



Miller's Rotary service/Page 3

The Wakulla Sun



Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday Friday Saturday



Hi: 87° Lo: 78° 49% Hi: 88° Lo: 74° 71% Hi: 86° Lo: 73° 74%
Sunrise 6:35 AM Sunset 8:41 PM Sunrise 6:35 AM Sunset 8:41 PM Sunrise 6:36 AM Sunset 8:41 PM



\$1 One Section

"It's a New Day"

Locally Owned & Operated

Our 5th Year 25th Issue
Thursday, June 18, 2026

\$8.5M impact to Wakulla budget

Constitutional amendment on property tax would create a hole in local budget

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

Because an estimated 46% of Wakulla County's property taxes come from homesteaded property – higher than most other counties – Wakulla will be more affected by the proposed constitutional amendment on property tax that is to be voted on in November.

That was the bad news that County Commission Chair Ralph Thomas shared with the Chamber Board of Directors last week.

Thomas said it translates to about an \$8.5 million budget hole for the county.

County commissioners had set a budget workshop after their meeting on Monday, June 15, to discuss responses.

Thomas noted that some past ideas floated

Lawsuit filed over property tax amendment

By GRAY ROHRER
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE – Two former local elected officials and a nonprofit group filed suit Thursday in Leon County Circuit Court against the property tax cut amendment placed on the November ballot by lawmakers, alleging it is misleading.

by state lawmakers had been dropped: there is no longer a requirement to hold harmless First Responders such as law enforcement and firefighters; and there is no make-good to cover fiscally constrained counties like Wakulla.

The group is called Save Our Voters From Misleading Ballot Language and the two officials are Thomas Campenni, former Mayor of Stuart, and Michael Davey, former Mayor of Key Biscayne.

They claim the ballot measure (HJR 1F), which seeks to increase the existing \$50,000 tax exemption

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The proposed constitutional amendment would raise the homestead exemption from \$50,000 to \$150,000 in 2027-28, and then \$250,000 the following year.

Clerk of Courts Greg James, who is chief fi-

nancial officer of the county, said commissioners could consider a series of "austerity measures" to cut the budget.

In past budget exercises to look at how the county could respond to cuts to property taxes, it typically ends with a series of glum choices about which county services do county residents prefer to do without.

Thomas said given the current budget uncertainty, he felt it was the wrong time to accept the Wakulla Education Center campus to turn it into additional recreational fields. "But I'm only one vote," Thomas added.

County Administrator David Edwards is already cutting unnecessary spending – like no new hires, and letting unfilled positions remain unfilled.

Qualifying ends; candidates set for races

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

There will be only one competitive political race this season after four candidates qualified to run for county commission District 4 seat.

Qualifying for political office was last week and concluded Friday, June 12, at noon.

Incumbent Quincee Messersmith, a Republican, is being challenged in the August GOP Primary by Carrie Hughes. The winner of that will face a Democratic candidate, Beverly Keister, and a No-Party Affiliation candidate, Patricia Sue Dyszer in November.

Other local candidates did not draw opposition and will return to office:

- Fred Nichols will have another term as county commissioner for District 2.

- School board members Cal Langston, Laura Lawhon and Eddie Hand will all return to office.

Additionally, four candidates qualified for four seats on the Wakulla Soil & Water Conservation District: Emily T. Johnson, Cole Hall, Kellie Keys, and David Shepard.

State Rep. Jason Shoaf, R-Port St. Joe, whose district includes Wakulla, also did not have a challenger qualify and have another 2-year term in the legislature.

There's a long list of candidates who qualified to run for U.S. House of Representatives in the seat that's been held by Congressman Neal Dunn, including:

- Bailey, Yen (DEM), Barnes, Brice (DEM), Green, Amanda Marie (DEM), Gross, Keith (REP), Jones, Lee (REP), Lewis, Nick (REP), Murphy, Luke (REP), Norton, Jim (REP), Power, Evan (REP), Rogers, Austin (REP), Rowell, Audie (REP) and Zateslo, Nicholas (DEM).

In addition to Governor and Cabinet positions, there are also two competitive races for circuit judge in the Second Judicial Circuit: incumbent judge Jason Jones is being challenged by Stephanie A. Cager, and incumbent J. Lee Marsh is being challenged by Rashad Green.

GAGE PITMAN MEMORIAL FISHING TOURNAMENT



Rockin' Reds

Big family, big fish: Team Late Night Tip, above, was at the weigh-in for the 6th annual Rockin' Reds fishing tournament with a big haul of Red Snapper. At right, 11-year-old Tripp Revell with dad Jacob weigh in a kids redfish. (Photos by Gerald Brown)



KWCB holds Greatest American Cleanup on Saturday

By LINDA ANN
McDONALD
Correspondent

Keep Wakulla County Beautiful held the Greatest American Cleanup Community Celebration on Saturday, June 13, with games, vendors, raffle tickets, food and information from environmentally friendly and health groups at Hudson Park.

In effort to "Let's Make America Shine for America's 250th Birthday," participants were challenged to help pick up 250 pieces of litter,

adopt 50 more miles of roads to reach a 250-mile goal, and plant trees to meet a goal of 250 planted trees, all in effort to make Wakulla County cleaner and more beautiful.

Adding to the fun filled day, a hazardous waste relay race was held, providing a ton of laughs for onlookers. With funny tasks to complete such as racing to open a sealed 55-gallon drum to find a full hazmat suit, groups of four had to suit up and run as part of the fun. The event was led by



As part of the hazardous waste relay, Ethel Jefferson srtruggles to get on a hazmat suit with teammate Joe Skaniera.

Kalli Hiemier, of Keep Florida Beautiful. First Place was awarded to the Bad Bozeman Bunnies, Second Place went to the Trash Getters and the Green Goblins took home Third Place.

Visitors to the event had the opportunity to soak Wakulla County Commissioners Fed Nichols, Josh Lawhon, and Quincee Messersmith, along with Clerk of Court Greg James, in a dunk tank to help raise funds for the event.

"It's cold water," Nichols said, "but it

feels good and it's for a good cause."

Rachell Mathis of KWCB said, "We are here to honor 250 years of history, and we want to help Wakulla County shine."

Five-dollar hot dog lunches were available to hungry participants who wanted to help the cause.

KWCB wants to thank all road adopters, volunteers, cleanup participants, raffle ticket purchasers and everyone for their participation and smiles.

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Sopchoppy naturalist performs at garden club convention

By **LAURA MOOSER**
Garden Club President

Attendees at the 99th annual convention of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs in Kissimmee were treated to a uniquely Floridian experience during their luncheon program in April, thanks to Sopchoppy musician and filmmaker Sammy Tedder.

Performing for a crowd of more than 300 guests, Tedder blended original instrumental music with storytelling drawn from decades spent exploring the wild ecosystems of North Florida. Known for his work documenting blackwater rivers and native landscapes, Tedder brought a sense



Sammy Tedder of Sopchoppy performs at the state Garden Club convention in Kissimmee.

of place to the convention, offering attendees an immersive glimpse into the natural beauty many garden club members strive to preserve.

Tedder, a professional musician for over 50 years, is also the creator of the documentary “River Obscura: Secrets of a Blackwater River,” which highlights the

fragile environment of the Sopchoppy River. His performance echoed those themes, emphasizing conservation and appreciation of Florida’s native habitats.

Following the program, Tedder joined convention leaders for a commemorative photograph, including FFGC District III Director Diane Ambern from Wakulla County and FFGC President Christy Linkey.

Convention organizers noted that Tedder’s presentation was a highlight of the event, seamlessly tying together music, nature, and the mission of the Federation to promote environmental stewardship across the state.



