

Delinquent taxes are in this issue

The Wakulla Sun

WAKULLA WeatherSTEM
Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Partly Sunny
Hi: 88° Lo: 58° 7% Sunrise 6:44 AM Sunset 8:23 PM	Hi: 86° Lo: 60° 5% Sunrise 6:43 AM Sunset 8:24 PM	Hi: 88° Lo: 66° 8% Sunrise 6:43 AM Sunset 8:24 PM



\$1
Two Sections

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

Our 5th Year 20th Issue
Thursday, May 14, 2026

Point Blank deal moves forward

The county moves forward with deal to bring in company that will create 300 jobs with salaries, benefits over \$60,000

By **WILLIAM SNOWDEN**
Editor

Wakulla County commissioners voted 4-0 last week to move forward with the deal to bring Point Blank Enterprises to the county as part of an effort to attract good-paying manufacturing jobs for citizens.

The company, which makes body armor and tactical gear for law enforcement and the military, has agreed to create 300 jobs with salaries and benefits of more than \$60,000.

In exchange, the county has agreed to build a manufacturing facility that the company would lease from the county and buy after 10 years.

The cost of design and construction of the fa-

cility is underwritten by more than \$20 million in grants from the Triumph Gulf Coast and the State of Florida.

Because the grant money is paid as reimbursement after the money is expended, the county also approved a \$10 million revolving loan to pay for design and construction.

At the county commission meeting last week on Monday, May 4, several citizens expressed concern that the county was spending \$10 million to support a private business – numerous officials sought to quash that perception, noting the county is pursuing a “net zero” policy in which the money for locating the business is paid for by grants or covered by the company.



(County Commission Chair Ralph Thomas has a Letter to the Editor on Page 4 expressing his opinion.)

The revolving loan will work the same way as the county used loans to pay for more than \$100 million for sewer installation in Wakulla Gardens and Magnolia Gardens and improvements to the wastewater treatment facility: taking out a loan to pay for initial costs and then being reimbursed by grants.

Clerk of Court Greg

James explained that for sewer projects, the county borrowed \$68 million and paid some \$3 million in fees.

For this project, the county has secured a loan at 5.5% with fees and other costs to be paid by Point Blank, with the estimated cost at \$70,000 a year.

The company will lease the building from the county for 10 years and then buy it.

Numerous speakers referred to bringing Point Blank to Wakulla as a

“game-changer.”

Economic Development Council Chair John Shuff called it a “momentous day for Wakulla County” as Point Blank will represent a diversification of the local economy away from being “a bedroom community that drive back and forth to Tallahassee every day.”

County Administrator David Edwards said that Point Blank will become the second largest private employer in the county after St. Marks Powder, which has 500 employees.

Economic Development Coordinator Julie Dennis who, along with Beth Chichetti, worked to bring in Point Blank, anticipated the company locating in Wakulla would “impact genera-

tions to come.”

Chichetti read a statement from Point Blank Vice President Tom Steffen, who was unable to attend the meeting, thanking county officials for working with the company.

County commissioners approved moving forward with the project by a vote of 4-0. Commissioner Fred Nichols was absent but would have recused himself from the vote as he sells tactical gear made by Point Blank to law enforcement.

Commissioner Valerie Russell said she was voting yes in the hope that it does bring local jobs.

Commissioner Josh Lawhon thanked everyone who worked on the project.

LADY WAR EAGLES SOFTBALL ADVANCES



In the playoffs

In a game from a couple of weeks ago, Lady War Eagle Allison Stephens is safe sliding into home as Wakulla defeated Franklin County 14-4. The team has gone on to win the district title, and shel-

lacked the Suwannee Bulldogs 16-1 and moved up in the playoffs on Wednesday of last week with an 8-0 win over Wolfson. On Tuesday, the Lady War Eagles travel to Yulee to take on the Hornets in the regional semifinals. (Photo by Perry Dissmore)

Shannon Smith named new wrestling coach

By **WALT JACOBS**/Correspondent

On April 28th, Wakulla High School announced Shannon Smith as the new head coach of the wrestling program.

Smith will succeed Nate Litowsky, who led the War Eagles to a 50-7 record in dual meets and qualified 14 wrestlers for the FHSAA State Championship during his two seasons at the helm. Additionally, in his final season, Litowsky led Wakulla to an 8th place finish at the FHSAA State Championship (IBT) and a berth in the state semifinals at the FHSAA State Dual Championship.

Smith is no stranger to Wakulla wrestling. He competed at WHS from 1984-1988. After graduation, Smith joined the U.S. Marine Corps and upon completion of his service, his journey eventually led him back to his hometown.

Since his return, Smith has devoted himself to serving the community where he was raised. In 2002, when he found that there were no opportunities for youth wrestlers in Wakulla County, Smith felt compelled to fill that void by launching the county's first youth wrestling club, known as Team Wakulla. He began with six wrestlers, and by 2016 the club had grown to 75 members. Team Wakulla, led by Smith and former War Eagle Coach Will Pafford, has been instrumental in the success Wakulla Wrestling has enjoyed for nearly a quarter of a century, including two FHSAA State Dual runner-up finishes: one in 2019 and another in 2020.

Contemporaneously, Smith also taught at Riversprings Middle School and coached wrestling until 2018. While there, Smith laid the foundation for



New wrestling coach
Shannon Smith

Turn to Page 5

Mia Withers is crowned new Miss Wakulla

Special to The Sun

On Saturday, May 9, 2026, at the Wakulla High School Auditorium, Mia Withers was crowned the 2026 Miss Wakulla County. Mia is the daughter of Lisa and Eddie Metcalf and the late Ben Withers. Contestants competed in the areas of scholastic and community achievement, short essay, personal interview, personal introduction, on-stage question, evening gown, and an on-stage judges' final question. Along with being crowned Miss Wakulla County, Mia received a \$1,500 scholarship.

Mia Withers won the Scholastic and Community Achievement Award. Sophia Sarkisian won Best Interview and was voted Miss Congeniality by her fellow contestants.



Kylie Lasiter received the Star Award. Every so often, the Pageant Committee presents the Star Award to honor a contestant who has shown exceptional growth, confidence, perseverance, and leadership throughout her pageant journey.

Jr. Miss Wakulla County is Brenlyn Hicks, daughter of Jon and Candace Hicks. Kinley Adkinson was voted Miss Congeniality by her fellow contestants.

Young Miss Wakulla County is Presley Hicks, also the daughter of Jon and Candace Hicks. Little Miss Wakulla County is Charlotte Platt, daughter of Adam and Dana Platt. Tiny Miss Wakulla County is Avalynn Osborne, daughter of Shelby Osborne and Jonathan Davis.

Turn to Page 5

Corrections

• In last week's front page story on the “Youth coalition brunch,” the cutline misidentified one of the youths: Hiroshi Yoshioka was pictured, not Riley Schaefer. Both were honored with the “Rising Star Award.”

• At the end of the same story, the last name of Bonnie Wertenberger was misspelled.

We regret the errors.

BRIAN C. ENGLISH

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Student of the Week

Makena Glassner – 8th grader at Riversprings Middle School
Principal: Josh Sandgren

Achievements/Reason for Nomination: Makena is an exceptional student who consistently earns top marks in advanced coursework and demonstrates excellence in the school's band program. In addition to her academic and extracurricular achievements, she has gone above and beyond by dedicating her time to tutoring fellow students in science. Through one-on-one support and encouragement, Makena has worked diligently to help her classmates better understand key scientific concepts in preparation for the 8th grade science assessment. Her leadership, commitment, and willingness to help others make her truly deserving of recognition as Student of the Week.



STUDENT OF THE WEEK FEATURES A DIFFERENT SCHOOL EACH WEEK.

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Wakulla County Tax Collector

ENACTED: December 15, 2025

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Opinions

THE FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ask Judge Smith: Give me Whataburger or give me death



By **JUDGE LAYNE SMITH**

This is part two of three:

Imagine, if you will, being the first settler of an American colony. Having crossed the Atlantic Ocean in a boat roughly the size of the S. S. Minnow, you disembark into the wilderness. There is nothing else. No Publix, no Whataburger, no hospital, no infrastructure.

The first American colonists had a lot in common with the survivalists on the series “Naked and Afraid.” If not for their fierce independence and self-reliance, we might still be part of the British Empire.

As “western civilization” took root, each colony established a legislature and enjoyed limited self-rule. The colonists chafed when Great Britain imposed taxes and restricted their freedoms. War followed, and in the Declaration of Independence, each colony

withdrew its allegiance to Great Britain and declared itself to be a “free and independent state.” Congress and the 13 states established our first national government by ratifying the Articles of Confederation. In it, each state retained its “sovereignty, freedom, and independence.” Flashpoints quickly arose:

1) The federal government was too weak and underfunded to properly function.

2) Citizens from one state couldn’t get fair trials in the courts of other states.

3) Shays’ Rebellion exposed the nation’s vulnerability to armed mobs.

Ultimately, the Articles of Confederation were too flawed to fix. Our Founders’ dilemma was how to create a stronger national government without empowering a tyrant. Their solution was to propose a Constitution that would:

1) Provide government with specific but limited powers.

2) Divide the powers of government among three independent and co-equal branches.

3) Provide checks and balances to prevent any one branch or person from amassing too much power.

All other governmental powers were to

remain vested in the states.

The devil, of course, was in the details. Let’s consider three examples. The proposed Constitution would empower the federal government to:

1) Lay and collect taxes and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States.

2) Regulate commerce with foreign nations, among the several states, and with the Native Americans tribes.

3) Make all laws “necessary and proper” for executing its Constitutional powers.

The Federalists wanted a stronger and more active national govern-

ment. They argued that these powers were necessary and sufficiently limited. They emphasized the desperate need for change.

The Anti-Federalists preferred a weaker and more passive national government. They argued that these powers were too broad and warned that each one would be twisted to extend federal reach. As such, the states’ sovereignty and the people’s rights would be at risk.

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

LETTERS FROM READERS

Grant money to county for Point Blank

Editor, The Sun:

I have heard from several citizens who believe tax payers money should not be used with private business ventures. This is my answer to that concern.

