approach for spotted seatrout

### From FWC News

At its February meeting, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) approved new management regions and regulations for spotted seatrout as a part of FWC's holistic regional management approach. These new regulations will go into effect on April 1, 2026.

#### The rule changes:

- Establish nine management regions for spotted seatrout.
- Establish regional regulations for recreational and commercial bag limits, slot limits and closed seasons.

These regions and regulations are part of the FWC's holistic management approach for Florida's most popular inshore fisheries. This approach takes a more holistic view of the fishery by evaluating multiple metrics, including fishing, stakeholder experiences and environmental factors, at a smaller regional scale. It improves our understanding of regional differences in environmental conditions and stakeholder experiences and provides greater flexibility to address localized concerns.

#### Panhandle

Recreational  
Open season: March 1-Jan. 31.  
Closed season: February.  
Bag limit: Three fish per person.  
Slot limit: 15-19 inches.  
Over-slot allowance: One fish over-slot allowed per vessel or per person if fishing from shore.

#### Commercial

Open season: Jun. 1-Oct. 31.  
Closed season: Nov. 1-May 31.  
Bag limit: 50 fish (1 SPL); 100 (≥2 SPLs).  
Slot limit: 15-24 inches.  
Over-slot allowance: None

#### Big Bend

Recreational  
Open season: Year-round.  
Closed season: None.  
Bag limit: Five fish per person.  
Slot limit: 15-19 inches.  
Over-slot allowance: One fish over-slot allowed per vessel or per person if fishing from shore.

Commercial  
Open season: June 1-Oct. 31.  
Closed season: Nov. 1-May 31.  
Bag limit: 50 fish (1 SPL); 100 (≥2 SPLs).  
Slot limit: 15-24 inches.  
Over-slot allowance: None.

#### Tampa Bay, Sarasota Bay, Charlotte Harbor, Southwest, Southeast

Recreational  
Open season: Year-round.  
Closed season: None.  
Bag limit: Three fish per person.  
Over-slot allowance: One fish over-slot allowed per vessel or per person if fishing from shore.

Commercial  
Open season: June 1-Oct. 31.  
Closed season: Nov. 1-May 31.  
Bag limit: 50 fish (1 SPL); 100 (≥2 SPLs).  
Slot limit: 15-24 inches.

Over-slot allowance: None.

#### Indian River Lagoon

Recreational  
Open season: Jan. 1-Oct. 31.  
Closed season: Nov. 1-Dec. 31.  
Bag limit: Two fish per person.  
Slot limit: 15-19 inches.  
Over-slot allowance: None.

Commercial  
Open season: May 1-Sept. 30.  
Closed season: Oct. 1-April 30.  
Bag limit: 50 fish (1 SPL); 100 (≥2 SPLs).  
Slot limit: 15-24 inches.  
Over-slot allowance: None.

#### Northeast

Recreational  
Open season: Year-round.  
Closed season: None.  
Bag limit: Three fish per person.  
Slot limit: 15-19 inches.  
Over-slot allowance: None.

Commercial  
Open season: June 1-Nov. 30.  
Closed season: Dec. 1-May 31.  
Bag limit: 50 fish (1 SPL); 100 (≥2 SPLs).  
Slot limit: 15-24 inches.  
Over-slot allowance: None.

This innovative regional management strategy has been implemented for some of Florida's most popular inshore species, including redfish and snook, and now spotted seatrout. This management approach has been met with strong support from stakeholders across the state.



## Underwater Wakulla

By Gregg Stanton

### Cemetery Science. May 31, 2012

Mockingbirds defend their territory by patrolling their boundary displaying to their neighbors. In the spring, my graduate mentor sent many of us aspiring scientists out into the field to document mockingbird territory, and what better place than the cemetery.

Each headstone was uniquely identifiable by both observer and subject bird alike. The cemetery was and still is a quiet place for reflection and study, a perfect place to sit under a shade tree and draw out the headstone the birds selected while singing to or engaging with their neighbors.

By the end of an hour or two, I would have not only the territory of one, but several birds mapped out, and their respective community of dearly departed resting below.

Resources such as a nest, standing water, and protected high perch, were also identified, with the amount of time spent in each dutifully recorded for a time budget.

The scene was serene, with blooming flowers of spring, the hustle of the birds and the bustle of the insects competing with my attention for the science lesson at hand. Then a bird would fly up and out of its territory to go visit another on a distant meadow, causing me to jump up and be quick to the chase.

Sharing time and space with this community of bird and departed was cathartic.

Someone told me fish were the birds of the sea. In the course of time, I soon found myself on a patchreef and with time on my hands, mapping the territory of fish in the same fashion as I did with my cemetery birds.

The Coco damselfish is remarkably like the mockingbird, in that it defends a part of the reef that is defined by structures by engaging in mock battle with its neighbors. Coral and sponge colonies replaced headstones, but the rest was very similar.

A time budget revealed the value of a nest, cleaning station (shrimp and fish that clean others), grazing area and defensive perch.

I was ever so surprised one day to see my subject swim up over the reef and race off to briefly visit with others on a distant undefended part of the reef. Other diving scientists reported that these territorial fish were communicating by sound as well! Did these two very different groups of animals read the same manual?

I then began to see other fish species with under- or overlapping territories — some so small like the Bicolor, several fit inside of one Coco territory, others that included several Coco territories, all species tolerant of each other, but seldom of itself.

Then one day, a 5-inch Butterfly fish came into the patch reef community. Some fish are territory defenders and some are territory marauders. This long nose Butterfly fish attacked the anemone that housed a cleaning station, ripping out half before detection. The smallest defenders, in which the shared cleaning station resided, were the first to attack. They were no match for the Butterfly fish, measuring 1/10th the size, but the ruckus they rose attracted the Coco damselfish, which were half its size, but willing to attack.

As the Butterfly fish rose up out of the reef, the Three Spot joined in biting small mouthfuls of scales from a now fleeing marauder. Then to my right the Grasby grouper, an 18-inch resident that rested on his favorite perch and seldom defended the patch, lifted off and bit the Butterfly fish in two.

In the end, the crabs had a feast, as the grouper showed no further interest.

Now that is community action!

