



Low Country Boil held/Page 14

The Wakulla Sun

WAKULLA WeatherSTEM
Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
AM Showers	Mostly Sunny	Sunny
Hi: 77° Lo: 56° 34% Sunrise 7:17 AM Sunset 8:01 PM	Hi: 81° Lo: 57° 7% Sunrise 7:16 AM Sunset 8:02 PM	Hi: 82° Lo: 59° 7% Sunrise 7:15 AM Sunset 8:02 PM



\$1
One Section

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

Our 5th Year 15th Issue
Thursday, April 9, 2026

Man killed in boating accident

Michael 'Cody' Terranova was from Wakulla, served as Tallahassee police officer

Staff Report

Wakulla County native and Tallahassee Police Officer Michael "Cody" Terranova was killed Friday in a boating accident on the Wakulla River.

According to reports from the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office, Terranova, 41, was off-duty and boating in the river when he struck a "fixed object" and was thrown from the boat.

Another boater found his empty boat. The sheriff's office and state wildlife officers began a search and found him in the river but were unable to resuscitate him.

A neighbor and very close friend of Terranova's is Aric Voorting, who has been friends for



Tallahassee Police Officer Michael 'Cody' Terranova

more than 30 years.

"I love Cody because he just had a super personality that gripped a hold on you and never would let go," said Voorting. "He always made everyone feel special and welcomed; he talked to everyone and was always willing to help someone."

Wakulla Sun correspondent Linda Ann McDonald said she met Cody for the first time because of his willingness to help others. "Last winter, I called Aric to help with winterizing the well at my house. In no time at all, Aric and Cody came to help, equipped with tarps, tape and insulation to prevent my well from freezing. After seeing for the first time and his special, genuine,

Turn to Page 3



Softball players Abigail Lawhon, twins Allison and Brianna Stephens, and Makenzie Marlow signed scholarships in a ceremony on Tuesday, March 31.

4 Lady War Eagle softball players sign college scholarships

By **WILLIAM SNOWDEN**
Editor

Four Wakulla softball players signed college scholarships at a ceremony at the high school on Tuesday, March 31.

- Abigail Lawhon – Southeastern University
- Allison Stephens – Gulf Coast State College
- Brianna Stephens – Gulf Coast State College
- Makenzie Marlow – St. Johns River State College

(A fifth player who intended to sign at the ceremony was sick and unable to attend: Aislin Hunter is a commit to Florida Southwestern State College.)

Head Coach Sally Wheeler praised the players who, as freshmen, played on the team that went to the state championship.

"Their work ethic is even greater than their talent," Wheeler said.

All of the players thanked their families for their support, and praised their fellow teammates.

Superintendent of Schools Rick Myhre spoke briefly, saying of the girls that they were evidence that this generation are good kids. "Look at these girls," he said. "The future is bright."

The signing was held in the new CTE building at the high school and was packed with friends and family.

SENIORS PROTEST



For Wakulla Transportation

Senior citizens holding 'We support Wakulla Transportation' signs held a protest on Tuesday, March 31 against plans by the Transportation Disadvantaged Board to strip the Wakulla County Senior Center of its role providing transportation to local residents, a service it's provided for 35 years. At right, seniors dance with protest signs as the pickin' and grinnin' band plays. At this point, starting in June, transportation service for Wakulla is to be taken over by Big Bend Transit. A final vote is set for Wednesday, April 8, at the state Department of Transportation office in Tallahassee – and seniors are planning to pack the buses, gather



up their petitions opposing the change, and head to Tallahassee to make their voices heard. (Photos by William Snowden)

Small business Rural Resource Tour will be at WEI

Local business owners can hear from federal, state and local business support organizations

Special to The Sun

Local small business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs in Wakulla and Franklin counties will have a unique opportunity on Friday, April 10 as the Florida Rural Business Resource Tour makes a stop in Crawfordville.

The event, co-hosted by Florida Commerce and the Florida Small Business Development Center Network, is part of a new statewide initiative designed to bring federal, state, and local business support organizations directly to rural communities.

The tour stop will take place Friday, April 10 at the Wakulla Environmental Institute and is free for local businesses to attend.

During the event, small business owners will be able to meet one-on-one with business support organizations, learn about available assistance programs, attend workshops, and connect with fellow entrepreneurs and community leaders.

The goal of the Rural Business Resource Tour is to make it easier for rural businesses to access the tools, training, and guidance they need to start, grow, and thrive.

The event is Friday, April 10, from 2:30 to 5 p.m. at the Wakulla Environmental Institute (Dog Trot Event Space & Classroom), 170 Preservation Way. It's free. For more information or to register: www.FloridaSBDC.org/ruraltour.

Worm Gruntin' art revealed

The festival is this Saturday in Sopchoppy

Special to The Sun

TA-DA! Presenting the 2026 Sopchoppy Worm Gruntin' Festival T-shirt design by local artist, Rachel Mathis.

Queen Lossie and Queen Oleta! Both women represent pioneer families who devoted their lives to raising and supporting their families in the Sopchoppy area.

Miss Lossie Rosier, the first queen, started worm grunting to raise 11 children with money from the sale of this bait.

Miss Oleta Lawhon, the 2025 queen, was instrumental in pioneering turpentine harvest to



This year's T-shirt features past Worm Gruntin' Queens Lossie Rosier and Oleta Lawhon in artwork by Rachel Mathis.

support her family.

The Sopchoppy School and Depot will be open to visitors to learn of the wonderful people who have made this special town their own throughout the centuries. We are dedicated to preserving heritage (both natural and cultural) which is vital for understanding history and fostering community identity.

The legacy of these pioneer families as well as others will be represented at Heritage Village as an addition to the Worm Gruntin' Contest, Worm Gruntin' Festival and entertainment throughout the event.

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Saturday 8-5



Student of the Week

Ja'riya Cole – 4th grader, Crawfordville Elementary

Principal: Alena Crawford

Achievements/Reason for Nomination: Ja'riya Cole is a fourth-grade student who is a great example of hard work and kindness. She has earned straight A's all year and stays organized in everything she does. Ja'riya is kind to everyone and is a positive leader to have in the classroom. This year, she won the fourth-grade 4-H Public Speaking Competition, and she also placed third in the school spelling bee. She is an example of what it means to be a successful student!



STUDENT OF THE WEEK FEATURES A DIFFERENT SCHOOL EACH WEEK.

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The Wakulla Sun

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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.

SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2026

Wakulla County Florida

24th Annual Sopchoppy Worm Gruntin' Festival

\$1 Admission (donation) 12 & under + Veterans free

7:00 AM	WIGGLE WORM FUN RUN REGISTRATION	Rose Street
8:00 AM	WIGGLE WORM FUN RUN BEGINS	Rose Street
9:00 AM	MERLE ROBB: OPENING CEREMONY & VENDORS OPEN	Depot Park
9:00-10:00AM	WORM GRUNTIN' CONTEST SIGN UP (12 & UNDER)	Depot Green
9:30-10:00AM	DJ BUTCH: MUSIC & WORM GRUNTIN' DEMO w/ Revell Family	Depot Green
10:00-11:00AM	DJ BUTCH: WORM GRUNTIN' CONTEST	Depot Green
11:00-11:30AM	DJ BUTCH: WORM GRUNTIN' CONTEST • DETROIT SOX	Depot Green
11:00-11:30AM	Depot Museum Gracie Rosier, Storytelling	Old School
11:00-2:00PM	Tours of Historic Sopchoppy School	Depot Green
11:15-11:30AM	Winners & Announcements	HERITAGE STAGE Depot Green
11:30-12:15PM	LIVE MUSIC: Hot Pepper Steppers & Runaway Biscuits	Heritage Stage
12:15-12:45PM	LIVE MUSIC: Elizabeth & Greg	HERITAGE STAGE Heritage Stage
12:45-1:30PM	LIVE MUSIC: Hot Pepper Steppers & Runaway Biscuits	Main Stage
12:45-1:30PM	LIVE MUSIC: Charlie Brown Band	Main Stage
2:30-2:30PM	Scholarship Award	Main Stage
2:45-3:15PM	Crowning of the King & Queen, honoring Lottie Rosier	Main Stage
3:15-4:15PM	LIVE MUSIC: The Curryys	Main Stage
4:30-5:30PM	HULA HOOP CONTEST	CIVIC BREWING Civic Brewing
5:00-5:30PM	WORM GRUNTERS BALL with RICK OTT BAND	Main Stage

- Wiggle Worm Fun Run • 100+ Vendors & Food Trucks from 9am-5pm
- Kid Competitions/Activities • Live Music All Day
- Historical Displays & Demos • Crowning of the King & Queen
- Worm Grunter's Ball w/ Rick Ott Band

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Young voices at 4-H Public Speaking Contest

Special to The Sun

Students from across Wakulla County took center stage recently at the 2026 Wakulla County 4 H Public Speaking Competition, showcasing confidence, creativity, and powerful communication skills during a long standing youth leadership program administered by UF/IFAS Extension's 4 H Youth Development.

