



Mermaids and Mimosas/Page 14

The Wakulla Sun



Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy
Hi: 80° Lo: 59° 17% Sunrise 7:02 AM Sunset 8:09 PM	Hi: 80° Lo: 60° 8% Sunrise 7:02 AM Sunset 8:09 PM	Hi: 81° Lo: 63° 22% Sunrise 7:00 AM Sunset 8:11 PM



\$1 One Section

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

Our 5th Year 17th Issue
Thursday, April 23, 2026

Transportation battle over

Wakulla Transportation will continue after Big Bend Transit withdraws bid

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

Wakulla Transportation will continue to provide ride services for local residents after Big Bend Transit withdrew its proposal.

Apalachee Regional Planning Council sent out an email on Thursday, April 16, alerting Wakulla Senior Citizens Director Lara Edwards, whose agency operates Wakulla Transportation, that Big Bend Transit had withdrawn and that ARPC would recommend Wakulla Transportation be awarded the contract.

Big Bend Transit issued a statement explaining its reasons for withdrawing its bid: "We value the public input shared during the recent

(Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged) meeting and, most importantly, we respect the voices of Wakulla County residents who expressed a preference to maintain their current transportation provider.

"While we firmly believe that Big Bend Transit could bring meaningful enhancements and expanded mobility options to the community, we also recognize that successful public transportation services must align with the comfort and confidence of the people they serve.

"With that in mind, Big Bend Transit has made the decision to respectfully withdraw from consideration."

Senior Citizens Director Lara Edwards issued

a statement on her reaction to the news: "The past few weeks have definitely been a roller coaster of stress and emotion – for our staff, for the seniors, and myself," Edwards said in a statement. "Nothing is guaranteed when it comes to grants and funding and Wakulla Senior Center and Wakulla Transportation depend heavily on both. Maintaining this coordinator designation and the funding that comes with it is vital to our operations and transportation. The driving force behind the protest was our seniors. They stayed the course, spread the word, and fought for a service that is vital to them, knows them, and knows Wakulla.

"I thank all of our seniors all of our riders and all of the staff that hung in there despite the uncertainty. We look forward to continue to provide an amazing transportation service and to continue working with ARPC and the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged in the future," Edwards said.

Senior Center Board Chair John Shuff also issued a statement that read: "I want to thank Apalachee Regional Planning Council, for digging into the details of the proposals that were provided for operating Wakulla's transportation system, then reversing course, and deciding to recommend awarding

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Dale Evans files federal lawsuit against sheriff

Former major over road patrol sues claiming he was wrongfully terminated as retaliation

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

Dale Evans, a former high-ranking member of Sheriff Jared Miller's command staff, filed a federal lawsuit last week claiming he was fired in 2025 as an act of retaliation for bringing up issues related to the sheriff's office.

The lawsuit was filed in the U.S. District Court in Tallahassee on Thursday, April 16, by Evans' attorney, Marie Mattox.

The 23-page complaint notes that Evans also disclosed he had been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease and said he was discriminated against by the sheriff.

Capt. Brett Surace, the public information officer for the department, said it appeared that the case had yet to be served and that the agency would have no comment until it could review the allegations.

At the time he was dismissed, Evans was a major over road patrol.

Evans was submitting a series of complaints to the sheriff's office alleging improper behavior by Sheriff Miller and other command staff. One memo, about Col. Herman "Chuck" Whaley,

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Dale Evans

LAW ENFORCEMENT SUPPORTS SPECIAL OLYMPICS



Annual Torch Run

Law enforcement officers and special olympians made the almost 2 mile run from the sheriff's office to the courthouse on Wednesday as part of the annual Torch Run for Special Olympics. Sheriff Jared Miller noted the runs throughout the state has raised millions of dollars for Special Olympics over the years. (Photos by William Snowden)



Second judge recuses self from Mike Kemp case

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

Circuit Judge Ron Flury recused himself from presiding over the felony case of former County Commissioner Mike Kemp, who faces charges of using a public record to harass and tampering with a witness, both felonies.

While Judge Flury offered no explanation for removing himself from the case, it came two days after Kemp's attorney, Stephen Webster, filed a motion to dismiss the case, arguing that there was no attempt to harass or threaten the alleged victim.

It appears possible that Judge Flury may have some connection to one of the criminal cases cited in the motion. Before he was on the bench, Flury was a prosecutor for the state attorney's office and at one time was chief prosecutor in Wakulla.

The charges stem from efforts by Kemp and Becky Whaley, formerly the administrator of the Wakulla Citizens Page on Facebook, to unmask an internet troll going by the name "Thunder Lightning" (sic). Using some voter registration information obtained from County Commissioner Ralph Thomas, Kemp and Whaley believed they had uncovered the true identity, and Whaley put it out on Facebook. It was, however, not the right person – and the victim and his wife strenuously objected to the publicity.

According to the criminal investigation and depositions, Kemp sought to apologize to the victim, but his overtures were taken by the victim as continued harassment. The motion to dismiss argues there is no proof that Kemp's behavior was intended to influence, intimidate or impede a witness – and the absence of such effect or intent undermines the charge.

The Kemp case had been set for trial under Wakulla Circuit Judge Layne Smith, but he re-



Mike Kemp

Stephen Smith Regatta is this weekend

This year's Regatta has special meaning with passing of Wright Finney

Special to The Sun

For the past 52 years, the Stephen C. Smith Memorial Regatta (www.smithregatta.com) has been held at Shell Point Beach in southern Wakulla County for the benefit of the American Cancer Society in memory of Stephen Smith, a local sailor who died from a rare form of leukemia at the age of 29.

This year, April 24-26, this home-grown family-friendly event is back for another year of fun and fundraising. Come sail, watch, eat lunch at the Regatta grill and participate in the Sunday afternoon live auction!

This year's event is particularly poignant for the volunteers organizing the event because they lost a much admired and loved member, Wright Finney, to cancer in January. Wright was



doug behrendt

a founding member of the Stephen C. Smith Memorial Regatta Foundation, Inc. and the Shell Point Sailboard Club and dedicated decades to acting as the logistics lead and as a community representative for the Regatta. "This year's regatta has been themed as the "Race for Wright,"

said John McBride, this year's event chair, "so that while we mourn the loss of Wright, we can redouble efforts to continue the fight against cancer."

The Regatta draws more than 200 registered participants (sailors & guests) with hundreds more spectators from

all over the southeast. The event includes races for PHRF yachts, catamarans such as Hobie Cats, smaller day sailors including Sunfish, and windsurfers which are the most numerous and often the most colorful participants in the Regatta.

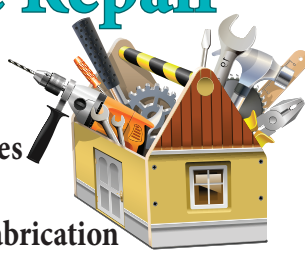
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Student of the Week

Rowan Shaw – 2nd grader at Shadeville Elementary

Principal: Tim Wheeler

Achievements/Reason for Nomination: Rowan Shaw is a wonderful second-grade student at Shadeville Elementary School. Rowan consistently goes above and beyond for her teacher and her classroom. She is kind, responsible, and always willing to help others. Rowan's positive attitude and strong work ethic make her a joy to have in class and a great role model for her peers. Congratulations, Rowan! We are so proud of you!



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2026 UF/IFAS Wakulla Master Gardener Volunteers Annual Plant Sale!

WAKULLA COUNTY

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84 Cedar Ave, Crawfordville, FL 32327

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The Wakulla Sun

The Wakulla Sun
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Want to Raise Chickens in your back yard? Learn how by registering for this workshop.

Event Link:
<https://2026WakullaBackyardPoultry.eventbrite.com>

FAMU COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
UF IFAS Extension UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA



Beginning Backyard Poultry Workshop

Have you recently purchased or are planning to purchase chicks to have your own backyard poultry flock? Are you new to the world of caring for chickens and need help knowing what to do? If so, then this training is for you! We are having beginning backyard poultry workshops for new and aspiring poultry farmers in Wakulla County.

Event Fee:
There will be a \$15 charge for the workshop.

You can purchase tickets with the link above.

You will need to purchase a ticket for the location of the training you want to attend.

For more information Contact:
Robbie Jones
UF/IFAS Extension
Gadsden County
r.jones1@ufl.edu
850-875-7255

April 2026 Workshop

Location: 84 Cedar Ave, Crawfordville, FL 32327
Date: April 30, 2026
Time: 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm



Each participant that registers by April 22, 2026 will receive a copy of the UF/IFAS Raising Backyard Chickens for Eggs Book

This training will focus on the following topics:

- Poultry Breeds
- Predator Prevention
- Nutrition
- Diseases and care for poultry
- Chick Care
- Laws and Regulations
- Equipment and Structures
- Basic Skills for Candling
- Biosecurity

An Equal Opportunity Institution. UF/IFAS Extension, University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Andrea Johnson, Dean and Director. Single copies of UF/IFAS Extension publications (excluding 4-H and youth publications) are available free to Florida residents from county UF/IFAS Extension offices.



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.

Hazardous Waste and Tire Amnesty Day is held

By **TAMMIE NASON**
Special to The Sun

Keep Wakulla County Beautiful's Earth Day Responsible Disposal Event was a resounding success, drawing 389 participants to the Wakulla County Landfill for a day focused on environmental stewardship and community impact.

Held as part of the nationwide Greatest American Cleanup, the event provided residents with a free and convenient way to responsibly dispose of materials that should not be placed in regular household trash. Items collected included aluminum cans, plastic bags, household hazardous waste, off-rim tires, and sensitive documents for shredding.

Organizers reported significant volumes of materials processed, including more than 600 gallons of oil and gas and approximately 600 fluorescent bulbs. The event also marked the successful debut of the county's new bulb



Tires being unloaded at KWCB's Hazardous Waste/Tire Amnesty on Saturday.

crusher, which operated efficiently and safely, using only a fraction of its capacity. In addition, five dumpsters were filled with tires, highlighting an ongoing need for proper tire disposal

in the community.

Despite the high turnout, event operations ran smoothly, with no major traffic issues reported.

In celebration of Earth Day and

America's upcoming 250th anniversary, participants received native trees, including red maples and dogwoods, to plant at home. Native coreopsis seeds, provided by the Sarracenia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, were also distributed to encourage pollinator-friendly landscapes throughout Wakulla County.

Organizers are encouraging residents who received trees to document their planting efforts. Participants are invited to take a photo while planting their tree and share it by emailing keepwakullabeautiful@gmail.com or texting 850-274-0767. The goal is to showcase the community's progress toward planting at least 250 trees across Wakulla County by July 4.

Keep Wakulla County Beautiful expressed appreciation to the many volunteers, partners, and residents who contributed to the event's success, noting that community involvement continues to play a vital role in protecting the county's natural resources.

