



Joy-Filled Easter at Lodge/Page 14

# The Wakulla Sun



Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday Friday Saturday



Partly Cloudy AM Showers Mostly Sunny  
Hi: 81° Lo: 65° 40% Hi: 79° Lo: 65° 31% Hi: 81° Lo: 64° 9%  
Sunrise 7:25 AM Sunset 7:57 PM Sunrise 7:24 AM Sunset 7:57 PM Sunrise 7:23 AM Sunset 7:58 PM



\$1 One Section

"It's a New Day" Locally Owned & Operated

Our 5th Year 14th Issue Thursday, April 2, 2026

## Hit and run driver gets 15 years

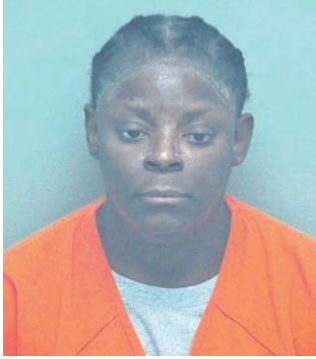
Alfreda Nelson ran over a 9-year-old boy and left scene, sentenced to maximum

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN Editor

The woman who hit a 9-year-old boy with her car and then left the scene was sentenced last week to 15 years in state prison, the maximum sentence for the charge of leaving the scene of an accident with serious injury, a second degree felony.

The courtroom was packed on Thursday, March 26, for the sentencing hearing of Alfreda Nelson as the case drew widespread attention last year over the concern for the boy, Sawyer Crawley, who suffered traumatic brain injury as a result of the accident.

Crawley was riding a dirt bike in his neighbor-



Alfreda Nelson



Judge Brian Miller

hood when he was hit by Nelson's car. Neighbors video cameras helped identify Nelson's car to law enforcement.

The crowd gasped as County Judge Brian Miller announced the sentence, and the judge quickly warned the audience not to react.

Nelson had done a straight-up plea to the charge, meaning there

was no agreed-upon sentence with the prosecution.

Nelson told the court that she had just picked up her child from school and said she was aware she "collided with a small vehicle." She said she "reacted out of fear - I panicked" and left the scene. Nelson said she blacked out and had no recollection of events.

She apologized to the Crawley family and his mother, and asked the court for "leniency and mercy."

But Wakulla Chief Prosecutor Andrew Deneen noted it wasn't just the crash and leaving the scene, but the choices to park the vehicle to hide it; walking past the scene but not acknowledging her role; denying it when the state trooper on the case developed evidence; and, Deneen added, her computer history showed she was considering fleeing to Mississippi or Texas to avoid consequences.

It wasn't just a single bad choice, Deneen said, "It was a series of bad choices."

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## JQC recommends public reprimand for Judge Smith

In frustration, the judge told attorneys at a hearing he should have the bailiff shoot them

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN Editor

A panel at the Judicial Qualifications Commission issued its findings and recommendations that Wakulla Circuit Judge Layne Smith violated judicial canons with some intemperate remarks he made in court to attorneys during a contentious hearing back in September, and recommended he face a public reprimand.

The JQC issued its report on Tuesday, March 24.

After complaints filed by two attorneys, David Kemp of Crawfordville and Stephen Webster of Tallahassee, the judge self-reported himself to the JQC and recused himself from cases in which Kemp and Webster were representing clients.

At the September hearing of a civil lawsuit, Raker v. Vause, in which family members had been involved in seven contentious cases before Judge Smith, he became frustrated at learning the attorneys could not confirm that service had been properly rendered on one of the parties.

"I would like to tell the deputy to pull his gun and shoot all three of you as far as my level of frustration right now. I really don't want him to do that," Judge Smith said at the hearing. He added: "What is this, the Keystone Cops, just not very funny?"

He made several other remarks at that hearing expressing his frustration and disparaging the attorneys in the case.

In its 7-page Findings and Recommendation of Discipline, the JQC said Judge Smith "has expressed deep regret that his conduct could have eroded the public's perception of the impartiality

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Judge Layne Smith

### PROM PICTURES



### Posing at the park

Wakulla High's prom was held Friday night at Wakulla Springs, but earlier in the evening lots of students went to Azalea Park for a beautiful backdrop for photos. Above, juniors Ella Yost, Anarosa Callejas, Kendra Green and Heaven Taylor pose at the gazebo. At right, Aidan Downer and Joseylynn Shuler. (Photos by Lynda Kinsey)



## Crawfordville man injured in crash

Staff Report

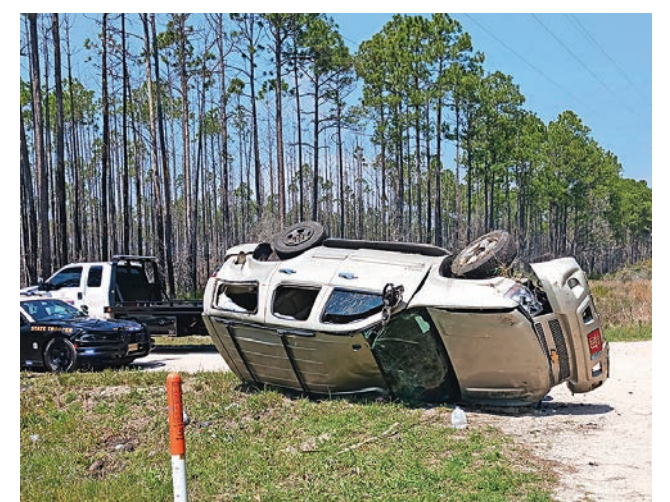
A 34-year-old Crawfordville man was injured when he rolled his SUV while traveling on U.S. Highway 319 in Franklin County south of Sopchoppy, according to the Florida Highway Patrol.

He reportedly suffered serious injuries and was taken by Air Ambulance to Tallahassee Memorial Hospital, FHP reported.

The man was traveling north on 319 on Tuesday, March 24, around noon when, for unknown reasons, his vehicle left the roadway onto the east shoulder. The driver overcorrected to the left, re-entered the roadway, and crossed over to the west shoulder. The driver then overcorrected to the right to try and the highway, causing the vehicle to roll.

The SUV came to final rest on its passenger side on the west shoulder of US 319 near the intersection of McIntyre Road.

The Florida Highway Patrol was assisted on scene by the Franklin County Sheriff's Office and Weems EMS.



An SUV that rolled on U.S. Highway 319 on March 24. The driver was airlifted to TMH with serious injuries.

## Local man killed in Bahamas

Staff Report

Cody Castillo was looking forward to flying back to his Crawfordville home last week after working in the Bahamas. He and his wife Makayla were looking forward to welcoming their first child into the world in August.

Castillo never made it back home, and was fatally shot while abroad, according to reports. A GoFundMe was started to support his family and notice was sent to local media outlets which included a link to Daily Mail news story about Castillo being shot by a Bahamian policeman during a bar fight.

The off-duty policeman initially alleged that Castillo had gotten into a truck and driven towards



Cody Castillo and wife Makayla in a screenshot from her GoFundMe.

him.

A subsequent story by Reuters indicated that the police superintendent who shot Castillo, Berneil Pinder, was arrested and charged

with murder after video indicated Castillo hadn't sped towards him in a truck.

Pinder was being held in jail in Nassau. Family Funeral Home

in Crawfordville issued a Death Notice for Castillo.

As of Monday morning, the GoFundMe had raised \$58,000 of the \$60,000 goal as a result of the attention.

**Send Me The Bill**  
 Lori L. Lewis  
 Chief Executive Officer  
 Mental Health/Medical Billing  
 sendmethebillLLC@gmail.com  
 Cell 717-413-6761  
 Fax 717-256-7199  
 www.SendMeTheBill.net  
 1037 Gulf Shore Blvd.  
 Alligator Point, FL 32346

**Congratulations on Your Success! 850-926-4677**  
 The Mike's Feed Store family is proud of you & knows that you will do great things!  
 Proud Sponsor of Student of the Week... **FEED STORE**

Our current store address is  
 28 McCallister Road  
 www.mikesfeedstore.com  
 Monday-Friday 8-6:30  
 Saturday 8-5

God Bless America  
**MFS**  
 EST 2017

**AIR-CON Of Wakulla**  
 Heating & Air  
 Serving Wakulla & Franklin Counties  
 850-926-5592  
 Sales & Service  
 All Makes & Models  
 Carrier  
 Turn to the Experts  
 3232 Crawfordville Hwy., Crawfordville  
 Owned and Operated by Gary Limbaugh Lic. # CAC1814304

## Student of the Week

### Sydney Baker – 12th grader, Wakulla High School

Principal: Michele Falk

**Achievements/Reason for Nomination:** Wakulla High School proudly recognizes senior Sydney Baker as Student of the Week for her outstanding leadership and dedication to excellence. As president of the National Honor Society, Sydney leads a student-driven organization that has grown to over 175 members this year, setting a remarkable standard for involvement and achievement. She has been an exemplary leader, spearheading fundraising efforts that have raised more than \$5,000 to support NHS scholarships. Sydney's contagious energy and commitment to building school spirit have left a lasting mark on campus, most notably through her organization of a highly successful, school-wide Spring Carnival. Beyond her leadership accomplishments, she truly embodies the NHS pillars of character, service, and scholarship in everything she does. Sydney's future is bright as she prepares to attend Florida State University's College of Engineering beginning this summer. Wakulla High is proud to celebrate her many achievements.



STUDENT OF THE WEEK FEATURES A DIFFERENT SCHOOL EACH WEEK.

Fresh-Mixed  
**MARGARITAS**  
**SAN MARCOS**  
 GRILL & CANTINA  
 Lunch Specials  
 Monday – Friday  
 11:00 – 3:00  
 850-962-8079  
 INDOOR & PATIO SEATING  
 DINE IN OR CARRY OUT  
 DOORDASH  
 We don't want ALL the Business  
 – but we want YOUR Business  
 2000 Crawfordville Hwy.  
 Across from Wal Mart  
 Sun. – Thurs. 11-9  
 Fri. and Sat. 11-10  
 Toasttab.com/SanMarcosCrawfordville



formerly  
 Habitat for Humanity

## Re-Sell Store

850-926-4544  
 940 Shadeville Rd.



## 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.

**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.



The Wakulla Sun  
 Readers' Choice  
 Winners 2024  
**BLACKFOOT**  
**ROOFING**  
 & CONSTRUCTION  
 3152 Crawfordville Highway  
 Crawfordville, FL 32327  
 (850) 251-9792  
 www.blackfootroofing.com  
 SELECT ShingleMaster Certified  
 Veteran Owned Business  
 VOB VERIFIED  
 PROUD MEMBER  
 CCC1332583



A Wakulla Wild Animal Rescue  
 WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP?

We always need donations of these items:

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

### Florida Wild Mammal Association

198 Edgar Poole Road  
 Crawfordville, FL 32327  
 FWMA.org  
 363-2351

**Paws of Wakulla, Inc. Spa Day**  
**Pamper your Pooch Dog Wash**

SATURDAY, April 4, 2026

9:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Hudson Park, Crawfordville

### Spa package\*

#### Amenities include:

- Aromatherapy Bubble Bath
- Le Flea & Tick Spray All Natural Ingredients
- Towel Drying
- PAWdecure

**All this for only a \$20 suggested donation!**

#### Other options:

- \$15\* Bath only
- \$10\* Nail Trim only
- \$15\* Anal Gland Expression only



**\*SUGGESTED DONATION, PROCEEDS BENEFIT HOMELESS ANIMALS, OUR LOCAL SHELTER AND OTHER PROGRAMS**

**Wakulla County Tax Collectors Office**  
**SPECIALTY TAGS**  
 \$20 - \$30 additional to cost of tag.

*Lisa Craze, CFC*  
 Wakulla County Tax Collector

**FLORIDA STATE PARKS SPECIALTY LICENSE PLATE**  
 RELEASED: OCTOBER 2021

The revenue collected annually from the sale of the Florida State Parks specialty license plate will be distributed to the Florida State Parks Foundation, a Florida nonprofit, for their efforts to preserve, protect, sustain, and grow Florida state parks.