Held at the Wakulla County Extension Office, the county level contest brought together top student speakers from elementary and middle schools throughout the county. Each participant earned their place by advancing through classroom and school level competitions, making the evening a celebration of both individual achievement and collective effort by educators, families, and volunteers who support youth development through 4 H.

Florida's 4 H Public Speaking Program has been offered statewide since 1969, making it one of the organization's longest running educational initiatives. The program is designed to teach young people the fundamentals

of effective communication, including speech preparation, organization, delivery, and poise. For many students, participation marks an early opportunity to build confidence speaking before an audience – skills that serve them well in school, careers, and civic life.

ELEMENTARY DIVISION: 4TH AND 5TH GRADE WINNERS

In the 4th and 5th grade division, students impressed judges with speeches that were thoughtful, heartfelt, and engaging.

- Evie Rummel earned top honors with her speech, "Why Mr. Wallis is the Best Teacher," a personal and expressive tribute that highlighted the lasting impact educators can have on young lives.

- Lily Rose Raguth Tscharnier was also recognized as a county winner for her speech, "Switzerland," which demonstrated strong organization and clarity while exploring an international topic with confidence and depth.

Both winners will advance to represent Wakulla County at the district level competition, where students from multiple North Florida counties will compete.

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MIDDLE SCHOOL DIVISION: 6TH GRADE WINNERS

The 6th grade division featured a dynamic range of topics and polished performances from Wakulla County's middle school students.

- Autumn Thompson captured attention with "The Pledge of Allegiance," a speech that reflected maturity, strong delivery, and thoughtful examination of a familiar civic tradition.

- Dahlia Hunt was recognized for her speech, "Life of a Kid Cartoonist," which combined creativity and clear communication while offering a unique personal perspective.

As county winners, both students will also advance to the district competition, continuing Wakulla County's tradition of strong participation in the 4 H Public Speaking Program.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND LASTING IMPACT

The evening would not have been possible without the many community leaders, educators, and volunteers who served as judges, timekeepers, and coordinators. Their involvement reflects the program's broader goal of connecting youth with caring adults who support leadership development and personal growth.

The contest is sponsored statewide by Florida Power & Light, whose ongoing support helps ensure schools and counties across Florida can continue offering this valuable educational experience to students year after year.

For Wakulla County 4 H, the Public Speaking Contest is more than a competition—it is a formative learning experience that encourages young people to find their voice, share their ideas, and grow as confident communicators. As this year's winners prepare to advance to the next level, they carry with them the skills, confidence, and encouragement that define the heart of the 4 H program



Pinwheels

There were a number of gardens of blue pinwheels put up last week to raise awareness of April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. From right to left: students

at Wakulla Middle School, the Wakulla County Health Department, and at Azalea Park with a garden of pinwheels put out by volunteers for Caroline's Agape Project. (Photos by Shirley Howard, Elizabeth Neighbors, William Snowden)

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



Deadmen Walking Music Festival at Palaver Tree



Madden Metcalf, left, who recently signed a major label contract, was headliner and had the crowd dancing, above. CJ Beach and the Deadmen performing, below.

PHOTOS BY GERALD BROWN

WAKULLA COUNTY

Notice of Public Meeting:

The Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners has scheduled a Public Meeting of the Tourist Development Council on April 23, 2026, at 10:00 AM in the Wakulla County Commission Complex (Large Conference Room), 3093 Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville FL 32327.

Interested parties are invited to attend and participate.

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

April 9, 2026

Free Community SHRED EVENT

SATURDAY | APRIL 18

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

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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

Boating accident

From Front Page

beautiful smile, I knew I had made another friend that day after spending just a short time with him.

Terranova leaves behind his wife, Ciera. Voorting said that "Cody

was a devoted husband who loved his wife more than anything in the world. She was the anchor in his life... very caring, looking out for everyone all the time. I love them both," Voorting said.

"I never dreamed he would leave me this way and I will never forget the fun times although the best times we had were always on the Wakulla River house dock with friends.

"The memories of fun trips and fun times will never be forgotten, and I will miss him," Voorting said.

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.”

Historical Society to present program on license plates

Special to The Sun

The Wakulla County Historical Society invites you to attend our Second Tuesday History Talk on April 14 at 6 p.m. at the Wakulla County Public Library, 4330 Crawfordville Hwy.

The topic will be Automobile License Plates presented by Jeff Francis.

Jeff Francis is a 63-year-old native Floridian born in St. Petersburg. After graduating from college, he became an event promoter and retired early at 37.

He has collected li-

cense plates for 54 years starting with gathering plates in St. Petersburg on his bicycle at 10 years old. His collection has grown into the largest comprehensive collection in the world. It comprises the only known complete set of American license plates from all 50 states from the first issues to the present. The Canadian collection is only three plates from being complete and the collection features plates from Mexico and thousands of plates from other jurisdictions around the



world.

But most importantly, his first love is Florida plates. His collection comprises over 325 different porcelain county and city plates issued in Florida from 1911 to 1917.

Also, his collection encompasses plates from all Florida coun-

ties from 1938 to the present. Florida used numbers starting in 1938 to designate the county, Wakulla being 65. The goal of this collection is to collect the plate from every year for every county and is only 132 plate shy of being complete.

And missing a Wakul-

la 1943, 1949, 1954 and 1955 with the 65 prefix. He has traveled to 154 U.N. countries in search of license plates and then to every county of the 50 United States

He enjoys giving presentations about license plates to local groups and civic clubs around the country, and is also involved in the promotion and execution of several license plate collecting related events in the country.

He was inducted into the Automobile License Plate Collec-

tors Association (ALP-CA) Hall of Fame in 2019 for his leadership roles in the national club.

He's also involved with Boy Scouts being an Eagle Scout, Kiwanis, Exchange Club and many other civic organizations in St. Petersburg and Butte, Montana, where he spends his summer months.

He is looking forward to his presentation at the Wakulla County Historical Society program on April 14. For more information call 850-926-1110.

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LETTERS FROM READERS

Early education can help a child grow

Editor, The Sun:

In my opinion, Voluntary pre-kindergarten is one of the smartest ways to set a child up for success because it builds the skills that matter most before kindergarten even begins.

This is one of the many reasons

voluntary pre-kindergartens are beneficial for a child.

Children become prepared academically and socially for what the expectation will be when they enter kindergarten.

VPK promotes early practice on recognition of letters, numbers, and establishes routines which

can build a child's confidence and reduce stress when they step into kindergarten for the first time.

Having a child in VPK can also help teachers and families to notice learning or speech needs earlier so the child can receive services that are needed to be successful in school. VPK helps to support working families by providing a structured, reliable early-learning option while still allowing parents to choose what is best for their child and make informed decisions.

In VPK, children get a head start on early reading and math, learn classroom routines, and practice sharing, listening, and working with others – so they walk into kindergarten confident and ready

to learn.