Miller honored for 25 years of Rotary service

On Thursday, June 11, Rotary Club of Wakulla President Angie Bozeman honored Sheriff Jared Miller for his 25 years of Rotary service with a framed letter postmarked Feb. 23, 1955 that features a stamp commemorating the 50th anniversary of Rotary. The postmark denotes the day the stamp was issued in Chicago, where Rotary was founded. Miller, who is currently the longest serving active member in the club, said he was honored to receive the gift and said he planned to put it up on the wall of his office. (Photo by William Snowden)

PUBLIC NOTICES:

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



SOPCHOPPY CITY COUNCIL QUALIFYING INFORMATION

Persons interested in seeking a seat on the Sopchoppy City Council may obtain an information packet from the City Clerk’s office, 105 Municipal Avenue, Sopchoppy, FL during normal business hours, Monday - Thursday 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and Friday 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Qualifying begins at Noon, July 15th and ends at Noon, July 25th. These packets must be picked up, returned and verified before Noon on July 15th when qualifying begins. Two seats on the Council will be open for the 2026 election which will be held November 3, 2026.

June 11, 18, 2026

Notice of Intent to Use Funds Wakulla County School District

Wakulla County School District hereby provides public notice of its intent to use 2025–2026 Title III funds in the amount of **\$35,259.75**, consistent with the requirements of P.L. 117-58, to expand broadband communications through the following allowable activity:
Access Point Equipment — Enhance wireless coverage, connectivity, and network reliability across all district school campuses.

The District invites stakeholders and community members to submit comments or input regarding the proposed use of these funds. Please send all comments no later than Monday, August 3rd to public.comment@wcsb.us.

June 18, 2026



Notice of Public Meeting:

The Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners has scheduled a Public Meeting of the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee on July 9, 2026, at 9:00 AM in the Wakulla County Fire and Rescue conference room at 318 Trice Lane in Crawfordville, FL. Interested parties are invited to attend and participate.

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

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

June 18, 2026



Notice of Public Meeting:

The Wakulla County Industrial Development Authority will hold a Public Meeting on July 8, 2026, at 4:30p.m. at the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners Administration Conference Room, 3093 Crawfordville Hwy., Crawfordville, FL., (850) 926-3695.

Purpose of Meeting:

To Discuss Financing & Refinancing of Projects for Public Purposes, and for the Purpose of Fostering Economic Development Pursuant to Ordinance #2016-5.

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

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

June 18, 2026

Lawsuit over amendment

From Front Page

for homestead properties to \$150,000 in 2027 and to \$250,000 in 2028, would deceive voters.

“The ballot summary does not merely describe the Proposed Constitutional Amendment – it endorses it,” the lawsuit states. “The ballot summary ... sets forth three political taglines – ‘ensuring funding for core services,’ ‘protecting small businesses,’ and ‘ensuring fairness for Florida residents’ – giving reasons why voters should vote for the proposal. But the purpose of a ballot summary is to explain what an amendment does, not to advocate for its adoption.”

But even if the court finds the ballot summary is misleading, that wouldn’t erase the measure from the ballot.

Under state law, Attorney General James Uthmeier would be required to amend the ballot summary if it is found to be defective.

Lawmakers passed the measure after it was drafted by DeSantis’ office. GOP leaders amended it to exempt taxes levied to fund schools, but city and county officials across the state have warned if voters approve it their budgets – and the services they provide to residents – will suffer.

DeSantis and supporters of the measure, though, have largely waved those critiques away, claiming local governments have overtaxed homeowners as property values have risen in recent years and now they need to rein in spending.

According to a House staff analysis the measure could cost local governments \$8.4 billion per year, if it gets the necessary 60 percent support from voters to pass into law.

A spokeswoman for DeSantis didn’t immediately respond to an email Thursday.

The lawsuit claims

several pieces of the ballot summary are misleading.

The phrase “ensuring funding for core services” is a misnomer, the lawsuit claims, because it drastically cuts property tax revenues. The proposed amendment would require cities and counties to spend property tax revenues on a list of “core services,” including public safety, but it also lowers the amount of money available for those services.

The lawsuit also takes issue with the phrase “protecting small businesses,” as there’s no provision that marks such business out for

special treatment. There is a provision lowering the current 10 percent cap on annual assessment increases for non-homestead properties to 5 percent, but that applies to more than just small businesses.

“The Proposed Constitutional Amendment broadly limits future assessment increases on all categories of non-homesteaded property, and provides no protection to small businesses, or other non-homesteaded property, from the expected higher taxes resulting from increases in millages rates necessary to offset (at least partially) the loss of tax base caused by the amendment,” the lawsuit states.

Another misleading piece, according to the

lawsuit, is it’s expressed intent to eventually eliminate all non-school homestead property taxes, something DeSantis has said is his goal. But although the measure directs the Legislature to set up a structure to allow local governments to phase out homestead property taxes, that’s short of a mandatory full elimination.

“The actual proposed constitutional language does not require the ‘full elimination,’” the lawsuit states. “Rather, it requires the Legislature to establish procedures through which local governments may choose to grant additional exemptions in the future ‘up to’ the full assessed valuation.”

JUNE 17-18 2026

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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.”

Radio Field Day 2026 set for June 27

By **ARMANDO DELGADO**
KN4JN

The American Radio Relay League’s first Field Day was held in June 1933. Since that time, amateurs gather every year to practice this emergency preparedness exercise. Yearly, except during the WW2 period when the government did not allow amateur radio transmissions on the air, hams come together in fields, parks, public places and, more recently, EOCs, Red Cross facilities, and other emergency locations to operate simulated emergencies, to prepare for when regular commercial power and communications become unavailable.

The ARRL was founded in 1915 on the precept that radio amateurs should provide communications to the public at large, particularly during emergencies. In those early years of amateur radio, the equipment available to hams did not lend itself to portable operations. Early equipment was too cumbersome and fragile to set up in open fields and power supplies were inefficient. During those early years, the ARRL placed its focus on developing a network of volunteer operators willing to relay messages across the nation.

By the late 1920s, amateur equipment became sturdier, more precise, and could sur-

vive set up in remote locations. Most amateurs at the time used batteries to power their radios, but some small gasoline generators had become available and were light weight enough to be taken to remote sites. Considering these advantages, the ARRL initiated the Field Day emergency exercise in 1933.

One aspect of Field Day introduced gradually over time is the effort to demonstrate to the public and particularly to government officials the value of amateur radio to the community.

The ARRL declared 2026 the Year of the Amateur Radio Club. They encourage clubs to open their doors regularly to the pub-

lic and to new hams, to encourage them to get licensed or to join the club. The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) declared April 18 the International Amateur Radio Day. Last year was the 100th anniversary of the founding of the IARU and the ARRL has consistently encouraged amateur clubs to open their doors to the public on that day and during the month of April to demonstrate modern amateur radio’s capabilities.

Likewise, this year being the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the ARRL declared the theme of this Field Day “Amateur Radio, a National Resource.”

In the first few hours of Field Day, a station calling “CQ Field Day” is met by a chorus of stations simultaneously giving their call signs, producing an unintelligible noise known as a “pileup.” To work pileups, CQing stations use different techniques. Some will listen for discernible letters of call signs at the beginning of the pileup and call just those letters when the pileup subsides. One or two stations with those letters may call back and after some sorting out a QSO is achieved. Other CQing operators will wait for the pileup to subside and then listen for a late caller with a clear call sign to make a contact. Understand-

ing how the CQing station operates helps give callers the cue as to when to provide their call sign. Timing is of the essence and practice will guide the calling operator as to the right moment to give their call sign.

Operating Field Day is a challenge for all who participate, new or experienced hams. Setting up antennas and radio equipment always provide new lessons to learn. On-the-air activity is also a challenge that teaches new operators how to navigate crowded airwaves and allows all operators to hone their operating skills.

Field Day is a win-win activity and probably that is why it is so popular.

LETTERS FROM READERS

Threads Through Time: Historical fashion

Editor, The Sun:

Boycotting is back in the news. The rift between the King of England and his subjects in the American colonies is an appropriate moment, of course, to celebrate the subsequent Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.

We ought to remember also that the rift was not spontaneous. England was frantic to recover financially from a 7-year long war with

France fought mostly in Canada (7-years war or Queen Anne’s War). Afterwards, England had no means to bring back English soldiers. The taxation was a feeble English attempt to recover from that war (1756-1763). (England almost lost that war. If it had we’d all be speaking French.)

Resentment of English rule over the colonies included the various forms of taxation without representation (1766-1767 Townshend

Acts), followed by Boston Tea Party and the Boston Massacre. Then came the boycott of anything coming from England. Thwas an almost spontaneous reaction throughout the colonies when women showed their patriotism. Following the resurrection of the non-consumption agreements there was no more cloth available.