Floridians interested in purchasing one of the many specialty license plates offered in Florida are encouraged to visit their local tax collector or license plate agency. A complete list of Florida's specialty license plates can be found on the department's website.



PO Box 1195, Crawfordville FL 32326 ♦ [www.pawsofwakulla.org](http://www.pawsofwakulla.org) ♦

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# Wakulla High junior Mattie Harrell named Sunshine State Scholar

Special to The Sun

Wakulla High School proudly recognizes junior Mattie Harrell as this year's Sunshine State Scholar, an honor that celebrates Florida's top students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

The Sunshine State Scholars Program, sponsored by the Florida Department of Education, highlights one outstanding senior from each district who demonstrates exceptional academic achievement, leadership, and a commitment to excellence in STEM fields. Mattie represents Wakulla County Schools among the state's highest-performing students.

Mattie has distinguished herself through a rigorous academic schedule, earning a 4.30 weighted GPA while excelling in some of Wakulla High School's most challenging courses, including Pre-Calculus Honors, Chemistry Honors, and ENC1101. As a dedicated member of the Medical Academy, she has set her sights on a



Junior Mattie Harrell represents Wakulla Schools among the state's highest-performing students.

future in medicine, with aspirations of becoming a physician. Outside of school, she is a competitive barrel racer and an active member of 4-H, where she has taken on leadership roles and gained valuable hands-on experience.

Her Medical Academy

Instructor, Kristi Lawhon, shared, "Mattie is an excellent student who has dreams of becoming a physician. She is extremely driven and works hard at achieving her goals. She is a joy to teach."

Known for her quiet determination and

strong sense of purpose, Mattie exemplifies the character and commitment that define Wakulla High School's student leaders. She follows a long line of outstanding recipients and is deeply deserving of this prestigious recognition.

Earlier this month, Mattie participated in the statewide Sunshine State Scholars program, where she connected with fellow top students, educators, and industry leaders while gaining insight into future academic and career opportunities in STEM fields.

Superintendent Rick Myhre shared, "Mattie is an amazing reminder of the bright future in store for our community and for our country. Her outstanding accomplishments make everyone proud to know her and should remind Wakulla County of the caliber of students we have in our schools. Thank you, Mattie, for the positive example you set for all of us!"

Wakulla High School celebrates Mattie Harrell for this outstanding achievement.

## 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.



## City of Sopchoppy Notice of Public Meeting

The City of Sopchoppy will hold two regular monthly meetings Monday, April 13, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. and Monday, April 27, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. Both meetings will be held at City Hall, 105 Municipal Avenue, Sopchoppy, FL.

**Purpose of Meeting: General Business.**

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

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

April 2, 2026

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

## WAKULLA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS INVITATION TO BID NO. ITB 2026-06

ST. MARKS FIRE RESCUE FACILITY CONSTRUCTION  
ADVERTISEMENT BEGIN DATE: APRIL 2, 2026

RELEASE DATE: APRIL 2, 2026

BIDS DUE TO BOCC:

MAY 19, 2026 @ 3:00 PM EST

Sealed bids will be received at the Office of the Board of County Commissioners, 3093 Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville, FL 32327, until 3:00 P.M. EST on May 19, 2026. At which time, bids will be opened and read aloud. Bids received after the deadline will not be accepted.

The principal feature of this procurement by the County is known as ST. MARKS FIRE RESCUE FACILITY CONSTRUCTION. The specifications of this procurement are stated in ITB 2026-06.

The ITB and any addenda issued will be posted to the County's Website at www.mywakulla.com, or can be obtained by contacting the County Procurement Office at Procurement@mywakulla.com, or 850-926-0919, EXT 715.

All technical inquiries and clarification requests shall be submitted in writing to the Procurement Office at Procurement@mywakulla.com in accordance with the ITB. Verbal clarifications will not be provided.

A mandatory pre-bid conference is scheduled for APRIL 16, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. EST. The meeting will be held at the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners Administration Office, 3093 Crawfordville Hwy., Crawfordville, FL 32327. The meeting is MANDATORY for all contractors who plan to submit bids. Attendees must sign in at the pre-bid conference in order to be authorized to bid on the project. All question(s) asked at the pre-bid meeting will not be formally addressed via addendum unless provided to the County in writing.

A person or affiliate who has been placed on the convicted vendor list following a conviction for a public

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

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

Wakulla County is an Equal Opportunity Employer  
MBE/WBE businesses are encouraged to participate  
Wakulla County strictly enforces open and fair competition  
Wakulla County does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, marital status, or disability/handicapped status in employment or provision of service.

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

April 2, 2026



## Chamber luncheon

The Tallahassee State College Wakulla Environmental Institute hosted Wakulla Chamber of Commerce members and guests for a monthly luncheon, held on Wednesday, March 25, this one catered by Hamaknockers Barbecue. At left, Rene Millender of Capital City Bank gets her lunch and a hug from Mary Wallace, who serves as mistress of ceremonies for the luncheons. The events provide an opportunity for businesspeople to socialize, have some lunch, and maybe win a door prize. (Photo by Lynda Kinsey)

## Judge Smith

From Front Page

of the judiciary, and embarrassment that his conduct was not patient, dignified, or

courteous to the litigants and lawyers that he was dealing with in an official capacity."

The judge has had a good reputation in the

legal community since being appointed to the bench as a Leon County judge back in 2015.

"Judge Smith hopes that the accepting of a public reprimand helps restore perception of the integrity of the ju-

diary," the JQC wrote. It noted as well that the judge has implemented practical procedures such as taking recesses and adjournments when faced with acrimonious or contentious court proceedings.

## Hit and run driver

From Front Page

That, too, was Judge Miller's concern as he pronounced sentence: Had she stayed at the scene of the accident, she would likely have only faced a traffic infraction.

But her choices to try to escape responsibility for her actions, including a first appearance order by Judge Miller that she not drive, which she vio-

lated a few months later by being caught driving to Tallahassee to have her nails done, which led to revocation of her bond and being held in jail, which showed she never had any intention to follow his orders, the judge said.

Noting Nelson is a pharmacist with advanced college degrees, he said it was "egregious and incomprehensible to me that someone as

smart as you" could make these bad choices.

Pointing to past felony charges from 2011 in Leon County for bank fraud and criminal use of ID as additional reasons he decided to go with the maximum sentence.

Judge Miller announced Nelson would be sentenced to 15 years in state prison for the charge of leaving the scene with serious bodily injury.

As the hearing adjourned, bailiffs took

Nelson to be fingerprinted and she began crying loudly. The bailiffs allowed her to see her family, hug them goodbye, and she began sobbing loudly and saying: "I'm sorry! I'm sorry! Take care of my kids! Please take care of my kids!"

Nelson has two daughters, a 9-year-old and 16-year-old, and is a single parent.

Judge Miller was assigned the case after Circuit Judge Layne Smith recused himself from the case.

## Happy Easter!

Christ is risen!  
He is risen indeed!  
Alleluia!

Join us for an Easter Celebration at Trinity Lutheran Church of Wakulla. We invite you to join us as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026  
Worship Service at 10:17 a.m.



Trinity Lutheran Church  
3254 Coastal Highway  
(across from Wakulla High School)  
Crawfordville, FL - 850-926-7808

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CRAWFORDVILLE

## EASTER EGG HUNT & HOTDOG LUNCH

Open to the public



Saturday, April 4  
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

First Baptist Church of Crawfordville  
3086 Crawfordville Highway

Parents, bring your kids for a joyful

## Easter Egg Hunt

and stay for a hotdog lunch!



Your local source for news.

# 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.”

## Ask Judge Smith: What’s in a name?



By **JUDGE LAYNE SMITH**

Most people have read or heard the assertion, “Your name is Mudd!” As a boy, I assumed that the “Mudd” being referred to was a mixture of dirt and water. I thought it was the equivalent of calling

someone a dirty dog. If I had paid closer attention, I would have noticed that “Mudd” is a surname. Do you know where the saying comes from? Here goes!

On April 14, 1865, John Wilkes Booth assassinated President Abraham Lincoln at Ford’s Theater in Washington, D.C. The assassin fled the scene on horseback. During his escape, Booth broke his left leg. The nation responded by conducting a massive manhunt to bring Booth to justice. Even so, Booth remained at large for twelve days.

Booth wanted to escape to the South, where he expected to

find protection and support. His broken bone hurt and made traveling difficult. Keeping his foot in a stirrup and walking aggravated his swollen leg and made it hard to wear a boot.

Booth sought medical help, which he obtained from a Maryland doctor named Samuel Mudd. The two men had met before, and Mudd was a Southern sympathizer. Dr. Mudd gave Booth respite and treated his injuries. Then, he supplied Booth with a fresh horse and food. Afterward, Booth resumed his escape, and the U.S. Army arrested Dr. Mudd.

A military commission tried Dr. Mudd

and found him guilty of aiding Booth’s escape. He was deemed an accessory, after the fact, to the President’s assassination. As punishment, Dr. Mudd served prison time.

The saying “Your name is Mudd” derives from Dr. Mudd and is always intended as an insult. It’s the same as calling someone a traitor.

How do people in modern times deal with infamous or unwanted names? They petition the circuit court for a name change. Allow me to explain.

The name change petition asks for basic information. You must identify yourself

and provide some details about your life. At name-change hearings, I ask questions to ensure no one changes their names to avoid consequences, such as ducking prosecution or debt.

Suppose your hippie mother named you Righteous Moonbean, and as fate would have it, you grew up to be a conservative Republican. In exchange for the filing fee and a petition, I can change your name to Ronald Reagan, IV.

Sharing a last name with an assassin can be a buzz-kill. If so, I can change your name from James Oswald to James Bond. Way cool-

er! If your dad is bad and it makes you sad, I can change your surname. If you took your husband’s surname and are getting a divorce, I can restore your prior last name or give you an entirely new last name. It’s up to you.

Are you sick of alphabetical order discrimination? As a Smith, I can relate! I can change your last name from Zeegers to Aardvark. If so, the last shall be first! Matthew 20:16.

*The Honorable J. Layne Smith is the Circuit Judge assigned to Wakulla County, Florida, a bestselling author, and a public speaker.*

### LETTERS FROM READERS

## Sign petition to support Wakulla Transportation

Editor, The Sun:

I would like to thank Bill Snowden and The Wakulla Sun for shedding light on our counties’ disadvantaged transportation system, which is operated by Wakulla County Senior Citizens.

It is rather ironic that we posted

an article in last month’s Neighbor discussing how much the system has improved over the last couple of years.

It is also noteworthy that we were able to improve operations, while also bringing the financial side of the equation to a point where we were no longer having to subsidize transportation with senior dollars.

One thing that we would like to expand on in last week’s ARPC board meeting was the first agenda item. The first one was a 15-minute review about how well Wakulla County has done with their transportation system and that we were awarded an A+ for the quality and growth of the service that we were offering our citizens while still staying in budget.

The second and last ARPC agenda item was to turn around and pull the rug out from under our feet with a proposal to award our system to Big Bend Transit. We have reviewed the other counties that Big Bend Transit operates in and note from the Florida Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged evaluation sheets that their ridership, or number of trips, is flat-lining in Gulf and Franklin counties, and going down

in Madison, Jefferson, Taylor, and Gadsden counties while Wakulla went up over 20%.

We still have a chance to turn this administrative boondoggle around so if you care about Wakulla’s transportation system staying as it is here in Wakulla, and maintaining its excellence, I would encourage you to contact The Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged @ 850-410-5700 or email CTDOmbudsman@dot.state.fl.us

You can also sign our petition by going to Wakulla Senior Center on Facebook or visiting the Wakulla Senior Center located at 33 Michael Drive, Crawfordville, FL 32327.