When a child is supported, it can make the biggest difference in how they will perceive school in years to come.

Just as important, making it voluntary respects parents' choices while still giving every child access to a strong start from the very beginning.

Just my opinion on how being mindful of a child's education supports them throughout the years to come, allowing them to have a strong start.

Mary Cummins

Director

Happy Time Instructional Child Care Center

Something on your mind?

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

On the Horizon

Calendar of events for the week of April 9

Thursday, April 9

- St. Marks City Commission meets at city hall at 6 p.m.
- 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 10

- Small Business Rural Resources Tour will be at Wakulla Environmental Institute from 2:30 to 5 p.m. To register, www.FloridaSBDC.org/ruraltour
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon and 8 p.m. every Friday at 54 Ochlockonee St.

Saturday, April 11

- Worm Gruntin' Festival in Sopchoppy begins 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.
- Zeta Phi Beta Sorority will celebrate 10 years of service with a gala at the Wakulla Community Center beginning at 5:30 p.m. Speaker will be 24th Past International President Mary Breaux Wright. Tickets are \$75 at <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/10th-anniversary-gala-6>

Sunday, April 12

- 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 13

- Planning commission meets in the commission boardroom beginning at 6 p.m.
- Sopchoppy City Commission meets at city hall at 6:30 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 14

- Historical Society program on license plate collecting by Jeff Francis will be held at the public library at 6 p.m.
- 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 15

- Wakulla County Law Enforcement Torch Run in support of Special Olympics will have a run from the sheriff's office to the courthouse beginning at 10 a.m. followed by a program on the courthouse lawn.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon and 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday at 54 Ochlockonee St.

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

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

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

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- More reporters on the street
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- More local content on the environment and local businesses

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

We would very much appreciate your contribution.

William Snowden
Editor & Publisher
The Wakulla Sun

We accept donations by card or check. If by check, payment must be made to the Florida Press Foundation and write in the check memo line that you want the donation to go to The Wakulla Sun.

Send it to Florida Press Foundation at 336 East College Avenue, Suite 304, Tallahassee FL 32301

"It's A New Day!"

The Wakulla Sun

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- Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

Polled at Wakulla Chamber of Commerce's 15th annual Low Country Boil:
Favorite thing about the Low Country Boil?



LINDA OAKS
Library Director

"I get to see all the people from the local businesses and people I don't get to see every day."



JAMES LEWIS
Leadership Wakulla

"My favorite part is how it brings the community together."



KINSEY MILLER
Panacea Communications

"Community! The community we live in is such a heartfelt place filled with amazing people. We are so blessed."



ROBERT MCKENZIE
McKenzie Property Management

"I've not been here before but I am seeing old friends an enjoying the fellowship."



HEATHER BRYAN
Chamber Executive Director

"Being a part of getting all of these people together."

Wakulla Crossroads

By **VERNA BROCK**

I hope everyone had a blessed Easter and Passover. It has been a really busy month or so, but taking moments to reflect on life's deeper questions is helpful. Part of preparing for Easter includes taking time to contemplate Christ's journey to the cross.

The age-old observation of Ash Wednesday and Lent helps us focus on sacrifice and mortality. We are called to remember the meaning

of Christ's life and death, and our chance to be redeemed from death and sin. Maundy Thursday recalls Passover and the Last Supper, when Jesus foretold his coming passion. Good Friday helps the faithful focus on Jesus' suffering, death and coming resurrection. Easter Sunday is the centuries old celebration of renewal and salvation.

Christians around the world join together to rejoice in the promise of grace, eternal life, and the risen Lord. After 40 days of contemplation,

Christians can proclaim the mysteries of faith with genuine joy every year, as they have done for millennia.


Our Jewish brethren continue to celebrate the great holy days of Passover, proclaiming God's power to bring them out of slavery in Egypt. Exodus is one of the most riveting origin stories of any nation on Earth. All the symbolism and ancient traditions that venerate the journey of a chosen people continue to be practiced around the world.

These very same traditions permeate Christian faith and appear in the Biblical account of Christ's life and death. Two faiths, inextricably joined by history and belief, celebrate God's

power and love. God's message of grace is a source of hope, now and forever.

This Easter, I awoke to the news of a tragic death on Sunday. Tallahassee Police Department Officer Cody Terranova was killed in a boating accident over the weekend. It is always difficult to hear of the loss of a public servant, and it is especially hard when they grew up with your children.

Cody graduated with my daughter and was an interesting young man even then. Please keep his family in your prayers during this very sad time.



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SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE

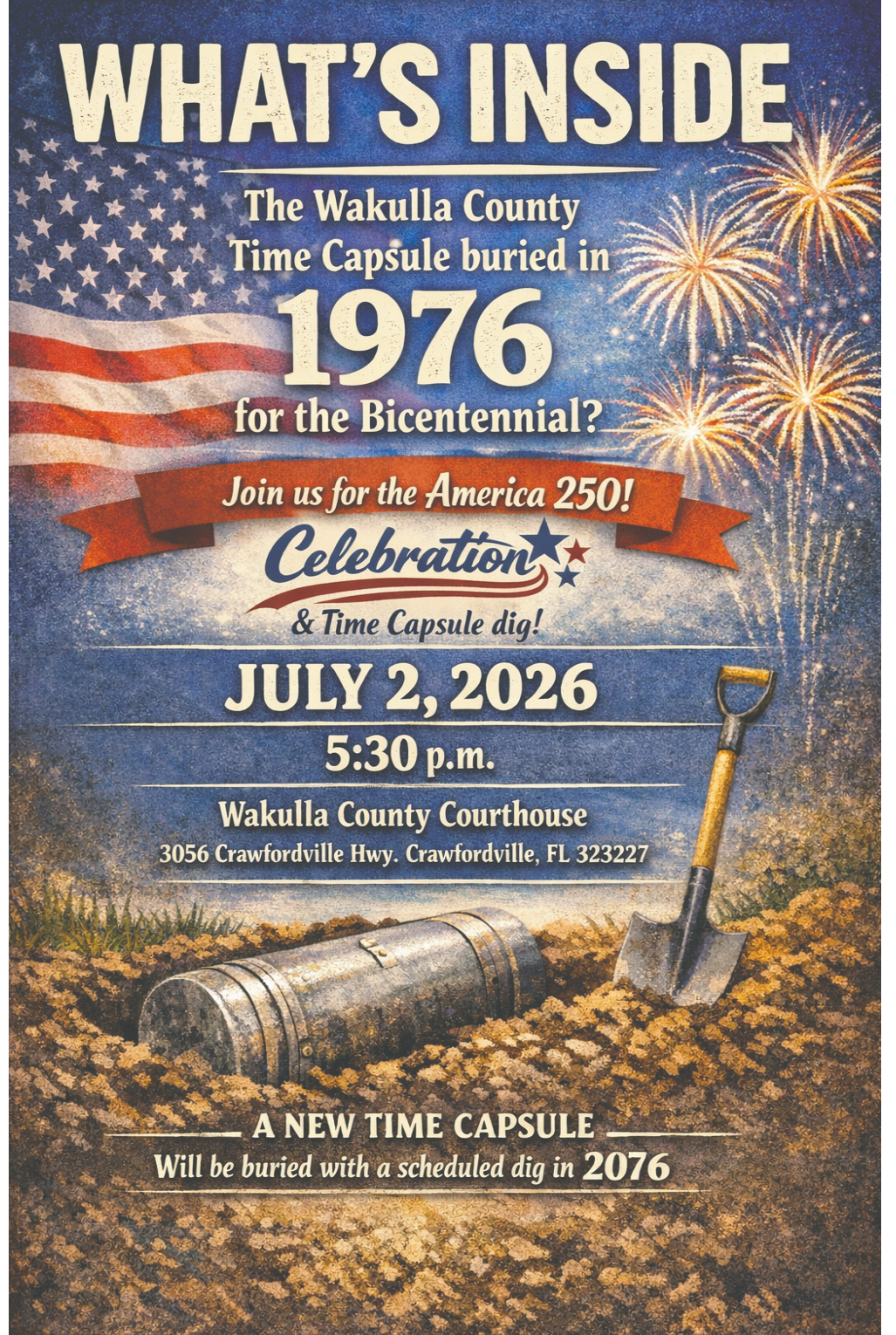
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The Wakulla County Time Capsule buried in **1976** for the Bicentennial?
Join us for the **America 250! Celebration** & Time Capsule dig!
JULY 2, 2026
5:30 p.m.
Wakulla County Courthouse
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Outdoors

outdoor sports

HOME ON THE RANGE

Newbies buy ammunition



By MARJ LAW

Beth and Sally are about to purchase ammunition. They are new to shooting, and both have 22s. Beth has a Sig Sauer 322 and Sally has a Ruger Mark IV. They're both a bit uncertain as they stare at the shelves full of ammunition boxes.