Emiliano Cadena and the Power of 4-H Shooting Sports

Special to The Sun

In Wakulla County, success in 4-H Shooting Sports is built on far more than accurate aim. It grows from discipline, mentorship, safety, and a strong community that believes in its young people. Few stories capture that spirit more clearly than the journey of Emiliano Cadena and the Wakulla County 4-H Shotgun Sharpshooters.

This summer, Emiliano will represent both Wakulla County and the State of Florida at the 2026 National 4-H Shooting Sports Championships in Grand Island, Nebraska, earning a place among the nation's top youth competitors. His selection follows an exceptional performance at the Florida 4-H State Shotgun Match, where he placed third in Senior Skeet and fourth overall in the Senior Division, securing one of the limited and highly competitive roster positions on the Florida 4-H State Shotgun Team.

Selection to the Florida state team is no small feat. Only a handful of youth statewide qualify each year, advancing

through county and state level competition under demanding conditions. Emiliano's achievement reflects years of consistent training, meticulous attention to safety, and a deep commitment to the principles that define 4-H Shooting Sports—leadership, responsibility, service, and respect.

At its core, the 4-H Shooting Sports program is designed to develop life skills alongside technical proficiency. Nationally, the program emphasizes decision making, goal setting, teamwork, ethical behavior, and the safe, responsible use of firearms and equipment—outcomes that extend far beyond the range and into school, careers, and community life. Emiliano's competitive success is one visible result of that broader mission.

Behind every strong youth program is a network of trained adults who model responsibility and reinforce high standards. In Wakulla County, that leadership includes volunteer coaches certified through Florida 4-H Shooting Sports, a statewide system that requires extensive training, background

screening, and ongoing recertification to ensure youth safety and quality instruction.

A key figure in the Wakulla 4-H Shotgun Club is Emiliano's father, who serves as a volunteer coach while also supporting his child's competitive journey. Beyond personal involvement, he dedicates countless hours to mentoring youth, reinforcing firearm safety protocols, and helping build a positive, high character program that continues to grow in participation and impact.

This dual story—of a young competitor and a committed volunteer—highlights what makes local 4-H Shooting Sports programs successful: families, certified mentors, and communities working together under a shared framework of safety and youth development.

Competing at the national level brings significant logistical costs. Travel from Florida to Nebraska, lodging for nearly a week, meals, competition fees, ammunition, and equipment transport add up quickly. For Emiliano's family, estimated expenses range from \$2,500

to \$4,000, all of which must be covered upfront.

To meet those needs, the Wakulla County 4-H program is raising funds to support both Emiliano and his coach as part of the Florida delegation.

As Emiliano steps onto the national stage, he carries more than a shotgun and a Florida jersey. He carries the support of Wakulla County, the guidance of dedicated volunteers, and the values of a 4-H program committed to shaping future leaders.

Community support for Emiliano's journey is an investment not just in one competitor, but in the continued strength of Wakulla County 4-H and in the young people who will follow his path, learning that excellence, responsibility, and service go hand in hand.

To help the Cadenas with their trip to Nebraska, donations can be made online at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/wakulla4Hss> or donations of checks or gift cards can be made at the Wakulla Extension office located at 84 Cedar Avenue in Crawfordville.

Mike Kemp

Staff Report

-cused himself after growing frustrated with attorneys Webster and David Kemp (no relation) in an unrelated case and making some intemperate remarks. Judge Flury, who has been assigned cases in Gadsden County, was given the case.

There has yet to be a new judge assigned to Kemp's case.

Co-defendant Becky Whaley accepted a deferred

prosecution agreement last year in which the criminal charges will be dropped if she stays out of trouble for a period of time.

Another defendant in the case was Wakulla Deputy Don Newsome, who was contacted by Kemp and provided information to help Kemp's efforts to determine the identity of Thunder Lightning, was charged with improper access of information. He too accepted a deferred prosecution to drop the charges.

Newsome is still on suspension with the sheriff's office as an internal investigation is ongoing.

Dale Evans

Staff Report

commander of Criminal Investigations, drew a charge of insubordination against Evans and his subsequent dismissal.

Last year, in response to the memos, Sheriff Miller told The Sun in an emotional interview that he and Evans had been friends for decades, and he was disturbed by the change in Evans' behavior.

In the lawsuit, Evans accuses Sheriff Miller of

sexually harassing female members of the staff, and be verbally abusive to other staff.

In February 2023, Evans filed a formal written complaint claiming a hostile work environment and retaliation.

The lawsuit states that Evans believes the internal affairs investigation for the alleged insubordination was "pretextual and retaliatory, designed not to address legitimate workplace issues but instead to punish (Evans) for reporting wrongdoing and engaging in protected activity related to discrimination in the workplace and retaliation."

Transportation

From Front Page

the 5 year grant. I think Big Bend Transit could read the handwriting on the wall when they decided to pull out.

"We have struggled hard for the last couple years developing a system that works for our citizens and, just this last year, began to work within our budget at the Senior Center," Shuff

wrote. "We will take these next five years, if we are awarded the grant by the State Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged, as a challenge to make further improvements to our transportation system that continues to work for our citizens in need, and stays within our budget. One of the main points not discussed during all this is the

fact that operating this system also allows us to pick many of our seniors up in the mornings and carry them to the Center so they can meet with their friends.

"Thanks goes out to all that helped us get to where we are in this process," Shuff said in his statement, "but special thanks goes out to Ralph Thomas, Chris Russell, Donna Savary and Sean Gellis. These folks are not board mem-

bers, but they showed up and spoke at the critical meetings that won the day because they care about our community."

Shuff's statement ended with a sales pitch to the community: "You have a great Transportation system use it! We increased ridership 20% last year and would like to hit that goal again this year- the number is 850-926-7145 or the Website is: Wakullaseniorcenter.com."

County passes burn ban citing drought

Local State of Emergency declared to prohibit outdoor fires, but doesn't include grilling

Staff Report

Last week, Wakulla County Commissioners enacted a burn ban at an emergency meeting held on Wednesday, April 15, citing drought conditions and the need to reduce wildfire risk.

During the Local State of Emergency, the following activities are prohibited in all of Wakulla County:

- Outdoor burning of any combustible material, including but not limited to: yard waste, household paper products, bonfires and campfires, warming fires, outdoor fireplaces and chimneys, and cooking fires not contained within approved grills; and

- Any outdoor activity creating flames or sparks capable of ignition, including but not limited to: fireworks, sparklers, and other incendiary devices.

The following activities are exempt from the prohibition:

- Cooking food completely contained within an enclosed gas or charcoal grill.

- Firefighter training conducted by Wakulla County Fire Rescue or state or federal agencies.

- Burn operations approved by the Florida Forest Service.

This declared Local State of Emergency and Burn Ban shall remain in effect until April 22, and may be extended in 7 day increments as conditions warrant.

Stephen C. Smith Regatta

From Front Page

The windsurfing fleet will be competing in multiple races on Saturday and a long-distance race Sunday morning. Catamarans and one design day sailors, and small and large (22 feet and over) monohulls will race over their own courses on Saturday. The public is invited to view the races on Saturday and Sunday. Eat your lunch on the beach—bring the family.

THE AUCTION

Thousands of dollars' worth of donated items, from jewelry to sailboats will be auctioned at approximately 2 pm on Sunday afternoon. Everyone has a great time as our auctioneers describe the items and ask for bids. You can pick up some great deals while contributing! We encourage generous offers since all the proceeds will benefit residents in the Big Bend area. There is also an early on-line auction ending April 15th, for several items. Go to

www.smithregatta.com and look for the Auction tab at the top of the page.

AN AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY BENEFIT

In addition to the many patient services provided to children and adults, the American Cancer Society funds research and public education, which are vital in the effort against this stealthy killer. The ACS receives no government funding, relying exclusively on the generous support of private donations. Thanks to our MANY wonderful supporters and volunteers,

over the last 52 years the Stephen C. Smith Memorial Regatta Foundation, Inc. contributed over \$730,000 to the ACS, much of which stayed in Wakulla, Leon, Jefferson, Gadsden, and other Big Bend counties, providing services to our area residents.

Contributions may be made by donating items for the auction, in-kind merchandise to support the event, or negotiable funds. To join our team or to donate auction items, contact an event chairman www.smithregatta.com/foundation.cfm.

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.”

For Autism Acceptance Month: ‘He stims’

By TAMMY DASHER

She sits on the edge of her seat, across the table from me, white knuckling her purse straps. The scene was familiar – long years of sitting across a table from pre-K teachers with worried frowns, or from special educators at endless meetings, or maybe the middle school principal when the bullying was so bad.

“You know the prayer of moms with kids with special needs?” she asks. I do know it: God, please let me live just one day longer than my child so I can always make sure he is cared for and loved in this world that can be so cruel. When I nod she continues, “I don’t even need one day; I pray I live just one minute longer than my child.”

Though her words are sad, she doesn’t cry. She looks at me with the eyes of a mom who has fought long and hard for her son.

April is Autism Acceptance Month, and the autism community is lighting it up blue, wearing red instead, proudly displaying their puzzle piece t-shirts, and embracing the neurodivergent infinity symbol. It is the month when parents can find resources and advocates at the numerous events held in parks, libraries, and schools all over the country.

At NextStep at Endeavor Academy in Marianna, every month is the perfect month for showing acceptance for neurodivergent people. NextStep is a two-year transition program for autistic adults which focuses on employ-

ment, independent living, and community connection. Since 2022 we have had hundreds of enrollments in our full-time Transition Academy and our part-time short courses. Our social short course, Stepping Out with NextStep, currently has nearly 40 participants in our groups in Marianna, Tallahassee, Panama City, and Dothan. 100% of our Transition Academy participants have been competitively employed upon graduation and remain so to this day.

I tell the mom across the table from me all this.

“He stims,” she says. “Everybody stims,” I respond gently, “and we don’t mind that here.”

Autism acceptance is more than a celebratory month at NextStep. It appears daily

in our interactions with the adults we serve. We recognize and value the unique characteristics that come with an autism diagnosis, and we also appreciate the unique characteristics we all have that make us human. Acceptance is something all of us are looking for we all want to be seen and heard and valued. In his book Flourish: The Art of Building Meaning, Joy, and Fulfillment, author Daniel Coyle writes about what makes a meaningful life. Connecting with others is key; finding acceptance where we can “let our armor down” is the first step.

I look past the mom’s shoulder into our NextStep common area and kitchen, thinking about all the parent conversations I have had over the years. We’re

Scared to Let Her Near the Stove was pulling a pound cake out of the oven, We Don’t Think He’ll be Able to Hold a Job was headed to the restroom to change into his work uniform, and We’re Heartbroken He’s Never Had a Friend was playing Battleship with his buddy. Across the way at NextStep Apartments, I’m Worried He Will Never Be Independent was putting his groceries away in his kitchen, I’m Afraid She Won’t Ever Be Able to Drive was getting into her truck to go to work, and I Just Want Him to Experience All the Things Other People Get to Experience was getting ready to go out to dinner with friends.