**John Shuff**  
Board Chairman  
Wakulla Senior Citizens Council

## 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 April 2

#### Thursday, April 2

- The Rotary Club of Wakulla meets at TSC Wakulla at 8:30 a.m.
- 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, April 3

- A blue pinwheel garden to raise awareness of National Child Abuse Prevention Month will be on display at the Wakulla County Department of Health beginning at 8:30 a.m.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon and 8 p.m. every Friday at 54 Ochlockonee St.

#### Saturday, April 4

- Wakulla Chamber of Commerce’s annual Low Country Boil will be held at 3Y Ranch be-

- PAWS Pamper Your Pooch will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Hudson Park. Spa packages or a la carte: Nails, bath, anal gland expression. The fundraiser benefits homeless pets in Wakulla.
- Easter Egg Hunt and Hot Dog Lunch will be held at First Baptist Church of Crawfordville, 3086 Crawfordville Hwy., from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Deadmen Walking Music Festival will be held at Palaver Tree Theater, 59 Shadeville Road. Acts include Apalach Sound, Anemoia, Blairstone, Palace Rats, The Deadmen, Mad-den Metcalf, and Banquet.

#### Sunday, April 5

- HAPPY EASTER!
- 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, April 6

- County commission meets in the commission boardroom beginning at 6 p.m.
- The Wakulla Respite Program is available for anyone with memory impairment at no cost from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Lake Ellen Baptist Church every Monday.
- 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.
- 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, April 7

- 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, April 8

- Wakulla County Garden Club meets at the Wakulla County Library from noon to 2 p.m. Guest speaker will be Extension Director Clayton Bania on Integrated Pest Management.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon and 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday at 54 Ochlockonee St.

#### UPCOMING

#### Saturday, April 11

- Worm Gruntin’ Festival in Sopchoppy. beginning with the Wiggle Worm Fun Run at 8 a.m., the worm gruntin’ contest at 10 a.m., and live music beginning at 11:30 a.m. And the Worm Grunters Ball with the Rick Ott Band will be held at Civic Brewing beginning at 6:30 p.m.

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Editor & Publisher  
The Wakulla Sun


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*“It’s A New Day!”*

# The Wakulla Sun



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- Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

# What Springtime activity do you like best?



**BARBARA OWENS**  
Florist

**“Working in the garden.”**



**BECCA SHIFLETT**  
Hardees

**“Planting all the spring flowers.”**



**KARA BARRON**  
Office Manager

**“Riding my motorcycle in this great weather, the sun beating down, the breeze, just disconnecting. It’s a great feeling of freedom.”**



**JENNIFER GASSETT**  
Tuti Turtles Bakehouse

**“Gardening and getting outside, going to the beach or near some water.”**



**HEATHER CHASON**  
Insurance adjustor

**“Riding the St. Marks River.”**

## Wakulla Crossroads

By **VERNA BROCK**

I genuinely hope we’ve had the dreaded, the legendary, “last cold-snap before Easter” now. The whipsnapping between nearly ninety and forty-five degrees is getting old. Once it gets really warm for a few days, the sap begins to rise and plants start to “wake up.” All that tender growth can’t handle a sudden cold plunge. Not to mention, I’m not overly fond of the fluctuating temperatures for myself either!

Lately, I drive past ditches full of wild lilies and thistles getting ready to burst into full purple regalia. The grandfather greybeards and dogwoods are in full bloom, strewn through the forests like freshly laundered linens blowing in the breeze. Wild azaleas, in shades of orange and pink, dot the countryside. Yellow jasmine is beginning to bloom, and tiny wildflowers in fuchsia, blue, white and yellow are abuzz with bees collecting nectar and honey.

Sometimes my eye spies old abandoned homesites where ancient for-mosan azaleas and stands of amaryllis continue to bloom. Of course, purple wisteria climbs every pine, and festoons every oak tree, in abundance. Wild white roses the size of saucers, wend in and out of fences and shrubs. I love Springtime in all its glory, with fresh greens of new growth and leaves unfurling, before our eyes, every day.

It’s also the time of year our skies fill with swallowtailed kites and hawks of every description. The kites, once thought to be gone from our area, seem more plentiful every Spring. Casa Brock has at least one long term pair of hawks that nest here each Spring. Songbirds are migrating northward with the warming weather. Early every morning, a cacophony of sweet music from crows, cardinals, blue jays, mockingbirds, bluebirds and robins (to name just a few) greets me.

Evenings bring the nightly concerts

provided by an amphibious chorus filled with every voice, from tenors to bassos profundos. They gather around the pond and sing their little hearts out. Every now and then a rooster or peacock decides to join in for emphasis. If I’m lucky, a few lightning bugs will be flitting about, lighting the darkness. All in all, Spring is my favorite season!

Maundy Thursday services will be held at the Woodville United Methodist Church at 6 p.m. On Saturday the congregation will host an Easter egg hunt at 11 a.m., followed by lunch. Free and open to the public, everyone is welcome.

On Easter Sunday, there will be a sunrise service at 7, at the Wakulla UMC, followed by light refreshments in the fellowship hall. The Woodville UMC will celebrate Easter at its regular 11 a.m. service. Everyone is invited to join us, at whichever service suits you!

This past week our children threw us an anniversary party to celebrate 50 years of marriage at Wakulla Springs. It was a lovely evening, in one of my very favorite places on Earth. Not only that, it was especially festive as the location

for Wakulla High School’s 2026 Prom!

I couldn’t resist contemplating how much the world has changed in the past fifty years. Even though it seems like yesterday, fifty years is a long time. As someone who loves and studies history, it has been quite a journey. My generation bears witness to some of the most tumultuous events in the country’s life, as did my parents’ and grandparents’ generations, ad infinitum. All of this, even as we prepare to celebrate the sesquicentennial (fancy for 250th anniversary!) of the United States’ birth.

What is the old curse? “May ye live in interesting times”? Perhaps the truth is that we always live in interesting times, regardless of when those times occur. Methinks our times may become more interesting every day. I can’t wait to watch it all unfold, for the most part. After all, as a species, humanity has always chosen to live with a certain amount of denial to keep leaping fearlessly forward. Why should that change now? Are you ready for the future? It’s coming, ready or not!

## Sopchoppy News

By **DJ BUTCH**

I’m ready for the river, beach and pool... I love to see all the beautiful flowers blooming around Sopchoppy. It is absolutely beautiful!

The FSU Tucker Civic Center reached out for me to promote the Monster Truck event and give away tickets. I decided not to do it because it is on the same weekend as the Worm Gruntin’ Festival and I already cut a

deal to promote the festival and host the worm gruntin’ contest.

But I’m super excited for these type of opportunities and I may be able to give some of you that follow me on social media free tickets to some cool events in the future. I’m super honored and thankful that the biggest venue around here wants to partner with me!

I talked to some cool people at the beer and oyster festival! One nice lady

was from Canada! She follows my content and loves fishing. She showed me all kinds of fish her family caught in Canada. They ice fish! I told her I get too cold. She said you get used to it. I’m from Florida so I doubt it...

Listen for me on Wave 94.1 talking about the Worm Gruntin’ Festival. We are getting ready for the big event April 11th. Snap released 1,000-1,500 worms in the worm gruntin’ area...

When driving through Sopchoppy please stop at all stop signs. I know I have mentioned this before but I see people running the stop signs. We

have children walking, people biking, skateboarding, scooters, golf carts.

When God gives you a vision or Dream in your heart. It’s yours... Work towards your dream. Pray and let God guide you to greatness. Have faith! Lean not on your own understanding. Pray everyday! Push good energy everywhere you go. Plant seeds of love and it will grow and produce fruit! No matter what you’re going through, keep going! Praise Him in the storm. Everything happens for a reason in every season. Blessings are coming! God Bless you all from Sopchoppy.



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# Outdoors

outdoor sports

## HOME ON THE RANGE

### What the new shooter wants



By MARJ LAW

“What do you think the mature new shooter expects of their first handgun?” I ask Joe. We help a lot of those who are middle-age and older at the Wakulla County Sheriff’s Office range, so this is the age group I’m targeting when asking him this question.

“Well, what did you expect to find with your first gun?” he counters.

I have to think for a while. It has been a while. Okay. Quite a while.

“I wanted a gun to learn on. One to keep at my bedside, because I was alone at the time and was mostly afraid at night. And I wanted one small enough to keep in my purse. One to carry that would neutralize the threat of someone intending to harm me.”

“Is that all you wanted?” he asks. There might be a tiny bit of amusement in his voice.

“At the time, I wanted a gun with almost no recoil. I’ve always been small-boned and not particularly strong. I wanted one that was easy to use. One with a light trigger. One with a slide that was easy

to rack. One that isn’t very loud when fired. One with big white dot sights so they would be easy to see. A lightweight gun.”

“What do you think of those wishes now?” he asks, smiling. “Sounds like a one-size-fits-all gun to me! Now that you’ve been shooting for years, what do you think of your original criteria?”

“Okay. You’re right. There’s probably not one gun made that does all that,” I agree, and continue.

“You do have to start somewhere. A .22 is a fine learner’s gun. With a .22, there’s very little recoil, especially if you shoot a full-size gun with some weight to it. Three that come to mind are the Smith & Wesson Victory, the Browning Buckmark, and the Ruger Mark IV. The mass of these guns absorbs recoil, so the mass and the low caliber keep the recoil low.”

“And,” I resume, “when there’s low recoil, there’s less likelihood that you’ll flinch when the gun fires. Otherwise, with a larger caliber, the recoil and the shooting noise may cause you to flinch, causing the muzzle to jerk off-target. Flinching is a bad habit which is hard to break.”

“True,” he says. “So, what’s the problem with buying a .22?”

“Well, it probably won’t be long before you’ll want another handgun. The .22 is super for target practice and learning, but then you’ll probably want a gun with more power to protect yourself from Mr. Bad. This is unfortunate, because even .22s are

#### Smith & Wesson M&P .380 Shield EZ



- Low Recoil
- Big White Dot Sights
- Easy Trigger
- Easy to Rack Slide
- Grip Safety

expensive. You don’t want to purchase a gun only to find out that you want another one fairly soon.”

“I’m a believer in taking a handgun class first,” he explains. “If you take a class, and then visit a range where you have rented a .22, then you’re well on your way to being able to handle a larger-caliber gun. If you don’t take a class, you might find that an experienced shooter friend has a .22 you could borrow. Even better, this experienced person could take you to the range and remind you of safety rules.”

“True,” I reply. “And I did take a class way back when. After that, you met me, and ended up buying me a Ruger Mark III .22. Soon though, it wasn’t long before I knew I could handle a larger-caliber gun. But if I’d have bought the .22 myself, and then wanted to buy a .380 or a 9mm handgun, I wouldn’t have been thrilled at the expense. Remember, the new shooter wants a one-size-fits-all gun.”

Joe knows that won’t work and starts humming: “You can’t always get what you want...”

“Now, Joe, be nice. First time shooters don’t realize that.”

“And,” I continue, “Way back when, the .380s and 9mm guns of today weren’t available. Take the Smith & Wesson M&P Shield .380 EZ, for example. That’s a very easy gun to handle. Now, like this S&W, some of the other .380s are almost as easy to shoot as the .22, but they are more powerful. You can buy target ammunition, and if you want defensive ammo, you can often find that, too. Of course, you have to make sure your particular gun can handle the heavier ammunition.”

Also, many mature people might find the 9mm EZ to be something they can handle. Several of the newer 9mm guns are fairly soft shooting. The options of today are much more new-shooter-oriented than they were a couple decades ago. Once you’ve practiced with a .22, all the criteria you originally wished for might be found in the higher-caliber gun you purchase. It’s even possible you could find a gun to carry in a purse, on your body or to keep in the home.”