"Let's start with our 22s," suggests Beth. "I see 22 Short and 22 LR which stands for Long Rifle. Since I have a gun with a very short barrel, I probably should get the 22 Short. That means you should get the 22 LR, because your gun is much longer than mine."

"I don't think that's what you buy for your Sig," says Sally, flipping through the pages of Beth's manual. "No, it says here you need 22 LR, just like I do for my Ruger."

"Wonder what gun shoots the 'Short,'" pondered Beth. "Oh, well, we'll both get the 22 LR ammo. Now, should we get one that says 'hollow point'?"

"I don't think so. Joey said 'hollow point' ammo is for self-defense or varmints. But we're just us-

ing the 22s for target practice. For defense, we have our 9mm handguns."

Beth is looking at pricing. "The pack of 22 LR Blazer Brass is half the price of the CCI, but Sam said to get CCI. He says it's the cleanest-firing 22 ammo in his opinion. Sam said not to get fancy and look for 'Hollow Point' and 'High Velocity,' because 22 LR is all we need for target practice; not for defense."

Sally sees the box of Blazer Brass. "Joey does say Blazer is good. But look at the box. The Blazer has 50 bullets in the box and the CCI has 100. That's twice as much. No wonder the price of the CCI boxed ammo is that high."

"Oh," said Beth. "I didn't notice that. So, is there really any difference between the 22 LR brands?"

"No, not really, so long as we stay with well-known ones."

"Next, we'll get ammo for your Sig Sauer 365 and my Kimber Mako. They're both 9mm guns," said Sally.

"Oh, no." Beth is dismayed by all the 9mm ammo for sale. "There are a lot of boxes of 9mm. Which are we going to get?"

"Joey said we might think of getting 2 kinds: one for target practice and one for defense. He suggests buying in bulk for target practice since it's cheaper."

"I didn't plan on buying so much," complained Beth. "What's the differ-



ence between 9mm Luger and 9mm Parabellum? And this Makarov? Are they all the same?"

"I think Joey said Luger and Parabellum are okay, but I've never heard of Makarov. We better cross that one off our list."

"May I help you?" asked a salesman, noticing them studying the endcap.

"We're looking at ammunition," replied Sally.

"Are you wanting rimfire or centerfire ammunition?" he asked.

"We're just looking right now. We're not finished checking out our options."

"But..." started Beth. Sally grabbed her by the sleeve, starting to pull her down the aisle. Beth got the hint and scrambled along with her.

When they were out of earshot, Sally turned to Beth. "What, on earth, is rimfire? Or centerfire? We have to be the dumbest people here," she hissed.

A kindly elderly man leaned towards them.

"I couldn't help but hear that you both have 22s and 9mm handguns. The 22 is rimfire, and the 9 is centerfire." He notices that both gals aren't understanding.

"When shooting, your firing pin hits the primer, which causes a spark to set off the main propellant," he explained. "On your 22, it is located along the back circular rim of the cartridge. According to GunDigest: 'The spark goes to the main propellant charge which then burns and creates the gas pressure that sends the projectile out of the barrel.' So, look at the back of the cartridge. Because the primer is on the rim, we call it a rimfire gun."

"Look at the back of the 9mm casing," he continued. "Notice the depression in the center? In your 9mm handgun, the primer is no longer in the rim; it is located right here in the center. When the salesperson asks if you want rimfire or centerfire, your 22s will be rimfire and your 9mm will be centerfire."

"Thank you for explaining it to us," said Sally, glad now that she wouldn't sound stupid to the salesman. Each gal then purchased a box of 100 CCI 22 LR rounds, and were deciding on a box of 50 9mm Luger rounds.

"I didn't know which

9mm box to get," confessed Sally as they walked to the car. "One said 115 grains, one said 124 grains, and one said 147 grains. I went for the 115 because it was the cheapest. Joey said the cheapest good 9mm brand is probably the best for target shooting. He said the lighter weight might make shooting easier and give less recoil."

"There's so much to learn, even just about ammunition," returned Beth, sighing.

"Sure is," returned Sally. "Yesterday I found Sam running his hands through a box of 9mm rounds."

"What are you doing?" I asked him. "Feeling up your ammo?"

"He said someone had given him this box, and the rounds had something slick on them, like maybe oil. He said oil can seep inside the casing. Then, you probably shouldn't use them. You have to watch out if someone gives you ammunition."

"Okay. So, if you don't feel slime on them, then you can use them?" asked Beth.

"Not unless you really know what to look for."

Casings could be damaged and have cracks in them. Also, 380 ammo and the 9mm rounds look so much the same, you almost have to check the back of each round to see which round it is."

"Then too," she added, "Joey said some people just stick rounds into a box. You won't really know what's in there. Someone may have picked up spent brass and reloaded them. They might have made 'hot' rounds that are not suitable for your gun. You have to know a lot to accept ammo from others."

"Sounds like you're saying: 'Just say no' to gifts of ammo!" laughed Beth.

"That's about it. It's safer to buy locally. Then you know what you're getting."

"Since we have 9mm handguns for defense, can we use that +P or +P+ ammo?"

"Joey says to read your manual. Some 9s can take the stronger firepower, but others cannot. You could damage your barrel, so be sure to check the manual before you buy +P."

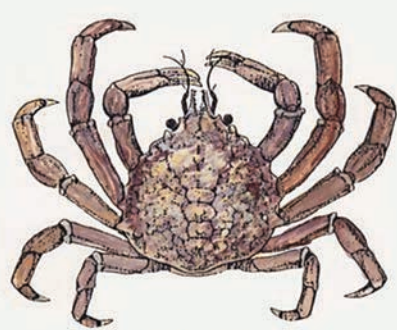
"Okay. Sally, you know I haven't looked at that manual."

"Yikes! Then, read it tonight. Maybe it's a good idea to find a well-trained person to take us to the range the first few times. Although we did take the 'carry concealed' class, there's still so much to learn."

"Just not from our husbands, please!" laughed Beth. "I think I'd be more comfortable with a woman. Did you notice how small the shooting stalls are at the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) range?"

"That's all the space we need. I like the idea of shooting at the WCSO range, because a deputy is always there if we need one. They're great for both information and safety. So, let's go there Wednesday morning. A few shooters usually meet at the pistol range around 10:00. Let's bring our guns and ammo and join them!"

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



SPIDER CRAB

(*Libinia emarhinata* and *Libinia dubia*)

Two very similar crabs live in the same areas of the Atlantic coast. *Emarhinata* (shown) has 9 spines while *dubia* has 6. They have a 4" carapace. Both kinds of crabs are scavengers eating dead fish and they will attack and eat larger starfish and sea squirts. They prefer walking forward instead of sideways like most crabs. They live offshore in water up to 1300ft but cannot tolerate salinity fluctuations. Male spider crabs will aggressively defend females from predators while they carry eggs and during release of larvae. These crabs are slow moving and often have hydroids.

Eukarya, Animalia, Athropoda, Malacostracia, Decapoda, Epialtidae



WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO



Another photo from local photographer Lisa Vince, this one a close-up of some Milk Thistle.