Believe it or not, I do share your position that Government should not be using taxpayer money to benefit private businesses. In this scenario, that position is difficult to hold rigidly, for this reason. Wakulla was included by State Statute in the group of 8 disproportionately affected counties, relative

to the BP oil spill. This put Wakulla in the unique position of being the recipient of a proportionate share of \$1.5 billion. The statute specifies that we do not just receive the funds to use as we wish. It has a very narrow scope of how we request the funds and specifically what they can be used for. The statutory intent for these funds is to encourage jobs. These funds that are currently held by Gulf Triumph are the citizens funds, but they are not funds that were received from taxpayers. They are funds that were received from a private business with

a specific requirement that they be distributed in a manner that encourages new jobs in the private business sector. If I rigidly hold the position that the citizens’ money should not be used in this manner that would mean Wakulla simply misses out on our proportionate share as specified in State law. Such a position would not send that money to taxpayers, nor would it reduce anyone’s tax burden. Those funds would be distributed to other Counties and benefit the citizens of those counties. In my opinion, it would be irresponsible for us to forgo those funds and miss this opportunity that only 8 of 67 counties have available to us. I understand the concern that some have regarding the use of these funds. It is my hope that this explanation helps clarify why approving this contract with Point Blank was the best decision for our County. Is there risk in this decision? There is definitely risk but we are very fortunate to have had the cooperation and

hard work of a team of dedicated professionals, County Staff and Business Community volunteers who delivered a world class contract that addresses the risks and mitigates it for the best possible outcome for the citizens of Wakulla County. I am very proud to have had the opportunity to be a part of this decision from the initial conversations through the signing of the contract. I can’t wait for the groundbreaking to begin and the project starts to come to life. I’m confident, in time, this will be a tremendous win for our County. I am hopeful that those who don’t support the project today will one day be able to acknowledge that it was a great decision after all.

Thank you for your questions and for allowing me the opportunity to explain my position on this project. Have a great day and may God always bless Wakulla County.

Ralph Thomas

Chair, Wakulla County Commission

On the Horizon Calendar of events for the week of May 14

Thursday, May 14

- St. Marks City Commission meets at the St. Marks City Hall at 6 p.m.
- Spring football jamboree will be played at Gene Cox Stadium in Tallahassee between Wakulla, Leon and Chiles high schools beginning at 6:30 p.m.
- Wakulla Office of Intergovernmental Coordination will hold a meeting at the community center at 6 p.m. to discuss a proposed Recreational Trails Program Grant Application to design and construct a trailhead for the coastal trail near the Medart Recreation Park.
- The Rotary Club of Wakulla County meets at the TSC Wakulla Center at 8:30 a.m. on Thursdays.
- The VFW Auxiliary Bingo Night will be held at 7 p.m. at 475 Arran Road in Crawfordville, every Thursday. There are concessions and raffles.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. every Thursday at 54 Ochlockonee St.

Friday, May 15

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

Saturday, May 16

- “Annie” will be performed at Sopchoppy Auditorium beginning at 7 p.m.
- Emancipation Day celebration will be held at Palaver Tree Theater, 59 Shadeville Road, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event features family, food, photos and planting of the May Pole.

Sunday, May 17

- “Annie” will be performed at Sopchoppy Auditorium beginning at 3 p.m.
- Wakulla Giving Hands holds a food giveaway every Sunday from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the facility across from Medart Elementary on Highway 98.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Sunday at 6:30 p.m. at 54 Ochlockonee St.

day at 6:30 p.m. at 54 Ochlockonee St.

Monday, May 18

- Wakulla School Board meets at 5:45 p.m. in the district office.
- County commission meets at 6 p.m. in the commission chambers.
- American Legion Post 114 meets third Monday monthly at the Wakulla County Public Library, Main Meeting Room, 6:30 p.m. Doors open 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, May 19

- Sarracenia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, 6:30 p.m. at the library. Mark Tancig, Leon extension agent, reviews the status of pollinators and how we can help in their conservation. For a Zoom link email: Sarracenia.nps@gmail.com.
- 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, May 20

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

“It’s A New Day!”

The Wakulla Sun



Editor/Publisher:
William Snowden
editor@thewakullasun.com

Production Manager/IT:
Eric Stanton
estanton@thewakullasun.com

Circulation:
Krystal Sheppard
circulation@thewakullasun.com

Sales & Marketing
Lynda Kinsey
lkinsey@thewakullasun.com

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/@TheWakullaSun
TWITTER: www.twitter.com/@TheWakullaSun

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William Snowden
Editor & Publisher
The Wakulla Sun

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- Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

Polled at San Marcos Grill & Cantina on Cinco de Mayo:

How do you like to celebrate Cinco de Mayo?



MIKE CHRISTENSEN
St. Joe Gas

“With family or friends having Hispanic dishes. We normally do it at home but came out tonight.”



BRENT WATSON
Sales

“I like to celebrate it at San Marcos with all my friends and having tequila shots. We love the atmosphere here, all the great food and service.”



SHAROL BROWN
Retired from Brown Surveying

“I like to celebrate it at San Marcos in Crawfordville with all my peeps.”



ENRIQUE COTES
ASAP Appliances

“I like to celebrate with tequila, family, friends, music & dance. Cinco De Mayo is a everything celebration and we have to all get out and be together.”



CANDICE HERRING
Broker, Keller Williams

“Having a margarita, chips and salsa with family.”

Wakulla Crossroads

By **VERNA BROCK**

Finally, this past week, we got some rain at La Casa Brock. Not much rain, but every little bit counts.

My flower beds have responded to the scant three-quarters of an inch by greening and growing straight up. Yay! My feeble attempts at watering everything just didn't have the same effect. Suddenly my gladiolas are popping open, my lilies are showing off, and my pinecone ginger plants have literally grown a foot in two days!

I think we've officially entered full jungle season. The vines are taking

over everything they can climb. Dewberries, cat's paw (Smilax), poison ivy, Virginia creeper, kudzu, grapevines – the list of vigorous vines goes on, blocking the sunlight and smothering entire forests.

Add in Spanish needle (the Devil!) and my gardening focus is entirely on weeding. Well, that, and watering.

It is also the season of life transitions, as students move on to the next phase of their education and life. It is a traditional time for couples to tie the knot and start a new life together.

In my family, one grandchild is moving up to middle school, and two

others will begin high school in the fall. Before we know it, all our grandbabies will be grown up and launched into adulthood! How is that even possible, when I certainly don't feel THAT much older!

I have to keep reminding myself that we are a quarter of the century past the year 2000. It seems like we should still be at the turn of the millennium. My father's observation that time flies faster as we age seems absolutely true. When I was a child, summers seemed endless, and it took a lifetime to reach Christmas every year. Now, I can barely blink my eyes and we're halfway through the new year.

Obviously, I'm not the first to experience this. Songs have been com-

posed, and books have been written, detailing the tug of nostalgia we experience as time slips through our hands. How can we consciously be in the moment, fully living life as it unfolds around us? Ultimately, the life we experience, not the stuff we collect, not the riches we acquire, make up a happy sojourn here. We must avoid getting lost in the mundane, day-to-day rat race while life's moments happen all around us. The whirlwind is both seductive and powerful. But we have the capacity, if we choose, to stay mindful in the moment, to breathe deeply and relax into life as it happens.

Don't let life roll over you, while you're absorbed in the minutes instead of the moments!

Library News

By **LINDA OAKS**
Library Director

Library News May 14th- May 20th

Thursday, May 14th

- Tiny Tummy Time 9:30am

- Creative Writing I 10am
- Manga Club 5pm
- The Park HOA 6pm
- Amateur Radio Testing Sessions 6:30pm

Friday, May 15th

- Quilting Guild 10am

Saturday, May 16th

- WCYFCA 9am
- Read Therapy Dogs 10am

Sunday, May 17th

- Closed

Monday, May 18th

- American Legion Post 114 6pm

- American Legion Auxiliary Unit 114 6:30pm

Tuesday, May 19th

- Creative Writing II 10am
- Florida Saracenia Chapter of the Native Plant Society 6pm

Wednesday, May 20th

- Mahjong 1pm
- Knitting Group 4pm

Miss Wakulla

From Front Page

The People's Choice Award was voted online by the community during the week leading up to the pageant and throughout pageant day. Winners in this category were Mia Withers in the Miss Division, Brenlyn Hicks in the Jr. Miss Division, and Taylyn Hand as the combined winner of the Tiny, Little, and Young Divisions.

With the addition of the People's Choice category last year, the committee was able to increase the Miss Wakulla County scholarship from \$1,000 to \$1,500. Peoples Choice also allows for the Jr., Tiny, Little, and Young Queens to receive a cash prize. In addition, this year all five Miss contestants received a cash prize as well.

As we celebrate 50 years of the Miss

Wakulla County Pageant, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our contestants, families, sponsors, volunteers, judges, and the entire Wakulla County community for your continued love and support throughout the years. Your dedication has helped this program grow into a tradition that celebrates scholarship, leadership, confidence, and community pride. We are honored to celebrate this Golden Anniversary with you and look forward to the next 50 years of empowering young women and representing the spirit of Wakulla County.

Joining Miss Wakulla Mia Withers are Jr. Miss Wakulla Brenlyn Hicks, Young Miss Wakulla Presley Hicks, Little Miss Wakulla Charlotte Platt, and Tiny Miss Wakulla Avalynn Osborne.



Shannon Smith

From Front Page

a middle school wrestling powerhouse that has, to date, won 24 consecutive county championships; 14 were during his tenure as head coach.

If you ever meet Smith, you'll realize very quickly that he enjoys winning

and that he is very passionate about Wakulla Wrestling. You will also learn that he genuinely cares for the athletes in his charge.

After an 8-year hiatus, the announcement of Smith's return to coaching was met with a favorable response from the wrestling community

on social media, which is a testament to the lasting impression he has made on each of them.