Just like you and me, people with autism thrive when they feel accepted and valued. When the right sup-

ports are paired with meaningful work, they are some of the most loyal employees you will ever have. When taught with patience and evidence-based practices, they will succeed in ways you never dreamed possible.

I smile at the mom across from me then, getting up and moving away from that table between us. “Come and talk to our students,” I say, leading her toward them and already imagining all the wonderful accomplishments He Stims will be making in his next two years at NextStep.

Tammy Dasher is the director of NextStep at Endeavor Academy in Marianna. She can be reached at TDasher@NextStepatEndeavor.org.

LETTERS FROM READERS

Creating a golf-cart friendly county

Editor, The Sun:

Wakulla county law and transportation needs to implement more golf cart friendly use of trails and bike paths for visitors and residence.

There are major paved trails through out county that are frequently

vacant of bikes or walkers, yet strolling in a golf cart is still unnecessarily forbidden causing countless residents locked out from enjoying the paths though officials should know high amount of population is walking/ biking physically impaired. (Hence not many get to use the multi million dol-

lar taxpayer paid paved activity.)

It’s a problem that is archaic and doesn’t support golf cart industry locally therefore many cant experience the beauty of our taxpayer paid paved trails and thus cant enjoy with pet though virtually under used for miles and can’t run up to local store or go fishing unless fire up hot vehicle and add to traffic causing busy noise and more traffic danger.

For residence and tourism satisfaction, Wakulla County authorities along with embracing RV parks, boating, needs to make better efforts to also embrace the companion golf cart businesses that would allow area pedestrians ability to use under-used paved trails such as bike lanes, crossing areas and paved paths to allow

strolling up to get ice cream, go to church, experience paved trails and go fishing.

Many hubs within the county need to be more golf cart friendly especially these carts can be required to be street legal and insured for those over 18 especially since e- bikes are more dangerous and golf carts are better seen.

If Amish operate horses in more dense populated towns, why can’t Wakulla authorities allow some low noise, clean electric golf cart friendly expansion by those 18 with insurance and horns, brakes as a safer and more visible use then e- bikes?

Ani Michael
via email

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 23

Thursday, April 23

- Tourist Development Council meets at 10 a.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 24

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

Saturday, April 25

- Stephen C. Smith Regatta, a fundraiser for

the American Cancer Society, will be held at Shell Point Beach, with races and activities throughout the day.

- Master Gardeners annual plant sale will be held at the livestock pavilion at the extension office from 9 a.m to noon.
- St. Marks Chili Cookoff and cornhole tournament will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. \$10 for chili sampling. \$40 per cornhole team. Email discoverstmarks@gmail.com to register.

Sunday, April 26

- Stephen C. Smith Regatta, a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society, will be held at Shell Point Beach, with races and activities throughout the day.
- Wakulla Giving Hands holds a food giveaway every Sunday from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the facility across from Medart Elementa-

ry on Highway 98.

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

Monday, April 27

- Meet and Greet for Republican candidates will be held at Tropical Trader restaurant in Ochlockonee Bay 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 28

- Local Mitigation Strategy Group will hold a public meeting at the Wakulla Room in the community center beginning at 9 a.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 29

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

“It’s A New Day!”

The Wakulla Sun






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William Snowden
 Editor & Publisher
 The Wakulla Sun

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- Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

**Polled at the public library's Dr. Seuss-themed open house on Saturday:
What's your favorite Dr. Seuss story?**



SUZY BENNETT
Library Staff

**"The 'Happy
Birthday to You'
book."**



BETHANY WELLS
Music Teacher

**"When I was a kid
I struggled with
reading. When I
read 'Green Eggs
and Ham' it gave
me confidence in my
reading skills."**



SAM KENNEDY
Extension Agent

**"'Green Eggs and
Ham' – the main
character's name is
Sam."**



PETER HERTL
Entomologist/Biologist

**"The Cat in the
Hat."**



WILL BARTNICK
Library Staff

**"It's been so long
since I have read the
books. I remember
the name 'The Cat
in the Hat' but not
the story."**

Wakulla Crossroads

By **VERNA BROCK**

I don't know about you, but I am ready for some rain. I feel like singing the song "Promises, Promises" every time one of our weather forecasters predicts precipitation! We start out with prognostications of 40, 50 or 60% chances of rain...only to watch them dwindle to nothing.

This week brought us nighttime temperatures in the 40s again, which my roses love. I just have to remember to provide a drink now and then. Weird weather seems to be normal anymore.

Yet, some things seem to never change. Magnolias and jasmine bloom, wafting the most heavenly scents through the evening air. Birds and butterflies are flitting through my yard, building cocoons and nests, and singing fervently morning and

night. I recently discovered a pale, pink-ish house gecko lurking on my side porch, a completely new experience for me. It has joined the ranks of the bright green anoles, blue-tailed skinks and pixelated gray "fence lizards" that already find it a cozy place to sun themselves.

Lately, I've been pondering the mixed blessing of living well into my 90s. Members of my extended family, on both sides, have exceeded that and a few lived to see 100. At some point, infirmities begin to creep up on us. Fortunately, this process advances slowly, allowing us to stay blissfully in denial for most of our lives. But I'm not completely convinced denial is my friend. Semper Paratus (Always Prepared), the Coast Guard motto, seems like an excellent policy as I age.

No one can deny that time is fleet-

ing; wrinkles and gray hairs belie the self-deception of never growing older. Even if I could ignore those hints, my aching bones and tendency towards quick exhaustion won't allow it.

Recently, there has been a movement, especially among our richest fellow citizens, to live forever. Entire libraries have been published on the subject. Vast sums are spent every year on exotic treatments vowing to improve longevity and quality of life.

"Wellness" continues to be a money-maker for schemers and con men, following the proud tradition of old-time snake oil salesmen. The quest for immortality is as old as the pyramids. Eternal youth and beauty always seem almost within reach, just beyond our straining fingertips. There are more treatments, cures, and concoctions than you can shake a stick at! All for the right price, of course. Yet no panacea has appeared on the horizon. No one is living to 150, let alone forever. Consensus

suggests we may add a year or two to life expectancy, if we maintain relatively healthy lifestyles and avoid accidents. But still, there's no guarantee we can count upon to spare us the Grim Reaper's harvest.

So, where does the answer lie? I believe our best chance at living well requires rewriting its definition. Wellness may rely on how we treat others. Proffer respect and kindness to our neighbors, love and support our kinfolk, be responsible citizens and help one another weather hard times along with the good.

Generosity of spirit far outweighs the value of fair face. Scripture says, "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine."

Science confirms that laughter has healing properties. So go have fun with the people you love, and live the life you actually have to its fullest.

This moment is all we're given, so make the most of it!

Sopchoppy News

By **DJ BUTCH**

The Worm Gruntin' Festival was Amazing! What a great event! I had flown in from Vegas the same week. I had to DJ at Low Tide on Friday night and then host the Worm Gruntin contest first thing Saturday morning. I have been busy!

Vegas was an amazing trip. I love to see all the art and unique buildings. It is a different city. It's great to visit but then I like to get back to Sopchoppy. I need these woods and water. I'm connected and can't stay away too long. It's cool to travel and explore but no place like here.

I noticed food trucks are starting to park at the old Mom's restaurant property across from DG. That is cool, because we need somewhere to eat.

Let me talk some more about the Worm Gruntin' Festival! People traveled from all over to enjoy this festival. I'm viral on a few platforms gruntin worms. The Revell family have been featured on Dirty Jobs, CBS morning show and so much more.... They are the true worm gruntin' legends and we are blessed to have them be such a big part of this amazing event. Mr. Gary and Audrey were also crowned the Worm Gruntin' King and Queen. They deserve it! They still run a bait shop ... true legends in our community. Their son Snap also worked very hard watering the lawn, releasing worms and making sure the ground was ready for the festival. They also made stobs, set up a tent and meet and greet so many fans and media. I was also glad to see the festival honor Ms. Oleta and Ms.

Rosier. We need to make sure we honor our people! They paved the way for many.

Sopchoppy has been a family for many years. Some of us are many generations Sopchoppy! We were taught by the best. If you moved here please understand Sopchoppy is an amazing place because of the water, woods, easy living but also the amazing people. We help one another and show love.

It was also great to see the heritage stuff added to the festival. Honey, turpentine, blacksmithing and more... we have a rich history here. We should honor our heritage and our Sopchoppy. This is our roots. The more I re-

search the more I find out how deep my roots run. I'm honored to be from Sopchoppy. I represent it in my music, in my life and in this article.

Sopchoppy is special! We must protect and respect our history and our heritage. Thank you to everyone that came to our little town and enjoyed our festival. We have big plans to grow and bring more fun and more entertainment to our city.

The Smithsonian magazine also came and interviewed me. I'm very excited about this! It should be out soon. They are doing an article on worm gruntin' and the festival.

Sending you all love from Sopchoppy!