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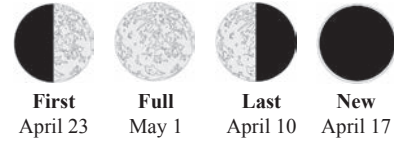


Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

April 9 - April 15



Tide charts by tides4fishing.com



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

Thursday 9
Sun rise/set: 7:17 AM / 8:00 PM
Moon rise/set: 2:19 AM / 12:19 PM
Moon Illumination 55%
Friday 10
Sun rise/set: 7:15 AM / 8:01 PM
Moon rise/set: 3:03 AM / 1:17 PM
Moon Illumination 46%
Saturday 11
Sun rise/set: 7:14 AM / 8:02 PM
Moon rise/set: 3:42 AM / 2:17 PM
Moon Illumination 36%
Sunday 12
Sun rise/set: 7:13 AM / 8:02 PM
Moon rise/set: 4:17 AM / 3:18 PM
Moon Illumination 27%
Monday 13
Sun rise/set: 7:12 AM / 8:02 PM
Moon rise/set: 4:49 AM / 4:18 PM
Moon Illumination 18%
Tuesday 14
Sun rise/set: 7:11 AM / 8:03 PM
Moon rise/set: 5:20 AM / 5:20 PM
Moon Illumination 10%
Wednesday 15
Sun rise/set: 7:10 AM / 8:04 PM
Moon rise/set: 5:50 AM / 6:24 PM
Moon Illumination 5%

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	1:53 am	9:00 am	12:19 pm	6:01 pm
Fr	3:20 am	10:52 am	2:09 pm	7:20 pm
Sa	4:38 am	11:51 am	4:39 pm	10:11 pm
Su	5:36 am	12:25 pm	5:57 pm	11:43 pm
Mo	6:21 am	12:52 pm	6:44 pm	
Tu	12:42 am	6:59 am	1:16 pm	7:23 pm
We	1:32 am	7:33 am	1:40 pm	8:01 pm

City of St. Marks

Th	2:57 am	9:36 am	1:23 pm	6:37 pm
Fr	4:24 am	11:28 am	3:13 pm	7:56 pm
Sa	5:42 am	12:27 pm	5:43 pm	10:47 pm
Su	6:40 am	1:01 pm	7:01 pm	
Mo	12:19 am	7:25 am	1:28 pm	7:48 pm
Tu	1:18 am	8:03 am	1:52 pm	8:27 pm
We	2:08 am	8:37 am	2:16 pm	9:05 pm

Shell Point, Spring Creek

Th	2:05 am	9:04 am	12:52 pm	6:33 pm
Fr	3:29 am	10:43 am	2:25 pm	7:51 pm
Sa	4:51 am	11:51 am	4:33 pm	10:19 pm
Su	5:53 am	12:32 pm	6:01 pm	11:56 pm
Mo	6:40 am	1:04 pm	6:56 pm	
Tu	12:58 am	7:19 am	1:31 pm	7:39 pm
We	1:50 am	7:55 am	1:58 pm	8:20 pm

Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay

Th	2:04 am	8:52 am	12:30 pm	5:53 pm
Fr	3:31 am	10:44 am	2:20 pm	7:12 pm
Sa	4:49 am	11:43 am	4:50 pm	10:03 pm
Su	5:47 am	12:17 pm	6:08 pm	11:35 pm
Mo	6:32 am	12:44 pm	6:55 pm	
Tu	12:34 am	7:10 am	1:08 pm	7:34 pm
We	1:24 am	7:44 am	1:32 pm	8:12 pm

St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.

Th	1:50 am	6:27 pm		
Fr	3:17 am	8:01 pm		
Sa	4:40 am	12:27 pm	5:35 pm	10:09 pm
Su	5:41 am	12:40 pm	6:23 pm	11:36 pm
Mo	6:25 am	12:55 pm	6:56 pm	
Tu	12:38 am	7:02 am	1:11 pm	7:26 pm
We	1:30 am	7:36 am	1:30 pm	7:58 pm

Dog Island West End

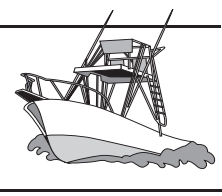
Th	1:54 am	6:24 pm		
Fr	3:13 am	7:28 pm		
Sa	4:37 am	1:15 pm	4:57 pm	9:58 pm
Su	5:47 am	12:59 pm	6:28 pm	11:24 pm
Mo	6:45 am	1:05 pm	7:12 pm	
Tu	12:41 am	7:30 am	1:21 pm	7:47 pm
We	1:51 am	8:06 am	1:43 pm	8:21 pm

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



Coast Guard Auxiliary Reports

By Emory Smith



As we move towards our spring and summer holiday seasons and especially our long Memorial Day and July 4th long weekends, let's take a look at one of the more common and very dangerous combinations we face on the water. Alcohol and Boating...

Boating Emergencies

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

alcohol concentration above .10% - the legal threshold in 38 states - is 10 times more likely to be killed in a boating accident than a boater with zero BAC. No matter what the activity, alcohol affects balance, vision, coordination and judgement. But in boating, stressors like wind, sun, noise, motion, and vibration can magnify the effects of alcohol and even accelerate impairment. Most boaters think of collisions as the greatest threat when

drinking on the water. Yet, according to BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety research, an estimated 75% of alcohol-related boating accidents and injuries do not involve collisions. In fact, falls on board or overboard, or missteps at the dock or getting into the dinghy, are a much greater threat when drinking afloat. So, remember, in the end, as Sherrie says, "Safe Boating is no accident!" If you would like to learn more about vessel safety checks,

please contact Steve Hults, Staff Officer for Vessel Examinations at steve.hults@uscgaux.net

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

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

Underwater Wakulla

By Nicole Stanton

Rivers and mythology. July 5, 2012

For thousands of years, across every civilization, mythology has revolved around water. There are mythical beings in the rivers, the lakes, the swamps, the caves, and of course the ocean. Before our age of scientific discovery, you would look at the spring in your back yard and ask yourself, was that a Naiad swimming in the waters? But wait, what is a Naiad?? And why is it living in your Spring? A Naiad is a Greek water nymph that was attached to flowing water, often depicted as a beautiful, nude woman bathing in the waters of her spring. It was said that a Naiad would die if her spring were to ever dry up.

The Celts believed that the river held mystical black horses called Kelpies, who would peek their eyes out of the water to watch the people on land, much the way our alligators do. One would lure unwary humans, especially children, to ride on it's back and the Kelpie would take off with the rider into the deepest part of the river to drown it's victim. Even today we watch our children closely as they approach the waters edge, but now we worry more about the gators than the kelpies.

As the conquistadors first discovered our waters, they would sail down our rivers and look over the rails of the ship to see the shadowy forms of mermaids swimming in the Florida rivers. When a sailor first saw this creature with long green hair undulating under the water as it swam away, he saw similarities to both man and sea. When looking over the rails of our own high dive in Wakulla springs I saw my first mermaid. Her long green hair was strings of algae flowing behind her as she swam, not side to side as other fish, but up and down as a human would with her spine oriented in the same fashion as other mammals. In that statement, I realized that the conquistadors weren't far off. Mermaids are a marriage of man and the sea, Manatees are a marriage of mammals and the sea. They represent two worlds coming together and creating something straight from legends right in our back yards.

Though the conquistadors found mermaids in Florida, the Irish, Scots, and Welsh found women (and a few men) living in the sea as well. They were the Selkie, seals who could shed their skins to walk on dry land. It was said that if you stole the skin of a Selkie and hid it from it's owner, the Selkie would wed you and stay with you. However, they would pine for the sea, and if the Selkie ever found it's skin, nothing on dry land, not love or money, could keep him/her from returning to the sea.