“Okay,” Joe agrees. “What else does newbie want in a gun?”

“Well, a woman wants

to know what to wear. In the past, shooting at the range was a male-dominated field.”

“What to wear? Isn’t that superficial?” Joe scoffs. “She’ll have to have ‘eyes’ and ‘ears’ because that’s required at the range. And a woman knows, for instance, not to wear high heels. Right? So, what’s the prob?”

“She needs to be comfortable. Most of the year, in Florida, that means shorts. You’ve got gun shooting residue and sand all around, so you should be able to toss your clothes in the washer. And wear something like a T-shirt.”

“Yes,” he agrees, “But not one with a scoopy low neckline. Hot brass casings could fly your way and get caught down your shirt.”

“True. And a woman might want to leave earrings and rings at home.”

“Why? She wants to appear guy-ish?” he grins.

“No, silly. Wearing rings, especially on both hands, is painful when you’re squeezing your hands together trying to get a firm hold on the grip. And, when you’re wearing the earmuff style of hearing protection, the muffs can press against

your earrings, and these press into your head. Believe me, that’s not comfortable.”

“Shoes,” Joe suggests. “Closed-toe shoes will keep the brass off your feet.”

“I wear sandals all the time. Shoes are too hot for me. If brass hits my foot, it just bounces off. It never stays long enough to burn.”

“What about hair? You gals are always fiddling with your hair,” he grins.

“Hair is pretty much a lost cause, unless your hair is long enough to pull back into a ponytail. It’s so hot down here, you’re going to sweat. Those heavy earmuffs don’t help, either. Your hair will probably be mashed to your head and dripping with sweat. Your clothes will be damp, too. So, I’d suggest wearing comfortable, washable clothing, and don’t bother to pay much attention to how you look.”

I wish someone had told me all this when I was new to shooting,” I added.

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



SAND FIDDLER CRAB  
(*Uca pugnator*)

Smallest of fiddler crabs at 0.5”, males use their larger claws to claim territory. If they lose a claw fighting the small claw will grow larger while a new claw regenerates. Thus, they can be left or right clawed. Thousands live in areas bordering tidal pools and estuaries where they dig small holes for shelter and to seek food. The constant digging brings nutrients to the surface stimulating growth of plants, microbes, and aerating the soil.

Eukarya, Animalia, Arthropoda, Malacostraca, Decapoda, Ocypodidae



#### WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO



Photographer Lisa Vince was excited to share some nature photos she took, like this close-up of some spiderwort flowers.

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# Water Ways

a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences

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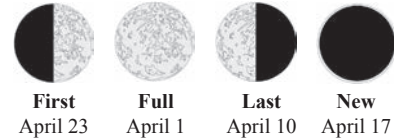


### Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

April 2 - April 8



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



Best fishing days this month  
Best fishing day(s) is in the center of date ranges.  
March 25, 29 - April 4, 10, 14 - 20

<b>Thursday 2</b>
Sun rise/set 7:25 AM 7:56 PM
Moon rise/set --- 7:29 AM
Moon Illumination 100%
<b>Friday 3</b>
Sun rise/set 7:24 AM 7:57 PM
Moon rise/set 8:46 PM 7:58 AM
Moon Illumination 97%
<b>Saturday 4</b>
Sun rise/set 7:22 AM 7:58 PM
Moon rise/set 9:44 PM 8:30 AM
Moon Illumination 94%
<b>Sunday 5</b>
Sun rise/set 7:21 AM 7:58 PM
Moon rise/set 10:42 PM 9:06 AM
Moon Illumination 88%
<b>Monday 6</b>
Sun rise/set 7:20 AM 7:59 PM
Moon rise/set 11:40 PM 9:47 AM
Moon Illumination 81%
<b>Tuesday 7</b>
Sun rise/set 7:19 AM 7:59 PM
Moon rise/set 12:36 AM 10:32 AM
Moon Illumination 73%
<b>Wednesday 8</b>
Sun rise/set 7:18 AM ---
Moon rise/set 1:30 AM 11:24 AM
Moon Illumination 65%

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	3:14 am ▲ 3.3 ft	8:58 am ▼ 0.6 ft	3:02 pm ▲ 3.7 ft	9:37 pm ▼ -0.4 ft
Fr	3:49 am ▲ 3.2 ft	9:20 am ▼ 0.8 ft	3:22 pm ▲ 3.7 ft	10:10 pm ▼ -0.4 ft
Sa	4:23 am ▲ 3.1 ft	9:42 am ▼ 1.0 ft	3:42 pm ▲ 3.7 ft	10:43 pm ▼ -0.4 ft
Su	4:58 am ▲ 3.0 ft	10:05 am ▼ 1.1 ft	4:02 pm ▲ 3.6 ft	11:17 pm ▼ -0.2 ft
Mo	5:37 am ▲ 2.7 ft	10:31 am ▼ 1.3 ft	4:25 pm ▲ 3.5 ft	11:56 pm ▼ 0.0 ft
Tu	6:22 am ▲ 2.5 ft	10:59 am ▼ 1.5 ft	4:50 pm ▲ 3.4 ft	
We	7:06 am ▼ 2.3 ft	11:31 am ▼ 1.7 ft	5:21 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	

#### City of St. Marks

Th	3:50 am ▲ 3.1 ft	10:02 am ▼ 0.6 ft	3:38 pm ▲ 3.4 ft	10:41 pm ▼ -0.4 ft
Fr	4:25 am ▲ 3.0 ft	10:24 am ▼ 0.7 ft	3:58 pm ▲ 3.4 ft	11:14 pm ▼ -0.4 ft
Sa	4:59 am ▲ 2.9 ft	10:46 am ▼ 0.9 ft	4:18 pm ▲ 3.4 ft	11:47 pm ▼ -0.3 ft
Su	5:34 am ▲ 2.7 ft	11:09 am ▼ 1.0 ft	4:38 pm ▲ 3.4 ft	
Mo	6:13 am ▼ 2.5 ft	11:35 am ▼ 1.2 ft	5:01 pm ▲ 3.3 ft	
Tu	6:58 am ▲ 2.3 ft	12:03 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	5:26 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	
We	7:49 am ▼ 2.1 ft	12:35 pm ▼ 1.6 ft	5:57 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	

#### Shell Point, Spring Creek

Th	3:39 am ▲ 3.4 ft	9:28 am ▼ 0.7 ft	3:20 pm ▲ 3.6 ft	9:59 pm ▼ -0.3 ft
Fr	4:14 am ▲ 3.4 ft	9:50 am ▼ 0.9 ft	3:40 pm ▲ 3.7 ft	10:30 pm ▼ -0.4 ft
Sa	4:48 am ▲ 3.2 ft	10:10 am ▼ 1.1 ft	3:59 pm ▲ 3.7 ft	11:02 pm ▼ -0.4 ft
Su	5:23 am ▲ 3.1 ft	10:32 am ▼ 1.3 ft	4:21 pm ▲ 3.7 ft	11:36 pm ▼ -0.2 ft
Mo	6:01 am ▲ 2.9 ft	10:57 am ▼ 1.4 ft	4:45 pm ▲ 3.6 ft	
Tu	6:45 am ▼ 2.7 ft	11:25 am ▼ 1.6 ft	5:14 pm ▲ 3.5 ft	
We	7:41 am ▼ 2.5 ft	12:01 pm ▼ 1.7 ft	5:48 pm ▲ 3.3 ft	

#### Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay

Th	3:06 am ▲ 2.5 ft	9:09 am ▼ 0.4 ft	2:54 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	9:48 pm ▼ -0.3 ft
Fr	3:41 am ▲ 2.4 ft	9:31 am ▼ 0.6 ft	3:14 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	10:21 pm ▼ -0.3 ft
Sa	4:15 am ▲ 2.3 ft	9:53 am ▼ 0.7 ft	3:34 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	10:54 pm ▼ -0.3 ft
Su	4:50 am ▲ 2.2 ft	10:16 am ▼ 0.8 ft	3:54 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	11:28 pm ▼ -0.2 ft
Mo	5:29 am ▲ 2.1 ft	10:42 am ▼ 0.9 ft	4:17 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	
Tu	6:14 am ▼ 1.9 ft	11:10 am ▼ 1.1 ft	4:42 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	
We	7:06 am ▼ 1.7 ft	11:42 am ▼ 1.2 ft	5:13 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	

#### St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.

Th	3:27 am ▲ 2.6 ft	9:10 am ▼ 0.8 ft	2:50 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	9:37 pm ▼ -0.3 ft
Fr	4:06 am ▲ 2.5 ft	9:32 am ▼ 1.0 ft	3:11 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	10:08 pm ▼ -0.4 ft
Sa	4:44 am ▲ 2.4 ft	9:53 am ▼ 1.2 ft	3:35 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	10:41 pm ▼ -0.4 ft
Su	5:22 am ▲ 2.3 ft	10:15 am ▼ 1.3 ft	4:02 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	11:16 pm ▼ -0.3 ft
Mo	6:02 am ▲ 2.1 ft	10:36 am ▼ 1.4 ft	4:31 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	11:57 pm ▼ -0.2 ft
Tu	6:50 am ▲ 2.0 ft	10:57 am ▼ 1.5 ft	5:04 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	
We	7:45 am ▼ 1.8 ft	11:16 am ▼ 1.6 ft	5:40 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	

#### Dog Island West End

Th	3:45 am ▲ 2.2 ft	9:27 am ▼ 0.8 ft	3:06 pm ▲ 2.3 ft	9:46 pm ▼ -0.2 ft
Fr	4:25 am ▲ 2.2 ft	9:49 am ▼ 1.0 ft	3:27 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	10:17 pm ▼ -0.3 ft
Sa	5:05 am ▲ 2.2 ft	10:11 am ▼ 1.1 ft	3:51 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	10:51 pm ▼ -0.3 ft
Su	5:44 am ▲ 2.1 ft	10:32 am ▼ 1.3 ft	4:17 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	11:30 pm ▼ -0.2 ft
Mo	6:22 am ▲ 2.1 ft	10:51 am ▼ 1.4 ft	4:45 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	
Tu	7:06 am ▼ 1.8 ft	11:01 am ▼ 1.5 ft	5:15 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	
We	7:58 am ▼ 1.6 ft	11:25 am ▼ 1.7 ft	5:48 pm ▲ 2.3 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.



## License-free fishing weekend, April 4-5

**From FWC News**

Mark your calendars for an opportunity to go freshwater fishing during the upcoming Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's license-free freshwater fishing weekend! This spring's license-free fishing weekend is on April 4 and 5 and invites residents and visitors to explore the many recreational freshwater fishing opportunities Florida has to offer. Whether you like to fish from the shore or your boat, there is a place to go fishing for everyone. If you have not been fishing before or need a refresher, get started fishing with these tips for a great

time on the water. All other rules, such as seasons, bag and size limits apply. To renew or purchase a fishing license, visit [GoOutdoorsFlorida.com](http://GoOutdoorsFlorida.com). Anglers of all ages and skill levels are encouraged to take advantage of this special weekend that allows them to reel in their favorite freshwater species without the need for a fishing license. FWC is hosting two family fishing events during this weekend, so if you are in the area make sure to check them out for a day full of fishing fun:

- Tenoroc Fish Management Area, 3829 Tenoroc Mine Road, Lakeland, 33805 April 4, 8 a.m.

– 1 p.m. Pre-registration is required and ends on Friday, April 3, at 5 p.m. Call the FWC at 863-648-3200 to register for the event. There will be a casting contest, exhibitors and other outdoor activities for youth participants. A free lunch will be provided by Publix Supermarkets and the Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida. Bait and a limited number of loaner rods and reels will also be provided free of charge to youth aged 15 and younger. A parent or guardian must accompany youth participants.