Library News

By **LINDA OAKS**
Library Director

Library News April 23rd- April 29th

Thursday, April 23rd

- Tiny Tummy Time 9:30am
- Creative Writing I 10am
- Excel 10am

Friday, April 24th

- Quilting Guild 10am
- Family Game Night 4pm

Saturday, April 25th

- Girl Scouts 9:30am

Sunday, April 26th

- Closed

Monday, April 27th

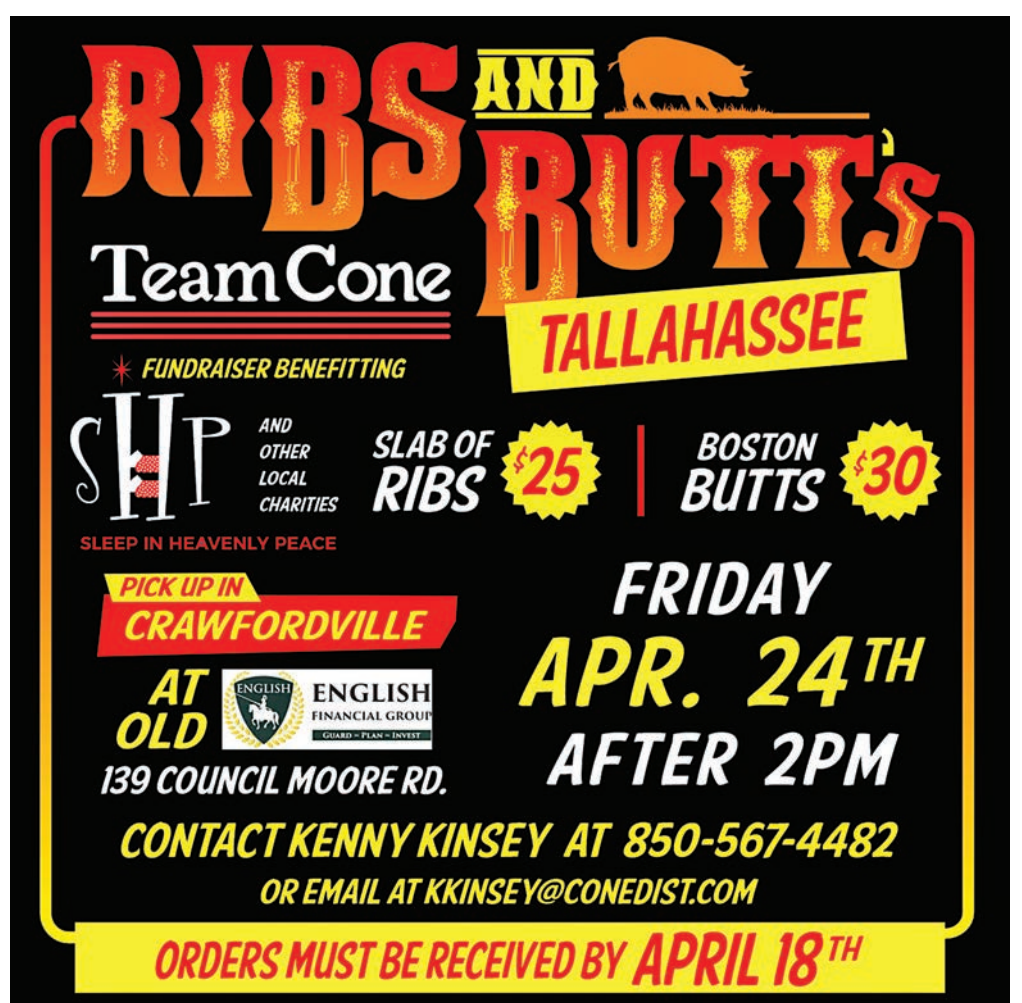
- No Programs

Tuesday, April 28th

- Book Bunch 10am
- Creative Writing II 10am
- Windows 11 10am
- Estate Planning Seminar 6pm
- Bible Chat 6pm
- American Legion Riders 6:30pm

Wednesday, April 29th

- Book Babies 10am
- Excel 10am
- Mahjong 1pm
- Knitting Group 4pm



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Outdoors

outdoor sports

HOME ON THE RANGE

Does mass make a difference?



By MARJ LAW

Edna and Tom are at the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office range. They're planning on shooting at the stall next to me. Joe's there too.

Edna is new to shooting, and is planning to purchase a handgun for self-defense in her car, by her bedside and for carrying in her purse.

"I don't like recoil," I hear Edna say to Tom. "Sandy and Clara went with me yesterday to a place that rents guns. We tried out a handgun each. I was surprised at the amount of kick these guns had. Seems to me that the smaller the gun, the less recoil there'd be. Well, there was an awful lot of recoil in all the guns we tried out."

"What caliber did you shoot?" Tom wonders.

"They were all 9mm. We thought the .22s were too small for defense, and your friend John said a .380 was too light as well. So, the guns we shot yesterday were all nice, light-weight 9mm handguns. Do you know, every one of them had lots of recoil? We traded each, but they all were the same. Maybe

I'll have to stick with a .380 or even a .22." Edna sounded a little depressed.

"Yeah, Sandy told me all about your trip. I don't see why you had any problems with those guns. I never did."

Edna comes to stand behind me.

"Hey, Marj. Can I ask you something?"

I put down my gun and turn to her. "Hiya, Edna. Sure. What's up?"

"I'm having trouble finding a gun that doesn't have too much recoil. All three of the cute little guns I shot yesterday had a lot of recoil."

"Not to me," chips in Tom. "I don't know why the girls are having a problem."

Joe has stepped back to join in the conversation.

"The mass of the gun is directly correlated to the amount of recoil it will have," he says. "Cute little 9mm handguns will have more recoil than full-size guns because they don't have the mass to absorb some of the shock of shooting."

"Yeah, but we're just talking about 9mm handguns. Not something weightier like a .40 or a .45," argues Tom. "Now I can see that Edna would feel a difference in recoil between a 9mm gun and a .45, but 9s are pretty much alike. There shouldn't be a noticeable recoil in 9s."

"Well, there is a difference," maintains Edna. "And you're a big guy,"

she looks at Tom. "You can handle lots of things I can't."

"How about we compare a couple 9mm guns," I suggest. "We can shoot a compact gun and a full-size gun to see if we can feel a difference."

"I don't think we'd find a difference, but I'm willing to try it if you've got a couple guns we can shoot," says Tom.

"I've got a Sig Sauer P226 Elite we can use for comparison," suggests Joe. "Marj has a Kimber R-7 Mako. That's a subcompact. The P226 is a full-size gun. It has more mass than the Mako. They are both 9mm guns, but they have quite a difference in weight."

"There won't be a difference," persists Tom. "But if you want to compare those two guns, I'll go along with it."

"My P226 has a metal frame," explains Joe. "That's part of the reason it's heavier. The frame is not polymer like many other guns. The P226 is one that the U. S. Navy Seals use. Many law enforcement agencies use them too. Recoil is fairly light in this gun."

Gunbeaver.com agrees. "The heavier weight of the metal frames of the P226 and P229 helps to mitigate recoil, making them

- Lighter
- More Recoil

Kimber R7 Mako



Sig Sauer P226 Tactical Elite



- Heavier
- Less Recoil

Which Works Best for You?

easier to control, particularly during rapid fire."

Gunbeaver goes on to add: "Their natural point of aim and well-thought-out controls make them easy to handle, even for shooters with smaller hands."

Naturally, weight isn't the only reason a gun has less recoil, but it's a start. Edna, Tom, Joe and I decide to compare the P226 with the Mako to see if we feel a difference. The P226 weighs in at 32.4 ounces. It is 7.7 inches long. The Mako is a lot lighter, weighing in at just 19.5 ounces. It is 6.2 inches long.

I'm kind of partial to my Mako. "The R-7 Mako is Kimber's first polymer framed, striker fired, high-capacity subcompact handgun," says Kimber. Gunsamerica.com says of the Mako: "Made with glass-filled nylon, the frame is lightweight and comfortable to hold."

They go on to address recoil: "The Kimber R-7 Mako was also very accurate and easy to shoot. Thanks to the low bore axis and the ergonomic grip, the recoil was mild and manageable."

So, both guns have been touted up as easy to shoot, with a mild recoil. Is this true? Will the 4 of us notice any difference

in recoil, or is Tom correct: that there isn't any difference?

Joe shoots my Mako first. On a 1-5 scale, with 1 showing the lightest kick possible, and a 5 the worst kick he's seen, he gives the Mako a 3.

Well, I think that's a little harsh. I give the Mako a 2.5. Yes, it has some recoil, but the gun handles well.

Next, Joe shoots his P226. He gives the recoil a 1.5. That seems to me a little easy, but I shoot next. Okay, it does have little recoil. I have to give it a 1.5 as well.

Edna shoots next. She picks up the Mako.

"Yes. I'd give it a 3 like Joe did," she states. "But I'm surprised at how little recoil the P226 has. I'd give that a 1.5 as well. C'mon, Tom. Your turn. I want you to feel how both guns shoot. Does one of them have more kick than the other?"

Tom picks up the Mako and shoots.

"Okay. It does have more recoil than I thought. On that 1-5 scale, I'll give it a 4."

That score surprised me. Especially after he was saying that 9s don't have much kick.

Next, he picks up the P226 and fires.

"I'll give this one a 3.5,"

he says. That's a pretty high score too.

Totaling up the scores on the Mako, we've given it a 12.5 for recoil. The P226 got a score of 8.5. Clearly, we all feel the Mako has more recoil. The additional mass of the P226 has made a difference.

"Both guns are easy to control," Edna states, "but I want a small gun with

little recoil that will be useful for my purse, car, and bedside. The Mako is small, and it is a 9mm, but it does have quite a bit more recoil than the P226."

"The P226, on the other hand, is clearly not a small gun. But it would work for my car and bedside and it has less recoil than the Mako." She thinks for a moment.

"There might not be one gun that fits every bit of criteria a person wants," she says. "I'm most concerned about recoil. Since I like the size of the Mako better than a full-size gun, that means I'll have to practice at the Sheriff's Office range more often to get used to the recoil."

"Choosing a handgun is a personal thing," observes Joe. "There are many handguns out there. Make a list of the criteria that is important to you. If you can, rent the guns that most fit your criteria. Then choose the one you like the best. We're all different and our needs are different. Choose the gun that's right for you."

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



SAND FIDDLER CRAB
(*Uca pugilator*)

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

Another photo from local photographer Lisa Vince, this of a Neomarica Walking Iris.



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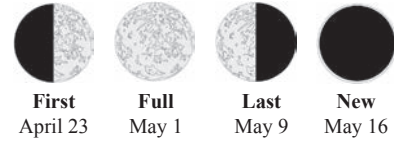


Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

April 23 - April 29



Tide charts by
tides4fishing.com



Best fishing days this month
Best fishing day(s) is in the center of date ranges.
April 23, 29 - May 5

Thursday 23	
Sun rise/set 7:01 AM 8:09 PM	Moon rise/set 12:36 PM 2:13 AM
Moon Illumination 45%	
Friday 24	
Sun rise/set 7:00 AM 8:09 PM	Moon rise/set 1:43 PM 2:57 AM
Moon Illumination 57%	
Saturday 25	
Sun rise/set 6:59 AM 8:10 PM	Moon rise/set 2:46 PM 3:34 AM
Moon Illumination 67%	
Sunday 26	
Sun rise/set 6:58 AM 8:11 PM	Moon rise/set 3:47 PM 4:07 AM
Moon Illumination 77%	
Monday 27	
Sun rise/set 6:57 AM 8:11 PM	Moon rise/set 4:45 PM 4:36 AM
Moon Illumination 85%	
Tuesday 28	
Sun rise/set 6:56 AM 8:12 PM	Moon rise/set 5:42 PM 5:04 AM
Moon Illumination 91%	
Wednesday 29	
Sun rise/set 6:55 AM 8:13 PM	Moon rise/set 6:38 PM 5:31 AM
Moon Illumination 96%	

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	1:45 am ▼ -0.1 ft	8:55 am ▲ 2.4 ft	12:30 pm ▼ 2.0 ft	6:19 pm ▲ 3.3 ft
Fr	3:06 am ▼ 0.2 ft	10:22 am ▲ 2.5 ft	2:21 pm ▼ 2.1 ft	8:01 pm ▲ 2.9 ft
Sa	4:26 am ▼ 0.5 ft	11:21 am ▲ 2.7 ft	4:33 pm ▼ 1.8 ft	10:33 pm ▲ 2.7 ft
Su	5:30 am ▼ 0.6 ft	12:02 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	5:56 pm ▼ 1.2 ft	
Mo	12:03 am ▲ 2.9 ft	6:18 am ▼ 0.8 ft	12:35 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	6:50 pm ▼ 0.7 ft
Tu	1:03 am ▲ 3.0 ft	6:56 am ▼ 0.9 ft	1:04 pm ▲ 3.5 ft	7:33 pm ▼ 0.2 ft
We	1:49 am ▲ 3.1 ft	7:27 am ▼ 1.1 ft	1:32 pm ▲ 3.6 ft	8:11 pm ▼ -0.1 ft