Perhaps reef fish are more complicated than the cemetery birds, or perhaps I just did not stay long enough in the cemetery to see the bigger picture.

I do enjoy the serenity and mystery of the reef, but miss the dearly departed and their distinctive headstones.

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



## A fun way to hide God's Word in your heart

By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

Do you have conflicting feelings about memorizing Bible verses?

If you're tempted to skip the rest of this post,

I get it. We all know it's important to memorize Scripture, but who needs to be reminded of something we already feel guilty about?

Maybe you love God's Word, but you've lost your passion for hiding it in your heart. This admission can be scary, especially when you know you need all the help you can get just to function in your stressful situation.

To make matters worse, you've been short-cutting your quiet time with God because

your to-do list is louder than your resolve to read your Bible and pray every day.

How can you reignite your desire to at least meditate on, if not memorize, God's Word throughout the week?

Here's one way that may make hiding God's Word in your heart an enjoyable endeavor:

Recently, I shared how Scripture Memory Cards (SMCs) – Bible verses written on index cards – can boost our faith. What if you and a friend

each select a verse, write it on an index card, and share it with each other? Talk about why you chose your verse (how it relates to your current situations, etc.) and what you love about it. Then, if you're comfortable, pray for yourselves and each other, using these verses. Challenge each other to meditate on and "pray your verses" throughout the week. Eventually, consider inviting others to join you.

Envision how this simple practice could trans-

form your coffee break at work or the minutes before or after a church service, deepening your relationship with God and each other. You never know how each person's verses might help someone in your group.

James 4:8 (ESV) promises, "Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you."

God loves you. He knows your busy schedule often pulls you away from spending time with Him. Instead of believing the lie that God is disap-

pointed with you, listen to how He is welcoming you back and wants to reveal Himself to you once more.

So, here's my question: Which verse will you meditate on with a friend this week so you can fall in love with His Word all over again?

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

## Let the light in

By **CHERYL CRUCE**

It is that time of year when we change the clocks, open the shades, and clear the dust from the corners of our homes. There is something comforting about the warm sunshine lingering a little longer each evening, green grass pushing through what once looked brown and tired, and flowers beginning to bloom — so that, aside from the oc-

casional bout of spring allergies, all feels well in our little corner of the world.

But beyond our corner, life is not always so gentle. There are wars and rumors of wars, as Jesus spoke of in the New Testament. Solomon wrote of the steady rhythm of life — the mingling of good and evil — in his book of Ecclesiastes. According to him, there is nothing new under the sun: not injustice, not war, not weariness. In our world, brokenness stands on street corners and heaviness lingers quietly behind closed doors.

Spring sunshine does not erase those realities, and perhaps that is exactly why this season matters. As the calendar

quietly carries us toward Easter, we are reminded that this is also the season of Lent — a time set aside not for decorating our homes, but for examining our hearts. While we dust shelves and open our windows, we are invited to look within the corners of our own lives. Looking inward is not a condemnation; it is renewal.

Spring cleaning of the soul is not about shame; it is about making space for His light to filter in, much like opening the shades in our homes. King David once prayed, "Create in me a clean heart." It is a simple prayer — honest and direct — and it sets the tone for a life that desires to stay close to God. In another psalm,

he invited the Lord to "search me and know my heart." These are not prayers of condemnation, but of openness.

When we allow God to search us and renew us, something begins to quietly change within. We become slower to judge and quicker to extend a hand of grace. We speak more carefully and we listen more deeply. The dust that once gathered in unnoticed corners begins to clear, and light fills spaces that had grown dim. We become the new creation in Christ described in Scripture (2 Corinthians 5:17). Our minds are renewed, and we are transformed in Him (Romans 12:2).

The world beyond our corner may still

feel unsettled. There may still be headlines that weigh heavily and conversations that test our patience. But when the light of Christ has filtered into our own hearts, we carry something steadier into those spaces. We carry the peace of God that surpasses all understanding (Philippians 4:7). Our lives begin to reflect a calm that comes not from changing circumstances, but from an unchanging God.

We cannot solve every conflict or mend every broken place. But we can soften the tone of our own words. We can offer kindness where it is least expected. We can choose mercy over criticism and compassion over complaint. And

perhaps that is the true work of Lent. It is not a time to escape the realities of the world, but a time to face them differently — to face them with the grace and love of the Father. Spring reminds us that true renewal does not happen all at once. It is a slow and steady journey we walk, often one small step at a time. And perhaps today, that journey begins with us.

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made His light shine in our hearts (2 Corinthians 4:6).

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

### OUT TO PASTOR

## Just honing my old goat skills

By **JAMES SNYDER**

I'm rather new to this getting-old stage of life. Up to now, all my life has been young and innocent. Unfortunately, those days have passed.

It's hard to get adjusted to old age because I've never experienced it before. I remember when I was young, all of the fun that I had. But now, I'm at a new stage of life, and I don't know exactly what I should be doing.

Somebody should write a book sometime titled, "How To Get Old in 10 Easy Steps." I'll buy that book in a second.

I've been trying to find the good part of getting old, and I am still looking.

The other day The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage said to me, "You are starting to act like some old goat."

When she said that, something clicked upstairs. I don't want to act like some old goat; I want to be one. It got me thinking, as I've never thought before.

How can I use this "old goat stage?" The more I get to know it, the more I'll be able to use it for

my benefit. Why not use what you have at hand for your own good?

I'm not sure what an old goat is, but I'm going to work on it and make sure I am the best version of an old goat I can be.

Every time The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage said that I was acting like an old goat, I stopped and thought about what she was talking about. How can I improve that in my life?

I asked her why she thought I was acting like an old goat. She said, "Well, for one you're always remembering things according to what you want to remember. You gotta remember the truth."

As I understand it, as an old goat, I have "selective memory." I never thought of that before. How can I use "selective memory" to make me a better old goat?

I've been working on this for a while, and every time I tell a story from the past, I make sure I am selecting that memory the way I want. Some story in my past, nobody knows all of the details. So, as a professional old goat, I can choose which memories I want to share with people. How do they know if it's right or wrong?