- Florida Bass Conservation Center, 3583 County Road 788, Webster, 33597

April 4, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Attendees should bring fishing gear and bait. A free lunch of hotdogs and hamburgers will be provided by Vital Fleet Services. Visit [MyFWC.com](http://MyFWC.com) and learn where to go fishing or how to find a boat ramp or pier near you. To earn recognition and prizes for submitting your catches, check out FWC's freshwater angler recognition programs TrophyCatch and Big Catch. Did you have a day of fishing fun? Plan for the next freshwater license-free fishing weekend on June 13 and 14.



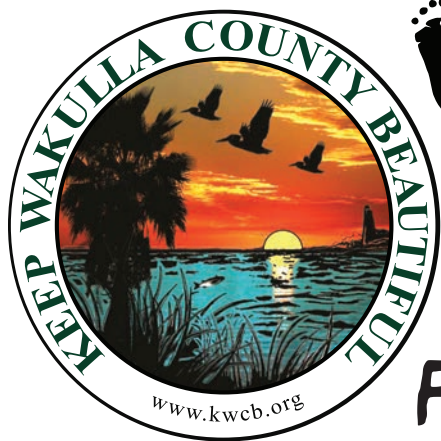
## Underwater Wakulla

By Gregg Stanton

Rain! June 28, 2012

We love the rain, and the more rain the better since we know our underground rivers are locally recharged. Our karst environment usually soaks up precipitation quickly, filling swamps that then overflow into sinkholes transporting nutrients and tannins down to our patiently waiting troglodites (blind cave critters). Water that falls on sandy soil moves more slowly before reaching the phreatic conduits creating clear water weeks later. Tropical Storm Debby is no exception. Now as a person who spends a lot of time underwater, I am particular about redundancy. In other words, I like back ups. While serving FSU as their dive safety officer, I was often accused of wearing a belt and suspenders (too much of a good thing). I want many choices so that when one option does not work, another will. If my re-breather fails to provide adequate breathing gas, I can turn to an abundance of traditional open circuit gas. When I saw we had a storm approaching, I dutifully made sure my shop had a rebuilt sewer lift pump (pricey little devils). I replaced the float switches on my boats' twin bilge pumps. I made sure there was an abundant supply of fuel for the home generator and even tested the emergency power system. I tended our sail boat in St. Marks as the tide rose up over the docks, happily soaking my feet in the warm flooding river water. But I came to discover Monday night that all those preparations were not enough. I let my guard down briefly and unusual circumstances caught me out. Complacency in the end is what catches us unprepared. I did not take this storm seriously enough, spending the afternoon at the shop while over 12 inches of rain fell in Crawfordville. Recall, I live underground. The power failed at home while I was at the center. No power means no electricity to run the pumps that keep my home dry during severe storms. When my wife reached home at the end of the day, she found water at the door step, the garage already flooded. I followed and soon had the generator running, but the volume coming down overwhelmed the pump circuitry. Two hours later and we turned the tide, soaking out tile floors, but no further damage. We were exhausted, but happy to have learned yet another valuable lesson. Tomorrow, I install a redundant pump, and seek ways to better monitor the power grid at home. I love Wakulla County's abundant water, and respect it's unexpected surprises!

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



Leave Nothing But Your Footprints



Your local source for news.

# What if God didn't want a relationship with you?

By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

Imagine what life would be like if God didn't want a relationship with us. Think how incredibly hard and lonely it would be.

Here's another thought: What if Jesus

had never risen from the dead? How empty would our prayers feel if we were talking to a God who had graciously died for our sins but remained dead to this day? We'd probably stop praying altogether.

But thankfully, every day – especially on Easter – we celebrate not only that Jesus wants us to know Him, but also that He's alive!

Jesus died for us so we could be free from the bondage of sin, live in a relationship with Him for all eternity – and have His resurrection power living within us.

As we prepare our hearts for Easter, let's take steps to better understand the Easter message by meditating on and applying Philippians 3:10 (ESV): "That I may know him and the power of his resurrection."

It will completely change our relationship with our heavenly Father. It will transform our lives.

How would knowing God (really, really knowing God) help you pray more honestly and more consistently? And how would experiencing a transformed, resurrected life affect your

choices, especially the behaviors you'd love to change?

Today can be different. This day can be the first day of a new life for everyone who has trusted Jesus as their Savior. We don't have to continue living in a way that brings us (and those around us) sorrow and disappointment.

Not a believer?

If you don't know Jesus as your Savior (the One Who paid for your sins by dying on the cross), consider accepting His gift of salvation right now. Invite Jesus to make His home in

your heart and life by confessing to God that you're a sinner. Tell Him you know you can't perform enough good deeds or say enough prayers to redeem yourself. Ask Jesus to be Your Savior and Lord (the authority of your life). If you do, this will be the best Easter you've ever experienced.

Only Christ can save you from hell. God loves you and wants you to spend eternity with Him, so He sent His only Son to die an agonizing death for your sins. Three days later, He rose from the dead.

"He has risen indeed!"

The King of kings and Lord of lords wants to have a warm and personal relationship with you! What's more, your Redeemer ... your Risen Savior ... desires to be actively involved in your life.

As unbelievable as this may seem, it's absolutely true.

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

## It was enough

By **CHERYL CRUCE**

It was one of those lazy Saturday afternoons in early spring when my daughter suggested we ride down to the river in the side-by-side. So, with my grandson tucked between us, we set off on our little adventure – only to have it cut short by a flat tire. We hobbled our way back home, and instead of sitting along the riverbank, we found

ourselves gathered around a picnic table in the backyard.

Strangely enough... there was no disappointment in the change of plans. If anything, it gave us something we might have missed. There was no loud hum of the engine – just conversation.

Beneath the pecan trees, in the quiet beauty of her backyard, we sat together with sweet iced tea and a bowl of cheesy popcorn my grandson had brought along. It was simple. We brought what we had... and we enjoyed the moment.

So many times in life, we believe we need grand moments – something full, something planned, something with a little more "bang for

your buck" – to truly enjoy ourselves. And yet, it is often the simplest moments that leave the deepest imprint on our hearts. That day we brought what we had and it was enough.

Scripture reminds us that it doesn't take much for God to do something meaningful. In the Gospel of John, we read of a young boy in a crowd of thousands who had only a small lunch – five loaves of bread and two fish. The need was great, and what he held seemed small by comparison. It would have been easy to keep it to himself, but he offered it anyway. In the hands of Jesus, it became something more. Bread was broken, fish was shared,

and thousands were fed. The boy did not perform the miracle, but he became part of it simply by bringing what he had.

It was the same with the poor widow who gave her two small coins. It was such a simple offering that could have easily been overlooked. Yet Jesus noticed. While others gave from what they could spare, she gave from what she needed. It wasn't the amount that mattered, but her heart. What seemed small in the eyes of the world was fully seen by God. She did not have much, but she gave it anyway, placing all she had into His care (Mark 12:41-44).

Often what we have may not seem like much – a kind word, a moment

to care, or simply showing up when it would be easier to stay away. It can feel small in our hands, hardly worth offering, compared to what we think is needed. Scripture reminds us that God does not ask for more than we can give. He simply invites us to bring what we have, as we are, without measure or comparison.

When we place even the smallest offering in His hands, something begins to shift. It may not always look like a miracle in the way we expect, but it becomes part of something greater than ourselves. Perhaps it is like that afternoon beneath the pecan trees, as I shared a simple moment with my daugh-

ter and grandson, with sweet tea and cheesy popcorn between us. We realize that what we had all along was enough. And maybe that's the truth we carry with us. Maybe all you have is something small to offer – and just maybe, that is all you need.

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver – 2 Corinthians 9:7

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

### OUT TO PASTOR

## Retiring my insanity

By **JAMES SNYDER**

After some months of intense reflection, I have come to the conclusion that it is time for my insanity to retire. The evidence before me is so overwhelming that I'm not sure I have any other choice. And believe me, I have looked.

Not that I haven't benefited from my insanity. Looking back over my years, I can't help but notice how my insanity has been a positive thing in my life. I never would've thought this way before, but after considerable thinking, I believe this is so.

Not too many people can see the positive side of insanity. However, in my reflection, I have discovered how effective it has been in my life and in my relationships. At the time, I never would've thought so.

For example, I may be discussing something with someone, a friend of mine, and they look at me rather strangely and say, "Are you insane?"

At the time, I was a little offended by that remark. And I would

reply, "I am not insane and I am offended by you saying that."

Reflecting on that situation, I can't help but agree with my friend that I was indeed insane. But it helped me out of a little situation there and many more such situations.

Being insane helps explain a lot of things in my life, especially my life as a husband.

Often, I will be explaining something to The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. She will look at me with one of "her looks", put both hands on her hips and say very dramatically, "Are you insane?"

The last time she said that to me, I replied, "Yes, I am insane. Thanks for noticing."

She just walked away, shaking her head.

In retrospect, that explains a lot of things in my life that, at the time, I didn't understand what was going on. Now, because I have accepted my insanity, everything I do I can explain. That sure is satisfying.

Another positive side to insanity is that you don't have to live up to the standards of everybody around you. All my friends believe they are perfect and expect me to live up to their standard. For years, I have tried to do that. I have discovered that there are no perfect roots in my life anywhere.

Now that I understand the insanity aspect of my life, I no

longer have to live up to other people's standards. I can relax and enjoy life as it is without fulfilling other people's expectations nor being intimidated by them. When I came to understand that my life took on a very positive attitude.

Now that I have reached the point in life where I will be retiring my insanity, I need to make some changes.

No longer will I accept my failures and go on with life. Now that the insanity element has been retired, I need to take more responsibility for my actions. That was not something I really understood when I began thinking about retiring my insanity.

I know it's a good idea for me to retire my insanity, but I sure am going to miss it. I can't remember the times when, at the end of the week, I sat in my easy chair drinking some coffee and reflecting on all the insane elements of my week. Those were wonderful reflections and really encouraged me.

Perfection is now going to be a factor in my

consideration. I don't know how I'm going to deal with that. Dealing with my insanity was a lot better than dealing with my perfection.

However, I will give it a try. I'm waiting for The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage to one day look at me with both hands on her hips and say, "Are you perfect or what?" That certainly will be a turning point in my retirement from insanity. She always noticed my insanity; now let's see if she notices my perfection.

I must confess that I will allow my insanity occasionally to come out of retirement just for a moment. After all, life is hard without something to support it.

At this point in my life, being personally responsible for your activities and actions is a real hard deal. I never expected it to be this hard, but then, that's life. As I enter into this new phase of my life, I'm going to do it with a great deal of positivity. I will fail a lot, but it is failure that enables a person to work on their perfection.

I know I will miss my

insanity, but I'm going to have to get used to it. Life goes on, and I need to keep up.

There will be some moments in my life when I will get a little confused, and without knowing it, my insanity will reappear. There's little I can do about that. But, I plan to work on being more perfect than I was yesterday.

Starting on my perfection journey I was reminded of an interesting verse of scripture.

Philippians 3:12 - "Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that

for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus."

I agree with Paul that I've not reached perfection, but I am striving after that perfect in Christ. I'm not influenced by other people's standard, but only by God's standards reflected in Christ.

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

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# Obituaries

## DEATH NOTICES

- **Richard Beckel**, 79, of Crawfordville, died March 27, 2026.
- **Cody Leonel Castillo**, 31, of Crawfordville, died March 21, 2026.
- **Carolyn Dabney Goff**, 82, of Woodville, died March 24, 2026.

- **Michael N. Watts**, 79, of Eastpoint, died March 25, 2026.

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

## Sheriff's Report

This report is for activity March 20 to 27. There were 1,519 total calls for service during the week; nine arrests; 216 traffic stops; 25 citations and 19 traffic warnings.

### FRIDAY, MARCH 20

• Deputy Aimee Hoagland responded to the 600 block of River Plantation Road in reference to a citizen reporting her vehicle being damaged by an unknown suspect. Due to lack of investigative follow up, this case will be closed until further information becomes available.