Smith's passion for the sport and investing in young people has not waned over the years. In Wakulla County, he plans to continue to grow wrestling, a sport that is currently the fastest-growing high school sport in the U.S. for both boys and girls. While acknowledging Wakulla's rich

wrestling tradition, he aspires to take the program to even higher heights. Smith said, "We have always been competitive and respected in the state. I would like to see us continue to grow and strive to get in the top five consistently at the IBT State Tournament."

For anyone interested in Wakulla Wrestling contact Coach Smith by email at Shannon.smith@wcsb.us

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Outdoors

outdoor sports

HOME ON THE RANGE

Newbie's at the range with a pink tote bag



By MARJ LAW

It's Wednesday morning around 10 and Joe and I are at the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office range. We like to come Wednesday mornings to meet friends and to help people who are new and who'd like to learn range rules, to become comfortable with their guns, or who just want some moral support.

This Wednesday, we spot a newbie. How did we figure that out?

She brought a gun in a pink tote bag. Yikes! (I didn't say that aloud, but Yikes!)

We exchange "hellos." I ask Lila if she has been here at the WCSO range before.

She says it's her first time. I ask if she feels confident. She says "no."

Immediately, I'm excited. It's so much fun to support a new shooter.

I ask, trying not to sound too hopeful, if she'd like a bit of company? (I don't want to force myself on anyone, but am eager to be of assistance, if wanted or needed.)

She indicates that she'd like that, so I go over to the pistol range, and set up a target.

Come to find out, Lila has taken the "concealed carry" class and has shot a gun in the distant past. So, she's not a total newbie. She's also athletic, and has a muscular and trim body. I'm guessing she has participated in many sports.

We call the range "hot," and Lila brings the tote bag over to the shooting bench. She pulls out a Glock 43 which has been loaned to her by a friend. This Glock is a 9mm handgun. It's very compact and can fit easily into a purse, and can also be used for home defense. Lila's husband travels, the children are grown and gone, and Lila is often at home alone. She wants to know that she can defend herself.

Lila also shares that she has problems with neck, arms and hands. Sometimes, it takes a while for doctors to figure out precisely where problems lie. She suspects carpal tunnel syndrome as part of the problem, as she has spent a lot of time at the computer.

She places the gun on the shooting bench. Right away, I ask her to point the muzzle of this gun down range. She turns the gun immediately.

Then I step back, not wanting to give her more advice than she needs or wants.

Lila has a good stance. Her feet are shoulder distance apart. Her upper body tilts slightly toward the target. I'm a bit concerned that her elbows seem loose, but every person has his or her particular style. If this works



Smith & Wesson M&P .380 Shield EZ



Glock 43 9mm

Which one is suitable for you?

for her, I'm not going to interfere.

Bang! She hits the target right away.

"Wow!" Lila is surprised. "This little gun has a lot more kick than I thought it would have!"

She sets her feet. Bang! She puts the gun down and shakes her arms out. Despite the recoil, she is shooting right in the middle area of the target. She has a natural affinity for shooting, and her athleticism has kicked right in.

She continues until the magazine is empty. She puts the gun down, and thinks for a moment. She isn't going to give up. She puts in the filled second magazine.

"This time, Lila, I'd like you to try a different way of holding your gun. Since you are right-handed, push forward with your right arm, and, at the same time, pull back with your left. Notice how strong your arms feel now? If it makes no difference to you, go back to the way you had been shooting."

She is very willing to try. She pushes and pulls. Her arms are tight. She

picks up the gun and continues to shoot until it's empty. She still shoots well, but...

Clearly, she wants to like this gun. Also clearly, she is shaking her shoulders and hands. She's hurting herself. But it's in her nature not to give up. "This gun has a lot of kick," she says again ruefully. She stares at her target.

"I can see the recoil is more than you expected, but you do shoot very well," I comment.

After a few moments, I ask her if she would like to try a different handgun. I tell her I think she will find it easier to handle. However, it's so soon after shooting the little Glock, that I'm not sure if she'll be willing to shoot more.

Lila isn't ready to give up. I put my Smith & Wesson M&P Shield .380 EZ on the shooting bench, and ask her to pull back the slide.

She pulls hard, thinking it will be similar to the 9mm Glock.

It isn't. The EZ is remarkably easy in many ways. The slide is easy to

pull. She's surprised.

I load the magazine and give it back to her.

She raises the gun, aims, and fires.

Bang!

She puts the gun down and turns to me. "This gun is so much easier! Easy to pull the slide, it has a light trigger and has much less kick!"

"Try some more!" I suggest, and she shoots the rest of the ammo in the gun.

"There is such a difference! I like this!"

"You are certainly capable of shooting the Glock," I reassure her. "You're doing really well. Now, consider. We know that you are perfectly capable of shooting it, but considering your difficulties in your neck, arms and wrists, is it a suitable gun for you?"

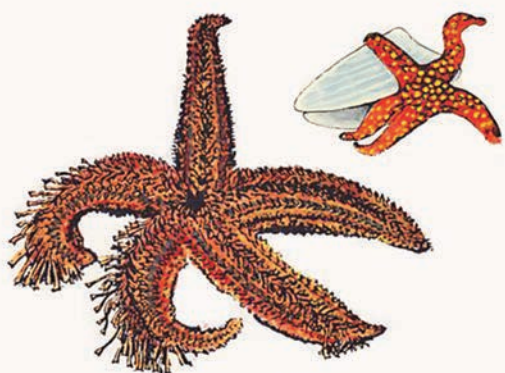
There comes a time when our minds remember how to do things, but our bodies are no longer happy to get with the program. Are we willing to agitate problems already causing us pain? Are we willing to make these things worse?

"Lila, if you come next Wednesday, I'll bring a couple more handguns to try. You like this S&W .380 EZ. You shoot it well, and it seems that it doesn't cause you further harm. Smith and Wesson has done a great job in making guns more user friendly, and other companies are doing much better these days, too. Trying before you buy is really helpful. A gun that fits well in your hand may not be easy to shoot."

Lila has a lot to think about. Capability and suitability are not the same. Will she choose the Glock because, with her innate natural ability, she can? Or will she choose a gun she can enjoy taking to the range, shooting more often, getting more familiar with it, and not exacerbating existing problems which will worsen over time?

Choices, choices.

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



ORANGE STAR FISH (*Echinaster spinulosus*)

Commonly called the small spine starfish, very little is known about this bright common starfish except by what we know of starfish in general. In salt water aquaria this starfish scavenges detritus but seldom lives long and is considered delicate and difficult. In the wild it eats oysters in mangrove waters from Florida to Panama

Eukarya, Echinodermata, Asteroidea, Spinulosida, Curculinonoides



WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO

Local photographer Lisa Vince shared a close-up photo of an Easter lily.



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Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

May 14 - May 20



Tide charts by
tides4fishing.com



Best fishing days this month
Best fishing day(s) is in the center of date ranges.
May 13 - 19, 23, 29 - June 3

Thursday 14
Sun rise/set 6:44 AM 8:22 PM
Moon rise/set 4:50 AM 6:15 PM
Moon Illumination 7%
Friday 15
Sun rise/set 6:43 AM 8:23 PM
Moon rise/set 5:26 AM 7:27 PM
Moon Illumination 2%
Saturday 16
Sun rise/set 6:42 AM 8:24 PM
Moon rise/set 6:09 AM -
Moon Illumination 0%
Sunday 17
Sun rise/set 6:42 AM 8:24 PM
Moon rise/set 7:01 AM 8:41 PM
Moon Illumination 1%
Monday 18
Sun rise/set 6:41 AM 8:25 PM
Moon rise/set 8:02 AM 9:55 PM
Moon Illumination 5%
Tuesday 19
Sun rise/set 6:41 AM 8:26 PM
Moon rise/set 9:10 AM 11:04 PM
Moon Illumination 12%
Wednesday 20
Sun rise/set 6:40 AM 8:26 PM
Moon rise/set 10:22 AM 12:04
Moon Illumination 20%

For tides at the following points add to Dog Island Listings:
Carrabelle 28 Min. High Tide 25 Min. Low Tide
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	1:19 am ▲ 3.3 ft	6:48 am ▼ 1.2 ft	12:45 pm ▲ 3.7 ft	7:39 pm ▼ -0.3 ft
Fr	2:13 am ▲ 3.5 ft	7:29 am ▼ 1.4 ft	1:18 pm ▲ 3.9 ft	8:25 pm ▼ -0.8 ft
Sa	3:04 am ▲ 3.6 ft	8:08 am ▼ 1.5 ft	1:52 pm ▲ 4.1 ft	9:12 pm ▼ -1.1 ft
Su	3:53 am ▲ 3.5 ft	8:46 am ▼ 1.7 ft	2:29 pm ▲ 4.3 ft	9:59 pm ▼ -1.1 ft
Mo	4:42 am ▲ 3.4 ft	9:23 am ▼ 1.8 ft	3:09 pm ▲ 4.4 ft	10:48 pm ▼ -1.0 ft
Tu	5:31 am ▲ 3.2 ft	10:03 am ▼ 1.8 ft	3:51 pm ▲ 4.3 ft	11:38 pm ▼ -0.8 ft
We	6:22 am ▲ 3.0 ft	10:46 am ▼ 1.9 ft	4:37 pm ▲ 4.1 ft	

City of St. Marks

Th	1:55 am ▲ 3.1 ft	7:52 am ▼ 1.0 ft	1:21 pm ▲ 3.4 ft	8:43 pm ▼ -0.3 ft
Fr	2:49 am ▲ 3.3 ft	8:33 am ▼ 1.2 ft	1:54 pm ▲ 3.6 ft	9:29 pm ▼ -0.7 ft
Sa	3:40 am ▲ 3.3 ft	9:12 am ▼ 1.4 ft	2:28 pm ▲ 3.8 ft	10:16 pm ▼ -1.0 ft
Su	4:29 am ▲ 3.1 ft	9:50 am ▼ 1.5 ft	3:05 pm ▲ 4.0 ft	11:03 pm ▼ -1.0 ft
Mo	5:18 am ▲ 3.2 ft	10:27 am ▼ 1.6 ft	3:45 pm ▲ 4.1 ft	11:52 pm ▼ -0.9 ft
Tu	6:07 am ▲ 3.0 ft	11:07 am ▼ 1.7 ft	4:27 pm ▲ 4.0 ft	
We	12:42 am ▼ -0.7 ft	6:58 am ▲ 2.8 ft	11:50 am ▼ 1.7 ft	5:13 pm ▲ 3.8 ft