This has made my storytelling much more enjoyable. I sure have been having fun with all of these "selective memory" moments. One good thing is that I don't have to remember these to tell the same

story over and over again as a professional old goat. I can make up things selectively as I go along. Oh, how I love being an old goat.

As we were coming home from a meeting with some of our friends The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage looked at me and said, "That story you told about when you were in high school was that the same story you told three weeks ago?" Oh boy. I didn't even remember the story I told three weeks ago, so I just said to her, "No, that was a different story."

She just looked at me with one of her smiles, and I realized she did not believe me then.

Now, the next step in honing my old goat skills is remembering the stories that I tell. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage cannot forget anything, and she always brings to my attention some of the mistakes that I have made in my stories. I didn't know she listened so attentively to my stories.

So, along with my "selective memory" skill, I need to develop the next stage: "Once

told never repeat." I don't know how I'm going to really work on this, but that's the next skill to develop as an old goat.

This will be the hardest skill for me to hone, but it's one I'll have to develop.

The next time I tell a story with our friends around, I'm going to keep my eye on The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. If I see a certain expression on her face, I'm going to take the story in an altogether different direction.

This is the third skill I need to hone as an old goat. That is, "Watch The Gracious Mistress Of The Parsonage Face." After 54 years of marriage, I should be able to read that face, and yet I find it rather difficult. But, being the professional old goat that I am, I'm going to work on it until I have it mastered.

Now that I have come to the stage of being an old goat, I'm beginning to like getting old. As a young person, I could never get away with acting like an old goat. But now that I have the years behind me, I can act like a professional

old goat. Believe me, it has its rewards.

I have a long way to go in developing my old goat skills. I'm going to work at it until I get it as perfect as I can.

I was reminded of David's prayer in Psalm 71:18. "Now also when I am old and greyheaded, O God, forsake me not; until I have shewed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to every one that is to come."

Looking at my life, I must say that this has become my prayer every day

*Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, email [jamessnyder51@gmail.com](mailto:jamessnyder51@gmail.com), website [www.jamessnyderministries.com](http://www.jamessnyderministries.com).*



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Deacon David Harris • E-Mail: [dendoc@comcast.net](mailto:dendoc@comcast.net)  
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Rosary: Mon., Thurs. and Fri. - after 8:30 Mass  
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Sunday 9:45 am  
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# Obituaries

## DEATH NOTICES

• **Karla Sue Oliver**, 68, of Crawfordville, died March 3, 2026.

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

## Sheriff's Report

This report is for activity Feb. 27 to March 6. There were 1,292 total calls for service during the week.

### 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.

### SATURDAY, FEB. 28

• A citizen reported losing his wallet at the Circle K gas station. He advised he went inside to purchase some items and left the store. After realizing his wallet was missing, he turned

around and went back to the store but was unable to locate his wallet. He requested an information report be taken in case anyone locates and turns the wallet in.

• Lt. David Pienta conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle in the 1800 block of Crawfordville Highway for unlawful speed. The driver provided an identification card and advised he never took the written test to gain his license. He was subsequently issued a Notice to Appear and citation for speeding. The passenger provided a valid license and removed the vehicle from the scene.

• The manager of Dollar General at 4329 Bloxham Cutoff reported an unknown subject had entered the store and began collecting items and placing them in the cart. After a few moments, the subject left the store passing all final point of sale, failing to pay for the merchandise. Deputy Kory Smith conducted an investigation, however, a follow up will be conducted due to the store hav-

ing issues with its video surveillance.

### SUNDAY, MARCH 1

• A citizen reported that she recently ordered a new iPhone from Xfinity mobile. She advised the phone was scheduled to arrive on Feb. 28, and the package appeared light upon arrival from FedEx. When she opened the delivered package, she discovered the new phone was not inside. She stated the package did not appear to have been tampered with prior to delivery. She told deputies Xfinity required a report to initiate their investigation for the missing phone.

### MONDAY, MARCH 2

• A citizen reported his firearm lost/stolen. The firearm is described as a Glock 27 .40-caliber black in color. He stated it is unknown if the weapon has been lost or stolen. The firearm was entered into NCIC/FCIC as stolen.

• A citizen reported the possible theft of medication. He reported the package had been delivered but his ex-wife de-

nied receiving it. He was shown a video of her taking his meds inside the home. He wished this incident be documented for informational purposes.

### TUESDAY, MARCH 23

• A traffic stopped was conducted on a vehicle for non-registered driver license. Contact was made with the driver who was discovered to have an expired driver's license since 2012. He was taken into custody and transported to the jail facility. Further investigation revealed he was deemed a non-U.S. citizen and a detainer was placed on him.

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

• Deputy Jonathan Kilbourn responded to the 1400 block of Coastal Highway in reference to a citizen wanting to report a criminal mischief. During the investigation, the reporting person stated an unknown subject had damaged some valves near Wilderness Way, causing them to leak. She further advised she had sent an employee out to repair the damag-

es but kept the damaged valves. She valued the total damages at approximately \$242. She did not wish to pursue charges; however, did not wish to complete a request for non-prosecution.

### THURSDAY, MARCH 5

• Deputy Kory Smith responded to the 100 block of Pruitt Drive in reference to a citizen reporting damage done to his vehicle. While on scene, he stated while he was asleep, an unknown subject had taken his hideaway key and placed it on the driver seat of the vehicle. The subject had also damaged the windshield and tore up important documents that were inside the vehicle.

• A citizen called the Sheriff's Office in reference to a fraud complaint. The reporting person advised she received an email alert for a Sam's pickup order scheduled in Orlando. She stated she never made the order and upon further research she discovered several of her accounts were compromised using the same email. At this time, she has alerted her bank and the credit bu-

reaus of the matter. She stated she is only out of \$68 at this time and will notify law enforcement if the amount changes.

### FRIDAY, MARCH 6

• A traffic stop was conducted for tag attached not assigned. Further investigation revealed the driver had multiple suspensions and was deemed a habitual offender. The subject advised the car was his mom's and he did not know it had the wrong tag. He was placed under arrest and transported to the jail.

• Deputy Austin Rivers responded to Walmart in reference to Loss Prevention staff stating that a subject passed all points of sale without paying for \$68 worth of items. After viewing video footage, probable cause existed to charge this subject with petty theft. The subject was issued a Notice to Appear and a Trespass Warning and left the scene without any further incident.