• Deputy Ian Kilbourn conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for an expired tag. During the stop, probable cause was developed to search the vehicle. A probable cause search yielded small amounts of marijuana products.

### SATURDAY, MARCH 21

• Deputy Dustin Saba responded to Renee Street in reference to a citizen reporting his vehicle stolen as well as several other items from his property. The vehicle was entered into NCIC/FCIC as stolen.

### SUNDAY, MARCH 22

• Deputy Joshua Parker conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for no license plate. Contact was made with the driver, who only possessed an ID card. He was placed under arrest and his vehicle was towed and inventoried. A small amount of marijuana was located and seized for destruction.

• Lt. David Pienta conducted a traffic stop

at 460 Coastal Highway. Contact was made with the driver who stated his trailer tag was lost. The tag was entered into NCIC/FCIC as being lost.

• Deputy Aimee Hoagland responded to Dans drive in reference to a stove on fire. Wakulla County Fire Rescue responded and extinguished the fire. The stove was valued at \$1,000.

### MONDAY, MARCH 23

• Deputy Dakota Haddock attempted to conduct a traffic stop near Summerwind Circle and Woodville Highway on a motorcycle with no license plate. After a few moments, Deputy Haddock decided to terminate the traffic stop due to realizing the motorcycle was not going to stop. As Deputy Haddock continued on Woodville Highway, he observed the driver (later identified) throw his belongings away while traveling on Woodville Highway. As the driver tossed the items, he lost control of the motorcycle and veered off into the ditch on Serena Road in Leon County. Due to Deputy Haddock being able to maintain a visual on the motorcycle, he reactivated his emergency lights once more, re-initiating the traffic stop. As Deputy Haddock made contact with the driver, the driver was detained and secured in the patrol vehicle. Deputy Haddock retrieved the belongings the driver threw. Due to Deputy Haddock advising the driver he was being placed under arrest, a search incident to arrest was conducted which resulted in locat-

ing 9.2 grams of methamphetamine in his belongings.

### TUESDAY, MARCH 24

• Deputy Jonathan Kilbourn responded to Blackfoot Road in reference to a possible vehicle burglary. Contact was made with the reporting person who advised his vehicle had been broken in to. He stated he believed this due to seeing minor damages as though a "slim jim" was used on his vehicle in an attempt to gain entry. During the investigation, he stated he did not have any video footage of the incident along with no witnesses or other evidence pertinent to this case. While speaking with him, he showed a video of him speaking with a WCSO deputy. He stated he believed the deputy to be an imposter. Due to no evidence, along with the minor damage being consistent with the age of the vehicle, this incident was written for informational purposes.

• Deputy Jonathan Kilbourn conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for faulty equipment. During the stop, it was discovered that the driver of the vehicle did not possess a valid drivers license. It was also discovered that she had multiple suspensions on her license and had three prior Driving While License Suspended or Revoked (DWLSR) convictions. After discovering this information, she was placed under arrest and transported to the county jail without further incident.

• Deputy Lexi Kreitlow conducted a traffic stop in the area of Woodville Highway and Corkey Street. Contact was made with the driver, and a license query

revealed his license was suspended indefinitely on Nov. 25. He advised he received multiple citations that he has since paid the fines. However, he advised he has yet to complete the required Basic Driver Improvement course. Subsequently, he was placed under arrest and transported to the Wakulla County Jail without incident.

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

• Deputy Zachary Godwin conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle. Contact was made with the driver who was found to never have been issued a driver's license. The driver was placed under arrest and transported to the Wakulla County Jail.

• Deputy Joshua Parker conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for a window tint violation. The driver did not have a valid license. Also discovered on his person was a straw with cocaine residue inside. He was arrested.

### THURSDAY, MARCH 26

• Deputy Shay Sullivan responded to San Peoro Drive in reference to a call for service. The reporting person advised on Tuesday, March 24, she received a text message from a person who she believed to be with Discover advising her that she needed to call the phone number listed in the message in reference to her account. She advised she contacted the number and spoke with a subject. She stated this subject told her that her account had been hacked and the company had covered the charge made, but she needed to find a

Walgreens to obtain a card with \$500 to pay them their money back for covering the charge. She proceeded to provide this subject her Social Security number, date of birth and personal information then realized the conversation was a scam.

• Deputy Ian Kilbourn responded to the 200 block of Woodville Highway and made contact with the reporting parties. They stated a check was sent to someone they knew, but the check was stolen and cashed by someone else. Case forwarded to Criminal Investigation Division.

### FRIDAY, MARCH 27

• Deputy Jonathan Kilbourn responded to the Kangaroo con-

venience store at Spring Creek and Highway 98 in reference to a criminal mischief. According to the store clerk a large group of juveniles entered store. While tending to a customer she heard a loud noise coming from the bathroom. After the juveniles left the store she went in to the woman's bathroom. A sink in the last stall was completely ripped off the wall and shattered. Contact was made with the store manager who advised he would determine the damages and he was sent a community request for the video footage. Case forwarded to CID.

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

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## Animal Shelter holds Spring Fling

By **LINDA ANN McDONALD**  
 Correspondent

With 10 adoptions and five more pending, the Wakulla County Animal Control had a successful Spring Fling Adoption event on Saturday, March 28, at the Wakulla County Animal Adoption Center.

Dogs and cats found their forever homes free of charge and the first 100 pets of Wakulla residents received free microchipping services sponsored by Tallahassee Big Dog Rescue.

Donated by local businesses and supporters, prizes and gift certificates valued at \$1,000 were raffled off and music provided by The 7's and Rockulla was enjoyed along with the day's beautiful weather. Wakulla Fire Chief Louis Lamarche grilled hotdogs.

Also present at the event was Triple R Horse Rescue, Wakulla Animal Group, PAWS of Wakulla, 4-H, and a host of other volunteers and supporters.

Nova and Justice Clark came with their father, Edward, dressed



Dawn Reed and Doug Gilbert of Wakulla Animal Group with Edward Clark as Spiderman and his daughters Nova and Justice.

in a Spiderman costume to promote his Books, Badges and Heroes literacy campaign. The girls said, "It is a fun event, and we like to help promote adoption and we want all the animals to find their puppy homes."

"This is the second time we have been at this event and it's a great way to see many animals being adopted; we love it," said Doug Gilbert and Dawn Reed of Wakulla Animal Group.

Volunteer Jamiya Jurineack was walking dogs around the event

and shared, "I came to help walk dogs and all dogs need to find homes that care about them and this is great opportunity for them to find their match."

Coming to the event after losing their 16-year-old dog, Julianne Ricci and her daughter, April Grams, said, "We came to the event to find a new family member. We are adopting a husky mix named Sky and we are very excited to have her."

Walter Class, Animal Control Director said, "We are proud of our

shelter, and we want people to see all the positive interaction the volunteers, fosters and supporters provide to our animals."

Class said there are many opportunities for folks to volunteer 7 days a week at the shelter: They can pick their level of participation; they can help socialize, do activities, work in the yard and improve the facility with landscaping.

"Partnerships like these truly change lives, and we are so grateful," said Class.

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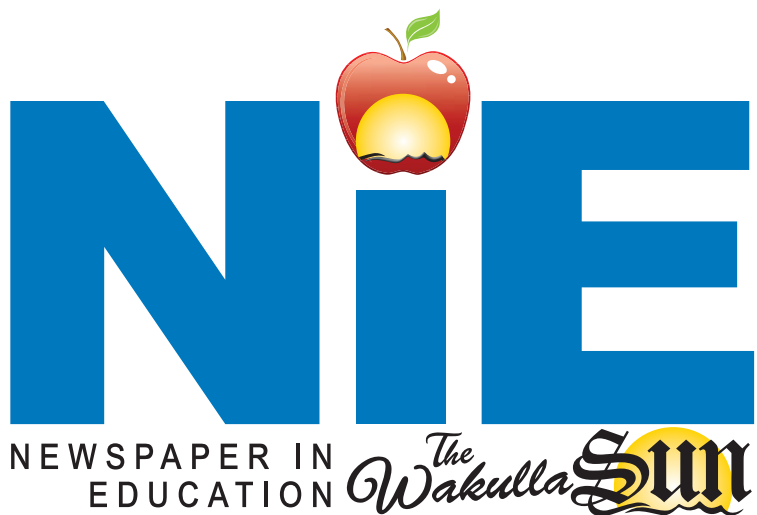
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## USE THE NEWS

### 1. N.A.S.A. RETURNS TO THE MOON

NASA is getting ready to send astronauts around the moon for the first time in more than 50 years. Long ago, the Apollo missions helped humans reach the moon and even land on it. Now NASA's Artemis program is beginning a new chapter, but it will work differently. Artemis II will send four astronauts on a trip around the moon and back without landing, helping NASA test new spacecraft and prepare for future missions. The new program also includes a more diverse crew and bigger plans, including longer stays on the moon and someday traveling to Mars. Pretend your class has been asked to welcome the Artemis astronauts before their trip. Write a short message of 4–5 sentences telling them what makes this mission important, what you hope they learn, and why space exploration still matters today. Try to include one detail that shows how Artemis is different from Apollo.

### 2. A FUTURE SPACE BASE

NASA says it wants to move faster in space and build a real base on the moon over the next several years. The agency shared a plan with different stages, starting with robots and equipment, then building places astronauts can visit, and finally creating a more permanent outpost. NASA also wants to test a nuclear-powered spacecraft that could help with future Mars missions. Leaders hope these plans will inspire people and help the United States stay ahead in the new space race, especially as China works toward landing astronauts on the moon too. Imagine you are designing one part of a future moon base for astronauts to use. In 3 to 5 sentences,

explain what your part of the base would do, why astronauts would need it, and how it would help people live or work on the moon more safely. Give your invention or building a name that sounds futuristic.

### 3. MISSING KITKATS

Nestlé says a huge shipment of KitKat candy bars disappeared while traveling from Italy to Poland. The missing load included more than 400,000 candy bars, and the company says the truck and its cargo still have not been found. Nestlé warned that the stolen candy could

show up in unofficial places for sale, but each bar has a special code that can help track it. The company also said cargo theft is becoming a bigger problem for businesses. A mystery like this sounds almost like the start of a funny detective story. Write 4 sentences describing what might happen if you were the investigator on the case. Explain what clues you would look for, who you might interview, and how the batch codes could help solve the mystery.

### 4. BRINGING GROUNDWATER BACK

Aquifers are un-

derground places where water is stored, kind of like savings accounts for communities. When rain or melted snow soaks into the ground, it helps fill them back up. In many parts of the world, people have used groundwater faster than nature can replace it, causing water levels to drop. But scientists say this problem can be improved. In places like Beijing and Green Bay, leaders found ways to bring in water from other sources, use reclaimed water, and reduce too much pumping. These efforts helped damaged aquifers begin to recover, showing that groundwater shortages do not always have to last forever. Imagine

your town learned that its groundwater supply was getting too low. Write at least 5 sentences explaining one idea your community could try to help protect or refill its aquifer. Be sure to describe how the plan would work and why it could make a difference over time.

### 5. WASHINGTON'S CHERRY BLOSSOMS BLOOM

The cherry blossom trees in Washington, D.C., have reached peak bloom, which means most of the flowers are open and showing their soft pink color. Every spring, these trees attract many visitors, and their blooming also

marks the start of the city's busy tourist season. The blossoms do not last long, though, because wind, rain, or sudden weather changes can make the petals fall quickly. The trees have a long history, too: they were first given as a gift from Japan in 1912 and are still celebrated each year with a festival. Close your eyes and picture walking beside the cherry trees at peak bloom. Then write 5 descriptive sentences that capture what the scene might look, feel, and sound like. Use strong detail so a reader can imagine the petals, the crowds, and the feeling of spring arriving all at once.