How did many colonists (Americans) show their patriotism before the War of Independence broke out?

Women played a large role in supporting the American call to wear homespun fabrics. Parlors and kitchens were places for spinning parties at politically charged social gatherings. The purpose of the gatherings in English colonies was deemed an acceptable avenue for the expression of political opinions by women who were fired up to provide women’s work for the cause.

According to Michael Zakim in Sartorial Ideologies: From Homespun to Ready-Made,”the elevation of homespun to a political ideology in America on the eve of independence was an especially striking expression of the wider social implications of dress.

“The homespun, or domestic manufactures, embodied a republican frugality. It was a conscious opposition to English luxury and corruption.” It did not happen overnight.

Note: This is the first of several articles examining Threads Through Time, leading to an afternoon tea and fashion show on Sept. 12 at the Crawfordville Women’s Club.

PS: Interested in modeling period clothing? Visit www.wakullhistory.org for an applicaion.

Madeleine Carr

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 June 18

Thursday, June 18

- 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, June 19

- JUNETEENTH – Banks, and some government offices in observance.
- Juneteenth Candlelight Ceremony will be held at Palaver Tree Theater, 59

Shadeville Road, at 7:30 p.m.

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

Saturday, June 20

- Juneteenth Celebration will be held at the Wakulla Shrine Club, 4141 Crawfordville Hwy., from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. Hosted by Gary and Regena Simmons, the event features a DJ, food and drink, indoor and outdoor activities and a water slide for kids.

Sunday, June 21

- FATHER’S DAY.
- Wakulla Giving Hands WILL NOT hold

its regular weekly food giveaway due to Father’s Day.

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

Monday, June 22

- 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

Tuesday, June 23





- 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, June 24

- 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
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William Snowden
Editor & Publisher
The Wakulla Sun

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- Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

Polled at the Greatest American Cleanup Celebration at Hudson Park:
How do you plan to celebrate America's 250th birthday?



LAURA MOOSER
Garden Club President

“We’re here today in celebration of National Gardening Week and for our nations 250th.”



MARY CORTESE
Retired

“I’m going to a friend’s house for a swim party.”



HARLEY STRAIN
Old South Cafe

“I plan to celebrate by hanging out with family, playing with fireworks, lunch with the family along with some ice cold brewed sweet tea.”



ZOE MANSFIELD
Lee Trailer Sales

“I’ve started celebrating already! Were here today to celebrate, and I will be attending all the other celebrations too.”



ETHEL JEFFERSON
Retired

“We always watch the PBS 4th of July special from Washington, D.C. We grill hamburgers and have apple pie. Really!”

Wakulla Crossroads

By **VERNA BROCK**

We finally got some rain in Wakulla Station on Sunday afternoon, and it sure was welcomed. It was only the second real rain in four months. Prognostications are for more rain this week, all of which will benefit the environment. I am pretty stoked at the prospect of less dragging of hoses to water every plant, shrub and tree in the yard. On the bright side, the carpenters and painters making our home beautiful had a good stretch of dry weather to work with. I am overjoyed with the results. Now, bring on the summer showers please!

Many thanks to everyone who came out in support of the Wakulla United Methodist Church’s fundraiser for

its food pantry this past weekend. Your participation helped raise over \$1,700, which will go a long way toward keeping the doors open. A special thanks to the Kast Net restaurant for generously donating all proceeds (during the event) to the pantry.

It is a true blessing to live in a community where people want to help their fellow citizens. In times of loss or disaster, our neighbors always seem to turn out to assist one another. It’s good to trust in people’s essential decency, but seeing kindness in action is always reassuring. I realize some people are, shall we say, “sketchy.” But overall, the folks we encounter in our daily lives respond with generosity when confronted with tragedy.

It is easy to feel jaded if we focus

too heavily on social media and the rumor mill. It can be tempting to write society off as a lost cause. But inevitably, in times of trouble, complete strangers will jump into the breach. How many times have you witnessed someone helping change a tire, rescue a frightened animal cowering alongside a busy road, remove fallen trees left by violent weather, or start GoFundMe efforts to help families beset by fire and flood? It really does restore our faith in mankind.

You name it, our neighbors are quick to open their hearts and help each other. I don’t think Wakulla County is unique in this, but we certainly exemplify it. Perhaps, it’s because people can empathize with those who suffer, because they have suffered themselves. Or maybe, we simply imagine how devastating it would be to experience a calamity of

our own. Whatever it is that inspires kindness, I am grateful for it. Tenderheartedness helps make us human, it bonds us one to another. I would hate to see us surrender that part of our souls in the name of carefulness, caution or cynicism.

Ultimately, our ability to respond to the pain and suffering of those around us is a response to God’s love for us and His creation. We are called to love one another as He first loved us, to cherish creation, and to recognize the worthiness of every individual to know God’s grace. By extending kindness and generosity to our neighbors, we acknowledge the grace we have received and reflect it back to one another.

After all, love is never divided by widening the circle, it is multiplied and expanded!

Sopchoppy News

By **DJ BUTCH**

I’ve been fishing lately and it has been a lot of fun. I caught a few bream and a bass. The yella flies are definitely on the river. They have not been too bad in Sopchoppy but on that river is different. Be safe if ya go near the water....

I know a lot of people have heard about the forest fire. I heard they have it under control. I saw a lot of smoke

coming back from fishing Thursday. I hope they get it out and keep it out. I know it is pretty dry with not much rain.

I know I have said this in the Sopchoppy news before but please stop at the stop signs. Too many people are running the stop signs. We have people walking, golf carts, pets. Slow down and stop.

The county has taken over the sewer billing for Sopchoppy. You still get a

water bill from Sopchoppy but sewer will be a different bill from the county. More information on that available online.

The Loafers Bench sold to new owners. It appears it will be a hair salon in the back and have other home decor items in the front for sale. The Loafers Bench has a long history in Sopchoppy.

In July an artist is coming to visit Sopchoppy from the UK. She wants to observe worm grunting and is bringing microphones that pick up sound beyond human range. They have worm charming festivals and competitions in the UK. This should be an interesting

adventure and I look forward to making videos and documenting this.

July 3rd I will be DJing at Low Tide under Trident. They always have an amazing fireworks show. The food, view, service and all is awesome!

The Sopchoppy 4th of July starts later this year. It starts at 4 p.m. this year. I will not be performing this year but they will have some good entertainment for you like Sterling Miller and also the Rick Ott Band. They will also have the traditional fireworks at sundown.

Sending you all love from Sopchoppy!

Buckhorn News

By **ETHEL SKIPPER**

We are so blessed. Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly nor standeth in the way of sinner, nor sitteth in the seat of scorners.

Thanks to all that put their trust in the Lord. We are a wonder unto many but we have to put our trust in the Lord.

All our help comes from Him. Our mouth is filled with His praises, and blessing we give Him for everything.

Now that school is out for the summer, what is there for the children to

do? Some will spend more time on cell phones and games while others sleep late.

One of my grandchildren asked me what did we do when I was growing up. I told her things were so different – we had to talk to each other, help with whatever needed doing. Loving and caring for each other was very important.

Skipper Temple Church had its 38th anniversary on first Sunday in June. The speaker was Pastor Eddie L. Franklin from Friendship P.B. Church in Tallahassee and his church mem-

bers.

The Charlotte and John Rosier 2026 Family Day will be on July 11 at the senior citizens center in Crawfordville. Family Day speaker will be Elder Frank Johnson.

We wish a happy birthday to Ariana Hawkins on 6/2; Christian Skipper on 6/6; Rodney Smith III on 6/4; Brittany Boulware on 6/8; Latrelle Skipper on 6/9; Bakari Hines on 6/13; Veronica Grimmett on 6/16; Anisha Queen Simmons on 6/18; John Johnson on 6/20; Gracie Williams on 6/27; Nelson Smith on 6/28; Anita Summerlin on 6/23; Dashyia Jones on 6/23; Willie F. Skipper Jr. on 6/25.