Shell Point, Spring Creek

Th	1:36 am ▲ 3.4 ft	7:05 am ▼ 1.3 ft	1:03 pm ▲ 3.8 ft	7:57 pm ▼ -0.4 ft
Fr	2:29 am ▲ 3.6 ft	7:46 am ▼ 1.5 ft	1:36 pm ▲ 4.0 ft	8:43 pm ▼ -0.8 ft
Sa	3:19 am ▲ 3.7 ft	8:26 am ▼ 1.6 ft	2:11 pm ▲ 4.2 ft	9:30 pm ▼ -1.1 ft
Su	4:09 am ▲ 3.7 ft	9:04 am ▼ 1.8 ft	2:49 pm ▲ 4.3 ft	10:19 pm ▼ -1.1 ft
Mo	4:58 am ▲ 3.5 ft	9:44 am ▼ 1.9 ft	3:29 pm ▲ 4.4 ft	11:09 pm ▼ -1.0 ft
Tu	5:48 am ▲ 3.3 ft	10:25 am ▼ 2.0 ft	4:12 pm ▲ 4.3 ft	
We	12:00 am ▼ -0.8 ft	6:40 am ▲ 3.2 ft	11:12 am ▼ 2.0 ft	4:59 pm ▲ 4.1 ft

Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay

Th	1:11 am ▲ 2.5 ft	6:59 am ▼ 0.8 ft	12:37 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	7:50 pm ▼ -0.2 ft
Fr	2:05 am ▲ 2.6 ft	7:40 am ▼ 1.0 ft	1:10 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	8:36 pm ▼ -0.6 ft
Sa	2:56 am ▲ 2.7 ft	8:19 am ▼ 1.1 ft	1:44 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	9:23 pm ▼ -0.8 ft
Su	3:45 am ▲ 2.7 ft	8:57 am ▼ 1.2 ft	2:21 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	10:10 pm ▼ -0.8 ft
Mo	4:34 am ▲ 2.5 ft	9:34 am ▼ 1.3 ft	3:01 pm ▲ 3.3 ft	10:59 pm ▼ -0.8 ft
Tu	5:23 am ▲ 2.4 ft	10:14 am ▼ 1.3 ft	3:43 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	11:49 pm ▼ -0.6 ft
We	6:14 am ▲ 2.2 ft	10:57 am ▼ 1.4 ft	4:29 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	

St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.

Th	1:24 am ▲ 2.6 ft	6:50 am ▼ 1.2 ft	12:29 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	7:33 pm ▼ -0.3 ft
Fr	2:17 am ▲ 2.8 ft	7:26 am ▼ 1.5 ft	12:58 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	8:13 pm ▼ -0.7 ft
Sa	3:10 am ▲ 2.8 ft	8:00 am ▼ 1.7 ft	1:31 pm ▲ 3.3 ft	8:58 pm ▼ -0.9 ft
Su	4:02 am ▲ 2.8 ft	8:34 am ▼ 1.9 ft	2:09 pm ▲ 3.5 ft	9:45 pm ▼ -1.0 ft
Mo	4:57 am ▲ 2.6 ft	9:09 am ▼ 2.0 ft	2:51 pm ▲ 3.5 ft	10:37 pm ▼ -1.0 ft
Tu	5:54 am ▲ 2.5 ft	9:48 am ▼ 2.0 ft	3:38 pm ▲ 3.4 ft	11:31 pm ▼ -0.8 ft
We	6:53 am ▲ 2.4 ft	10:36 am ▼ 2.0 ft	4:31 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	

Dog Island West End

Th	2:02 am ▲ 2.3 ft	7:23 am ▼ 1.4 ft	12:34 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	7:59 pm ▼ -0.4 ft
Fr	3:04 am ▲ 2.5 ft	8:05 am ▼ 1.6 ft	1:11 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	8:40 pm ▼ -0.7 ft
Sa	4:00 am ▲ 2.6 ft	8:39 am ▼ 1.8 ft	1:51 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	9:22 pm ▼ -0.9 ft
Su	4:56 am ▲ 2.6 ft	9:11 am ▼ 1.9 ft	2:31 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	10:09 pm ▼ -1.0 ft
Mo	5:50 am ▲ 2.5 ft	9:44 am ▼ 2.0 ft	3:14 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	11:01 pm ▼ -0.8 ft
Tu	6:41 am ▲ 2.4 ft	10:24 am ▼ 2.0 ft	4:00 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	11:57 pm ▼ -0.6 ft
We	7:32 am ▲ 2.2 ft	11:26 am ▼ 2.0 ft	4:51 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	

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



An unusual fish diet: snakes

From FWC News

Have you ever wondered what Red drum eat?

While conducting routine dissections to collect life history and mercury data on fish in the Tampa Bay estuary, biologists

discovered something highly unusual in one Red Drum's stomach... It had eaten not one, not two, but three snakes!

These snakes were later identified as mangrove salt-marsh snakes, a nonvenomous semi-aquatic species found

throughout Florida.

While it is very unusual to find a snake in the gut contents of a fish, its discoveries like this that keep you on your toes when working in the lab.



Underwater Wakulla

By Gregg Stanton

The Storm.
August 30, 2012

Hurricane Isaac has everyone's attention right now, mine included.

Over the last week, my daughter and I have been preparing for its visit by doing facility repairs and shutters in Panama City and Crawfordville.

My daughter was quick to point out she missed the social interactions that surround an impending hurricane when she attended college in Rhode Island.

We often visit others in support of everyone's mutual crisis. My wife observed many of the honey-do items also get done in this crisis period! And the hurricane party (hosting friends living in evacuated areas) if the storm actually hits us, is a well known Wakulla tradition.

In the middle of this frantic hard work, we chanced upon a Saturday lunch with a seldom-seen friend. At the time, the storm was due to strike close by and in a few days, yet we all met for hot dogs at a favorite waterfront place.

They have a son the age of my daughter, both electrical engineers at the end of their college experience and in search of employment. We parents are at the other end of the work force experience, so the polar topics covered were entertaining.

The young adults saw the storm as exciting, refreshing and full of new opportunity. The parents saw the storm as foreboding, inevitable and something traditionally old.

John saw into a future where past technology fulfilled future needs. That happens to be my company's motto "Back to the Future" where we teach rebreather skills using "old tools" in new ways. Everyone had much to contribute on this topic, being mostly engineers.

Bill Stone's Wakulla deco habitat reborn as an escape pod, reduced helium use by using cost saving semi-closed technology, or just the use of a hydraulic ram off a fishing boat as a depth compensating controller on a tow sled. We found recreational technical divers have already met goals set by the professional diving community of two hours below 300 feet, so the bar must now be extended.

His wife observed the many human and other animal interactions not normally expected, such as squirrels bonding with human families. They have a pet squirrel that simply won't move away. The squirrel chatters at anyone who interferes with her almond treats. She even tries to hide almonds in her adopted family's hair.

I recalled an encounter I had under the Antarctic ice, when a familiar 2-year-old Weddel Seal that occupied our shared hole in the ice had issues. Only one of us could fit in the hole at a time. We could get him to move out by sitting in the hole and removing our fin (imagine watching someone removing their foot from their leg). But underwater, I had no such opportunity.

So I reached up and tugged on his flipper one day, then pulled away and awaited a great picture opportunity. Down he came, I took the picture, and while I was distracted with the camera, up he came from below to grasp me in a full body embrace. With mouth open, he planted several teeth marks in rapid succession on my mask plate, and then casually left me as if to say, don't do that again.

The next day we were all friends again. After three hours at lunch, with food long gone, we came to our senses that we had more work to do, and dropped back into our frantic work mode. But during that respite lunch, we ventured away from the storm and much beyond the realm of the immediate.

This storm related social encounter put the crisis into perspective as a passing anomaly in a much larger context brought out by sharing experiences we call life.

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

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Are we hooked on hatred?

By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

You thought you could stop any time. Next thing you know, you're hooked.

What went through your mind when you read my opening sentences? Likely, you thought about an addictive behavior you or

someone you care about is struggling with.

But did "hatred" also cross your mind?

Think about it. In this politically caustic environment, how often do we give in to hateful thoughts about people with whom we disagree?

We foolishly thought we could handle a hostile thought now and then. That we could stop any time. But ... the next thing we knew ... we were hooked.

Before long, we couldn't stop ourselves. Those who disagree with us are clearly the enemy. The first mean, malicious thought was

so enticing that it led to another mean thought. Now, thinking this way has become all-consuming. We act as if we can't get enough of believing the worst of "them."

Consequently, our lives have changed in a way we didn't expect or want. With so much hate filling our thoughts, we're no longer a credible witness of Christ to the loss. We can't read our Bible the same way. Even our other relationships seem different somehow. Why?

Because our mean-spirited thoughts

have compromised our hearts.

Just as it would have been better for an alcoholic to avoid that first sip or a gambler to avoid that first wager, it would be better for us to avoid that first bitter thought. But even if we've already started down that road, meditating on Philippians 4:8 can transform our thinking:

"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there

is anything worthy of praise, think about these things" (ESV).

What would happen if we asked God to make us aware whenever we think something less-than-praiseworthy about others, including "them"?

It's possible to strongly disagree with people without spit-firing snarky remarks in our hearts. Degradation will never lead to mutual love and respect in relationships with those on the other side. Snark will never allow us to explain our point of view. Instead, it closes the door to open com-

munication. Forever.

Furthermore, bitterness can sabotage all our relationships, including with people we want to share Christ with.

No addictive behavior will get us where we want in life, especially in our relationships. Unless, of course, we become hooked on behaving more like Christ.

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.

Folded in grace

By **CHERYL CRUCE**

I am not sure how it happened, but growing up my clothes were always clean, pressed, and carefully mended. We had one laundry basket we all shared, tucked in the bathroom, and somehow it never seemed to overflow. With seven people in one household, that feels almost impossible to me now.