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### Holiday FACT:

This spring holiday is the holiest day on the calendar for celebrating Christians.

Answer: Easter



**English:** Sacred  
**Spanish:** Sagrado  
**Italian:** Sacro  
**French:** Sacré  
**German:** Heilig

### Math Blocks

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

9			33
3		18	27
		10	16
17	27	32	

10	1	5
18	9	3
4	20	9

Solution

### Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

ESTARE GEG NHTU

Answer: Easter egg hunt

### THIS DAY IN HISTORY



**1814:** Napoleon abdicates the throne for the first time and names his son as Emperor of France.

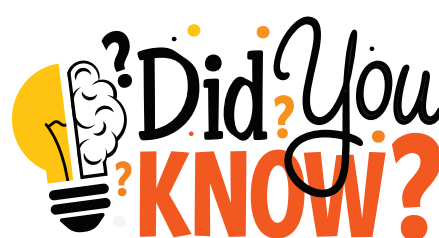
**1841:** William Henry Harrison dies of pneumonia, becoming the first U.S. president to die in office.

**1964:** The Beatles occupy the top five spots on the Billboard Hot 100 pop chart.

### NEW WORD

**BLESS**

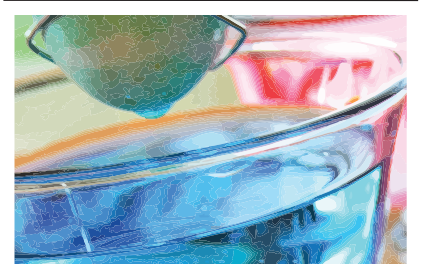
to confer divine favor upon



Easter celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, which is a foundation of Christianity.



### Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Coloring eggs

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**NOTICE OF SALE**

Notice is given pursuant to Florida Self-Storage Act, Florida Statutes, Chapter 83, Part IV, that ABC STORAGE will hold a sale by sealed bid on Saturday, April 11, 2026 at 2 p.m. at 3743 Crawfordville Hwy., Crawfordville FL 32327, of the contents of Mini Warehouse containing personal property of:

**--FINAL NOTICE--**  
**KIMBERLY FLOYD, GREGORY TODD**

Payment must be made before Friday, April 10, 2026 by 12:00 noon before the sale date of Saturday, April 11, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. The owners may redeem their property by payment of the outstanding balance and costs by contacting ABC Storage at (850)508-5177. Or by paying in person at the warehouse location. March 26, April 2, 2026

**NOTICE OF SALE**

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

PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC, Case No.: 25000158CAAXMX PLAINTIFF,  
 V.  
 ETHEL L ETHRIDGE A/KIA ETHEL ETHRIDGE A/KIA ETHEL LONG, ET AL., DEFENDANT(S).

**NOTICE OF ACTION**

TO: ELIZABETH MIXSON, 106 COCHISE ST, CRAWFORDVILLE, FL 32327 UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF ELIZABETH MIXSON, 106 COCHISE ST, CRAWFORDVILLE, FL 32327  
 LAST KNOWN ADDRESS STATED, CURRENT RESIDENCE UNKNOWN  
 YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose Mortgage covering the following real and personal property described as follows, to-wit: **LOT 25, BLOCK 59 OF WAKULLA GARDENS UNIT 4, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE(S) 46, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.**

has been filed against you and you are required to file a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Sara Collins, Esq, McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP, 225 East Robinson Street, Suite 155, Orlando, FL 32801 and file the original with the Clerk of the above- styled Court on or before **May 6, 2026** or 30 days from the first publication, otherwise a Judgment may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

WITNESS my hand and seal of said court at Wakulla County, Florida 23rd day of March, 2026.

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

April 2, 9, 2026

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

SOUTHERN ACRES HOLDINGS LLC, Case No.: 25000174CAAXMX PLAINTIFF,  
 V.  
 BERNADETTE M. ARNOLD AND SHARON MCCLENDON, DEFENDANTS.

**NOTICE OF ACTION**  
 To: BERNADETTE M. ARNOLD, and all others claiming by, through and under BERNADETTE M. ARNOLD and SHARON MCCLENDON, and all others claiming by, through and under SHARON MCCLENDON  
 YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to quiet the title on the following real property in Wakulla County, Florida:

Commence at a point marking the Southeast corner of the North-east Quarter of Lot 59 of the Hartsfield survey of Lands in Wakulla County, Florida, also being the Southwest corner of the Northwest Quarter of Lot 54 of the Hartsfield survey of Lands in Wakulla County, Florida, thence run North 16 degrees 59 minutes 01 seconds West 347.28 feet to an iron pipe lying on the East boundary of said Lot 59 (as monumented), said point marking the POINT OF BEGINNING. From said POINT OF BEGINNING run North 17 degrees 10 minutes 19 seconds West along said East boundary (as monumented) 1,068.51 feet to an iron pipe, lying on the Southerly right of way boundary of Shadeville Road/ State Road No. 61; thence leaving said East boundary run South 69 degrees 59 minutes 46 seconds West along said Southerly right of way boundary 431.30 feet to an iron pipe; thence leaving said Southerly right of way boundary run South 04 degrees 13 minutes 33 seconds West 1,125.98 feet to an iron pipe; thence run North 72 degrees 44 minutes 56 seconds East 841.58 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

The above said parcel being those same lands as described in Official Records Book 162, Page 760 of the Public Records of Wakulla County, Florida.

a/k/a Shadeville Rd, Crawfordville, FL 32327/Parcel ID: 00-00-059-000-10044-000

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on J.D. Manzo, of Manzo & Associates, P.A., Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 4767 New Broad Street, Orlando, FL 32814, telephone number (407) 514-2692, on or before **April 18, 2026**, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint or petition.

DATED this 9th 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 19, 26, April 2, 9, 2026

**0326-0416 TWS NOA**  
**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR WAKULLA, FLORIDA**  
**CASE NO.: 2025DR327**

CHRYSTAL MARIE RODRIGUEZ, PETITIONER,  
 AND  
 JOSE ERMILSON RODRIGUEZ, RESPONDENT.

**NOTICE OF ACTION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE (NO CHILD OR FINANCIAL SUPPORT)**

TO: JOSE ERMILSON RODRIGUEZ, 1585 Marburg Way Apt. B-09 San Jose, CA 95133.

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for dissolution of marriage has been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on **CHRYSTAL MARIE RODRIGUEZ** whose address is **4300 18th Street West Apt. J205 Bradenton, FL 34205** on or before **4/16/2026** and file the original with the clerk of this Court at 3056 CRAWFORDVILLE HWY CRAWFORDVILLE, FL 32327 before service on Petitioner or immediately thereafter. **If you fail to do so, a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.**

Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office. You may review these documents upon request.

You must keep the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office notified of your current address. (You may file Designation of Current Mailing and E-Mail Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915.) Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed or e-mailed to the address(es) on record at the clerk's office.

**WARNING: Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings.**

WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court this **March 18, 2026**.

{{County Court Seal}}  
 Greg James  
 As Clerk of the Circuit Court  
 By: /s/ Cathi Copeland  
 As Deputy Clerk

Published March 26, April 2, 9, 16, 2026

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

PLANET HOME LENDING LLC, Case No.: 65-2025-CA-000133 PLAINTIFF,  
 V.  
 MIRTHA NATALIA BRENNAN, ET AL., DEFENDANT(S).

**NOTICE OF ACTION**

TO: CHARLES IAN BRENNAN  
 161 JUNIPER DRIVE, CRAWFORDVILLE, FL 32327  
 UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF CHARLES IAN BRENNAN  
 161 JUNIPER DRIVE, CRAWFORDVILLE, FL 32327

LAST KNOWN ADDRESS STATED, CURRENT RESIDENCE UNKNOWN  
 YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose Mortgage covering the following real and personal property described as follows, to-wit: **LOT 35, THE HAMMOCKS - PHASE I, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 4, PAGE 44, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.**

has been filed against you and you are required to file a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Sara Collins, Esq, McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP, 225 East Robinson Street, Suite 155, Orlando, FL 32801 and file the original with the Clerk of the above- styled Court on or before **May 6, 2026** or 30 days from the first publication, otherwise a Judgment may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

WITNESS my hand and seal of said court at Wakulla County, Florida 27th day of March, 2026.

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

April 2, 9, 2026



**NOTICE OF ACTION**

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

ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC F/K/A Case No.: 26000017CAAXMX  
QUICKEN LOANS, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS INC.,  
PLAINTIFF,  
V.

JOHN SMITH; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF JOHN SMITH; THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON BEHALF OF ITS AGENCY, THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING INTERESTS BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST A NAMED DEFENDANT TO THIS ACTION, OR HAVING OR CLAIMING TO HAVE ANY RIGHT, TITLE OR INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY HEREIN DESCRIBED; UNKNOWN TENANT #1; UNKNOWN TENANT #2., DEFENDANT(S).

**NOTICE OF ACTION**

To the following Defendant(s):

**JOHN SMITH**  
**(LAST KNOWN ADDRESS)**  
**100 MERWYN DR CRAWFORDVILLE FL 32327**  
**UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF JOHN SMITH**  
**(RESIDENCE UNKNOWN)**

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Foreclosure of Mortgage on the following described property:

**LOT 49, BLOCK "4" OF LAKE ELLEN ESTATES, UNIT ONE, A SUB-DIVISION AS PER MAP OR PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 44 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.**

**a/k/a 15 MONTGOMERY DR CRAWFORDVILLE Florida 32327**

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, upon Kelley Kronenberg, Attorney for Plaintiff, whose address is 10360 West State Road 84, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33324 on or before **May 6, 2026** a date which is within thirty (30) days after the first publication of this Notice in Wakulla News and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. This notice is provided pursuant to Administrative Order No. 2.065.

WITNESS my hand and seal of said court at Wakulla County, Florida 23rd day of March, 2026.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact: ADA Coordinator, 301 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, FL 32301, 850.606.4400, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

{{County Court Seal}}

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



April 2, 9, 2026

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA  
PROBATE DIVISION

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF  
SCARLETT C. PATTERSON,  
DECEASED  
DIVISION: PROBATE

CASE NO.: 2026-CP-43

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

The administration of the Estate of Scarlett C. Patterson, deceased, File 2026-CP-43 is pending in the Circuit Court for Wakulla County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 3056 Crawfordville Hwy., Crawfordville, FL 32327. The name and address of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney is set forth below.

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

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

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

The date of the first publication of this Notice is April 2, 2026.

Attorney for Personal Representative: Personal Representatives:  
Frances Casey Lowe, Esq. Allen O'Neil Patterson  
Florida Bar No. 521450 421 J.K. Moore Rd.  
Frances Casey Lowe, P.A. Crawfordville, FL 32327  
68-A Feli Way  
Crawfordville, Florida 32327  
(850) 926-8245

April 2, 9, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA  
PROBATE DIVISION

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF  
PHIL ALLEN PATTERSON,  
DECEASED  
DIVISION: PROBATE

CASE NO.: 2026-CP-42

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

The administration of the Estate of Phil Allen Patterson, deceased, File 2026-CP-42 is pending in the Circuit Court for Wakulla County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 3056 Crawfordville Hwy., Crawfordville, FL 32327. The name and address of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney is set forth below.

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

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

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

The date of the first publication of this Notice is April 2, 2026.

Attorney for Personal Representative: Personal Representatives:  
Frances Casey Lowe, Esq. Allen O'Neil Patterson  
Florida Bar No. 521450 421 J.K. Moore Rd.  
Frances Casey Lowe, P.A. Crawfordville, FL 32327  
68-A Feli Way  
Crawfordville, Florida 32327  
(850) 926-8245

April 2, 9, 2026

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**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA  
PROBATE DIVISION

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF  
SYLVIA ELAINE PORTER,  
DECEASED  
DIVISION: PROBATE

CASE NO.: 2026-CP-37

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

The administration of the Estate of Sylvia Elaine Porter, deceased, File 2026-CP-37 is pending in the Circuit Court for Wakulla County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 3056 Crawfordville Hwy., Crawfordville, FL 32327. The name and address of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney is set forth below.