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

## Wakulla 4-H Nature Crew club charts new path

By **RACHEL PIENTA**  
4-H Agent

On a mild February morning, the 4-H Nature Crew Club set out on an adventure that blended education, exploration, and a deep appreciation for the natural beauty of Wakulla County. Their destination—Wakulla Springs State Park, one of Florida's ecological treasures, became both classroom and playground as club members immersed themselves in learning about freshwater ecosystems, wildlife habitats, and conservation.

The field trip, held on Saturday, February 21, brought together a lively group of youth: Georgia Goodman, Annabelle Ainsworth, Ridley Walker, Bennett Glass, Hiroshi Yoshioka, and Anarya Day, guided by club leaders, parents, and passionate volunteers.

Learning in Nature's Classroom

For many participants, the day was more than just a field trip; it was a chance to connect science with lived experience.

Parent chaperone Shannon Ainsworth praised the outing's hands-on learning approach, noting the impact of the park ranger's interpretation:

"My recent visit to Wakulla Springs with the Naturalist Club offered a fantastic look into freshwater ecology. Park ranger Dan's ability to translate complex environmental science into engaging insights for all ages made the experience both educational and memorable."

Youth participant Annabelle Ainsworth echoed that excitement, especially for the stand-out moment of explor-



4-H Club members exploring nature.

ing a cypress dome:

"It was so cool to see how the trees are taller in the middle and shorter on the edges, making it look like a giant bowl. I learned that these trees have knees that poke out of the water."

Hands-on activities—like dip netting—brought ecology to life. Ronald "Hiroshi" Yoshioka said,

"I learned about pH levels and how that affects what lives in the habitat. Overall, it was a really fun experience."

A Growing Club With a Mission

The 4-H Nature Crew is new to Wakulla County but already making a significant impact. Club leader Courtney Castro has led the effort to establish this club, shaping its vision and direction.

"Leading the Wakulla Nature Crew this year has been a fun challenge," Castro shared.

"The future of the wild spaces in our amazing area... will depend on how invested

our youth are in using and protecting them. The more that young people enjoy, learn, and study our natural areas, the more likely they'll speak up for preservation."

The Nature Crew uses the Florida Youth Naturalist Program (FYNP) curriculum—a youth-friendly counterpart to the Florida Master Naturalist Program. Designed for ages 10–13, FYNP guides young learners through uplands, freshwater ecosystems, and coastal environments, blending scientific exploration with stewardship.

The 4-H club is led by volunteers Courtney Castro and Kathaleen Wilson, with enthusi-

astic participation from youth members:

Annabelle Ainsworth  
Braelynn Anne Cilano

Anarya Day  
Zoey Day  
Bennett Glass  
Georgia Goodman  
Emmett Scarborough  
Riley Schaefer  
Lilliana Van Wingerden

Lincoln Van Wingerden

Ridley Walker  
Kynthia Yoshioka  
Ronald Yoshioka  
Everett Zak  
Looking Ahead: A Year of Growth and Opportunity

4-H Agent Rachel Pienta highlighted how this year represents a milestone for the county's youth programs:

"This marks the first time the Youth Naturalist Curriculum has been offered in Wakulla County. I am working with volunteers on growing the program and incorporating hands-on learning experiences with the Florida 4-H Forest Ecology contest."

Families interested in nature based learning can look forward to 4-H Summer Day Camps, including the Petals and Paws Camp (June 22–25), which offers experiences in biology, horticulture, and animal science. Additional camp offerings can be found on the Wakulla Extension website: <https://sfl.ifas.ufl.edu/wakulla/>

la/4-h-youth-development/.

The community can also meet leaders, explore clubs, and sign up for the upcoming year during the Wakulla 4 H Open House at Wakulla Extension Office, 84 Cedar Avenue, Crawfordville on Saturday, August 29, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free Admission.

The event welcomes new members, volunteers, and families eager to learn more about 4-H's growing lineup of clubs and activities.

For details, contact the UF/IFAS Wakulla Extension Office at 850 926 3931 or email [r.pienta@ufl.edu](mailto:r.pienta@ufl.edu).

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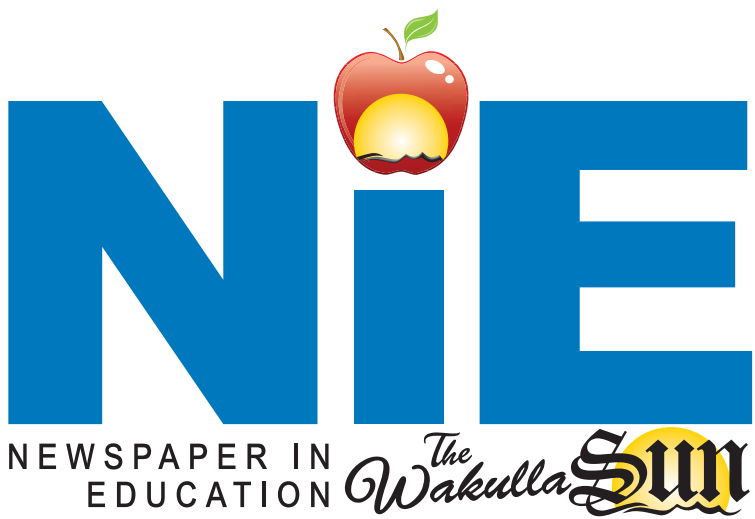
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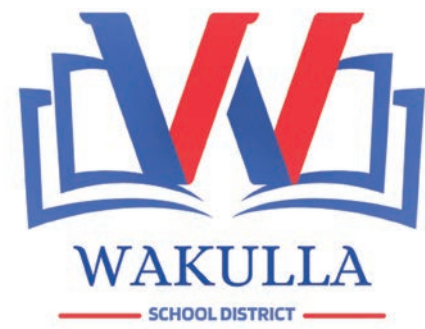
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## USE THE NEWS

### 1. TORNADO TRAGEDY

Powerful tornadoes caused serious damage in Michigan and Oklahoma, leaving at least six people dead and many others injured. In Michigan, tornadoes damaged homes, barns, a church, and even part of a hospital campus, while in Oklahoma, a tornado destroyed a house and damaged a middle school. Thousands of people lost power, and many roads, phone lines, and internet services were disrupted. Weather experts said the dangerous storms were part of a larger outbreak stretching across several states, with even more severe weather expected afterward. This story shows how quickly tornadoes can change people's lives and why it is so important to know where to go and how to stay safe during dangerous weather. Imagine your town is preparing for a tornado warning. Write a short public safety announcement that could be read on the radio or over the school loudspeaker to help people stay safe. Explain what people should do when a tornado warning is issued, where they should go for shelter, and why it is important to listen to weather alerts. Try to make your message clear, calm, and helpful so people understand what steps they should take.