City of St. Marks

Th	2:49 am ▼ -0.1 ft	9:31 am ▲ 2.2 ft	1:34 pm ▼ 1.9 ft	6:55 pm ▲ 3.1 ft
Fr	4:10 am ▼ 0.2 ft	10:58 am ▲ 2.3 ft	3:25 pm ▼ 1.9 ft	8:37 pm ▲ 2.7 ft
Sa	5:30 am ▼ 0.4 ft	11:57 am ▲ 2.5 ft	5:37 pm ▼ 1.6 ft	11:09 pm ▲ 2.5 ft
Su	6:34 am ▼ 0.6 ft	12:38 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	7:00 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	
Mo	12:39 am ▲ 2.7 ft	7:22 am ▼ 0.7 ft	1:11 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	7:54 pm ▼ 0.6 ft
Tu	1:39 am ▲ 2.8 ft	8:00 am ▼ 0.8 ft	1:40 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	8:37 pm ▼ 0.2 ft
We	2:25 am ▲ 2.9 ft	8:31 am ▼ 1.0 ft	2:08 pm ▲ 3.4 ft	9:15 pm ▼ -0.1 ft

Shell Point, Spring Creek

Th	2:10 am ▼ -0.2 ft	9:12 am ▲ 2.6 ft	1:05 pm ▼ 2.2 ft	6:45 pm ▲ 3.3 ft
Fr	3:29 am ▼ 0.2 ft	10:38 am ▲ 2.7 ft	2:57 pm ▼ 2.2 ft	8:39 pm ▲ 2.9 ft
Sa	4:46 am ▼ 0.4 ft	11:38 am ▲ 2.9 ft	5:07 pm ▼ 1.8 ft	11:04 pm ▲ 2.8 ft
Su	5:51 am ▼ 0.5 ft	12:20 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	6:25 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	
Mo	12:28 am ▲ 3.0 ft	6:41 am ▼ 0.7 ft	12:54 pm ▲ 3.3 ft	7:15 pm ▼ 0.7 ft
Tu	1:25 am ▲ 3.2 ft	7:21 am ▼ 0.9 ft	1:22 pm ▲ 3.5 ft	7:56 pm ▼ 0.3 ft
We	2:11 am ▲ 3.3 ft	7:54 am ▼ 1.1 ft	1:48 pm ▲ 3.7 ft	8:32 pm ▼ -0.1 ft

Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay

Th	1:56 am ▼ -0.1 ft	8:47 am ▲ 1.8 ft	12:41 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	6:11 pm ▲ 2.5 ft
Fr	3:17 am ▼ 0.2 ft	10:14 am ▲ 1.9 ft	2:32 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	7:53 pm ▲ 2.2 ft
Sa	4:37 am ▼ 0.3 ft	11:13 am ▲ 2.0 ft	4:44 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	10:25 pm ▲ 2.0 ft
Su	5:41 am ▼ 0.4 ft	11:54 am ▲ 2.2 ft	6:07 pm ▼ 0.9 ft	11:55 pm ▲ 2.1 ft
Mo	6:29 am ▼ 0.6 ft	12:27 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	7:01 pm ▼ 0.5 ft	
Tu	12:55 am ▲ 2.2 ft	7:07 am ▼ 0.7 ft	12:56 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	7:44 pm ▼ 0.2 ft
We	1:41 am ▲ 2.3 ft	7:38 am ▼ 0.8 ft	1:24 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	8:22 pm ▼ -0.1 ft

St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.

Th	1:46 am ▼ -0.3 ft	10:04 am ▲ 2.1 ft	12:04 pm ▼ 2.0 ft	6:31 pm ▲ 2.7 ft
Fr	3:10 am ▼ 0.0 ft	11:30 am ▲ 2.1 ft	3:38 pm ▼ 2.0 ft	8:24 pm ▲ 2.3 ft
Sa	4:32 am ▼ 0.2 ft	12:00 pm ▲ 2.3 ft	5:31 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	10:37 pm ▲ 2.2 ft
Su	5:38 am ▼ 0.4 ft	12:23 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	6:28 pm ▼ 1.0 ft	
Mo	12:10 am ▲ 2.3 ft	6:29 am ▼ 0.6 ft	12:42 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	7:08 pm ▼ 0.6 ft
Tu	1:15 am ▲ 2.5 ft	7:08 am ▼ 0.8 ft	1:00 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	7:43 pm ▼ 0.2 ft
We	2:05 am ▲ 2.5 ft	7:40 am ▼ 1.1 ft	1:18 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	8:14 pm ▼ -0.1 ft

Dog Island West End

Th	2:04 am ▼ -0.2 ft	6:40 pm ▲ 2.3 ft		
Fr	3:22 am ▼ 0.1 ft	11:51 am ▲ 2.0 ft	4:19 pm ▼ 1.8 ft	8:15 pm ▲ 2.0 ft
Sa	4:39 am ▼ 0.4 ft	12:11 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	5:53 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	10:39 pm ▲ 1.9 ft
Su	5:46 am ▼ 0.6 ft	12:28 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	6:51 pm ▼ 1.0 ft	
Mo	12:13 am ▲ 1.9 ft	6:45 am ▼ 0.8 ft	12:42 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	7:30 pm ▼ 0.6 ft
Tu	1:35 am ▲ 2.0 ft	7:30 am ▼ 1.0 ft	12:59 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	8:01 pm ▼ 0.3 ft
We	2:31 am ▲ 2.1 ft	8:03 am ▼ 1.2 ft	1:20 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	8:29 pm ▼ 0.0 ft

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

The Old Pro: Spring has sprung, it's time to go fishing



By AL HARTMAN

Hope you all are doing well. There's a lot going on. If you haven't got your turkey yet there's still some time. Season closes April 26. Where I've been going for years turkeys have just disappeared. Foxes, raccoons, coyotes and Florida panthers have wiped them out. Hope your area is holding some. So time to fish. They are really out there right now. Big trout and big reds are a plenty. Keeper trout are tight, but a few nice ones pop up

here and there. I tried something I heard about that will catch nice reds. I heard that they eat small snakes. So I went to my freshwater tackle box and grabbed a pack of long black rubber bass worms. It works. Not as well as a small or a chunk of a blue crab or surf crabs, but it works. It's always good to have a good array of different presentations. Some days they will kill something and the next day they want something different. We really need some rain. A lot of plants are wilting from the lack of water. Gotta spray your planted garden every day. The best time to water is evening as the sun starts going over the hill. Watering them in the morning can get them cooked in the hot sun. The gas prices are getting higher every day. I know that a lot of countries need the oil that comes out of the Strait of Hormuz but we don't. We get

our oil from Canada, Mexico and Venezuela. So it ends up we are paying the price because of world fears. We have our own oil, but most of our wells in the U.S. are sitting idle. Crank 'em up! They say they can't make any money. WHAT??? Guess they don't buy gas. Well the Old Pro is getting up there in years. Been writing for you folks for over 40 years now and I hope to continue many more, but something came up last week. I went to my Doc's and she did a EKG, and another. Last year she didn't like the results. This year she said this one was worse - irregular heart beat. So I've got a lot of tests and meds. I'm going for a stress test next week and then a heart monitor for a couple of days. Wish me luck I want to write for you many more years. Happy Hunting and Fishing and take a Youngster.



Underwater Wakulla

By Gregg Stanton

Bones! July 26, 2012

In April I spoke of the Wakulla Springs Conveyor Belt that may be responsible for the deposition of bones in the front of the Spring's cave. But what of its reported pristine (undisturbed) nature? I visited Tracy Revels' fascinating book, "Watery Eden: A History of Wakulla Springs" (2002, Published by the Friends of Wakulla) in my preparation for a survey of local bone rooms. Chapter 6 is a good read regarding the history of Wakulla Springs bone deposits. Following the suppression and removal of the Seminole Indians in 1840, visitors discovered large bones in the basin at Wakulla Springs. A report in 1850 by Sarah Smith attracted the attention of Professor George King of Newport, who began to remove bones in the Spring's shallow waters using long handled tongs. All of his samples taken during this time period have subsequently been lost. Over the next 90 years bones were removed from the Spring and put on display in Tallahassee and elsewhere. In 1930 George Christie, then owner of Wakulla Springs, renewed recovery after uncovering bones while constructing the new swim area. He enlisted the help of the Florida Geological Survey to systematically recover the remainder of the bones of the basin. Tongs were not effective for the deeper bones, so they expanded their collecting options to include hard-hat diving, supported from a surface barge. They pried the bones from the substrate, sucking out surrounding embedded debris. All provenience (relational information to other bones and debris) was, of course, lost. George then sent these fossils around North Florida to promote his proposed resort. Ed Ball, residing in Jacksonville, may have become aware of the spring that he later purchased from a display of these fossil bones. Enough bones were pulled during this period to reconstruct a near complete Mastodon skeleton. It was first displayed at the FGS lab, then the Florida State College for Women in 1940 and finally, where it currently resides, Florida Museum of History in the R.A. Gray Building. Many of the remaining bones collected have shown up in unexpected places including park flower beds and strategically located in the basin to permit visitors riding the glass bottom boat, full view of what must have caused the earliest enthusiastic bone removal. Once purchased by Mr. Ball, the caves were restricted for safety reasons until the mid-1950s. In 1955 Gary Salsman and others working on a film set were given permission to dive the main vent of Wakulla Spring. For the next three years, and with the assistance of Stan Olsen from FGS, these divers pulled bones and artifacts from the Bone Room. This early team recovered mastodon, mammoth, deer, camel, giant ground sloth, bear and a large number of bone tipped spear points, often floating them out using air-filled pillow cases. They reached a depth of 240 feet and over 900 feet into the cave. Frank Fagan ended the bone recovery in 1961. Engineer Wally Jenkins (of the 1955 team) and scientist Larry Brill continued diving the cave for the next 30 years, until it was purchased by the State of Florida, in an effort to understand the hydrology of the Spring. These two introduced me to Wakulla Springs in 1975. The age of cave exploration has since dominated Wakulla Spring, with dozens of divers passing over what is left in the bone room. Northwest Water Management's current meter that we set in the 1980s remains near the restriction of the room. Guide lines are now tied to massive bones placed on rocks jutting out into the void of large cave passage. An inverted water trough is set into the ceiling. Discarded water sampling tubing, pipes, cables and stage cylinders dot the landscape. The bone room was recently described as looking more like a lunar landing site than a pristine preserve. A clean up is in order, then a surface photo and metal survey and finally a management plan for the future. Only then can we hope to get back to the question of bone research and preservation. The Bone Room at Wakulla Springs is no longer pristine. **Editor's Note: This is a repeat of a column from 2012.**

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Don't let procrastination steal your year

By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

We're well into the second quarter of this year. Are you on track to meet your work and home goals by the end of 2026?