The National Women’s Convention will be in Waycross, Ga., July 15-17. Registration is \$25. Hotel Fairfield Inn COCWIH. Banquet at noon. Formal dress attire.

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

Our prayer goes out to the family of Pastor Brother John Quinton and Sister Gail in the passing of their mother Delores Quinton.

Many prayer and praises to our Lord for a life well-lived in the home going of our Pastor and Bishop Geoffrey Gibbs.

KWCB

From Front Page

laughter, and splashes that made for great memories. A special thanks to Christina Sanabria for organizing the event.

Speaking about the impact KWCB has on the county, Rotarian Andy Riddle said, “I’ve been with Rotary for 7 years of service and working the litter event on Arran Road every year; this year we picked up the least amount of trash.

KWCB is making a huge difference.”

Participating groups included Wakulla Department of Health’s Tobacco Prevention, and Wakulla 4-H, Sarracenia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, Wakulla Garden Club, Wakulla Animal Shelter, Florida Wild Mammal Association, Tallahassee Region Environmental Group, Wakulla Environmental Institute and Wakulla County Christian Coalition.

At right, Commissioner Fred Nichols about to get dunked in the dunk tank.



Outdoors

outdoor sports

HOME ON THE RANGE

Should you purchase a used gun?



By MARJ LAW

Today I'm talking about buying a gun. Recently, a newbie asked me if she should save some money and buy a used gun from someone she met. My first reaction is "No!" When you are just learning about guns, you won't know what to look for.

My first suggestion is to buy from a local gun store. They often sell used guns, so you can save some money. They will be honest and offer recommendations because they want to preserve their reputation and they will want your continued business.

If you do decide to look at a used gun, bring along a knowledgeable friend to help you. These are some of the things you both should look for:

- An empty gun: The seller should always jack the slide and show you that there is no ammunition in his gun. In a gun store, the sales person should do this as well. Showing that the gun is empty is a safety measure for both parties.

- Condition: Look at the overall condition of

the firearm. Heavy wear is a red flag. Reconsider purchasing.

Many guns are coated with "bluing." This is a dark blue/black finish. Check all the levers and buttons. Has the bluing worn off? Do you see gray metal instead of bluing? Check the end of the muzzle. Has the bluing worn off here?

- Jack the slide: Does the slide move easily? Will you be able to operate it yourself?

- Previous care: Take a strong light and look in the chamber. Is this area clean? Do you see any greyish glop in here? That's shooting residue. It shows someone has not cleaned the gun.

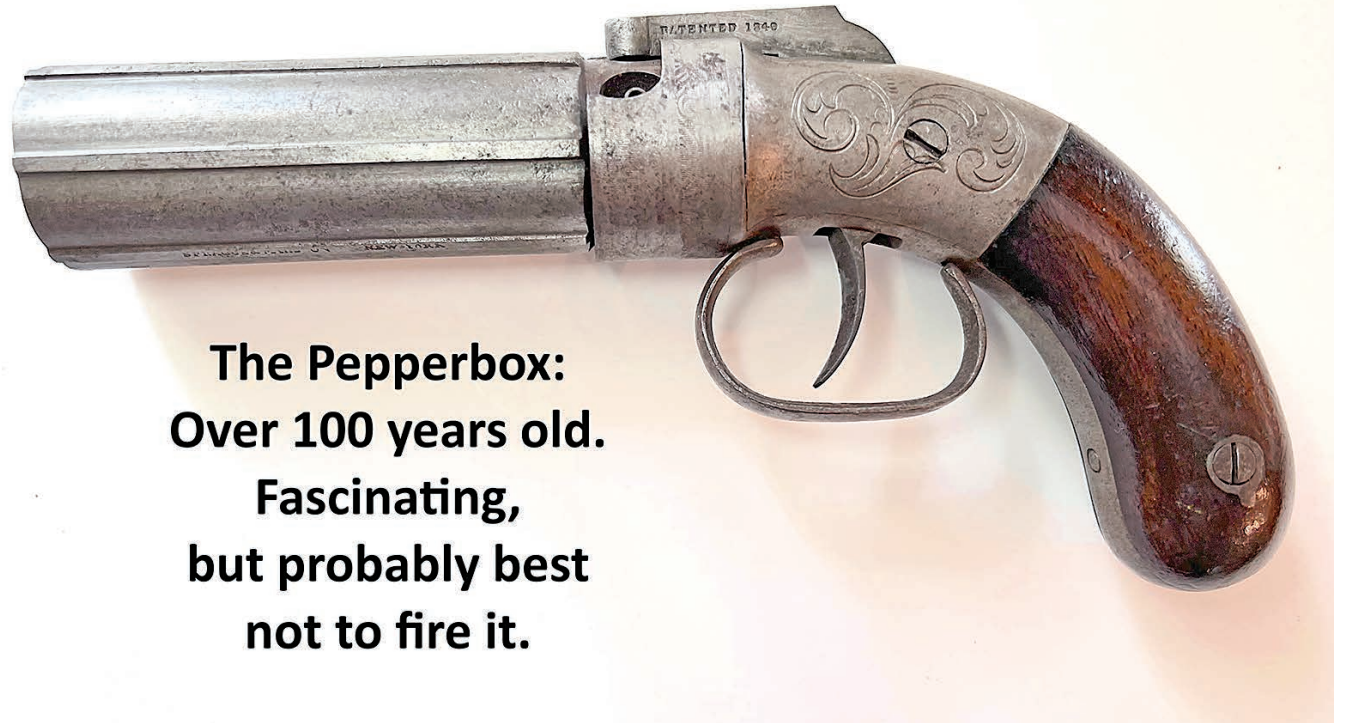
Do you see reddish-brown spots in here? Those spots are rust. You don't want a rusty gun. This is another indication that the gun was not maintained well.

Ask the owner to demonstrate field-stripping the gun. Use your strong light to see that the inside of the barrel and that the rifling is shiny. Again, look for signs of rust.

If you see the grey glop or reddish-brown markings inside or out, reconsider buying from the person who has not taken care of his gun.

- Look on the inside of the revolver: If the gun is a revolver, push the cylinder out. Use your strong light and check every one of the chambers to look for dirt or rust.

- Timing: Again, if the gun is a revolver, push



**The Pepperbox:
Over 100 years old.
Fascinating,
but probably best
not to fire it.**

the cylinder back in place. Rotate the cylinder until you feel it lock. Is the chamber aligned perfectly with the barrel?

Now, cock the hammer. When you cock the hammer, the cylinder should lock to the next chamber. This is called timing. If it doesn't rotate, lock in position and align with the next chamber, you have a problem with timing. Timing is critical in a revolver. Don't buy.

- Dry firing: If the gun you're looking at is a center-fired gun, ask the seller if you may "dry fire." This is when you have made sure that there is no ammunition at all in the gun. At this point, you can jack the slide and pull the trigger. Is the trigger hard to pull? Does it "travel" a long distance?

Let's get real here. If the trigger is hard to pull or hurts your finger, you won't practice with the gun. If you don't practice, then when you must use it, you might not be able to deal with the gun's action.

If you are looking at a rim-fired gun, do not try to dry fire. Dry firing a rim-fired gun can damage or break the firing pin.

- Magazine: Do you have a problem inserting the magazine in the

grip? When you press the magazine release button, does the magazine fall freely from the gun? If not, the magazine(s) may be old and/or damaged. The gun may not operate in future use. Also, since powder residue from shooting drops into the magazine well, make sure the magazine well is adequately clean.

- Caliber on the gun and on the magazine: Check that the caliber of the gun is shown on the outside of the slide, and that this is the caliber you want. In most guns today, magazines also have the caliber stamped on them. Make sure the magazine shows the same caliber as the gun. In the case of revolvers, the caliber is stamped on the barrel.

- Concealed carry permit: If you decide to sell or buy, ask to see the person's concealed carry permit. This shows that at the time of issuing the permit, the buyer was not a felon and has indeed passed a background check. It also shows where the person resided and that he was of legal age when he purchased the firearm.

- What information to keep: If you decide to purchase (or sell), this is the information you want to write down: the serial number of the

gun, date of transaction, seller's full name, and buyer's full name. Both parties should sign the document. Each person should have an original signed copy.