I remember the old

washboard... and the bathtub filled with soapy water. I remember being allowed to stomp around on heavy denim, laughing as if I were helping in some grand and important way. I remember shirts and dresses rolled just so and tucked into the freezer, waiting for a clear day when they could be carried outside and pinned to the line.

Wash day was work—real work. And yet, somehow, everything always came out right. The whites were bright – glistening in the sunlight. The colors held their strength. The linens carried that fresh, clean scent that made rest feel deeper when night came.

Somewhere along the

way, I never quite found that same rhythm. Even with the modern conveniences of a washing machine and dryer (which often doubles for an iron and board), things around here are rarely finished. While raising my family, the laundry room was often a bit of a mess, though I did manage to keep the children in clean clothing. There have even been days when I reached for something new, simply because nothing clean was waiting for me.

It is not the washing and the drying that hinders me—it is the folding and putting away. I just cannot seem to bring the task to completion. And perhaps that is where grace

meets me... not in what I have finished, but in what I have left undone. Because what I cannot seem to complete, God, in His faithfulness, is still at work. It is in the space of the undone that forgiveness and healing happen—where grace gathers the broken pieces and makes room for the new.

I am reminded of the story of the blind man Jesus healed. It was not finished all at once. He could see, but not clearly – people looked like trees walking. So Jesus touched him again. He did not leave him in the middle of his healing. The Lord stayed until it was complete. And I wonder if that is how grace works in us – not all at once, but faithful-

ly, patiently – until what is blurred becomes clear (Mark 8:22-26).

Clarity does not come without a process, nor was it ever meant to be easy. Clear vision comes as we remain in the presence of God, allowing Him to complete His work within us. We are His handiwork, being shaped and formed through Christ (Ephesians 2:10) – and perhaps that work looks more ordinary than we expect.

Just as wash day was never easy work, perhaps the same is true of us. It took time, attention, and a willingness to tend what was soiled until it was clean. We are not finished in a moment, nor made whole all at once. But in the

hands of a faithful God, nothing is left undone. What is stained is being cleansed. What is wrinkled is being smoothed. What is unfinished is being brought, in His time, to completion. So we remain – trusting the One who never leaves His work unfinished. And one day... what He has been tending will, in time, be made complete within us.

Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus (Philippians 1:6).

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

OUT TO PASTOR

My reward: I'll eat it if I want to

By **JAMES SNYDER**

One day last week, I was up early working in my office as I normally do. I happened to pause what I was doing for a moment and smelled this wonderful aroma.

I know it wasn't me because I hadn't taken a shower yet. The aroma was coming from the kitchen area.

I got up from my desk, walked out into the kitchen and the closer I got the stronger that aroma was. It was so wonderful and I just could not get enough of it.

When I got to the kitchen there was The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage baking cookies. Oh, how delicious those cookies smelled.

"What are you doing?" I asked.

"I'm baking cookies for some friends who are having a party tonight. They asked if I could bake them some cookies and I just couldn't refuse."

I smiled and just stared at all those cookies in the kitchen. There were molasses and peanut butter cookies, two of my favorites.

As I was looking at them, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage said to me rather sternly, "These cookies are not for you, they are for my friends. Do not eat them."

She saw me staring at those cookies and said, "Did you hear me?"

Then she told me that she had to go across town to pick up some things. So, she would be out of the house and I will be with the cookies all by myself. I can't think of a better scenario.

There's just no way I can be left alone with all those cookies in the kitchen and not eat some. I think my wife realized that and thought she could negotiate with me and solve the problem at hand.

Looking at me she said, "If you are a good boy today I will allow you to eat one cookie. Just one."

That brought me to quite a dilemma. What is her definition of "a good boy" and most importantly, how did she define "one cookie?"

I walked back to my office as she prepared to leave for the morning and I got back into the project I was working on. At least I tried to get back into my "saddle" for the morning, but it sure wasn't working for me.

No matter how hard I tried to concentrate on my project all I could think about was those delicious cookies out in the kitchen which I could smell in my office. I don't think it's fair that I should be put in such a situation.

After all, it's really not my fault. It is the fault of The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage who makes cookies so delicious that I cannot refuse them. If it wasn't for that, I could ignore those cookies in the kitchen. So whatever happens, it

is not my fault! And I am unanimous in that.

I then remembered that she said if I was a good boy I could have one cookie. That thought just ruminated through my mind and I couldn't handle it any longer and I had to go out into the kitchen and deal with it.

I think I'm a good boy, but that's only my evaluation. I sat for a moment at my desk and tried to think of anything bad I did that morning and I couldn't think of one thing. Therefore, with the evidence on the table, I have been a good boy today.

The next thing I had to deal with was the word "one." What does that word mean?

Looking at the cookies in the kitchen there were only two cookies: one was molasses and the other was peanut butter.

So, in my understanding of the situation the word "one" means that I have to choose between the molasses cookie and the peanut butter cookie. That made sense to me.

So, according to my rationality, when I pick "one" cookie I can eat as many of them as I want to. I just can't eat the other one or I will be eating two cookies.

I can't tell you how happy I was in coming to this wonderful conclusion. I'm doing two things. I'm doing what my wife said to do and I am only eating one of the cookies. I love it when a plan comes together.

Going to the kitchen I made up my mind that the "one" cookie will be the peanut butter cookie. Oh, how I love her peanut butter cookies.

Picking out five cookies I joyfully skipped

back to my office to enjoy these scrumptious treats. I earned these treats and therefore I'm going to eat them with a great deal of satisfaction.

I had finished those cookies and was working at my desk when I heard the front door open and expected it was The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

I then heard her voice, "Did you eat all these cookies? When I told you to eat only one?"

Now I have some "splainin" to do.

A Bible verse came to mind that refreshed me concerning rewards. 2 John 1:8, "Look to your-

selves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward."

There are times when I convince myself that I deserve a certain reward. All I need to do is twist certain words to my benefit thinking I deserve something when in fact I am not being honest.

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

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Obituaries

DEATH NOTICES

William Bernard Boucher, 77, of Crawfordville, died May 10, 2026.
 • **Sidney Easom**, 68, of Crawfordville, died May 7, 2026.

• **Catrina Danette Lambert**, 67, of Crawfordville, died May 11, 2026.
 • **Jonn Shelton**, 64, of Crawfordville, died May 6, 2026.

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

Sheriff's Report

This report is for activity May 1 to May 8. There were 1,350 total calls for service during the week; 17 arrests; 93 traffic stops.

FRIDAY, MAY 1

• A citizen discovered a window of her residence had been busted with a rock. Further investigation revealed the damage appeared to have come from a mower and was not a criminal act.

• During a suspicious person complainant contact was made with a subject who had a small amount of marijuana on his person. The marijuana was seized for destruction.

• Deputy Zachary Godwin and Deputy Joshua Martin responded to the lobby in reference to a stolen vehicle. Contact was made with a citizen

who advised her Coleman CT-200 EX mini bike that was previously stored at an acquaintance's house was stolen. She advised the mini bike was last seen by him on April 29. She filled out an Affidavit for Prosecution, and the mini bike was entered into FCIC/NCIC as stolen. Deputies were unable to obtain any surveillance footage due to no functional cameras on the property.

SATURDAY, MAY 2

• Walmart Asset Protection reported the same subject failed to pay for items on three different occasions over the last month. The subject passed all points of sale each time with unpaid merchandise. All merchandise taken was approximately \$85.

SUNDAY, MAY 3

• A citizen was picking up trash on the side of the road when he found a smoking pipe. The pipe was collected and turned in for destruction.

• A traffic stop was conducted for a stop sign violation. The driver was discovered not to have a valid license. He was taken into custody and transported to the jail facility.

• Deputy Dustin Saba conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle in the area of Crawfordville Highway and Bloxham Cutoff Road. It was shortly discovered that the tag attached to the vehicle was assigned to a homemade trailer. Deputy Saba made contact with the driver and sole occupant of the vehicle. Per information from dispatch, the driver was deemed an habitual traffic offender and was subsequently placed under arrest. During the inventory of the vehicle,

paraphernalia along with felony narcotics were located. He was transported to the jail without further incident.

MONDAY, MAY 4

• Deputy Arturo Cordoba responded to the area of Trice Lane and Allen Harvey Road in reference to a reckless vehicle complaint. Two subjects were observed traveling at a high rate of speed. A traffic stop was attempted on one of the subjects as he fled through the parking lot of the Community Center at 318 Shadeville Road. The subject lost control of the electric bike and was detained. The juvenile was identified and contact was made with the Juvenile Assessment Center. The juvenile did not qualify for admittance to the facility and was processed and turned over to his parent, who responded to the scene. The electric vehicle was towed from the scene.

• Deputy Dylan Buckhalt responded to Dakota Drive in reference to a theft complaint. Contact was made with the reporting party, who advised her purse was stolen. She last saw the purse in the vehicle she shares with someone on May 1. She stated she was unable to locate the purse the next day and believes her acquaintance may be responsible for its disappearance. There are no witnesses to the incident.

TUESDAY, MAY 5

• Deputy Williams responded to the sheriff's office in reference to a harassment complaint. Contact was made with a subject about the incident. Investigation revealed the incident was verbal in nature and documented for information purposes.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

• Deputies respond-

ed to a disturbance call, during the investigation the it was discovered the subject had an active warrant out of Miami. The subject was taken into custody and transported to the jail facility.

THURSDAY, MAY 7

• Deputy Martin responded to Trice Lane in reference to stolen motorcycle report. Subject reports his 2009 Harley Davidson stolen sometime between May 7 and May 8. The vehicle was entered into NCIC/FCIC as being stolen and a Region 1 BOLO was sent out.

FRIDAY, MAY 8

• Nothing to report as of this writing.

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

Wakulla Christian earns accreditation

Special to The Sun

Wakulla Christian School is proud to announce that it has been officially accredited by the Middle States Association (MSA), a globally recognized leader in accreditation and school improvement. This milestone reflects the school's ongoing commitment to academic excellence, organizational integrity, and continuous growth. WCS is also accredited by the Florida Association of Christian Colleges and Schools.