### 2. IRAN'S NEW LEADER

Iran has named Mojtaba Khamenei as its new supreme leader after the death of his father, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The supreme leader is the most powerful person in Iran and helps make important decisions about the military, government, and the country's future. His appointment came during a time of war and growing conflict in the Middle East, with attacks damaging important places like water plants and oil facilities. Many people in the region have been hurt, displaced from their homes, or forced to flee because of the fighting. The story shows how leadership changes during war can affect not only one country, but

also many people in nearby places. Think about what qualities make a good leader, especially during a difficult time. Write a short paragraph describing three important traits a leader should have, such as fairness, bravery, or the ability to listen to others. Explain why each quality matters and how it could help a country during a crisis. After writing, discuss with a partner which leadership qualities you think are the most important.

### 3. UNREAL ANIMAL VIDEOS

More and more A.I.-generated videos are showing animals doing things that are not real, such as hugging people, playing instruments, or acting like humans. These videos may

look convincing, but they can give people the wrong idea about how real animals behave. A zoo in Kansas warned that when people watch too many fake videos, they may forget that wild animals have real needs and should not be treated like pets or toys. The article explains that real animals are already amazing, and we do not need fake videos to make them seem more interesting. It also reminds readers to be careful online and to think about whether what they are watching is true. Choose one animal you have seen in real life, at a zoo, or in a nature video. Write a short explanation describing how that animal really behaves in nature. Then imagine someone made a fake A.I. video showing that

animal doing something impossible, like talking or dancing. Explain why the video would be unrealistic and how people could tell the difference between a real animal video and a fake one.

### 4. SPRING FORWARD

Every year, many people in the United States change their clocks twice because of daylight saving time. In the spring, clocks move forward one hour, and in the fall, they move back one hour. This idea started long ago because people thought shifting the clocks could help save energy and make better use of daylight. Over time, some people have liked the extra evening light, while others have said the time change is confusing and can make people tired. Even today, leaders still disagree

about whether the country should keep changing the clocks or choose one time all year long. For one day, pretend your school is creating a brand-new daily schedule that takes advantage of daylight. Think about when students would arrive, when classes would start, and when activities like recess or sports would happen. Write a short description of your schedule and explain why your plan makes the best use of daylight and helps students stay energized during the day.

### 5. INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

International Women's Day is celebrated every year on March 8 to honor the achievements of women and to encourage fairness and equality. The day has a long history that

began when women spoke up for better pay, shorter work hours, voting rights, and equal treatment. Over time, it grew into an international event celebrated in many countries around the world. The colors purple, green, and white are often used to represent justice, hope, and dignity. International Women's Day reminds people to celebrate women's contributions and to continue working toward a fairer world for everyone. Many women throughout history have made a difference in science, sports, art, government, and everyday life. Think about a woman you admire. It could be someone famous, someone from history, or someone you know personally. Write at least 5 sentences explaining who she is and why she inspires you.



### Creative Coloring

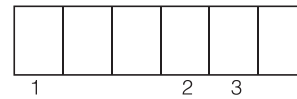
Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.



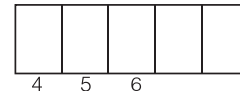
### Double Word Puzzle

Unscramble the individual words to reveal letters for the phrase.

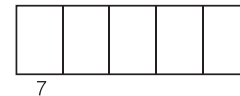
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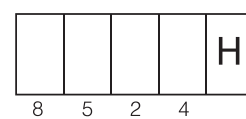
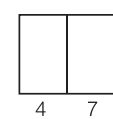
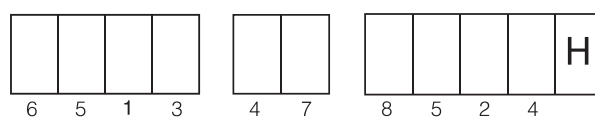
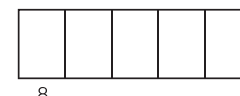
GERNE



COANE



ORBKO



### MUSIC FACT:

This instrument features prominently in traditional Irish music.

Answer: Fiddle and bow

Answers: Island, Green, Ocean, Brook : Erin Go Bragh



**1912:** The Girl Guides, eventually renamed the Girl Scouts, are founded in the United States.

**1947:** The Truman Doctrine is proclaimed to help stem the spread of Communism.

**2020:** The United States suspends travel from Europe due to COVID-19.

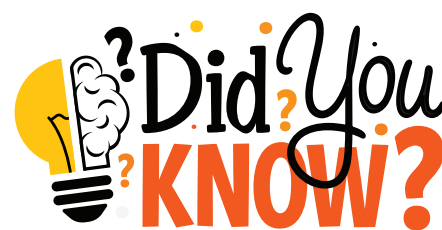
### NEW WORD

#### CELTIC

people from the nations of Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Brittany, Cornwall, and the Isle of Man



- English:** Ireland
- Spanish:** Irlanda
- Italian:** Irlanda
- French:** Irlande
- German:** Irland



St. Patrick supposedly used the clover/shamrock to explain the Holy Trinity to native Irish in an effort to convert them to Christianity.



### Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Horseshoe

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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 TO CREDITORS**

0312-0319 TWS NTC STEVEN KEITH WILSON

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION FILE NO. 2026 CP 16

IN RE: ESTATE OF STEVEN KEITH WILSON, Deceased.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

The administration of the estate of Steven Keith Wilson, deceased, whose date of death was November 9, 2025, is pending in the Circuit Court for Wakulla County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 3056 Crawfordville Hwy., Crawfordville, FL 32327. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

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

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

The personal representative has no duty to discover whether any property held at the time of the decedent's death by the decedent or the decedent's surviving spouse is property to which the Florida Uniform Disposition of Community Property Rights at Death Act as described in ss. 732.216-732.228, applies, or may apply, unless a written demand is made by a creditor as specified under s. 732.2211, Florida Statutes.