- Antique, imports and military surplus: Bring knowledgeable person with you. It might not be an actual firearm, and it could be unsafe to fire.

- Ammunition: Buy the correct ammunition for your gun. If you are shooting to make holes in a target or are just learning, you don't need to buy expensive defensive loads. Full metal jacket ammo is fine. If you are purchasing for defense, then you may want to buy the hollow point or other defensive load. Check your owner's manual to see what type of defensive ammunition this gun is able to handle.

- Owner's manual: Ask the seller if he has the Owner's Manual. This will tell you how to handle the gun safely. It will give you the parts of the gun. It will tell you how to break it down and clean it. It will inform you as to the type of ammunition is best for the gun. If the seller does not have the original manual, you can usually find it on the internet. You can copy the information and make your own manual.

- Try before buy: What caliber can you handle? Go to a place that rents gun, and do what you can to shoot the caliber and gun you find most comfortable. If you have the opportunity to shoot many handguns of similar caliber, do so, because every gun behaves differently.

Yes, it can be expensive to pay to try out many guns. But it's worse to buy a gun, take it to the range, and then decide you don't like it.

- Conclusion: These are several suggestions to consider when a person new to shooting decides to purchase a used handgun. It reminds me of a slogan from a jeweler that said: "if you don't know your jewelry, make sure you know your jeweler." I'd say the same of handguns: "If you don't know enough about handguns, be sure to know your gun store personnel." We have local gun shops where new and used guns are sold.

They want your business and your repeat business, and will treat you honestly.

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



PIGFISH
(*Orthopristes chrysoptera*)

Pigfish are named for the grunting sound they make by rubbing the teeth in their throat together when caught. By night, pigfish use their throat teeth to grind up shellfish and other food. They are found warmer temperate regions along the east coast. They prefer bays and canals with mud bottoms to search out their diets of amphipods, mollusks, crabs and shrimp. Their maximum size is 19" and 2-3lbs although they are usually caught when under 1lb as bait fish. They live 2-3 years.

Eukarya, Animalia, Cordata, Actinopterygii, Perciformes, Haemulidae



WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO



Retired park ranger Robert Thompson was on his wildlife survey at Wakulla Springs and shot these Yellow Crowned Night Herons.

**Wakulla
Lawn Ranger**

**Gene
Darby**

850-251-9122

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FOLLOW THE SUN.

Water Ways

a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences

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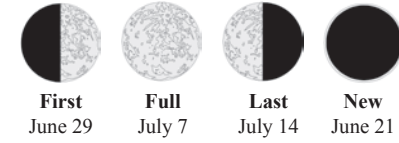


Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

June 18 - June 24



Tide charts by
tides4fishing.com



Best fishing days this month
Best fishing day(s) is in the center of date ranges.
June 21, 26 - July 2

Thursday 18
Sun rise/set 6:35 AM 8:40 PM
Moon rise/set 10:23 AM 11:28 PM
Moon Illumination 17%
Friday 19
Sun rise/set 6:36 AM 8:41 PM
Moon rise/set 11:30 AM 12:06 AM
Moon Illumination 27%
Saturday 20
Sun rise/set 6:36 AM 8:41 PM
Moon rise/set 12:32 PM 12:39 AM
Moon Illumination 37%
Sunday 21
Sun rise/set 6:36 AM 8:41 PM
Moon rise/set 1:31 PM 1:09 AM
Moon Illumination 48%
Monday 22
Sun rise/set 6:36 AM 8:41 PM
Moon rise/set 2:28 PM 1:37 AM
Moon Illumination 58%
Tuesday 23
Sun rise/set 6:36 AM 8:42 PM
Moon rise/set 3:24 PM 2:05 AM
Moon Illumination 67%
Wednesday 24
Sun rise/set 6:37 AM 8:42 PM
Moon rise/set 4:21 PM 2:35 AM
Moon Illumination 76%

For tides at the following points add to Dog Island Listings:
High Tide Low Tide
Carrabelle 28 Min. 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	6:01 am ▲ 3.2 ft	10:52 am ▼ 1.7 ft	4:45 pm ▲ 4.0 ft	
Fr	12:10 am ▼ -0.2 ft	6:40 am ▲ 3.1 ft	11:47 am ▼ 1.5 ft	5:37 pm ▲ 3.6 ft
Sa	12:49 am ▼ 0.3 ft	7:18 am ▲ 3.0 ft	12:49 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	6:37 pm ▲ 3.2 ft
Su	1:26 am ▼ 0.8 ft	7:58 am ▲ 3.0 ft	2:03 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	7:53 pm ▲ 2.7 ft
Mo	2:04 am ▼ 1.3 ft	8:41 am ▲ 3.1 ft	3:28 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	9:38 pm ▲ 2.4 ft
Tu	2:46 am ▼ 1.7 ft	9:30 am ▲ 3.1 ft	4:52 pm ▼ 0.9 ft	11:27 pm ▲ 2.4 ft
We	3:39 am ▼ 2.0 ft	10:26 am ▲ 3.2 ft	6:01 pm ▼ 0.6 ft	

City of St. Marks

Th	12:32 am ▼ -0.6 ft	6:37 am ▲ 2.9 ft	11:56 am ▼ 1.5 ft	5:21 pm ▲ 3.7 ft
Fr	1:14 am ▼ -0.2 ft	7:16 am ▲ 2.9 ft	12:51 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	6:13 pm ▲ 3.4 ft
Sa	1:53 am ▼ 0.3 ft	7:54 am ▲ 2.8 ft	1:53 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	7:13 pm ▲ 2.9 ft
Su	2:30 am ▼ 0.8 ft	8:34 am ▲ 2.8 ft	3:07 pm ▼ 1.2 ft	8:29 pm ▲ 2.5 ft
Mo	3:08 am ▼ 1.2 ft	9:17 am ▲ 2.9 ft	4:32 pm ▼ 1.0 ft	10:14 pm ▲ 2.3 ft
Tu	3:50 am ▼ 1.5 ft	10:06 am ▲ 2.9 ft	5:56 pm ▼ 0.8 ft	
We	4:32 am ▼ 1.8 ft	10:56 am ▲ 3.0 ft	7:20 pm ▼ 0.5 ft	

Shell Point, Spring Creek

Th	6:20 am ▲ 3.3 ft	11:15 am ▼ 1.8 ft	5:04 pm ▲ 4.0 ft	
Fr	12:33 am ▼ -0.3 ft	7:01 am ▲ 3.3 ft	12:14 pm ▼ 1.7 ft	5:59 pm ▲ 3.6 ft
Sa	1:15 am ▼ 0.2 ft	7:42 am ▲ 3.3 ft	1:20 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	7:03 pm ▲ 3.2 ft
Su	1:56 am ▼ 0.7 ft	8:24 am ▲ 3.3 ft	2:36 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	8:26 pm ▲ 2.8 ft
Mo	2:39 am ▼ 1.2 ft	9:08 am ▲ 3.3 ft	3:57 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	10:09 pm ▲ 2.6 ft
Tu	3:26 am ▼ 1.6 ft	9:56 am ▲ 3.4 ft	5:13 pm ▼ 0.8 ft	11:42 pm ▲ 2.6 ft
We	4:20 am ▼ 1.9 ft	10:46 am ▲ 3.4 ft	6:16 pm ▼ 0.5 ft	

Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay

Th	5:53 am ▲ 2.4 ft	11:03 am ▼ 1.2 ft	4:37 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	
Fr	12:21 am ▼ -0.1 ft	6:32 am ▲ 2.3 ft	11:58 am ▼ 1.1 ft	5:29 pm ▲ 2.7 ft
Sa	1:00 am ▼ 0.2 ft	7:10 am ▲ 2.3 ft	1:00 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	6:29 pm ▲ 2.4 ft
Su	1:37 am ▼ 0.6 ft	7:50 am ▲ 2.3 ft	2:14 pm ▼ 1.0 ft	7:45 pm ▲ 2.0 ft
Mo	2:15 am ▼ 1.0 ft	8:33 am ▲ 2.3 ft	3:39 pm ▼ 0.8 ft	9:30 pm ▲ 1.8 ft
Tu	2:57 am ▼ 1.2 ft	9:22 am ▲ 2.3 ft	5:03 pm ▼ 0.6 ft	11:19 pm ▲ 1.8 ft
We	3:50 am ▼ 1.4 ft	10:18 am ▲ 2.4 ft	6:12 pm ▼ 0.4 ft	

St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.