Accreditation by the Middle States Association is a rigorous, multi-year process that evaluates a school's mission, governance, educational programs, student services, and overall effectiveness. By achieving this distinction, Wakulla Christian School has demonstrated that it meets internationally recognized standards of quality and is dedicated to sustaining a culture of excellence.

"This accreditation is a significant achievement for our entire school community," said Mr. Tim Vanderveer, School Administrator. "It affirms the hard work of our faculty, staff, students, and families, and it strengthens our mission to provide a Christ-centered education that prepares students for success in both academics and life."

Earning MSA accreditation provides several important benefits for students, families, and the broader Wakulla community:

- Assurance of Quality Education: Accreditation confirms that Wakulla Christian School meets high standards in curriculum, instruction, and student outcomes.
- Continuous Improvement: The process requires ongoing evaluation and strategic planning, ensuring the school continues to grow and adapt to meet student needs.
- Enhanced Student Opportunities: Credits

and transcripts from an accredited institution are more widely recognized by colleges, universities, and other schools.

• Accountability and Transparency: The accreditation process involves external review, reinforcing trust and confidence among families and stakeholders.

• Global Recognition: MSA accreditation connects Wakulla Christian School to a network of respected institutions worldwide.

This achievement underscores Wakulla Christian School's dedication to nurturing students academically, spiritually, and socially in a supportive and faith-based environment.

Wakulla Christian School extends its gratitude to the faculty, staff, students, families, and community members whose support and commitment made this accomplishment possible.

For more information about Wakulla Christian School and its programs, please visit www.wakullachristian.com or contact us at 850-926-5583.

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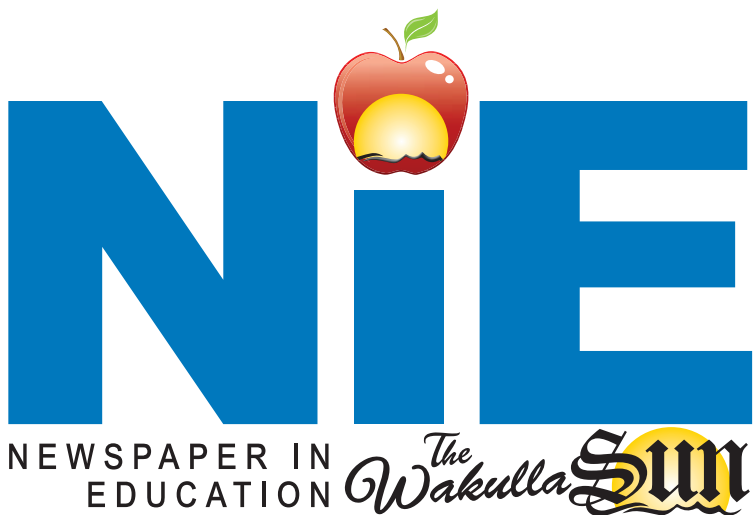
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USE THE NEWS

1. A STRONG EL NINO MAY BE COMING

Weather experts are watching the Pacific Ocean because a strong El Nino may develop this year. El Nino happens when parts of the ocean near the equator become warmer than usual, which can change weather around the world. This event could bring stronger heat waves, worse droughts in some places, and heavier rain or flooding in others. Scientists are still not sure exactly how strong it will be, but they are concerned because ocean temperatures are rising quickly. El Nino is natural, but climate change can make extreme weather even more serious. Make a weather preparedness poster for families in your community. In 4 to 6 sentences, explain what El Nino is, name two kinds of weather it could affect, and give one safety tip for dealing with extreme heat, drought, storms, or flooding.

2. DAVID ATTENBOROUGH TURNS 100

David Attenborough, one of the world's most famous nature storytellers, has turned 100 years old. As a boy, he loved finding fossils, and that curiosity helped lead him to a long career teaching people about animals, plants, oceans, and the planet. His nature documentaries have shown rare animals, beautiful places, and important environmental problems to millions of people around the world. Over time, Attenborough also became a strong voice for protecting nature from climate change, pollution, and species loss. Many animals, insects, and plants have even been named after him. Think of a plant, animal, or natural place that you wish more people knew about. Write a short tribute explaining

what makes it special, why it should be protected, and how a nature storyteller like David Attenborough might help others care about it.

3. NEW TEXTBOOK SHARES AAPI HISTORY

A new free online textbook from UCLA is helping teachers share more stories about Asian American and Pacific Islander history. The textbook includes many communities, people, and events that are often left out of regular history books. It teaches about topics such as Asian Americans in the South, Filipino farmworkers, Ha-

waiian history, and important women like Patsy Takemoto Mink and Mamie Tape. The creators hope students will see themselves and others more clearly in American history. They also believe learning these stories can help fight stereotypes and build understanding. Create a "history spotlight" card about a person or group whose story deserves more attention. Write 4 to 5 sentences explaining who they are, what challenge they faced, and why students should learn about them.

4. A SPECIAL ANGEL ARTWORK

COMES TO NEW YORK

A famous artwork called "Angelus Novus" has arrived in New York for the first time. The small drawing was made by artist Paul Klee in 1920 and shows an unusual angel with wide eyes and small wings. The artwork became especially important because it was once owned by Walter Benjamin, a writer who had to flee the Nazis during World War II. The drawing survived a dangerous time in history and later became a symbol of memory, sadness, and strength. Even though the picture may look simple, its story makes people think about the past and why art can

matter. Choose an object that could tell an important story, such as an old photograph, toy, letter, or drawing. Write 5 sentences describing what the object looks like, who might have owned it, and what memories or lessons it could carry.

5. AN ANCIENT BALLGAME LIVES ON IN MEXICO

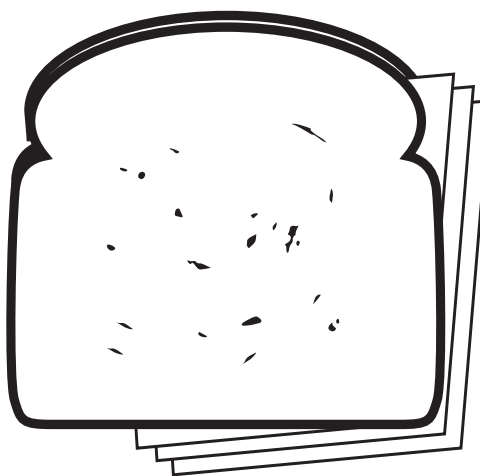
In Mexico, families and players are keeping alive an ancient ballgame called ulama. The sport is about 3,400 years old and was played by people in Mesoamerica long before soccer became popular. In one version, players can only hit a heavy rubber ball with their hips, so

they must jump, twist, and dive to keep it moving. The game nearly disappeared after Spanish conquest, but some communities kept it alive, and now more people are learning about it as Mexico prepares to help host the World Cup. Some players are glad ulama is getting attention, but they also want it to be respected as a real tradition, not just a show for tourists. Write a short sports report introducing ulama to students who have never heard of it. Explain how the game is played, why it is important to Mexican history, and why traditions need care and respect to survive.



Creative Coloring

Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.



Double Word Puzzle

Unscramble the individual words to reveal letters for the phrase.

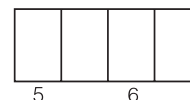
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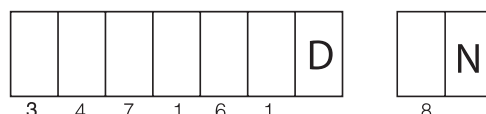
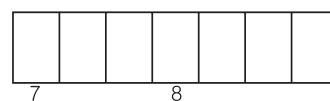
CLBYO



RHDA



VYTAREI



Answers: Melts, Colby, Hard, Variety : Covered in cheese

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1713: After losing the Battle of Helsinki to the Russians, Swedish and Finnish troops burn the entire city.

1985: The Bradford city stadium fire takes place in England.

2009: The space shuttle "Atlantis" is launched on its final mission.

NEW WORD

WHEY

the watery part of milk that remains after the formation of curds

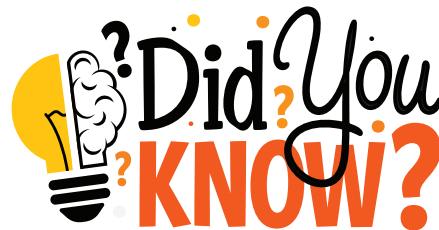


With a creamy texture and a low melting point, this cheese is often used on top of burgers.

Answer: American cheese



- English:** Cheese
- Spanish:** Queso
- Italian:** Formaggio
- French:** Fromage
- German:** Käse



American cheese typically is made from a blend of colby and cheddar with emulsifiers. It is not classified as a real cheese but a processed cheese food or pasteurized processed cheese.



Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Breakfast sandwich

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 What you Got?