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

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIOD SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is March 12, 2026.

Attorney for Personal Representative: /s/Kandace E. Rudd  
E-Mail Addresses: Kandace@mclawgroup.com  
danielle@mclawgroup.com  
Florida Bar No. 1003917  
Waldoch & McConnaughay, P.A.  
1632 Metropolitan Circle  
Tallahassee, FL 32308  
Telephone: 850-385-1246

Personal Representative: Stephanie Lynn Wilson  
175 Tarpine Drive  
Panacea, FL 32346

March 12, 19, 2026

**NOTICE OF ACTION**

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

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

Case No.: 2026-CA-000010

**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

March 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026

**NOTICE OF ACTION**

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

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

Case No.: 2025 CA 14

**NOTICE OF ACTION - CONSTRUCTIVE SERVICE**

To: DELVERNA RUTH HAWKINS HENRY, DOROTHY LEE HAWKINS and ALBERT HAWKINS, JR. deceased, any unknown spouses, heirs, devisees, grantees, creditors, assigns, and all other parties claiming by through, under or against him.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Complaint for Access has been filed on the following property in Wakulla County, Florida:

THE WEST 15 FEET OF THE FOLLOWING PARCEL:  
THE SOUTH 8 ACRES OF THE NORTH 40 ACRES OF THE SOUTH-EAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 24, TOWNSHIP 2 SOUTH, RANGE 1 WEST, WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:  
BEGIN AT A CONCRETE MONUMENT MARKING THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 24, TOWNSHIP 2 SOUTH, RANGE 1 WEST, WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND THENCE RUN NORTH 01 DEGREES 54 MINUTES 39 SECONDS EAST ALONG THE EAST BOUNDARY OF SAID SOUTHWEST QUARTER 281.46 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT, THENCE RUN WEST 1357.63 FEET TO THE WEST BOUNDARY OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 24, THENCE RUN SOUTH 02 DEGREES 32 MINUTES 31 SECONDS WEST ALONG SAID WEST BOUNDARY 281.58 FEET TO A ST. JOE PAPER COMPANY CONCRETE MONUMENT, THENCE RUN EAST ALONG THE SOUTH BOUNDARY OF SAID 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, TOWNSHP 2 SOUTH, RANGE 1 WEST, WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND RUN NORTH 00 DEGREES 02 MINUTES 59 SECONDS WEST ALONG THE EASTERLY BOUNDARY OF SAID SECTION 23 (AS MONUMENTED) A DISTANCE OF 711.07 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT (MARKED #2919), THENCE RUN NORTH 89 DEGREES 24 MINUTES 12 SECONDS EAST 264.88 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT (MARKED #2919), THENCE RUN NORTH 00 DEGREES 02 MINUTES 25 SECONDS WEST 699.64 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT (MARKED #2919), THENCE RUN NORTH 88 DEGREES 26 MINUTES 01 SECONDS WEST 308.37 FEET TO A ST. JOE PAPER COMPANY CONCRETE MONUMENT, THENCE RUN NORTH 89 DEGREES 31 MINUTES 26 SECONDS WEST 612.22 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT (MARKED #1254), THENCE RUN SOUTH 00 DEGREES 01 MINUTES 21 SECONDS WEST 377.29 FEET TO A RE-ROD (MARKED #4261), THENCE RUN EAST 655.92 FEET T A RE-ROD (MARKED #4261), THENCE RUN SOUTH 328.45 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING CONTAINING 10.00 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

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

COMMENCE AT A ST. JOE PAPER COMPANY CONCRETE MONUMENT MARKING THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 23, TOWNSHIP 2 SOUTH, RANGE 1 WEST, WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND RUN SOUTH 89 DEGREES 33 MINUTES 04 SECONDS WEST ALONG THE SOUTH BOUNDARY OF SAID SECTION 23 (AS MONUMENTED) A DISTANCE OF 592.49 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. FROM SAID POINT OF BEGINNING, RUN NORTH 00 DEGREES 01 MINUTES 21 SECONDS WEST 1044.62 FEET, THENCE RUN WEST 20.00 FEET TO A RE-ROD (MARKED #4261), THENCE RUN SOUTH 00 DEGREES 01 MINUTES 21 SECONDS 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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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, GRANTEEES, 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, GRANTEEES, 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 "4", 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 WDCIAL 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, GRANTEEES, 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, GRANTEEES, 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@aldridgepите.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

NOTICE OF ACTION

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

U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCAF ACQUISITION TRUST, PLAINTIFF, V.

THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES, GRANTEEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES AND ALL OTHERS WHO MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST IN THE ESTATE OF MARGARET J. MIDGETTE, DECEASED, ET. AL., DEFENDANT(S).

NOTICE OF ACTION- CONSTRUCTIVE SERVICE

TO: THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES, GRANTEEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES AND ALL OTHERS WHO MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST IN THE ESTATE OF MARGARET J. MIDGETTE, DECEASED,

whose residence is unknown if he/she/they be living; and if he/she/they be dead, the unknown defendants who may be spouses, heirs, devisees, grantees, assignees, lienors, creditors, trustees, and all parties claiming an interest by, through, under or against the Defendants, who are not known to be dead or alive, and all parties having or claiming to have any right, title or interest in the property described in the mortgage being foreclosed herein.