Th	6:30 am ▲ 2.5 ft	10:54 am ▼ 1.9 ft	4:39 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	
Fr	12:12 am ▼ -0.3 ft	7:07 am ▲ 2.5 ft	12:08 pm ▼ 1.7 ft	5:45 pm ▲ 2.9 ft
Sa	12:58 am ▼ 0.2 ft	7:43 am ▲ 2.5 ft	1:28 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	7:00 pm ▲ 2.5 ft
Su	1:44 am ▼ 0.6 ft	8:18 am ▲ 2.6 ft	2:51 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	8:30 pm ▲ 2.2 ft
Mo	2:31 am ▼ 1.1 ft	8:55 am ▲ 2.7 ft	4:08 pm ▼ 0.8 ft	10:17 pm ▲ 2.1 ft
Tu	3:23 am ▼ 1.5 ft	9:33 am ▲ 2.7 ft	5:14 pm ▼ 0.5 ft	
We	4:16 am ▼ 1.7 ft	10:15 am ▲ 2.8 ft	6:08 pm ▼ 0.2 ft	

Dog Island West End

Th	6:58 am ▲ 2.4 ft	11:43 am ▼ 1.8 ft	4:55 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	
Fr	12:29 am ▼ -0.1 ft	7:26 am ▲ 2.3 ft	12:52 pm ▼ 1.6 ft	5:55 pm ▲ 2.4 ft
Sa	1:08 am ▼ 0.3 ft	8:04 am ▲ 2.3 ft	2:01 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	6:57 pm ▲ 2.1 ft
Su	1:43 am ▼ 0.7 ft	8:24 am ▲ 2.3 ft	3:19 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	8:30 pm ▲ 1.8 ft
Mo	2:16 am ▼ 1.1 ft	8:56 am ▲ 2.4 ft	4:28 pm ▼ 0.8 ft	10:56 pm ▲ 1.7 ft
Tu	2:50 am ▼ 1.5 ft	9:31 am ▲ 2.4 ft	5:26 pm ▼ 0.5 ft	
We	3:33 am ▼ 1.8 ft	10:07 am ▲ 2.5 ft	6:20 pm ▼ 0.3 ft	

Thursday 18
Major Times 4:44 AM 4:19 PM
Minor Times 9:53 AM 10:58 PM
Friday 19
Major Times 5:31 AM 5:09 PM
Minor Times 11:00 AM 11:36 PM
Saturday 20
Major Times 6:15 AM 5:54 PM
Minor Times 12:09 AM 12:02 PM
Sunday 21
Major Times 6:37 AM 6:37 PM
Minor Times 12:39 AM 1:01 PM
Monday 22
Major Times 7:02 AM 7:02 PM
Minor Times 1:07 AM 1:58 PM
Tuesday 23
Major Times 7:41 AM 7:20 PM
Minor Times 1:35 AM 2:54 PM
Wednesday 24
Major Times 8:24 AM 8:02 PM
Minor Times 2:05 AM 3:51 PM

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



FWC unveils Florida Wildlife Watch photo project

From FWC News

Take a break from scrolling and spend a few minutes each day contributing to wildlife research instead! The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is asking for your help with Florida Wildlife Watch, a new statewide participatory science program hosted on the Zooniverse web platform. What will you discover?
Visit: [Zooniverse.org/Projects/FWC/Florida-Wildlife-Watch](https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/fwc/florida-wildlife-watch)
Through Florida Wildlife Watch, participants will identify images of animals captured on trail cameras deployed across the FWC's Wildlife Management Area system, which spans more than 6 million acres of public lands throughout the state. The classifications submitted by volunteers help biologists and land managers monitor

wildlife populations, track ecosystem health and guide conservation and management decisions statewide.
Trail cameras are an important tool for wildlife monitoring because they allow biologists to observe animals across large landscapes with minimal disturbance. However, processing the massive number of photos generated by these cameras can take significant time. Florida Wildlife Watch allows the public to play a meaningful role in helping biologists sort and classify wildlife images while learning more about Florida's incredible biodiversity.
"Florida Wildlife Watch connects people at home to nature while having a real impact on conservation," said Graysen Boehning, FWC Statewide Participatory Science Coordinator. "Even just a few classifications can be incredibly important in helping

us understand the incredible ecosystems and wildlife we have here in Florida."
Participants may spot a wide variety of native wildlife on camera, including white-tailed deer, bobcats, black bears, wild turkeys, wading birds and many other species found throughout Florida's WMAs.
Florida Wildlife Watch builds on the success of previous FWC Zooniverse projects like Everglades Wildlife Watch, which launched in spring 2024 to connect thousands of volunteers with trail camera projects across south Florida. FWC's Zooniverse projects have attracted more than 16,000 volunteers and generated over 6 million classifications.
Visit [MyFWC.com/WMA](https://www.MyFWC.com/WMA) to learn more about Florida's public lands or plan your next outdoor adventure with the WMA Recreation Map.



Underwater Wakulla

By Gregg Stanton

Symbiosis.

October 4, 2012

In graduate school I studied marine animals that live together, each presumably benefiting from such a relationship.
The animal that benefits at the expense of the other, as in slowly consuming its live host, is a parasite. If one outright eats the other, we would call this predation.
What I studied was called commensalism. I sought a host that provided residence for these animals, such as a coral head or anemone and then identified the players. To do so, I laid out a 10 meter square underwater grids and laid them over a reef.
Over a summer in 1975, I located all of the Lebrunea anemones within these grids, tagged their sites, and returned to take a census of the occupants. Lebrunea danae is an anemone that looks like an algae, but has stinging cell batteries that has gained the reputation as being the "stinging algae."
What I found was a community of small animals including fish, shrimp, crabs and brittle starfish, all occupying different spaces in and around the anemone.
Many, like the Arrow Crab and Peterson Shrimp were also found on other anemone species commonly found on patch reefs off Wakulla County. Others, like the Yucatan and Thor shrimp, and Mithrax comensalis crab, are more typical of warmer waters.
While many folks will quickly recognize the colorful Anemone fish from documentaries, none of them exist (yet) in the Gulf of Mexico. The clinid fish I found were equally small but drab in color.
OK, a summer of census taking makes for a nice paper but why are they living together?
Everyone in the eat-or-be-eaten world seeks shelter from predators. Anemones provide a form of shelter that packs a punch if a predator gets too close, so living either under the tentacles or algae filled "fronds," or close enough to dive for cover makes sense.
I once set a time lapse camera on one of my anemones and overnight documented a Mithrax crab scurrying out for algae nearby. Then in one frame a very large eye of a fish dominated the screen with the crab in the foreground facing the camera. The next frame has a large mouth moving into view, and the next frame, the side of a large fish and no crab, ever again.
Trumpet fish are seen drifting vertically over the reef, mimicking flotsam, only to suddenly dive into the reef to grab small animals too far from cover. I doubted the anemone gets much from these commensals, but maybe so.
The Periclimenes shrimp are known fish cleaners. They set up what is called a cleaning station where fish stop by, open their mouth and get organic debris pulled from their mouth and gills. In the early morning or late afternoon, I have often seen queues of waiting fish for a turn at the cleaners.
Some larger fish display to the waiting shrimp, which dance in return before cleaning begins. They can remain at the station for several minutes engaged in what could be described as very risky business. The shrimp clearly pull at sensitive places (and fish winch) and the fish are quite capable of eating the shrimp but they don't.
So how does this complex work? What benefit does the anemone, shrimp, and fish get by their mutual cooperation? Think about it and I will continue the story next week.

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



Your local source for news.

When you tell God you love Him

By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

“I love You, Father.”

When I say this short sentence, it changes my day. Every time I express my love for my heavenly Father, silently or out loud, it makes my heart happy.