NOTICE OF SALE
NOTICE Public Sale
 Pursuant to the Florida Self-Storage Facility Act, notice is hereby given that Crawfordville Self Storage, located at 3291 Crawfordville Hwy., Crawfordville, FL 32327; will sell or otherwise dispose of the contents of the following self-storage units to satisfy its lien for unpaid rent and other charges. The sale will be *online ONLY* Pictures and item descriptions can be viewed at www.storage-treasures.com. Bidding will end at 8pm on Sun. 5/24. Unless otherwise noted on www.storage-treasures.com, the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Nelda Raulerson, F28; Tequila Jackson, G29; Cliff Lewis, B1; Carlos Gevawer, A26. **Published May 14, May 21, 2026**

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NOTICE OF ACTION
 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION
 DEBRA NEW, PLAINTIFF,
 V.
 UNKNOWN HEIRS AND BENEFICIARIES OF RUSSELL A. SMITH, DECEASED
 DEFENDANTS.
 Case No.: 2026-CA-54

To: Unknown Heirs and Beneficiaries of Russell A. Smith, Deceased
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to partition real property pursuant to Florida Statute Chapter 64 has been filed against you. This action involves real property in Wakulla County, Florida (the "Property") more particularly described as:

TRACT NO. 15, OF AN UNRECORDED PLAT OF SHADY ACRES: COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 24, TOWNSHIP 2 SOUTH, RANGE 1 WEST, (MARKED BY A CONCRETE MONUMENT BURIED IN COUNTY ROAD); THENCE RUN NORTH 00 DEGREES 21 MINUTES 24 SECONDS EAST ALONG THE EAST BOUNDARY OF SECTION 24, 1,321.4 FEET; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 26 MINUTES WEST 1,688.65 FEET TO AN IRON PIPE, WHICH IS THE POINT OF BEGINNING. FROM THE POINT OF BEGINNING, CONTINUE TO RUN NORTH 89 DEGREES 26 MINUTES WEST 230 FEET TO AN IRON PIPE, THENCE RUN SOUTH 01 DEGREES 08 MINUTES 55 SECONDS EAST 186.09 FEET TO THE NORTH RIGHT OF WAY OF A COUNTY ROAD, THENCE RUN SOUTH 88 DEGREES 05 MINUTES 30 SECONDS EAST ALONG THE NORTH BOUNDARY OF SAID COUNTY ROAD, 230.0 FEET TO AN IRON PIPE, THENCE RUN NORTH 1 DEGREES 04 MINUTES 50 SECONDS WEST 191.47 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. BEING SITUATE IN THE SOUTH 112 OF THE SOUTHEAST 114 OF SECTION 24, TOWNSHIP 2 SOUTH, RANGE 1 WEST, AND BEING OTHERWISE DESCRIBED AS TRACT NO. 15 OF AN UNRECORDED PLAT OF SHADY ACRES. TOGETHER WITH THAT CERTAIN MOBILE HOME LOCATED THEREON, DESCRIBED AS A 2002 PIONEER WITH VIN NUMBERS PH1124GA19527A AND PH1124GA19527B.

Parcel Identification Number: 24-2S-0 1 W -000-04008-004
Property Address: 20 McMahon Drive, Crawfordville, Florida 32322
 This action was instituted in the Second Judicial Circuit Court, Wakulla County, Florida, and is styled Debra New vs. Unknown Heirs and Beneficiaries of Russell A. Smith, deceased, Unknown Heirs and Beneficiaries of Willie M. Shorrock, deceased, Unknown Heirs and Beneficiaries of Milford Jensen, deceased, and Unknown Heirs and Beneficiaries of Mildred Jensen, deceased, County of Wakulla, In the State of Florida. You are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on the Plaintiffs Attorney, Michele Diglio-Benkiran, Esquire, whose address is C/O Legal Counsel, P.A., 13330 West Colonial Drive, Unit 110, Winter Garden, Florida 34787, on or before **May 15, 2026** and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on the Plaintiffs Attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.
 WITNESS my hand and seal of said court at Crawfordville, Florida 15th day of December, 2026.

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

 April 23, 30, May, 7, 14, 2026

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
TAX DEED FILE NO. 2026 TXD 086

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **AVK REAL ESTATE LLC** The holder of the following tax certificate has filed the certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
 Certificate #: 1040 Date of Issuance: **May 29, 2019**
 Parcel #: 00-00-035-008-07954-000
 Description of Property:
Wakulla Gardens Block 24 Lot 49 OR 2 P 652 OR 813 P 104
 Name in which assessed **VERONA LLC** said property being in the County of Wakulla, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder in the Wakulla Co.Courthouseon: **June 17, 2026** at 10:00 A.M. All bidders must pre-register in the OR Dept. prior to 9:45 P.M. to participate in the auction.
April 23, 2026
 Signature: Greg James, Clerk
 By: D. Dee, Deputy Clerk
 Clerk of Circuit Court, Wakulla County, Florida
Published on April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 2026

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
TAX DEED FILE NO. 2026 TXD 092

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **DONALD J SHEMWELL** The holder of the following tax certificate has filed the certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
 Certificate #: 371 Date of Issuance: **May 29, 2019**
 Parcel #: 25-5s-02w-046-03368-000
 Description of Property:
Aqua De Vida Block F Lots 1 & 2 OR 12 P 190, OR 137 P 793
 Name in which assessed **JAMES ROBERT HARKINS/MARIE DEL BELCHER C/O JF HARKINS** said property being in the County of Wakulla, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder in the Wakulla Co.Courthouseon: **June 17, 2026** at 10:00 A.M. All bidders must pre-register in the OR Dept. prior to 9:45 P.M. to participate in the auction.
April 23, 2026
 Signature: Greg James, Clerk
 By: D. Dee, Deputy Clerk
 Clerk of Circuit Court, Wakulla County, Florida
Published on April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 2026

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
TAX DEED FILE NO. 2026 TXD 091

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **AVK REAL ESTATE LLC** The holder of the following tax certificate has filed the certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
 Certificate #: 1003 Date of Issuance: **May 29, 2019**
 Parcel #: 00-00-035-008-07812-000
 Description of Property:
Wakulla Gardens Block 22 Lot 48 OR 1 P 193 & OR 233 P 740
 Name in which assessed **BARBARA ILIDAN** said property being in the County of Wakulla, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder in the Wakulla Co.Courthouseon: **June 17, 2026** at 10:00 A.M. All bidders must pre-register in the OR Dept. prior to 9:45 P.M. to participate in the auction.
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NOTICE OF ACTION

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

RANDOLPH SMITH, Case No.: 2025 CA 14
PLAINTIFF,
V.
AKIRBY HOLDINGS, LLC; KATIE WILLIAMS RASHED; JEROME A.
HAWKINS; DEL VERNA RUTH HAWKINS HENRY; DOROTHY LEE
HAWKINS; ALBERT HAWKINS, JR. DECEASED, ANY UNKNOWN
SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISES, GRANTEES, CREDITORS, ASSIGNS, AND
ALL OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST
HIM; JOEL R. LAY AND BARBARA N. LAY,
DEFENDANTS.

NOTICE OF ACTION

To: **KATIE WILLIAMS RASHED**

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

THE WEST 15 FEET OF THE FOLLOWING PARCEL:

THE SOUTH 8 ACRES OF THE NORTH 40 ACRES OF THE SOUTH-EAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 24, TOWNSHIP 2 SOUTH, RANGE 1 WEST, WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGIN AT A CONCRETE MONUMENT MARKING THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 24, TOWNSHIP 2 SOUTH, RANGE 1 WEST, WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND THENCE RUN NORTH 01 DEGREES 54 MINUTES 39 SECONDS EAST ALONG THE EAST BOUNDARY OF SAID SOUTHWEST QUARTER 281.46 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT, THENCE RUN WEST 1357.63 FEET TO THE WEST BOUNDARY OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 24, THENCE RUN SOUTH 02 DEGREES 32 MINUTES 31 SECONDS WEST ALONG SAID WEST BOUNDARY 281.58 FEET TO A ST. JOE PAPER COMPANY CONCRETE MONUMENT, THENCE RUN EAST ALONG THE SOUTH BOUNDARY OF SAID SOUTHWEST QUARTER 1360.73 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING CONTAINING 8.78 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

AND THE SOUTH 15 FEET OF THE FOLLOWING PARCELS:

THE EAST ONE-HALF OF SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SOUTHWEST QUARTER (E 1/2 SE 1/4 SW 1/4 OF SW 1/4) OF SECTION 24, TOWNSHIP 2 SOUTH, RANGE 1 WEST, AND CONTAINING FIVE (5) ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

AND

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

AND

THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW 1/4 OF SW 1/4 OF SW 1/4) OF SECTION 24, TOWNSHIP 2 SOUTH, RANGE 1 WEST, CONTAINING 10 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

AND

COMMENCE AT A ST. JOE PAPER COMPANY CONCRETE MONUMENT MARKING THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 23, TOWNSHIP 2 SOUTH, RANGE 1 WEST, WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND RUN NORTH 00 DEGREES 02 MINUTES 59 SECONDS WEST ALONG THE EASTERLY BOUNDARY OF SAID SECTION 23 (AS MONUMENTED) A DISTANCE OF 711.07 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT (MARKED #2919), THENCE RUN NORTH 89 DEGREES 24 MINUTES 12 SECONDS EAST 36.82 FEET TO A RE-ROD (MARKED #4261), MARKING THE POINT OF BEGINNING. FROM SAID POINT OF BEGINNING, CONTINUE NORTH 89 DEGREES 24 MINUTES 12 SECONDS EAST 264.88 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT (MARKED #2919), THENCE RUN NORTH 00 DEGREES 02 MINUTES 25 SECONDS WEST 699.64 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT (MARKED #2919), THENCE RUN NORTH 88 DEGREES 26 MINUTES 01 SECONDS WEST 308.37 FEET TO A ST. JOE PAPER COMPANY CONCRETE MONUMENT, THENCE RUN NORTH 89 DEGREES 31 MINUTES 26 SECONDS WEST 612.22 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT (MARKED #1254), THENCE RUN SOUTH 00 DEGREES 01 MINUTES 21 SECONDS WEST 377.29 FEET TO A RE-ROD (MARKED #4261), THENCE RUN EAST 655.92 FEET TO A RE-ROD (MARKED #4261), THENCE RUN SOUTH 328.45 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING CONTAINING 10.00 ACRES, MORE OR LESS. TOGETHER WITH A 20.00-FOOT-WIDE INGRESS AND EGRESS EASEMENT BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCE AT A ST. JOE PAPER COMPANY CONCRETE MONUMENT MARKING THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 23, TOWNSHIP 2 SOUTH, RANGE 1 WEST, WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND RUN SOUTH 89 DEGREES 33 MINUTES 04 SECONDS WEST ALONG THE SOUTH BOUNDARY OF SAID SECTION 23 (AS MONUMENTED) A DISTANCE OF 592.49 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. FROM SAID POINT OF BEGINNING, RUN NORTH 00 DEGREES 01 MINUTES 21 SECONDS WEST 1044.62 FEET, THENCE RUN WEST 20.00 FEET TO A RE-ROD (MARKED #4261), THENCE RUN SOUTH 00 DEGREES 01 MINUTES 21 SECONDS EAST 1044.77 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT (MARKED #1254) LYING ON THE SOUTH BOUNDARY OF SAID SECTION 23, THENCE RUN NORTH 89 DEGREES 33 MINUTES 04 SECONDS EAST ALONG SAID SOUTH BOUNDARY A DISTANCE OF 20.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

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

WITNESS my hand and seal of said court at Crawfordville, Florida 30th day of April, 2026.