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

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

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

The date of the first publication of this Notice is March 26, 2026.

Attorney for Personal Representative: Personal Representatives:  
Frances Casey Lowe, Esq. Travis Lee Porter  
Florida Bar No. 521450 3003 Lasalle Dr.  
Frances Casey Lowe, P.A. Dothan, AL 36303  
68-A Feli Way  
Crawfordville, Florida 32327  
(850) 926-8245

March 26, April 2, 2026

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

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF:  
RENEE TERESA MORSE,  
DECEDENT.  
DIVISION: PROBATE

CASE NO.: 26-CP-36

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

The administration of the Estate of RENEE TERESA MORSE, Deceased, Case No. 26-CP-36 is pending in the Circuit Court for Wakulla County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Clerk of Court, Wakulla County Courthouse, 3056 Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville, FL 32327. The names and addresses of the Petitioner and the Petitioner's Attorney are set out at the end of this Notice.

ALL CREDITORS ARE NOTIFIED THAT:

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 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.

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

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

The Personal Representative or curator has no duty to discover whether 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 sections 732.216-732.228, applies, or may apply, unless a written demand is made by a creditor as specified under section 732.2211.

The date of first publication of this notice is March 26, 2026.

**Petitioner:**  
Mallory Curvey  
1383 Dancy St.  
Jacksonville, FL 32205

*/s/ Sean W. Gellis*  
SEAN W. GELLIS  
Florida Bar No. 105924  
GELLIS LAW, PLLC  
2931 Crawfordville Hwy  
Crawfordville, FL 32327  
Phone: 561-371-2848  
sean@gellislaw.com

March 26, April 2, 2026

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

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF:  
SARAH MARTHA TATUM,  
DECEDENT.  
DIVISION: PROBATE

CASE NO.: 26-CP-35

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

The administration of the Estate of SARAH MARTHA TATUM, Deceased, Case No. 26-CP-35 is pending in the Circuit Court for Wakulla County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Clerk of Court, Wakulla County Courthouse, 3056 Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville, FL 32327. The names and addresses of the Petitioner and the Petitioner's Attorney are set out at the end of this Notice.

ALL CREDITORS ARE NOTIFIED THAT:

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 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.

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

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

The Personal Representative or curator has no duty to discover whether 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 sections 732.216-732.228, applies, or may apply, unless a written demand is made by a creditor as specified under section 732.2211.

The date of first publication of this notice is March 26, 2026.

**Petitioner:**  
Karla Dotson  
73 Mayfair Drive  
Crawfordville, FL 32327

*/s/ Sean W. Gellis*  
SEAN W. GELLIS  
Florida Bar No. 105924  
GELLIS LAW, PLLC  
2931 Crawfordville Hwy  
Crawfordville, FL 32327  
Phone: 561-371-2848  
sean@gellislaw.com

March 26, April 2, 2026

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

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

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF:  
ANNE KENDALL VINSON,  
DECEDENT.  
DIVISION: PROBATE

CASE NO.: 2026-CP-1

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

The administration of the Estate of ANNE KENDALL VINSON, Deceased, Case No. 2026-CP-1 is pending in the Circuit Court for Wakulla County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Clerk of Court, Wakulla County Courthouse, 3056 Crawfordville Hwy, Crawfordville, FL 32327. The names and addresses of the Personal Representative and the Personal Representative's Attorney are set out at the end of this Notice.

ALL CREDITORS ARE NOTIFIED THAT:

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 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.

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

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

The Personal Representative or curator has no duty to discover whether 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 sections 732.216-732.228, applies, or may apply, unless a written demand is made by a creditor as specified under section 732.2211.

The date of first publication of this notice is March 26, 2026.

**Personal Petitioner:**  
Elizabeth Kendall Neese Bigness  
9365 Quinford Blvd  
North Chesterfield, VA 23237

*/s/ Sean W. Gellis*  
SEAN W. GELLIS  
Florida Bar No. 105924  
GELLIS LAW, PLLC  
2931 Crawfordville Hwy  
Crawfordville, FL 32327  
Phone: 561-371-2848  
sean@gellislaw.com

March 26, April 2, 2026

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

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF:  
PATRICIA BRINKLEY WILSON,  
DECEDENT.  
DIVISION: PROBATE

CASE NO.: 26-CP-28

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

The administration of the Estate of PATRICIA BRINKLEY WILSON, Deceased, Case No. 26-CP-28 is pending in the Circuit Court for Wakulla County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Clerk of Court, Wakulla County Courthouse, 3056 Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville, FL 32327. The names and addresses of the Petitioner and the Petitioner's Attorney are set out at the end of this Notice.

ALL CREDITORS ARE NOTIFIED THAT:

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 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.

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

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

The Personal Representative or curator has no duty to discover whether 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 sections 732.216-732.228, applies, or may apply, unless a written demand is made by a creditor as specified under section 732.2211.

The date of first publication of this notice is March 26, 2026.

**Petitioner:**  
Garrett Padgham  
27 Ironwood Court  
Crawfordville, FL 32327

*/s/ Sean W. Gellis*  
SEAN W. GELLIS  
Florida Bar No. 105924  
GELLIS LAW, PLLC  
2931 Crawfordville Hwy  
Crawfordville, FL 32327  
Phone: 561-371-2848  
sean@gellislaw.com

March 26, April 2, 2026

**STATE WIDE CLASSIFIEDS****Home Improvement/Service**

PROTECT YOUR HOME from pests safely and affordably. Roaches, Bed Bugs, Rodent, Termite, Spiders and other pests. Locally owned and affordable. Call for a quote or inspection today 1-833-542-1732 Have zip code of property ready when calling!

BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 1-833-754-2465

**Miscellaneous**

Donate your vehicle to help find missing children and prevent abduction. Fast free pickup, running or not, 24 hr response. No emission test required, maximum tax deduction. Support Find the Children, call: 1-833-546-7050.

**Medical**

ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS! Discover Oxygen Therapy that Moves with You with Inogen Portable Oxygen Concentrators. FREE information kit. Call 1-833-661-3729

Attention: VIAGRA and CIALIS USERS! A cheaper alternative to high drugstore prices! 50 Pill Special - Only \$99! 100% guaranteed. CALL NOW: 1-877-349-1243

**Medical**

STOP OVERPAYING FOR HEALTH INSURANCE! Reduce premiums and out-of-pocket costs while getting the coverage you need! Call now for a competitive free quote. 1-877-351-3442. Plus... Income based government subsidies are available for those that qualify!

**Wanted to Buy**

CASH PAID FOR HIGH-END MEN'S SPORT WATCHES. Rolex, Breitling, Omega, Patek Philippe, Heuer, Daytona, GMT, Submariner and Speedmaster. These brands only! Call for a quote: 1-833-641-0211

We Buy Vintage Guitar's! Looking for 1920-1980 Gibson, Martin, Fender, Gretsch, Epiphone, Guild, Mosrite, Rickenbacker, Prairie State, D'Angelico, Stromberg. And Gibson Mandolins / Banjos. These brands only! Call for a quote: 1-833-641-6789

We Buy Houses for Cash AS-IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Call today for your fair cash offer: 1-321-603-3026



# 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

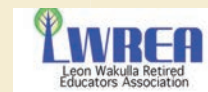
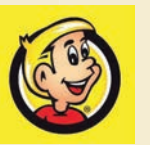
May 2, 2026 FROM 10 a.m.- 1 p.m.

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 AT KM24BM@FSU.EDU

Scan QR Code  
To  
Purchase Tickets



3 DAY AUTO LOAN SALE  
APRIL 8-10

# Gear Up for a Great Rate

AS LOW AS

# 4.58% APR<sup>1</sup>

For up to 77 months

Plus! Make No Payments for 90 days!<sup>2</sup>



- Apply online at [campuscu.com/loan-sale](https://campuscu.com/loan-sale)
- ☎ Call 850-894-9098 and press 4
- 📍 Visit us at 2329 Crawfordville Hwy.



Membership is open to anyone in Wakulla county.<sup>3</sup>

Offer not available on existing CAMPUS loans. Offer for new loans and subject to change without notice. Offer only available 04/08/2026 to 4/10/2026 and may not be combined with any other offer. 1. Offer is subject to credit approval. Your APR may vary based on your creditworthiness, loan amount, and term of loan. For example, a \$35,100 loan with no money down at 4.49% for 77 months would require 76 monthly payments of \$526.53 and a final payment of \$525.63, finance charge of \$5,541.91, for a total of payments of \$40,541.91. The amount financed is \$35,000, the APR is 4.58%. APR = Annual Percentage Rate. 2. Interest will accrue from date of purchase. Choosing this option will increase the total amount of interest you pay. 3. Credit approval and initial \$5 deposit required. Other restrictions may apply. Insured by the NCUA.

# Joy-Filled Easter held at Lodge

Story & Photos By  
**LINDA ANN McDONALD**  
Correspondent

Joy-Filled Journeys hosted its annual Joy-Filled Easter event on Thursday, March 26, at the Wakulla Springs Lodge.

The event is aimed at giving special needs kids a fun time, and activities included decorating cookies, Easter crafts, photos with the Easter Bunny, face painting and prize-filled golden eggs with free meal vouch-

ers from Zaxby's and Jimmy John's restaurants. Donated prom dresses were available at no cost for the upcoming Night of Joy prom happening at the Lodge on Saturday, May 2.

When Elizabeth

Gobel picked out her prom dress, she said, "I'm not that fancy but this is a nice dress to dress up for the occasion and I am excited to go and wear it. I'm going to get up super early that morning and put it on; it's red, sparkly and pretty."

Susan Scherbarth-Simmons of Lighthouse of the Big Bend in Tallahassee, brought the organizations younger kids to the event and said, "I love this event. It is lots of hands-on activities and it's important for the kids to have this."

Mary Wallace, the organization's director, said, "It warms my heart how much our county has supported our kids. We are great partners with the Lodge and our volunteers, I just want to say thank you."



Above, Sharon Scherbarth-Simmons of Lighthouse of the Big Bend with her student Sarah Andrews. Below, Abi Madi with the Easter Bunny.



David Caldron, Gerlori Paris, Brynlee Strickland and Parker Nesslage of Lighthouse of the Big Bend

## LOST DOG

Please Help, We miss him very much!

Went missing from the neighborhood beside the Walmart in Crawfordville Had Green light up collar on.



### Contact

The Wakulla Sun  
Eric 850-962-8019  
850-848-9440  
or  
@ChampsChance  
on social media

Please contact us if you picked up this pup or have any information!



## 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



- 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)

# Gulf Coast Breeze

Glossy Print Edition!  
60# weight paper, 8.25 x 10.5

## Wakulla County's Visitors Guide

Things to do!

Full Page. \$425 Run	Nature Trails & Wildlife!
Full Bleed (covers entire page!)	Fishing Charters,
Full Page - Get listed on Map to show your location..... \$25	Beaches & Rivers
1/2 Page..... \$300	Lodging & Restaurants
1/4 Page..... \$225	
2 x 3 ..... \$125	

Places to see & People to meet  
Please call for space availability, advertising sizes and for more information.  
Call NOW limited space!  
Lynda Kinsey • lkinsey@thewakullasun.com  
Phone 850-962-8019

## HOPPY TO BE YOUR LEGAL & TITLE TEAM

# LOWE LEGAL & TITLE

LowLegalAndTitle.com 850.926.8245

### FWMA

A Wakulla Wild Animal Rescue  
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

Florida Wild Mammal Association  
198 Edgar Poole Road  
Crawfordville, FL 32327  
FWMA.org  
353-2351