Or have you pushed too many things to the back burner – or worse,

completely taken them off the stove?

Whether you're leading a company with a desk tray full of deadlines or managing a household with a never-ending to-do list, staying focused and following through isn't easy. For the habitual procrastinator, it can feel especially overwhelming.

Scripture speaks directly to this struggle. Ecclesiastes 11:4 (ESV) reminds us: "He who observes the wind will not sow, and he who regards the clouds will not reap."

In other words, waiting for perfect conditions

often leads to missed opportunities. Just as a farmer risks losing his crop by delaying, we risk unfinished goals, missed deadlines and even strained relationships when we rationalize our procrastinating ways.

Opportunities don't always wait. More importantly, the people counting on us may eventually stop counting on us at all.

Maybe you're thinking, I don't know how to change – but I'm willing.

Pour out your heart to God. Be honest about your struggle and your

need for His help. Let His grace strengthen and guide you.

Then... act. Take steps to move forward.

At home, begin with the biggest eyesore. At work, choose the task you've been avoiding. Even five or 10 focused minutes can build momentum. You might be surprised how much you accomplish when you simply start.

Tackle the most important task before the weekend arrives. Set a timer on your smartphone and make a dent in that nagging project. If you think it will take

an hour, try setting the timer for 45 minutes and challenge yourself to finish before it rings.

Here's a practical idea by Ivy Lee, a management consultant: Make a list of five tasks for the next day. Rank them in order of importance, then focus on completing the first one before moving on. That night, revise your list and repeat.

Another key to overcoming procrastination is accountability. Sharing a goal or struggle with someone can provide the encouragement you need to stay on track.

Make this week a pro-

ductive one. Confidence grows with every productive minute and each "dent." Visualize yourself getting back on track, one dent at a time, by the end of this quarter.

This year will fly by even faster than last year. So . . . make the most of each day. Don't let procrastination destroy what could be a great 2026.

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.

God, can you see me now?

By **CHERYL CRUCE**

I have to laugh at so many of the memories of my childhood and the innocence with which they were created. I remember always being in Sunday school, learning its lessons, and taking them quite literally. When given the coloring sheet of the crossing of the Red Sea, I colored the water with the brightest red crayon I could find. And

when I saw the picture of Adam and Eve hiding from God, my imagination ran in the direction of child's play.

I recall the teacher saying there was nowhere one could hide from God – that He knew everything and was everywhere. So when I got home, I found my brother's flashlight and slipped into the bedroom closet. I climbed through the hanging clothes, over stacked boxes, and into the far back corner of the small room. Then I pulled a piece of clothing over me, switched off the flashlight, and whispered into the darkness, "God, can You see me now?"

I am not sure how long I stayed there,

switching the light off and on. It was the simple innocence of a 6-year-old child, and I would like to believe the Heavenly Father smiled. Sixty years later, I smile too at the comforting truth that I was seen then, and I have always been seen by Him.

Life has taught me that closets do not always look the same.

Some closets we create for ourselves, and others are created for us. Adam and Eve stepped into one of their own making when they ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. In that moment, they saw their brokenness. Shame sent them searching for cover, and they hid among the trees of the garden, be-

lieving they could disappear from the presence of the One who made them. Yet love still came walking in the garden. God called them from their hiding place and clothed them with care. From the beginning, Scripture reminds us that even when shame sends us into hiding, the heart of God still seeks, still calls, and still covers (Genesis 3).

Hagar knew another kind of closet – the kind created by the choices of others. Sent away into the wilderness, she found herself alone, rejected, and unsure of what would become of her and her child. Yet even there, beneath the weight of sorrow and the uncer-

tainty, God saw her. In that lonely place, she came to know Him as El Roi – "The God Who Sees" – becoming the first person in Scripture recorded as giving God a name. Her story reminds us that when life shuts doors we did not close ourselves, we are never beyond the reach of His care (Genesis 16; 21).

Between the trees of Eden and the wilderness of Hagar lies the story of us all. Some hide because of shame. Some wander because of wounds they did not choose. Some sit quietly behind doors closed by grief, fear, regret, or loss. Some are still that child hidden in the closet, wondering if they are seen at all. Yet the same

God who sought them still seeks us now. We have always been seen.

His presence still reaches. His mercy still covers. His love still calls us gently from the shadows into hope, healing, and light. And perhaps that is one of life's sweetest comforts: to know that wherever we have been, wherever we are, and wherever we must yet go—we will never be beyond the sight of God.

Where can I go from Your Spirit? Where can I flee from Your presence? — Psalm 139:7

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

OUT TO PASTOR

Back in the saddle – finally

By **JAMES SNYDER**

After about three months of wrestling with a variety of bug thingamajigs, I ended up with a case of acute bronchitis. Believe me; it was not really cute at all.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I, during that time, competed in a coughing and sneezing contest. Unfortunately, she won the contest. Now, as a result of her winning, whenever she says anything to me next year, I have to respond, "Yes, dear."

Oh well, now that it is over, it will be well worth it. I have learned, over 50 years of marital bliss, that saying "Yes, dear" makes my life that much more blissful.

With all that in the past, I now start a new chapter in my life. I am now back in the saddle again and picking up where I left off a couple of months ago.

I have suffered many physical problems throughout the years, but I have noticed now

that I am older, it takes me longer to get back in the saddle. I could choose to moan and groan in bed, but what in the world would that accomplish?

The importance of getting "back in the saddle" reminds us that having the right support – like a good horse – is key to moving forward, especially for those facing setbacks.

When I was young, I would visit my grandfather at his farm in the mountains of central Pennsylvania and sometimes spend the summer up there. He had a large horse he used on his farm to plow the fields and other work.

My cousin and I would ride that horse, but grandpa did not have any saddles for us to use. We had to climb up on the bareback of that horse, and believe me, it was a huge horse.

But we enjoyed riding it as much as we could. Of course, our grandmother was the one who led the horse as we rode it. Why she did that, I will never know.

But it was the horse that led the way. I can get any saddle I want, but if I do not put it on a horse, what good is it really?

Now that I'm back in the saddle, I need to understand the power of that saddle, which is the horse. Which is going to empower me to

get back to my normal life?

Of course, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage always questions me about that. "What is normal for you?" She would always ask me. I never had a really good answer for that.

What is normal to one person is a fit of craziness to someone else.

It does not matter to me about my normal; if it is crazy, I am going to accept that and incorporate it into my life. What is wrong with being crazy? After all, I have been crazy all my life, so why should I change now?

Now that I'm back in the saddle, I can get into my office and begin working on projects I haven't been able to work on for the last several months. It is a good feeling to be back in my office again.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage thinks my office is a mess. She has been tempting me to get into my office, straighten everything out and organize it to her satisfaction.

The last time she suggested that I replied by saying, "Okay, you organize my office and I will organize your craft room. How does that sound?"

I haven't heard from her since about that.

As I look around my office, I cannot see any mess at all. My office is so organized that I know exactly where to find whatever I need at any given time. I have learned through life that if I can't find something, it means that I really don't need it. That has been the saddle on my horse for many years.

Getting back on the saddle is a very challenging proposition. First, I have to know where to start. After about three months of not doing much of what I need to do, I need to find out where to start.

To find out where to start, I have to sit in my office with a nice hot cup of coffee, look around, and take in all the books I have, the computers, the printer and my desk. To The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, this looks like a mess. But,

to her adoring husband, all of this inspires me to get back on the saddle and go charging forward.

It is going to take me a week or so to readjust my priorities. What is really the top priority as I get started?

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage always has her priorities in focus. She is the kind of person who can multitask. I have never been able to multitask in my life.

That is why it takes me a little bit longer to get my priorities lined up. Now that I'm back in the saddle, I can go forward and get every-

thing in line to become productive again.

I could not help but think of a Bible verse on this subject. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Cor. 5:17).

As a Christian, my focus is not on my past, but forward on 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



Rilda Aileen Posey

Rilda Aileen Posey, age 90, of Crawfordville, passed away peacefully on April 16, 2026. She had been a beloved resident of Crawfordville for more than 65 years.

Aileen was a devoted mother who took advantage of every opportunity to help her children grow and experience life-building activities. Aileen nurtured her children and tended to each child's special needs making them wholesome and loving adults. When her children were raised and successfully on their own, she and Bobby enjoyed each other by travel-

ing the U.S. and abroad.

She was born on a potato farm in Southwest Idaho where she rode horses and was member of the horseback-riding club representing them in queen pageants at various rodeos. She took ballet and tap-dancing lessons and played the accordion – once played on the streets with two others for Boise Music Week. In grade school and high school, she played sports – basketball and softball. She loved roller skating and ice skating and met her husband Bobby C. Posey at the Nampa Roller Drome.

Aileen will be lovingly re-

membered by her children: Larry (Shelly), Steve (Brenda), Terry (Beth Anne) and Karen (Donnie); and grandchildren David (Ashley), Eric (Brittney), Keith (Kerri), Chad (Erin), Haley (Laura), Ethan (Katelyn), Hannah (Trey) and Jack (Amber); her sister, Connie, and nephew Nicholas Christie; seventeen great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren. She is loved and remembered by many nephews and nieces.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Bobby C. Posey, her parents, and three brothers.

The family suggests any donations be made to Big Bend Hospice, 1723 Mahan Center Blvd., Tallahassee FL 32308; 850-878-5310; Bigbendhospice.org

A graveside funeral service will be held Friday, April 24, 2026, at 11:30 a.m. at Crawfordville Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 10 to 11 a.m. at Young Family Funeral Home in the Harvey Young Chapel.

Skip and Trey Young are assisting the family along with Paula, Heather and Amanda. Young Family Funeral Home, Crawfordville 850-926-5919.

DEATH NOTICES

- Jack Dempsey Davis Jr., 79, of Crawfordville, died April 17, 2026.
- Kimberly Louise Roberts Hobbs, 65 of Crawfordville passed away April 15, 2026.

• Carolyn McMillan, 83, of Crawfordville, died April 15, 2026.

• Aileen Posey, 90, of Crawfordville, died April 16, 2026.

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

Sheriff's Report

This report is for activity April 10 to 17. There were 1,489 total calls for service during the week; 14 arrests; 118 traffic stops; 7 citations and nine traffic warnings.

FRIDAY, APRIL 10

- No new reports.

SATURDAY, APRIL 11

• The Wakulla County Sheriff's Office received a call from Pheasant Hill Trail in reference to a theft complaint. Upon arrival, contact was made with the reporting parties who advised they discovered four of their bromeliad plants missing from a post, located near the end of their driveway. Upon review of their security cameras, they observed a light-colored SUV pass their residence at 1:14 a.m. The vehicle then turned around and parked near the end of the driveway, where three unknown subjects exited the vehicle and began removing four of the plants. They valued the plants at \$350 apiece, totaling \$1400.