Today, when you look outside to your own community, you can see the mysterious waters of the Wakulla Springs cave system. In the hay-day of mythology, our springs would have been worshipped as divine. The home to Naiads, kelpie, mermaids, and ruled by it's own river god. Today, Florida springs are in danger; many have been filled or contaminated by runoff toxins and sewage fields.

To the end of remembering the divinity of our treasure, this is but the first article exploring the myths and legends surrounding the water element.

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OIA ORTHOPAEDIC TRAUMA ASSOCIATION
ota.org

AAOS AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS
orthoinfo.org

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

Invite Jesus into your mess – and discover true security



By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

Do you ever wonder if God gets tired of your constant mess-ups?

Maybe you're feeling so discouraged after a recent slide back into sinful behavior that

you've stopped reading your Bible and praying. Because of this, you're feeling more and more insecure.

Some even hesitate to surrender their lives to Christ because they're convinced they're not good enough.

If that's you, I can't wait to share this week's verse: "May Christ through your faith [actually] dwell (settle down, abide, make His permanent home) in your hearts! May you be rooted deep in love and founded securely on love" (Ephesians 3:17

AMPC).

Try to imagine what it would be like to be rooted deeply in love and founded securely on love by the One Who loves you most, even when you're at your worst.

I can't think of anything more comforting than being secure, especially when I don't love myself or when I'm devastated due to my sinful choices. I've discovered that there is no better way to obtain ultimate security than to invite Jesus into my mess – into the choices

I no longer want to live by.

Inviting Jesus to make His home in our heart (life) begins with honesty. We acknowledge our sin and recognize that no amount of good works can make us right with God. We come to understand that only Jesus, God Himself (dying an agonizing death for our sins and rising three days later), can make us certain of entering heaven.

Some refer to this understanding and process as becoming "saved," "born-again" or "asking

Jesus to become our Lord and Savior" (Lord: giving Him authority over our lives; Savior: saving us from hell and the control of sin). Besides providing eternal salvation, Jesus' death and resurrection enable us to live a victorious life instead of remaining slaves to our sins and harmful habits.

God is not indifferent to our sin. He hates it, which is why His Son died for it. He grieves when we sin because He knows its devastating effects on our lives.

In our best moments

and in our worst, we can rest securely in our Father's love that meets us right in the middle of our struggle. He knows, despite our best intentions, that we'll still mess up, yet He keeps drawing us back to Him again and again to lead us toward repentance.

Talk about security.

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.

Always room



By **CHERYL CRUCE**

It was simple in structure, made by my daddy's hands and set by my mama's love. Often it held only cheese grits and toast with homemade blackberry jam... or macaroni and cheese with fluffy white biscuits. There was never a question about what time we were to arrive or where we sat. The conversation was gen-

tle and caring – caring about each other's day.

By the time we gathered, the seating was full... but never so full that another was not welcomed. My parents had an uncanny way of making others feel at home. There was always room at the table for one more.

It was the same when we raised our children. Many nights the table held homemade pizza on hamburger buns or a pot of spaghetti – their favorite meals. But what it held in simplicity, it made up for in love. And just like before... there was always room for one more.

Sometimes I believe I can still hear the echo of laughter and see lit-

tle images of yesterday that rise from my heart like treasured memories. And I have come to realize... it was never just about the food. It was about the gathering and the belonging. It was the quiet assurance that you had a place – a place where you were known and welcomed. It was not a seat you earned, but a seat that was offered.

Perhaps that is why the Lord's Table holds such a sacred place in my being. When I read the Scriptures, I see Him there – again and again – gathered around a table. I see Him on the shore, a fire gently burning, fish laid upon it, calling His disciples to come and eat (John 21:9-12). I see

Him in the home of Martha and Mary of Bethany, where one prepared and the other sat at His feet, and both were loved (Luke 10:38-42). And I see Him at the table of Simon the Pharisee, where He was met with judgment... yet He still offered grace. Even there, a woman carrying the weight of her past found herself welcomed in a way she never expected (Luke 7:36-50).

Time and time again, Jesus gathered at tables – not because the people were perfect, but because they were present. He entered their homes, their questions, their brokenness, and He always came with grace in His hands, offering mercy where it was needed

most.

Today we are invited to the Table. It is not a table built by human hands, but one that is prepared by grace. A table where the meal is simple – bread and cup – yet it holds everything our souls long for. The place settings are never earned. Yet we are invited to come bringing our memories, our joys, our weariness and our questions. And when we come, we find there is still room.

There is room for the faithful, the wandering and the weary. There is room for the one who does not know where they belong, because this Table has always been that kind of Table. It is a Table of gather-

ing and belonging where grace is not withheld – but freely given. And just like the table I have known all my life, the Table is prepared...the invitation is yours.

There is always room for one more.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever – Psalm 23:5-6

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

OUT TO PASTOR

My addiction to happiness



By **JAMES SNYDER**

One of the most important elements of life is happiness. When I look around the world, I notice how scarce happiness seems, which makes me reflect on its true value.

I have come to the conclusion that happiness is a choice. I can be happy or sad. The choice is mine.

Whenever things aren't going the way I want, and it seems very chaotic around me, I stop, think a little bit, and actively choose happiness over my worrying, which helps me regain perspective.

Not too long ago, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage looked at me and said, "Why are you so happy?"

I looked at her smiling and said, "As long as you're in my life, I will be happy."

She looked at me, smiled, and then walked away. I'm not sure if she understood exactly what I was saying, but

I meant it from the bottom of my heart.

I once told her that I had a PhD. in happiness.

"What does that mean?" she asked.

"A PhD is a 'Perpetual Happiness Demeanor' – and I have earned that degree."

Throughout the years, I have had this degree challenged on many levels. When things seem at their worst, I need to step back, smile, and be happy.

If you watch the news on TV, there are a million reasons not to be happy. If I believed everything on TV, it would be hard to be happy. The purpose of television news is to depress people, and they are very successful at it.

No matter how bad a situation looks, I can be happy. For every bad thing in the world, I can always find something good to be happy about.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not one of those possibility thinkers who think all I have to do is think it and I can achieve it. I don't believe that at all. But I do believe in happiness in itself.

The other day The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage was looking very sad. I approached her and said, "What's wrong? Why are you looking so sad?"

Then she explained to me in detail why she was so sad. Based on what she said, she has every good reason to be sad. She had both thumbs injured, and they were not quite movable, which hindered her from doing some of the work she does.

"I just am tired of my thumbs not working yet."

It reminded me of a time in my life when I was hit with shingles on my right side. My right arm was limited in what I could do with it. It really made me quite sad.

One day, I went to Wendy's, and a man came out of the store without a right arm. From the top of his shoulders down, his arm was missing.

As I watched him walk to his truck, I got to thinking. That man will never be able to use his arm because it's gone. I, on the other hand, will be able to use my arm again one day because it's just a temporary setback.

So, I told my wife, "Don't get discouraged. That will soon go away and you will have full access to both of your thumbs." I smiled at her, hoping she would

catch the happiness bug.

I don't think happiness comes automatically. It's a matter of choice. In the midst of some very negative situations, I can either suffer through them or choose to be happy. I'm not happy about my situation, but happiness is my choice in life.

When my schedule is full, it is an opportunity for something to go wrong. I've lived long enough to realize that something going wrong is always an option. When I think I've got everything in line and I'm ready to take the next step, something blows up in my face.

That is enough to make me sad and even angry. I see a lot of angry people in this world. I can choose to be angry or to be happy. The choice is all mine.

It's taken me almost a lifetime to understand that and to choose happiness under every circumstance.

The other day I had a doctor's appointment across town. Just a checkup that the doctors like to do. I went out, got in my truck, and it would not start. I did everything I could

possibly think of, but nothing got that truck running.

That was a real recipe for some anger in my situation. I finally had to call AAA to have them come and start up my truck. When he came, he discovered that it was the battery.

It took him about an hour to fix my truck and get it running. In the meantime, I had to cancel my doctor's appointment and reschedule it.

I was a little bit agitated. When I walked into the house, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage greeted me and said, "Are you happy now?"