TO: DONALD FORD,

whose residence is unknown and all parties having or claiming to have any right, title or interest in the property described in the mortgage being foreclosed herein.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property:

COMMENCE AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 23, TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH, RANGE 2 WEST, WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA AND RUN THENCE EAST ALONG THE SOUTH BOUNDARY OF SAID NORTHEAST QUARTER A DISTANCE OF 1,634 FEET TO A POINT INTERSECTON THE WEST LINE OF A 50 FOOT STREET, THENCE RUN NORTH ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID STREET AND PARALLEL WITH THE WEST BOUNDARY OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 23 A DISTANCE OF 500 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. FROM SAID POINT OF BEGINNING, CONTINUE NORTH ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID STREET AND PARALLEL WITH THE WEST BOUNDARY OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 23 A DISTANCE OF 110 FEET TO A POINT INTERSECTING THE SOUTH LINE OF JERBE-LOU BOULEVARD, THENCE RUN WEST ALONG THE SOUTH BOUNDARY OF SAID BOULEVARD AND PARALLEL TO THE SOUTH BOUNDARY OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 23 A DISTANCE OF 240 FEET, THENCE RUN SOUTH AND PARALLEL WITH THE WEST BOUNDARY OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 23 A DISTANCE OF 110 FEET, AND THENCE RUN EAST PARALLEL WITH THE SOUTH BOUNDARY OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 23 A DISTANCE OF 240 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING 0.67 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, AND BEING SITUATE IN THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECAON 23, TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH, RANGE 2 WEST, WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND BEING THE SAME PROPERTY AS OTHERWISE DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 106, PAGE 226 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on counsel for Plaintiff, whose address is 6409 Congress Ave., Suite 100, Boca Raton, Florida 33487 on or before April 11, 2026 (30 days from Date of First Publication of this Notice) and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on Plaintiffs attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition filed herein.

WITNESS my hand and seal of said court at Wakulla County, Florida 5th day of March, 2026.

{{County Court Seal}}

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



March 12, 19, 2026

CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Blockchain-based entity
4. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
7. Painted with glue
12. Legendary crooner
15. Structure made with strips of wood
16. Tropical fruits
18. Commercial
19. Comedienne Gasteier
20. The Ocean State
21. Ancient Scot
24. Basics
27. Stated propositions
30. Scottish island group
31. Expression of annoyance
33. Large tree
34. Engine additive
35. Conspiracy
37. Drunkard
39. Someone who is morally reprehensible
41. Ancient Syrian city
42. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
44. Carry (slang)
47. Sweet potato
48. European river
49. The Golden State
50. Windy City ballplayer
52. New Testament
53. Possess spiritually
56. A treeless grassy plain
61. Popular historical novel
63. In a law-abiding way

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

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Sudoku puzzle grid with some numbers filled in.

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!

Crossword clues and a small grid with the words 'SUDOKU' and 'CROSSWORD' visible.



- 64. A place to sleep
65. Criticize
25. Steep bank
26. Taxi driver
28. Moves into without difficulty
29. Bicycle manufacturer
32. Traditional rhythmic pattern
36. Fugitives are on it
38. Bitter-tasting organic substance
40. Die
43. Matched
44. Literary genre \_\_\_-fi
45. Cannot
46. Pounded
51. British rock group
54. Debt relief order
55. 2006 NL Cy Young winner
56. Green vegetable
57. Tough outer skin of fruit
58. \_\_\_ Spumante (Italian wine)
59. Ailments
60. Famed singer Charles
62. Camper

- CLUES DOWN
1. Impression in a surface
2. Computer language
3. Relating to the ear
4. Occupant
5. Member of Great Plains people
6. Social media firm
7. Digital audiotape
8. Midway between east and southeast
9. Chronic, progressive disease
10. Chinese lute
11. Not wet
12. Moves wings up and down
13. Communication devices
14. Swiss river
17. Female sibling
22. Receive
23. Relating to a type
24. General's assistant (abbr.)

Large crossword puzzle grid with some numbers filled in.







# Battle of Natural Bridge



Confederate re-enactors fire on the approaching Yankee troops in the annual re-enactment of the Battle of Natural Bridge, held this past weekend. In the battle in March 1865, Confederates repelled a landing of Union soldiers who crossed the St. Marks River at Natural Bridge. The battle left Tallahassee the only Confederate capitol east of the Mississippi that was not captured during the Civil War. (Photos by Linda Ann McDonald)



# Free Community SHRED EVENT

SATURDAY | APRIL 18

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

or until the shred trucks are full

Wakulla County Transfer Station  
159 Landfill Rd,  
Crawfordville, FL 32327



- Prevent Fraud
- Prevent Identity Theft
- Shred Sensitive Documents

- No binders, metal or plastic - i.e. CDs, floppy discs, ziplock bags, credit cards, etc.
- No need to remove staples, paperclips or file folders.

Join us for this free community service!

Saturday, April 18th from 9am - 1pm.

Your items for shredding must be within the trunk or rear of your vehicle.



For additional information or questions regarding accepted items, please contact Secure Records Solutions at (850) 656-6900 or visit [www.securerecordsolutions.com/shred-day-faq](http://www.securerecordsolutions.com/shred-day-faq)

WAKULLA 4-H PRESENTS **2026**

# Wakulla Wonderful

A CELEBRATION OF WAKULLA

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

ACCEPTING VENDORS

MUST REGISTER FEE FOR SOME VENDORS

## 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](mailto:km24bm@fsu.edu)



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WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP?**  
We always need donations of these items:

- Bleach
- Paper towels
- Fruit cocktail
- Birdseed & nuts
- Pedigree wet & dry dog food
- Friskies wet & dry cat food
- Dawn Dish Soap

**Florida Wild Mammal Association**  
198 Edgar Poole Road  
Crawfordville, FL 32327  
FWMA.org  
363-2351

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bigbendhospice.org

*Big Bend Hospice*

## Wakulla Volunteers Wanted

**Become a Hospice Volunteer Today!**

No prior experience needed - just an open heart and a desire to help.

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



*Apply Now!*

**READY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?**

Visit [bigbendhospice.org](http://bigbendhospice.org) or call Andrea Zinker at 850-878-5310 to learn more and get started.



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**WRESTLING**

# Kendal Haynie wins state championship

By **WALT JACOBS**  
Correspondent

Last season, Kendal Haynie was faced with obstacles that were beyond her control: An injury kept her out of competition for 2 months. She returned to the mat in time for the post-season, but on the first day of the State Tournament she became ill. In spite of those challenges, she courageously battled to a fourth place finish.

This season, her team of coaches made every effort to prevent another setback and Haynie got off to a blazing 13-0 start.