SUNDAY, APRIL 12

• Deputy Dakota Haddock responded to the 4200 block of Bloxham Cutoff Road in reference to a citizen wanting to report his e-Bike being stolen. While speaking with him, he advised the

bike had been stolen sometime between April 4th at 10:30 p.m. to April 5th at 8 a.m. He stated at this time he was unable to provide a definitive suspect. He valued the e-Bike at approximately \$800. Case forwarded to Criminal Investigations Division.

• Deputy Jonathan Kilbourn responded to Walmart in reference to a retail theft in progress. While in route the complainant, Asset Protection advised dispatch that the male had fled the scene. Upon arrival, they advised the male subject had gone to self-checkout and pretended to scan some items as well as scan other items but remove them from the registry. They stated the male then exited the store passing all final points of sale, failing to pay for the items. They stated the approximate value lost was \$87.70. During this investigation, they were able to provide the tag of the vehicle and a suspect was identified. Case forwarded to CID.

• Deputy Kory Smith conducted a traffic stop near the area of the Courthouse. While speaking with the driver, the passenger was observed to not be wearing her seatbelt. Deputy Smith requested the passenger's name. After providing the name given to dispatch, it was discovered the female subject had provided a false

name. During the investigation, the female continuously provided false names and date of births. After some time and data mining, the passenger's real name was discovered. After providing this information to dispatch, it was discovered that she had outstanding warrants out of Leon County. She was then placed under arrest for providing false name to law enforcement. She was then transported to the county jail without further incident.

MONDAY, APRIL 13

• Deputy Ian Kilbourn responded to the STIX Training Facility in reference to a fraud. Deputy Kilbourn met with the victim who advised an individual contacted him in hopes of purchasing \$5,875 worth of items from him. He advised the man sent him a \$55,785 fraudulent check. The victim stated he did not cash the check after the subject stated he could simply keep the check. The victim also advised two fraudulent charges were attempted on his bank account for a total of \$23,600. The victim is not currently out any money due to his bank freezing the account. Case forwarded to CID.

TUESDAY, APRIL 14

• Deputy Arturo Cordoba conducted a traffic stop in the 2100 block of Crawfordville Highway. It was determined the driver of the vehicle possessed a suspended

license and was issued a notice to appear.

• Sgt. Heather Will conducted a traffic stop for a seatbelt violation. The driver had a small amount paraphernalia in his possession. The paraphernalia was collected and turned in for destruction.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

• Deputy Dylan Buckhalt conducted a traffic stop in the area of Bloxham Cutoff Road and Crawfordville Highway. Upon contact with the driver, it was determined his license had been suspended since January 2017. Subsequently, he was placed under arrest for Driving While License Suspended or Revoked (DWLSR) and transported to the Wakulla County Jail without incident.

• Deputy Lexi Kreitlow responded to Walmart in reference to a retail theft that already occurred. Contact was made with loss prevention, who advised a subject deprived the business of \$105.05 on April 12. There is a named suspect at this time.

THURSDAY, APRIL 16

• Deputy Mcmillan responded to Walmart in reference to a retail theft that already occurred. Contact was made with the loss prevention employee who advised she observed the suspect from a retail theft the day before entering the store on April 6. She recog-

nized her as a suspect from a previous theft complaint. The suspect then began placing items in a shopping cart. The suspect then proceeded to make her way to the self-checkout area to begin scanning items. The suspect failed to scan multiple items, totaling \$50.44. The suspect exited the business with the non-scanned items, passing all points of sale.

• Deputy Arturo Cordoba responded to a hit and run traffic crash in the area of Walgreens on Crawfordville Highway. Deputies located one of the involved vehicles in the area of Ochlocknee Street and Circle Drive. Contact was made with the driver and a female passenger. Both parties were detained until Floridab Highway Patrol arrived. Prior to FHP arriving, the driver was seen attempting to discard a silicon container near deputies. The container was seized for destruction.

FRIDAY, APRIL 17

• Deputy Dustin Saba conducted a traffic stop for no seatbelt. Upon contact with the driver it was determined he

did not possess a valid driver's license. During the stop, the odor of marijuana was detected. A search of the vehicle was conducted and suspected fentanyl was located in the center console along with suspected marijuana. The driver was subsequently arrested.

• Deputy Arturo Cordoba conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for an expired tag. The driver had an ID card only. Upon placing the driver under arrest an inventory of the vehicle was conducted. During the inventory, suspected methamphetamine was located in the driver floorboard.

• Deputy Ian Kilbourn responded to Sopchoppy Highway in reference to a midsize vessel on the side of the road, without a trailer. Dep. Kilbourn was unable to make contact with an owner. Due to the condition of the vessel and the hazard it could pose to vehicle traffic, it was towed.

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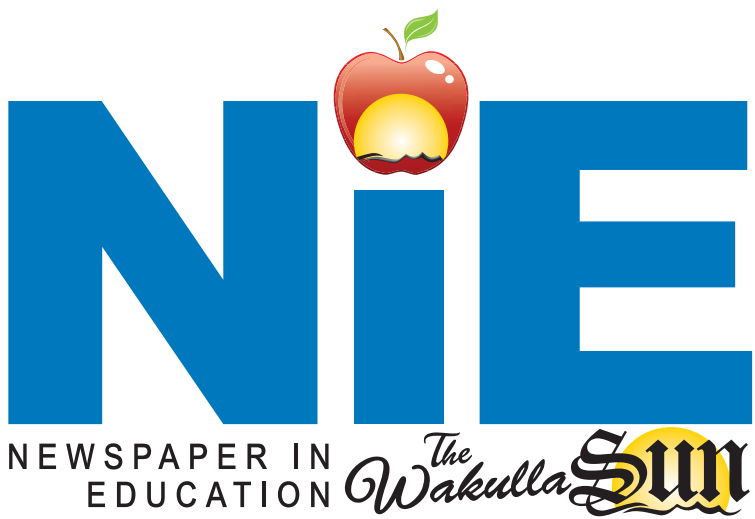
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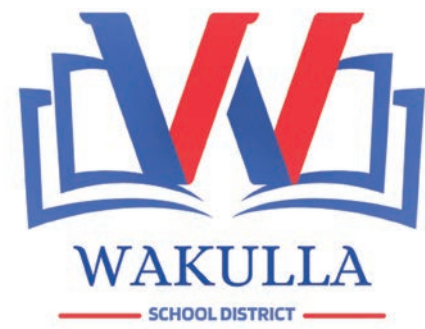
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USE THE NEWS

1. KEEPING MUSEUMS SAFE AND WELCOMING

Museums around the world are working hard to protect valuable art and historical treasures after several shocking robberies and break-ins. Some thieves have stolen famous jewels, paintings, and other objects, while others have damaged fragile artwork. Museum leaders want to stop these crimes, but they also want visitors to feel comfortable and welcome instead of making museums seem scary or closed off. To solve this problem, architects and security experts are creating smart designs that blend safety with beauty. They use things like better lighting, hidden cameras, stronger display cases, careful landscaping, and pathways that guide people where they should go. The goal is to protect both the art and the people who come to enjoy it. Pretend you are helping design a new children's museum. Draw or describe three features that would help keep the museum safe without making it feel unkind or unfriendly. For each feature, write one sentence explaining how it protects the museum and one sentence explaining how it still helps visitors feel welcome.

2. SKYDIVER GETS STUCK

A spring football game at Virginia Tech was delayed when a skydiver landed on the stadium scoreboard instead of the field. He was part of a team meant to make an exciting entrance before the game, but strong wind pushed him off course. Rescue workers quickly arrived and brought him down safely in about 15 minutes. He was checked by medical workers and did not have any serious injuries. Another skydiver landed on a nearby practice field, and only one landed where planned. The surprising moment frightened some people at first, but it ended safely because of the fast response from trained helpers. Write a short breaking news announcement about this story. In 4–5 sentences, explain what happened, how people helped, and why

it is important to stay calm during an emergency. Your final sentence should reassure listeners that the situation ended safely.

3. A LEGO SCHEME

Police in California say a man stole money by buying expensive Lego sets, taking out the pieces, replacing them with bags of uncooked pasta, and then returning the boxes for refunds. Officers said the scam brought in about \$34,000 and may have been connected to many thefts at stores across the country. Lego sets can be very expensive, and some rare pieces are worth even more when people resell them. Because the pieces are small and hard to trace,

they can be tempting targets for thieves. This unusual case shows how people sometimes use clever tricks for dishonest reasons. It also reminds stores to be careful when checking returned items. Create a four-panel comic strip for this story. In each panel, draw the scene and write one complete sentence describing what's happening in the picture for the caption. Your panels should show the trick, the discovery, the police investigation, and the lesson people can learn from the case.

4. "BEAR" FRAUD

Three people in California were sentenced to jail after officials said they pre-

tended a bear had damaged their luxury cars so they could collect insurance money. Investigators discovered that the "bear" in the videos was actually a person wearing a bear suit and using sharp kitchen tools to make claw marks. The group sent in claims for damage to several expensive cars and received more than \$141,000. At first, the videos may have looked convincing, but experts studied them and quickly realized the animal was not real. A wildlife biologist even confirmed that it was clearly a human in costume. The case shows that investigators use careful observation and expert knowledge to uncover fraud. Imagine you are a detective explaining this case to a class. Make a simple evidence chart

with three pieces of evidence that helped show the "bear" was fake. After your chart, write two sentences explaining why people should not lie to get money from insurance companies.

5. A 1,200-YEAR CHERRY BLOSSOM RECORD CONTINUES

For more than 1,200 years, people in Kyoto, Japan, have recorded when cherry blossoms bloom. In recent years, scientist Yasuyuki Aono cared for this remarkable record and used it to help show how climate change is affecting the trees. His work found that cherry blossoms are blooming earlier than they used to, especially in the last two hundred years, as temperatures have warmed. After Profes-

or Aono died, many people worried about who would continue the project. Now another scientist, Genki Katata, has agreed to take over and keep the record going. The long history of bloom dates is valuable because it helps scientists understand how nature changes over time and how a warming planet affects living things. Make a mini seasonal observation journal for one plant or tree near your home, school, or neighborhood. Write down what you would observe in spring, summer, fall, and winter, and include one sentence for each season. Then finish with two sentences explaining how keeping records year after year could help scientists learn about climate and weather changes.



Health FACT:

Major health and scientific organizations worldwide have concluded that vaccines do not cause this.