She caught me with pie in my face. I looked

at her, smiled very gently, and said, "I am now!"

I found some scripture that supports my happiness.

Proverbs 3:13, "Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding."

My happiness is not found in the world, but in my personal relationship with God through the Lord Jesus 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.jamessnyderministries.com.

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Obituaries

DEATH NOTICES

- **William “Bill” Busby**, 84, of Tallahassee, died March 27, 2026.
- **Eula Mae Harmon**, 94, of Crawfordville, died March 30, 2026.
- **Janet Jenkes**, 87, of Carrabelle, died April 1, 2026.

- **James Thompson**, 93, of Sopchoppy, died April 1, 2026.

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

Sheriff's Report

This report is for activity March 27 to April 3. There were 1,516 total calls for service during the week; 16 arrests; 121 traffic stops; 14 citations and 107 traffic warnings.

FRIDAY, MARCH 27

• Deputy J Kilbourn responded to Kangaroo at Spring Creek/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. Case forwarded to Criminal Investigations Division.

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

• Deputy Jonathan Kilbourn responded to the Coastal Highway Dollar General in reference to a lost wallet. The reporting person advised she lost her wallet at the store but didn't notice it missing until she returned to her residence. Video footage was reviewed which depicts the person placing the wallet back in her purse.

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

• Deputy Dylan Buckhalt conducted a traffic stop on a white SUV in the area of Tiger Hammock and Shadeville roads. Contact was made with the driver. The odor of marijuana was detected emanating from the vehicle and the driver consented to a search of the vehicle. No illegal substances were located inside the vehicle. Nothing further advised.

• A BOLO (Be on the lookout) was sent out from Tallahassee Police Department for an attempt to locate a suspect and vehicle that was used during a shooting incident in Leon County. The shooting incident then turned into a homicide investigation after the victim succumbed to his injuries. After obtaining further information, WCSO was able to assist in locating the vehicle. As deputies were searching the area the vehicle was spotted traveling northbound on Crawfordville Highway. Deputies caught up to the vehicle and conducted a felony stop. The driver of the vehicle (juvenile) was detained and secured in a patrol vehicle. After clearing the scene, contact was made with TPD and informed of the recent findings. TPD advised the driver was currently a witness. The juvenile was transported to the Sheriff's

Office and interviewed by TPD. This incident was turned over to TPD and written for informational purposes.

MONDAY, MARCH 30

• Deputy Terry Marshall responded to the front lobby of the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office to take a report from a citizen. The reporting person stated someone contacted her claiming to be with the Sheriff's Office and that she needed to pay money. She stated she only wanted this incident documented for informational purposes.

• Deputy Zachary Godwin responded to Bridlewood Apartments in reference to a citizen reporting his dirt bike stolen from the night before. Deputy Godwin canvassed the area and conducted an interview about the stolen dirt bike. Later, Detective Dylan Causseaux located the dirt bike in a field off Dellwood Road and Songbird Avenue. Crime scene responded and processed the bike.

• Deputy Austin Rivers responded to Isman road and to take a report for a stolen bike. The reporting person stated he last saw his e-Bike within the last month at the Dollar General in Wakulla Station. The e-Bike was last known to be pinging in Tallahassee.

TUESDAY, MARCH 31

• A citizen reported paying her insurance bill online on March 4. How-

ever, She discovered she had been scammed out of \$280 from a subject pretending to be a representative with GEICO.

• A citizen reported her camper and vehicle had been burglarized. Taken was an antique sewing machine, antique coin collection, and several firearms. The serial numbers for the weapon could not be provided at the time of this report.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1

• Deputy Ashton Williams responded to Piney Street in reference to a theft complaint. Contact was made with the reporting person, who advised he discovered missing speakers and stereo equipment on one of his charter boats on March 31. He advised he set up a trail camera on the property area and observed a male on the property on April 1 at 12:40 p.m. The male appeared to rummage through both his boats and a structure on the property and removed several additional items, totaling \$550. The victim wishes to pursue charges for the theft at this time.

• Deputy Lexi Kreitlow responded to Klickitat Drive in reference to a theft complaint. Contact was made with the reporting person, who advised she discovered some missing items from her residence. She stated she resides at the residence with her boyfriend who is currently housed at the Wakulla County Jail. She stated

her boyfriend's brother arrived at the residence on March 3 requesting food and she provided him with some. She then told him he needed to leave the residence before the children arrived home. Shortly after he left the property, she discovered several items were missing from the residence, totaling \$1,200. She believes he and a friend are involved. Due to some of the missing items belonging to the boyfriend, contact was made with him at the Wakulla County Jail. He stated she advised him different individuals may be involved in the theft of the items. No witnesses to the incident have been located at this time. Both parties provided an Affidavit of Prosecution.

THURSDAY, APRIL 2

• A citizen reported losing her purse wallet. It is unknown where she might have misplaced the wallet. She has can-

celled all the bank and credit cards at the time of this report. She requested this report in order to replace her Florida Driver License.

• Deputy Jonathan Kilbourn responded to the 4000 block of Coastal Highway in reference to a citizen wanting to report a theft. While speaking with the reporting person, she advised she loaded her grandmother's vehicle with items for a yard sale. The next morning, she went back to the vehicle and noticed items missing. She asked her grandma if she moved the items. The grandmother advised she did not but stated she observed a known acquaintance by the vehicle the night before. She advised a multitude of clothing items were missing.

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

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Greg James washes Freddy and owner Charles Carpenter comforts the dog.



Venus Stone and Tiffany Diehl of Puppy Purrs Dog Grooming cutting Taco's nails.



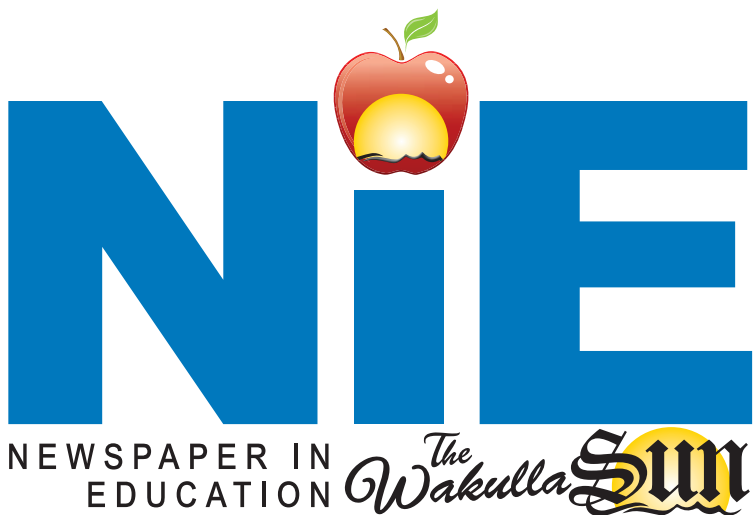
Tammi Cox and her dog Teddy Bear.

PHOTOS BY LINDA ANN McDONALD

Annie coming to WCT

“The sun will come out tomorrow...” Famous lyrics from a song about optimism. The musical, “Annie” from 1977 is all about being optimistic in the midst of negative things out of your control. Set in 1933, Annie is an eleven-year-old girl who has lived her whole life in the New York City Municipal Orphanage, Girls Annex. She escapes to look for her parents, is captured and then chosen to spend two weeks with the billionaire, Oliver “Daddy” Warbucks. Annie is doted on by his assistant, Grace, and Warbucks’ whole staff. Even President Roosevelt is taken in by her charm and personality. Hannigan (the orphanage director), Rooster (her Sing Sing brother) and Lily St Regis (like the hotel) cook up an evil scheme to make big money off of Annie. Will they succeed? Come find out as The Wakulla Community Theater presents, “Annie”, May 8, 10, 16, and 17 at the Historic Sopchoppy Auditorium. Tickets go on sale April 1 at wakullacommunitytheater.org.