However, in the middle of December she suffered another injury and history seemed to be repeating itself. Haynie rested and rehabilitated for the next few months and made it back in time for the post-season. In dominant fashion, Haynie pinned her way through districts and regionals.

On March 5th-7th, at the FHSAA State Wrestling Tournament, Haynie was relaxed, healthy, and prepared.

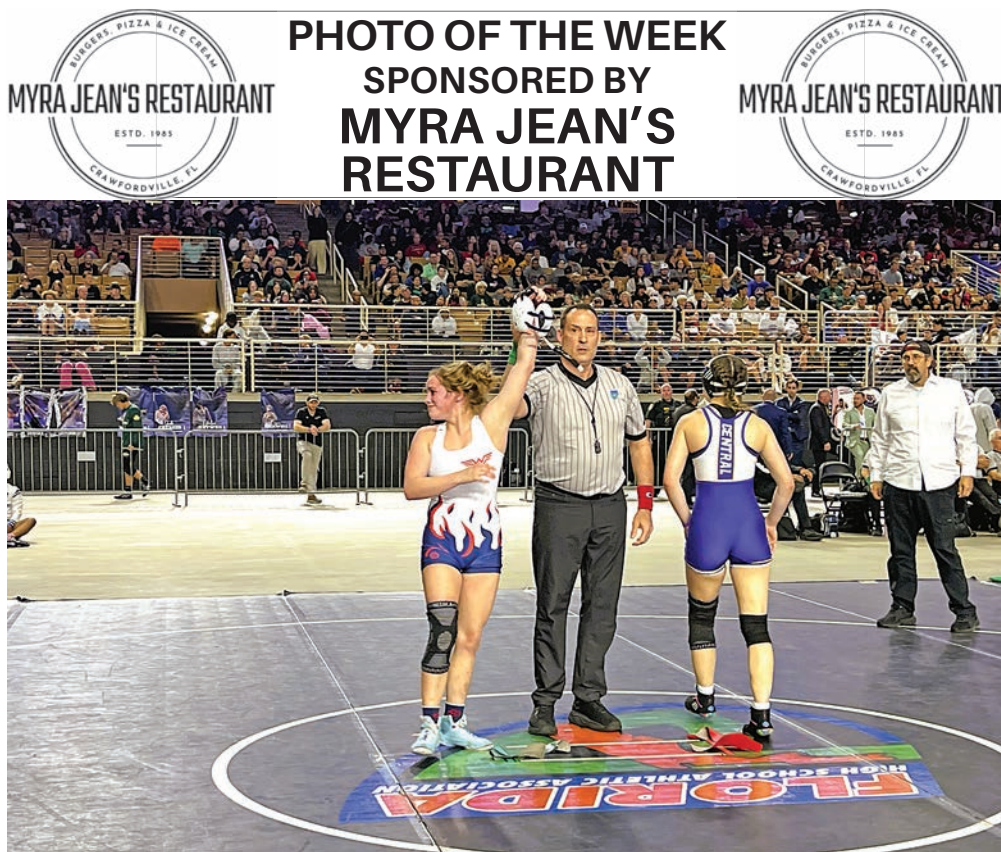
Coach Jon Sanchez said, “At the beginning of the season we wrote all of our goals on the board and every day the kids read them out loud. I reminded them throughout the practice to remember what their goals are and why each rep matters. So going into the State Tournament, Kendal was very focused.”

That focus manifested itself on the mat as Haynie had two pins and a technical fall going into the championship finals. In the finals, Haynie continued her display of dominance with a second period pin over Fort Pierce Central’s Caitlin Boher.

Following the win, a large contingent of family and friends celebrated in the stands as Haynie celebrated in the corner with coaches Jon Sanchez and Tommy Haynie.

Kendal, who was overcome with emotion, embraced her coaches and said “Thank you for everything.”

Later, while reflecting on the investment others have made in her success, Haynie said, “My dad takes me to a



**Kendal Haynie has her hand raised in victory at state championship.**



**William Harvey returns Kellen Messina to the mat,**

club two hours away, three times a week and makes sure that I have everything I need to succeed.” She laughingly added, “Coach Sanchez often says he beats me up at practice so no one else beats me on the mat.”

She also reflected on the journey and the resilience it took to overcome the challenges along the way. “I’m just really happy that I was able to come back from injury and win a State Title.”

Haynie made history by becoming the first girl at WHS to win a state title in any sport.

Following the season, Haynie will begin training to make the USA world team for wrestling.

For anyone interest-

ed in making a contribution contact Tommy Haynie at [stompknockernation@gmail.com](mailto:stompknockernation@gmail.com) for further information.

**WAKULLA PLACES 8TH AT STATE TOURNAMENT**

As a team, Wakulla placed 8th at the FHSAA State Tournament in Kissimmee. Individually speaking, the boys placed five wrestlers in the top eight, which is the most since 2020.

William Harvey finished his stellar season with a 63-4 record and a second place finish at 126 pounds.

Brady Jackson capped off his remarkable career with a 6th place finish, at 138 pounds.

This year, in addition to making the podium for the third straight year, Jackson set single season records for most technical falls in a season with 38 and most takedowns in a season with 239.

Aaron Robinson placed 5th at 144 pounds, Troy Thaxton placed 7th at 150 pounds and Blake Barodte placed 8th at 215 pounds.

Coach Nate Litowsky commented, “I’m very proud of these men this year, we did more than anyone ever thought we could. The only believers were the ones in that varsity room. We were the best public school dual team in the state and had 5 state placers.”

**WRESTLERS of the WEEK**

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**WILLIAM HARVEY**  
Boys Wrestler of Week



**KENDAL HAYNIE**  
Girls Wrestler of week

**OTTER CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
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Join us  
on Sunday Mornings  
at 11 AM

**COACH’S CORNER**

“We look forward to the grind and chasing greatness. After spring break it will be on to next season.”

– Coach Nate Litowsky



**Troy Thaxton cradles Merritt Island's Nolan West.**



**Brady Jackson vs Willie White of SLAM Academy.**

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**FWMA**

**A Wakulla Wild Animal Rescue**  
**WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP?**  
We always need donations of these items:

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**363-2351**