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



May 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

NOTICE OF ACTION

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

A THENE ANNUITY AND LIFE COMPANY, Case No.: 25000129CAAXMX
PLAINTIFF,
V.
TIMOTHY ORRELL A/KIA TIMOTHY CRAIG ORRELL, ET AL.,
DEFENDANT(s).

NOTICE OF ACTION

**TO: TUNKNOWN TENANT IN POSSESSION 1
69 MEADOW RIDGE DRIVE, CRAWFORDVILLE, FL 32327
UNKNOWN TENANT IN POSSESSION 2
69 MEADOW RIDGE DRIVE, CRAWFORDVILLE, FL 32327**

LAST KNOWN ADDRESS STATED. CURRENT RESIDENCE UNKNOWN
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose Mortgage covering the following real and personal property described as follows, to-wit:

COMMENCE AT A CONCRETE MONUMENT MARKING THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 106 OF THE HARTSFIELD SURVEY OF LANDS IN WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND THENCE RUN NORTH 17 DEGREES 17 MINUTES 02 SECONDS WEST ALONG THE WESTERLY BOUNDARY OF SAID LOT 106, A DISTANCE OF 1131.428 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT FOR THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

FROM SAID POINT OF BEGINNING CONTINUE NORTH 17 DEGREES 17 MINUTES 02 SECONDS WEST ALONG SAID WESTERLY BOUNDARY 282.83 FEET, THENCE RUN NORTH 72 DEGREES 54 MINUTES 52 SECONDS EAST 770.04 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT, THENCE RUN SOUTH 17 DEGREES 17 MINUTES 10 SECONDS EAST 283.02 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT, THENCE RUN SOUTH 72 DEGREES 55 MINUTES 44 SECONDS WEST 770.05 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

has been filed against you and you are required to a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Morgan B. Lea, McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP, 225 East Robinson Street, Suite 155, Orlando, FL 32801 and file the original with the Clerk of the above- styled Court on or before **June 12, 2026** or 30 days from the first publication, otherwise a Judgment may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

WITNESS my hand and seal of said court at Wakulla County, Florida 29th day of April, 2026.

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



May 14, 21, 2026

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
CAROL JEAN ANDREWS,
DECEASED
DIVISION: PROBATE

CASE NO: 2026-CP-50

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the Estate of Carol Jean Andrews, deceased, File 2026-CP-50 is pending in the Circuit Court for Wakulla County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 3056 Crawfordville Hwy., Crawfordville, FL 32327. The name and address of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney is set forth below.

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

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

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

The date of the first publication of this Notice is May 14, 2026.

Attorney for Personal Representative: Personal Representative:
Frances Casey Lowe, Esq. Ashley Diana Andrews
Florida Bar No. 521450 10847 CR 1275
Frances Casey Lowe, P.A. Tyler, TX 75703
68-A Feli Way
Crawfordville, Florida 32327
(850) 926-8245

May 14, 21, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
RICHARD HELMER PAGARD,
DECEASED
DIVISION: PROBATE

CASE NO: 2026-CP-51

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the Estate of Richard Helmer Pagard, deceased, File 2026-CP-51 is pending in the Circuit Court for Wakulla County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 3056 Crawfordville Hwy., Crawfordville, FL 32327. The name and address of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney is set forth below.

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

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

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

The date of the first publication of this Notice is May 14, 2026.

Attorney for Personal Representative: Personal Representative:
Frances Casey Lowe, Esq. Terence Allen Pagard
Florida Bar No. 521450 5522 Kenwood Place, N., Apt. A
Frances Casey Lowe, P.A. Seattle, WA 98103
68-A Feli Way
Crawfordville, Florida 32327
(850) 926-8245

May 14, 21, 2026

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
TAX DEED FILE NO. 2026 TXD 090**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **AVK REAL ESTATE LLC** The holder of the following tax certificate has filed the certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate #: **1021** Date of Issuance: **May 29, 2019**
Parcel #: **00-00-035-008-07875-000**

Description of Property:
**Wakulla Gardens
Block 23 Lot 37
OR 7 P 63
OR 825 P 309**

Name in which assessed **TARPON IV LLC** said property being in the County of Wakulla, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder in the Wakulla Co.Courthouseon: **June 17, 2026** at 10:00 A.M. All bidders must pre-register in the OR Dept. prior to 9:45 P.M. to participate in the auction.

April 23, 2026

Signature: Greg James, Clerk
By: D. Dee, Deputy Clerk
Clerk of Circuit Court, Wakulla County, Florida

Published on April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 2026

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
GERALD BRUCE NORMAN,
DECEASED
DIVISION: PROBATE

CASE NO: 2026-CP-64

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the Estate of Gerald Bruce Norman, deceased, File 2026-CP-64 is pending in the Circuit Court for Wakulla County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 3056 Crawfordville Hwy., Crawfordville, FL 32327. The name and address of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney is set forth below.

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

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

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

The date of the first publication of this Notice is May 14, 2026.

Attorney for Personal Representative: Personal Representative:
Frances Casey Lowe, Esq. Benjamin J. Norman
Florida Bar No. 521450 2884 SE Pace Dr.
Frances Casey Lowe, P.A. Port St. Lucie, FL 34984
68-A Feli Way
Crawfordville, Florida 32327
(850) 926-8245

May 14, 21, 2026

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
TAX DEED FILE NO. 2026 TXD 089**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **AVK REAL ESTATE LLC** The holder of the following tax certificate has filed the certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate #: **1027** Date of Issuance: **May 29, 2019**
Parcel #: **00-00-035-008-07902-000**

Description of Property:
**Wakulla Gardens
Block 23 Lot 65
OR 2 P 886
OR 813 P 113**

Name in which assessed **VERONA LLC** said property being in the County of Wakulla, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder in the Wakulla Co.Courthouseon: **June 17, 2026** at 10:00 A.M. All bidders must pre-register in the OR Dept. prior to 9:45 P.M. to participate in the auction.

April 23, 2026

Signature: Greg James, Clerk
By: D. Dee, Deputy Clerk
Clerk of Circuit Court, Wakulla County, Florida

Published on April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 2026

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
TAX DEED FILE NO. 2026 TXD 087**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **AVK REAL ESTATE LLC** The holder of the following tax certificate has filed the certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate #: **1032** Date of Issuance: **May 29, 2019**
Parcel #: **00-00-035-008-07922-000**

Description of Property:
**Wakulla Gardens
Block 24 Lot 17
OR 1 P 210**

Name in which assessed **RUSSELL J RIES SR/SHARON K RIES** said property being in the County of Wakulla, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder in the Wakulla Co.Courthouseon: **June 17, 2026** at 10:00 A.M. All bidders must pre-register in the OR Dept. prior to 9:45 P.M. to participate in the auction.

April 23, 2026

Signature: Greg James, Clerk
By: D. Dee, Deputy Clerk
Clerk of Circuit Court, Wakulla County, Florida

Published on April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 2026

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
TAX DEED FILE NO. 2026 TXD 085**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **AVK REAL ESTATE LLC** The holder of the following tax certificate has filed the certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate #: **1001** Date of Issuance: **May 29, 2019**
Parcel #: **00-00-035-008-07808-000**

Description of Property:
**Wakulla Gardens
Block 22 Lot 44
OR 1 P 220
OR 813 P 144**

Name in which assessed **VERONA V LLC** said property being in the County of Wakulla, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder in the Wakulla Co.Courthouseon: **June 17, 2026** at 10:00 A.M. All bidders must pre-register in the OR Dept. prior to 9:45 P.M. to participate in the auction.

April 23, 2026

Signature: Greg James, Clerk
By: D. Dee, Deputy Clerk
Clerk of Circuit Court, Wakulla County, Florida

Published on April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 2026

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
TAX DEED FILE NO. 2026 TXD 088**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **AVK REAL ESTATE LLC** The holder of the following tax certificate has filed the certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate #: **1031** Date of Issuance: **May 29, 2019**
Parcel #: **00-00-035-008-07915-000**

Description of Property:
**Wakulla Gardens
Block 24 Lot 10
OR 18 P 434
OR 813 P 107**

Name in which assessed **VERONA LLC** said property being in the County of Wakulla, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder in the Wakulla Co.Courthouseon: **June 17, 2026** at 10:00 A.M. All bidders must pre-register in the OR Dept. prior to 9:45 P.M. to participate in the auction.

April 23, 2026

Signature: Greg James, Clerk
By: D. Dee, Deputy Clerk
Clerk of Circuit Court, Wakulla County, Florida

Published on April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 2026



Bill Webster, Attorney
General Law Practice
**50 Years
Experience
Since 1975**
*By Appointment
Only*
850-443-5901





Night of jazz

The Wakulla Jazz Band presented a Night of Jazz on Friday, May 8 at the high school. (Photos by Perry Dissmore)



Student of the Week

Rowyn Shaw stopped by The Wakulla Sun office to get a newspaper with her honored as Student of the Week. Apparently, the school sent in the wrong spelling with the information and we are glad to correct it here. (Photo submitted)



A Wakulla Wild Animal Rescue

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP?

We always need donations of these items:

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

Florida Wild Mammal Association

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



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Congrats to our Champions for Change



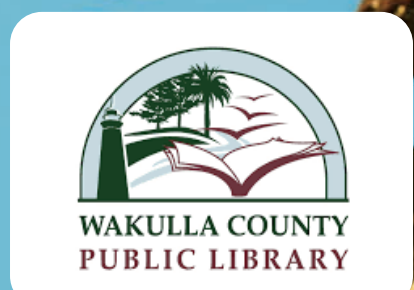
Kenny Manning
Voulnteer of the Year



Caden Gruchel
Youth Voulnteer of the Year



Tamie Nason Board Member of the Year



Friend of WCCY



Riley
Rising Star



Hiroshi
Rising Star