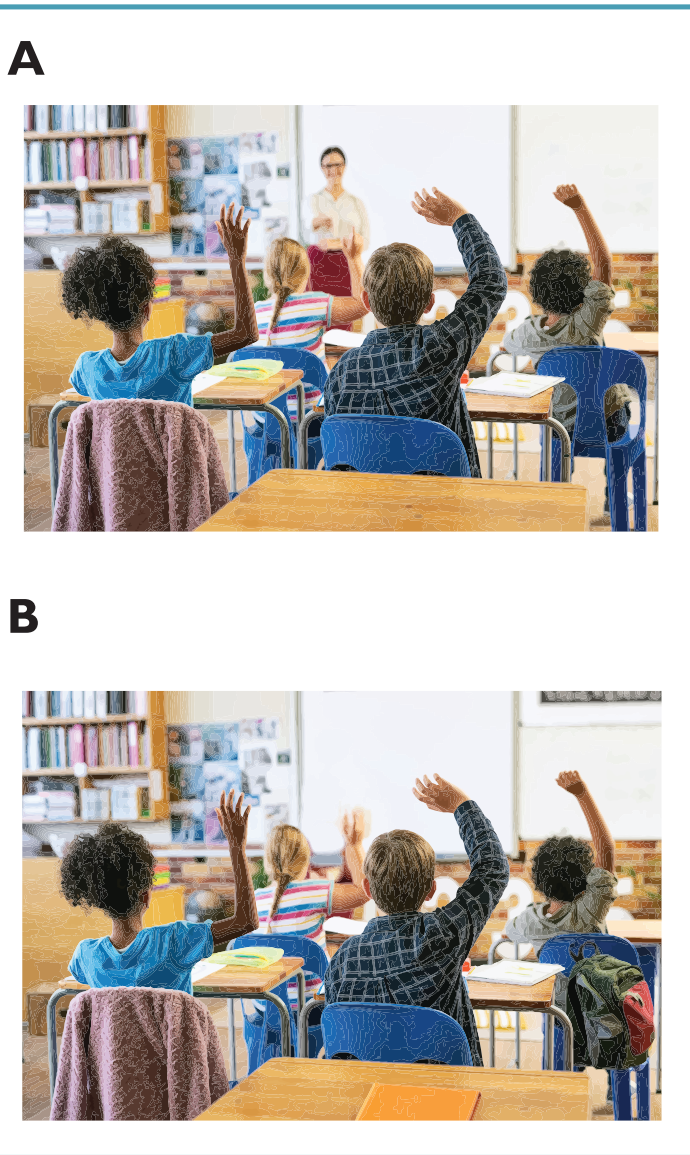
Answer: Autism

How they say that in...

English: Brain
Spanish: Cerebro
Italian: Cervello
French: Cerveau
German: Gehirn

What's the Difference?

Find the four differences between the two pictures.



Answers: 1. Notebook on the desk 2. Backpack on the chair 3. Missing teacher 4. Bulletin board on the right side

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

APR 22

1500: Portuguese navigator Pedro Alvares Cabral lands in Brazil.

1864: The U.S. Congress passes the Coinage Act of 1864.

1970: The first Earth Day is celebrated.

NEW WORD

STIMMING

repetitive actions or movements that help regulate emotions

Did You Know?

April is recognized as National Autism Acceptance Month.

Get the PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Puzzle pieces

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NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
0423-0430 TWS NOFS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION
CENTENNIAL BANK, Plaintiff,
vs.
KEITH WARD; ET AL., Defendants
CASE NO. 25 CA 99

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NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to the Summary Final Judgment dated April 13, 2026 entered in Case No. 2025 CA 99 of the Circuit Court of the Second Judicial Circuit in and for Wakulla County, Florida, wherein Centennial Bank is the Plaintiff and Keith Ward, Tammy Ward, Elizabeth Ward, Estate of Helen Ward, and Tony Ward, and all unknown parties claiming by, through, under, and against the herein named individuals who are not known to be dead or alive, whether said unknown parties may claim an interest as spouses, heirs, devisees, grantees or other claimants are the Defendants, the undersigned will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the Wakulla County Courthouse, 3056 Crawfordville Hwy., Crawfordville, Florida 32327, at 11:00 a.m. on May 21, 2026, the property as set forth in said Summary Final Judgment and further described as:

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Lots numbered Three (3), Four (4), Nine (9) and Ten (10), in Block "E", of East St. Marks, a subdivision of a part of the Government Lot Two (2) in Section 2, Township 4 South, Range 1 East, as shown by plat of said subdivision recorded on Page 8 of Plat Book No. 1, of the Public Records of Wakulla County, Florida, and described by metes and bounds as follows to wit:
Begin at the Northwest corner of Lot Number 3, in Block "E", of the subdivision of East St. Marks, as shown by plat thereof recorded on Page 8 of Plat Book No. 1, of the Public Records of Wakulla County, Florida, and run North 71 degrees 20 minutes East and parallel to the North boundary of said Block "E" 190 feet to the West boundary of the right-of-way of Port Leon Drive (State Road 363), then run South 18 degrees 40 minutes East along said right-of-way boundary 120 feet, then run South 71 degrees 20 minutes West and parallel to the North boundary of said Block "E" 190 feet to the East boundary of a street, then run North 18 degrees 40 minutes West 120 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING, situate, lying and being in Government Lot 2 of Section 2, Township 4, Range 1 East.

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THE ABOVE-DESCRIBED PROPERTY ALSO BEING DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:
Lots 3, 4, 9 and 10, Block "E", East St. Marks, a subdivision as per map or plat thereof, recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 8 and also Plat Book 1, Page 52, of the Public Records of Wakulla County, Florida.
Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim before the clerk reports the surplus as unclaimed.
Dated this 13th day of April, 2026.
{{County Court Seal}}
Greg James
As Clerk of the Court
By: /s/ Ethan Brown
As Deputy Clerk
APR 23 2026
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

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0423-0430 TWS NOFS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION
TOWNE MORTGAGE COMPANY, Plaintiff,
vs.
ROCKY J. DAVIS; FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY CREDIT UNION CORPORATION; VALERIE DAVIS; UNKNOWN TENANT, Defendants
CASE NO. 2025CA000077

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NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to an Order or Final Judgment entered in the above styled cause now pending in said court and as required by Florida Statute 45.031(2), GREG JAMES as the Clerk of the Circuit Court shall sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the, IN THE LOBBY OF THE WAKULLA COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 3056 CRAWFORDVILLE HIGHWAY, CRAWFORDVILLE, FLORIDA 32327, 11:00 AM on the 14 day of May, 2026, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:
LOT 35, OF THE GROVE PHASE II, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 4, PAGES 14-16, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 235 SAND PINE TRAIL, CRAWFORDVILLE, FL 32327 IF YOU ARE A PERSON CLAIMING A RIGHT TO FUNDS REMAINING AFTER THE SALE, YOU MUST FILE A CLAIM WITH THE CLERK NO LATER THAN THE DATE THAT THE CLERK REPORTS THE FUNDS AS UNCLAIMED. IF YOU FAIL TO FILE A CLAIM, YOU WILL NOT BE ENTITLED TO ANY REMAINING FUNDS. AFTER THE FUNDS ARE REPORTED AS UNCLAIMED, ONLY THE OWNER OF RECORD AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MAY CLAIM THE SURPLUS.
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
850-606-4401
at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.
Dated this 20th day of April, 2026.

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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.
Dated this 20th day of April, 2026.
{{County Court Seal}}
Greg James
As Clerk of the Court
By: /s/ Ethan Brown
As Deputy Clerk
APR 23 2026
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

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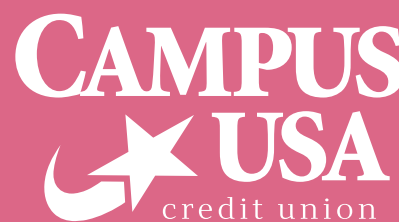
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Library holds a Dr. Seuss-themed open house



Tyson Folsom gets popcorn with Miss Wakullas Lynley and Avyn Bryan.



Benjamin Albert Metcalf and Patti Owens can't drop the green eggs while racing.

Story & Photos By
LINDA ANN McDONALD
Correspondent

The Wakulla County Public Library hosted a Dr. Seuss themed Spring Open House and Community Partner Fair on Saturday, April 18.

Children enjoyed crafts, story time, face painting, interactive games such as Ring the Gack, The Green Eggs and Ham Race and Hop on Pop Scotch and Story Time. Guests also had opportunities to explore the library, meet the staff and

sign up for a library card while enjoying grilled hot dogs, chips and a drink.

"The event is held to share with the public what the library has to offer while enjoying snacks and games," said library Director Linda Oaks. "We want the community to realize how much the library has and it is more than just books, we offer a safe place and free access to services for all."

Library staffer Naomi Reaves said, "I love this event because of the community mindset that it brings

and opens opportunities and access to resources a lot of people normally wouldn't have."

The event was open for community partners to join and share resources as well. Wakulla County Correctional Institute, Wakulla 4-H, Wakulla Animal Group, Wakulla County Schools, Wakulla County Christian Coalition, Disc Village, Wakulla County Health Department, and Wakulla Fire-Rescue were available to promote their programs and share discussion and resources.

Library staff and Commander of the American Legion Post 114, Roxanne Dressell, assembled prizes for the children that included fidgets, bubbles and bracelets promoting literacy messages.

Daniel Krumbholz brought his family to the event and said, "My kids love to come to the library to read. When you combine fun with books, how can you not come to the event today? In our home, we foster reading over television."

Gulf Specimen fundraiser Mermaids and Mimosas

Story & Photos By
LINDA ANN McDONALD
Correspondent

Gulf Specimen Marine Lab held its 3rd annual Mermaid and Mimosas fundraiser on Sunday, April 19th to raise funds for the aquarium and to support the Sea Turtle Hospital expansion.

GSML is a non-profit marine research and education organization and public aquarium in Panacea.

Guests enjoyed a marine magic-filled event including a seafood boil, appetizers, a silent auction filled with a wide variety of nautical items to bid on, full access to the aquarium and drinks.

Music was provided by the local band Hot Tamale, which is known for their song, "I Wanna Be a Tur-

tle," which pays tribute to all the great turtle releases that are carried out by GSML.

Cypress Rudloe, Director of GSML said, "It is a great turn-out tonight and we are happy to have FSU Marine Lab and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and each and every one who contributed tonight and participated in our fundraising events."

Animal Tales, an animal educational organization, brought Canoli, the Ruffed Lemur and other animals including a Great Horned Owl, Bearded Dragon, Emperor Scorpion, and a Scaleless Corn Snake to educate guests.

Florida Wildlife Mammal Association was present with their Pelican and Tortoise Ambassadors.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conser-

vation Commission's Marine Turtle Program educated guests on turtle biology and conservation efforts.

Christa Perini, local artist who donated Giant Octopus and Marine Turtle art for auction said, "This is a great fundraiser, and I am glad to see it happens annually; it is happening at a good time right now-to help fund the turtle hospital."

Dressed in whimsical mermaid attire, friends Joyce McNeill, Darby Barbazon and Vickie Herrington visited the event and said, "We saw the advertisement for the event, and we made plans right away to go down to Panacea and have some fun as a girls weekend and to help the aquarium," McNeill said. "This is a great place, my grandsons come all the time and they love it."



Friends Jacqui Morris and Sam Samford at Mermaids and Mimosas.

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