Whether I’m making

sales calls, writing my weekly column, loading the dishwasher, preparing for my Women of the Word group, or dealing with difficult relationship issues ... Whenever I pause to tell my heavenly Father how much I adore Him, even the most challenging task or the most painful trial feels less overwhelming.

The simple act of expressing my love for God – for the all-powerful, yet all-merciful, God – gives me a broader view of God’s sovereignty in the midst of a trial. It helps me to see my earthly relationships more clear-

ly, including my role in conflicts. My outlook and mood become brighter, more joyful and hope-filled.

When we take our focus off our feelings, our mundane tasks, our trials – off us – and place our focus on Someone so big, so powerful, and so loving, we see everyone and everything differently.

No matter what I’m going through, I can worship God “in the waiting” because I trust His love for me. Almighty, holy, incredible God – my heavenly Father – loves me. This is why I can’t help

but tell Him what He means to me.

I suspect my female readers might find it easier to express their love. But what if we recalled several passages in Psalms where David, a brawny man’s man, had no problem recognizing and declaring his solid love for God? Including Psalm 18:1 (ESV): “I love you, O LORD, my strength.”

So try it.

In your own words or using David’s, tell God you love Him, keeping in mind all the reasons why you do. And if you can, declare it out loud!

Did you feel it?

When you expressed your love for your heavenly Father, did you become more aware of His presence – and sense His profound love for you?

How could telling the God of the universe, the Creator of all things – your Father – “I love You” throughout your day change your relationship with Him? How could it change your day? How could it change you?

During Father’s Day week, why not accept the Tell-God-I-love-You challenge for seven consecutive days and discover the difference it can make?

Spend time thanking God for specific ways He has shown up for you. I know some of your trials were painful and didn’t have a good ending. But, if you can (with the Holy Spirit’s help), ask God to reveal how He loved you and carried you through those times.

And allow His love for you to bring healing where you need it most.

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.

Every good gift

By **CHERYL CRUCE**

As it does every year, the United Methodist Church’s annual conference brings a sense of fresh beginning. There are appointments affirmed, ordination celebrated, calendars set, and the work of the church tended with care. Beneath all of it is a deeper current – the steady stirring of faith, renewed again for the

season ahead. But for me, the week has become something more personal.

My daughter clears her schedule, gathers the children, and makes her way to stay with me during the conference. The kids are now young adults with a thirst for vending machines, swimming pools, and sunshine. What began as a simple trip has become the unofficial kick-off to summer much like Christmas is to winter.

The “kick-off” this year brought an unforeseen joy. My grandson, who is sixteen going on five, has maintained that wide-eyed wonder of looking at the world through the lens of innocence. Autism can hold onto that kind of wonder in a

way that is both beautiful and challenging. He does not simply pass through moments—he fixes his heart on them. This year, that focus was clear: zebras.

My daughter had arranged a visit to a local safari, and I managed to steal away an afternoon to join them. It was a simple outing on the calendar, but for him, it was everything. Following our guide through the pastures, we passed ostriches, gazelles, and long-horned Watusi that seemed far more interested in us than we were in them. Malakai showed little interest until the final bend in the path—when the zebras came running. A herd moved across the pasture with an ease that seemed al-

most choreographed. Several newborn babies were keeping pace beside their mothers.

In that moment, everything else faded. His attention locked in, his excitement rising with every step they took closer. There was no need to encourage him to look or point it out—he had already found what he came for. We all watched as the zebras crossed in front of us, but for Malakai, it was as if the rest of the world had stepped aside to make room for that one joy.

Completing our tour we stopped to feed the camels—Bobby and Brownie, names far less majestic than the creatures themselves. They leaned in with surprising gentleness, more like

overgrown dogs, patiently waiting for each small handful offered their way. As I watched them, it struck me how often joy comes in simple, unplanned moments. We arrive with calendars and expectations, but grace has a way of showing up in fields and feeding troughs, in laughter and in wonder.

Scripture reminds us that these are not accidents of life, but reminders of the One who gives good gifts. We often look for God in the weighty and the formal, but He is also present in the simple and unexpected—where joy runs across a field, where laughter rises in a pool, where a child’s heart is captured by zebras. Perhaps the question for us is not

whether God still gives good gifts, but whether we still recognize them when they come. What good gift has the Father placed in your life that you may have overlooked, and may you learn to see it again.

Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! (Matthew 7:9-11)

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

OUT TO PASTOR

Life is not a soap opera

By **JAMES SNYDER**

When I was young, we did not have a TV in our home. My parents did not think it was important, so we listened to the radio instead. I love the Saturday morning radio shows, Popeye the Sailor Man, particularly.

Then something big happened that changed our lives. On November 22, 1963, President John F. Kennedy was assassinated. This event changed everything for us.

My father was really concerned about the news, so he went out and bought our first TV. It was black-and-white, but he wanted to stay up to date on the news about the President. The news was on almost all the time.

It also changed my mother. She had two close friends from church that would get together and talk for hours. I never understood what they were talking about, and what I heard didn’t make sense to me.

As time went on, I finally figured out they were discussing soap operas on TV. My mother started watching these shows with passion. When her friends came over, they would talk about the latest drama on their favorite soap opera. Even when they met in church, a soap opera was one of the topics they

talked about.

I’m not sure which soap opera was her favorite, but she followed two or three of them very closely. She and her friends treated these shows as if they were real life.

The soap operas were on when I was at school, so I never got to watch them with her. Even if I had the chance, I’m not sure I would have wanted to watch them with her. If I had to choose between one of her soap operas and Popeye the Sailor Man. It would be an easy choice, I would choose Popeye.

People must have pretty boring lives if they watch soap operas so passionately every day.

As I got older, I realized that many people think their lives are like a soap opera. They think they’re living in a drama every day.

After I got married, there was a popular TV show called “Dallas” that I never watched. I had more important things to do than watch a soap opera.

I remember everyone asking, “What happened to J.R. Ewing from Dallas?” This question was everywhere for a long time. I do not understand why people were so interested in a character that was not real. As far as I know, we never got an answer to that question.

I know some people, even in my family, think their lives are like a soap opera. They have so much drama in their lives that I wish there were a switch that I could turn off.

When I was young, I realized that life is real. I wish I could make my life into a soap opera

with a happy ending, but thankfully, it’s not like that.

Sometimes I make situations more dramatic than they need to be because I don’t know what else to do. But that doesn’t help the situation I’m facing. If my life were a soap opera, I would be able to change the channel to something more fun, like the Three Stooges. My life is more like theirs than any soap opera.

This year, my wife and I will celebrate 55 years of marriage. I never thought I’d live long enough to see this day. I’ll be turning 75 just before we celebrate our anniversary.

I can honestly say that in those 55 years, I have not had a single bad day, and that is because I have been married the whole time and not single.

Yes, we have had our

dramatic moments, like when my wife first introduced me to broccoli. That was a soap opera day for sure.

Another dramatic day was when my wife told me she was pregnant. I was not yet 21, and I didn’t know if I could be a father.

It took me a while to work through that soap opera drama, but I finally did when our first daughter was born. I just did not know what other drama was coming my way as a father.

We ended up having two girls and a boy, and that was just the beginning of the drama—just have a bunch of grandkids come over for a party and you will see what I mean.

People often wonder why older people have gray hair. The answer is simple: the more grandkids and great-grandkids

you have, the grayer your hair will get. Believe me, I’m proof.

Soap operas and real life differ because soap operas are carefully scripted and planned. They even redo scenes multiple times. In real life, there is no script, and every day is a surprise without a repeat. If only I could write my own scenes, I might handle things better. Also, you don’t get to redo a scene.

Reflecting on this I remembered what The Apostle Paul said on this subject.

1 Corinthians 2:11-12, “For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which

is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.”

My life is not a soap opera, but a life of reality through the Holy Spirit, who is always real.

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

• **Kenneth Lee Mull**, 69 of Crawfordville passed away June 13, 2026.

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

Sheriff's Report

Sheriff's Report is for activity June 5 to 12. There were 1,360 total calls for service.

FRIDAY, JUNE 5

• A citizen reported being in a verbal argument with an Amazon Driver. He advised he observed the driver pull into his yard at a high rate of speed. After confronting the driver about his driving an argument ensued. It was determined no crime occurred due to the Amazon Driver backing away as the argument occurred.