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USE THE NEWS

1. AIR CANADA C.E.O. STEPS DOWN

The chief executive of Air Canada said he would step down after many people criticized the way he spoke to the public after a deadly plane accident. After an Air Canada flight crashed into an airport fire truck in New York, he shared a message of sympathy mostly in English, even though Canada has two official languages, English and French. Many French-speaking Canadians, especially in Quebec, felt that this showed a lack of respect during a very sad time. Political leaders and community members spoke out, and the airline later said that speaking French would be an important skill in choosing the next leader. The former executive apologized and said he never meant to take attention away from the families who were grieving. Imagine you are helping a company write a message after a sad event. Write a short response of 5 to 7 sentences explaining what a respectful public message should include. In your answer, describe why it is important to think about the different languages people speak, how a leader can show care for families and communities, and why words matter even more during a tragedy.

2. JUDGE SIDES WITH N.P.R. AND P.B.S.

A judge stopped the government from carrying out an order that would have cut off funding to National Public Radio (NPR) and Public Broadcasting Service (PBS). The judge said the order broke the First Amendment, which protects freedom of speech and freedom of the press. NPR and PBS are known for news, educational programs, documentaries, and children's shows. Leaders at both organizations said the ruling protects independent journalism, while the White House argued that public media should not receive taxpayer money. The case has become an important debate about whether the government can punish news groups because of viewpoints it does not like. Have you ever watched a PBS show, like Sesame Street, Clifford the Big Red Dog, or Arthur? Can you think of anything you learned from one of those shows? Write

4 to 6 sentences about your experience and why you think it would be important for people to have free access to educational shows like these when they're growing up.

3. ARTEMIS II ASTRONAUTS HEAD FOR THE MOON

Four astronauts have now blasted off from Earth for Artemis II, the first mission in more than 50 years that will send people around the moon. Before launch, the crew members said they hope the journey will remind people that space exploration can inspire wonder and bring people together. Each astronaut has worked for years to reach this moment, and each brings a different story, background, and set of

skills to the team. The mission is also historic because it includes the first woman, the first Black astronaut, and the first Canadian to travel that far into space. Even though not everyone agrees about spending money on moon missions, the astronauts believe the trip can help people look up, dream big, and feel connected to something larger than everyday problems. Pretend your class has been asked to make a welcome card for the Artemis II crew. On the front, draw or describe one image that represents the mission. Inside the card, write 3 to 4 sentences telling the astronauts what makes their trip important, what you hope they discover, and why this mission might inspire people back on Earth.

4. ANCIENT FOSSIL HELPS SCIENTISTS STUDY SPIDER RELATIVES

Scientists studied a fossil found long ago in Utah and now think it may help explain the early history of animals related to spiders and scorpions. The fossil came from a sea creature that lived more than 500 million years ago and had large pincer-like parts near the front of its body. Those pincers are important because they look like features found in chelicerates, the animal group that includes spiders, scorpions, mites, and horseshoe crabs. Researchers believe this fossil shows that these creatures may have appeared earlier than scientists once thought. The discovery also shows how a specimen sitting in a museum for many years can still lead

to exciting new ideas when someone takes a closer look. Draw your own science museum label for this fossil. Include a small sketch of what the animal may have looked like and add at least three labels pointing to important body parts or features. Under your drawing, write 2 to 3 sentences explaining why the pincers helped scientists learn something new about the past.

5. HERSHEY TO BRING BACK CLASSIC REESE'S RECIPE

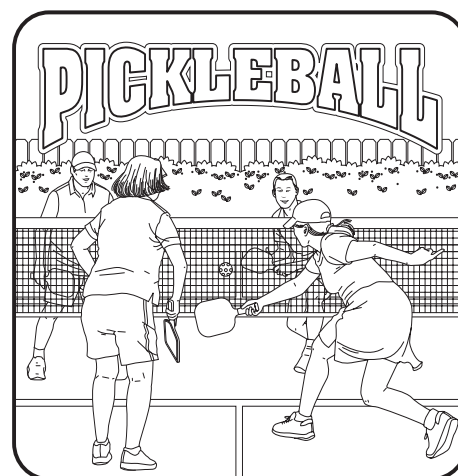
Hershey says it will return all Reese's candies to their classic recipe after complaints about some products using less chocolate. For years, Reese's Peanut Butter Cups were made with milk chocolate or dark chocolate and peanut butter, but some newer items used a coating

with less chocolate in it. The company faced criticism after a family member of Reese's founder publicly questioned why a famous candy brand would change ingredients that people trusted. Hershey said it listened to concerns and plans to bring back the classic recipes next year. The company also said it will make other changes to improve its candy and spend more money on research and development. Make a "customer reaction meter" for this story with three sections such as happy, disappointed, and unsure. In each section, write one sentence explaining why a customer might feel that way about the recipe change. Then add 2 to 3 sentences giving Hershey one piece of advice for how to keep people's trust when changing a popular product.



Creative Coloring

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Double Word Puzzle

Unscramble the individual words to reveal letters for the phrase.

LPREAY

--	--	--	--	--	--

1 2 3

ROECS

--	--	--	--	--

4 5 6

OIPTN

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7 8

ATCKAT

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9

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8 6 1 7 4 9 2 6 3 2 2

			Z	
--	--	--	---	--

4 5 3 6

Answers: Player, Score, Point, Attack, Craze



1606: The Virginia Company of London is established by royal charter.

1816: The Federal government of the United States approves the creation of the Second Bank of the U.S.

1912: RMS Titanic sets sail from the United Kingdom.



BASELINE

the line marking each end of a court

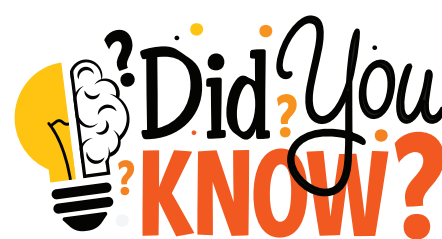


This is a low-impact paddle sport that mixes rules of tennis, paddle ball and more.

Answer: Pickleball



- English:** Ball
- Spanish:** Pelota
- Italian:** Palla
- French:** Balle
- German:** Ball



Although pickleball seems like a recent phenomenon, it actually was created in 1965. The game initially was played using makeshift equipment.



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Pickleball and paddle

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NOTICE OF ACTION

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

PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC, 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, PLAINTIFF, V. BERNADETTE M. ARNOLD AND SHARON MCLENDON, DEFENDANTS.

Case No.: 25000174CAAXMX

NOTICE OF ACTION

To: BERNADETTE M. ARNOLD, and all others claiming by, through and under BERNADETTE M. ARNOLD and SHARON MCLENDON, and all others claiming by, through and under SHARON MCLENDON

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 Northeast 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

CHRYSAL 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 **CHRYSAL 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

NOTICE OF ACTION

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

PLANET HOME LENDING LLC, PLAINTIFF, V. MIRTHA NATALIA BRENNAN, ET AL., DEFENDANT(S).

Case No.: 65-2025-CA-000133

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



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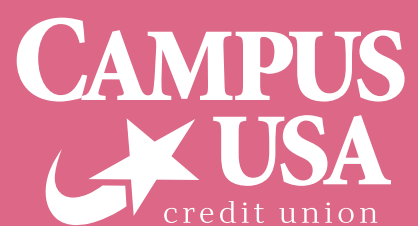
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Chamber's annual Low Country Boil draws a crowd



Table 50 – dubbed the Fun Table.



What everyone came for ... all the great food prepared by Posey's.



Thomas Owen visits with long time friends, Bonnie Holub and Tim Jordan.



Heather Benton, Sara Clark, Megan Smith and Heather Bryan. Behind them is the giant flag brought in by Forgotten Coast Crane to welcome everyone upon arrival.



Al Pasini checks in with Megan Smith and Linda Oaks as title sponsor Niraj Patel of Barns Spirits looks on.



Chuck and Susan Turner.

PHOTOS BY
LYNDA KINSEY

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

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