SATURDAY, JUNE 6

• Deputy Jonathan Kilbourn responded to Walmart in reference to a retail theft. Contact was made with Walmart Asset Protection who advised an unknown male entered the store to return items. After returning items, he began shopping around the store. He then proceeded to self-check out and scan some items but not all. He then proceeded to exit the store passing all final points of sale failing to pay for the merchandise. Case forwarded to Criminal Investigations Division.

• Deputy Jonathan Kilbourn conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for faulty equipment. Upon making contact with the driver, he was advised the reason for the stop. The driver advised he had never been issued a license and had been stopped previously and warned regarding this matter. After confirming with dispatch, he was placed under arrest and transported to the county jail without further incident.

SUNDAY, JUNE 7

• Deputy Joshua Parker conducted a traffic stop on a motorcycle after observing the motorcycle perform "wheelies" and traveling at a high rate of speed on Spring Creek Highway. After some time, Deputy Parker caught up to the motorcycle and eventually conducted a traffic stop. During the stop, the rider of the motorcycle was advised the reason for the stop. After speaking with him, he was placed under arrest for reckless driving and transported to the county jail without further incident.

• Deputy Kory Smith conducted a traffic stop near Coastal Highway and Rehwinkel Road. During the stop, it was discovered the driver did not possess a valid license. While speaking with her regarding her suspended license, consent was given to search the vehicle, during the search a small amount of marijuana was located, seized and submitted for destruction. She was given a citation for Driving While License Suspended or Revoked (DWLSR) unknowingly and release from the scene.

MONDAY, JUNE 8

• A citizen reported his firearm missing and thought he may have left it at the Hudson Park bathroom. Deputies Bushong and Austin Rivers searched the area with negative results. He did not have the serial number of the firearm. Once he locates the serial number, he will notify WCSO.

• A citizen called to report a fraudulent boat purchase. He advised he traveled to Americus, Ga., in April 2026 to purchase a Mako boat from the seller. The seller advised he would send the title once he received it. When the reporting person inquired about the delay, the seller stated he was filling out paperwork for a lost title. The reporting person contacted the Florida Division of Motor Vehicles which advised him there was a lien on the boat. The seller denies there being a lien on the boat. Case forwarded to CID.

• Deputy Jeremiah Post responded to Bob Miller Road in reference a citizen advising an unknown individual opened multiple credit cards under his name. He is currently out \$768 from unauthorized charges. Case forwarded to CID.

TUESDAY, JUNE 9

• A citizen reported

the theft of a ring from the trunk area of her vehicle. She believes it may have been taken by a known acquaintance while she was at a restaurant. There is no witness or video of the theft and the subject's whereabouts are unknown.

• A citizen reported criminal mischief to a memorial flower vase she placed at the scene of a fatal traffic crash. She stated she believes someone she knows broke the vase intentionally. She provided an audio recording of the subject admitting to the offense.

• A citizen reported the theft of a potted plant from his yard. He stated he left the plant in his yard and noticed it missing over a 24-hour period. He did not wish to prosecute and reported this for information purposes.

• A citizen reported the theft of tools. The tools were located in a green army can and had an estimated value of \$450. Case forwarded to CID.

• A citizen reported someone opened an account with T-Mobile. She stated a phone was purchased using her information and sent to a P.O. Box in Quincy. Case forwarded to CID.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10

• A citizen reported unauthorized purchas-

es on Amazon being made using his bank debit card. The unknown person made three purchases totaling \$3,681.84. Capital City Bank advised him to report this incident to aid in recovering the lost funds and so the bank could investigate as well.

• A citizen reported finding a wallet at Wakulla Springs State Park. Attempts to locate the owner were unsuccessful and the wallet was seized for safekeeping until the owner comes forth. Later that day, the same citizen reported finding an ID card in the woods at Wakulla Springs State Park. The ID card belonged to an individual from Peru. The ID card was seized and placed into Property & Evidence for safekeeping until owner claims it.

• Deputy Joshua Parker responded to Ochlocknee Street in reference to criminal mischief. Contact was made with a citizen who stated a subject he knew had vandalized the side door to American Legion by writing a message in red on it. The reporting person advised the writing was in reference to an incident that occurred three years ago when he was arrested and his bike was left behind. The reporting person advised due to the subject being incarcerated for an extended amount of time he relocated the

bike to his residence for storage. The reporting person completed a sworn statement for this incident. Case forwarded to CID.

• Deputy Kory Smith responded to Raker Lane in reference to criminal mischief. Contact was made with the reporting person who stated while at the residence, a subject known to him came to the property and knocked on the door to the residence. He stated while the subject was on the property, he threw an unknown object at the window which caused it to shatter. He stated he did not wish to pursue charges and completed a request for non-prosecution. The subject was located walking near Sonic. Contact was made regarding this incident. The subject made statements conflicting with the reporting person. Due to a non-prosecution being signed along with conflicting statements, this incident was written for case was closed.

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

• Sgt. Shayne Broxsi observed a suspicious

person in the area of the community center and new library construction during non-business hours. Contact was made and the subject was identified by ID card. The deputy was advised the individual has an active warrant out of Leon County for Failure to APpear. He was placed under arrest and transported to the county jail without incident.

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

• A citizen reported the theft of an air compressor from the D.R. Horton construction site located at Argonne Drive. The reporting person valued the compressor at \$2,500 and said he wanted to report this for information and signed a Request for Non-Prosecution. There are no witnesses or video of this incident. Due to ongoing thefts from this construction site, this case is being forwarded to CID for follow up.

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

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Miscellaneous

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NOTICE OF ACTION
 0611-0702 TWS NOA
 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
 PAFFORD PROPERTIES & CONSTRUCTION, LLC, A FLORIDA LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, PLAINTIFF,
 V.
 BERTHA E. STANLEY, IF ALIVE, AND IF DECEASED, UNKNOWN SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEEES, CREDITORS, ASSIGNS, AND ALL OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST HER, DEFENDANTS.
 Case No.: 2026-CA-000072

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NOTICE OF ACTION
 To: BERTHA E. STANLEY; if alive, and if deceased, unknown spouses, heirs, devisees, grantees, creditors, assigns, and all other parties claiming by through, under or against her
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that a Complaint for Quiet Title on the following property in Wakulla County, Florida:
LOT 2, BLOCK 29, WAKULLA GARDENS UNIT THREE, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE(S) 43, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.
 Wakulla County Parcel ID No. 00-00-043-010-09075-000
 Address: Redman Road, Crawfordville, FL

Susan Schatzman
 Broker Associate
 Mobile: 850-519-2292
 SchatzmanSusan@gmail.com
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has been filed against you and others, and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on **ANDREW J. POWER, ESQUIRE, SMITH, THOMPSON, SHAW, COLÓN & POWER, P.A.**, Plaintiff's attorneys, 3520 Thomasville Road, Fourth Floor, Tallahassee, Florida 32309-3469, no more than thirty (30) days from the first publication date of this Notice of Action, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorneys or immediately thereafter; otherwise, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.
 DATED this 3rd day of June, 2026.
 {{County Court Seal}}
 Greg James
 As Clerk of the Court
 Wakulla County, Florida
 By: /s/ Rachel Howard
 As Deputy Clerk
 June 11, 18, 25, July 2, 2026

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FICTITIOUS NAMES
 FICTITIOUS NAME
 Notice under Fictitious Name Law, pursuant to Section 856.09, Florida Statutes. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, Richard H. Ott, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of **ONE SANDWICH SHORT OF A PICNIC MUSIC FESTIVAL**
 Located at 126 Municipal Ave, Sopchoppy FL 32358
 In the County of Wakulla
 Intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporation of the Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida.
 Published on June 18, 2026

0528-0618 TWS NOA
 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
 MICHAEL THOMAS HADDEN
 Former Husband,
 and
 DESTINY AMANDA HADDEN,
 Former Wife.
 DIVISION: FAMILY LAW
NOTICE OF ACTION FOR MODIFICATION OF TIME-SHARING AND SUPPORT
 TO: DESTINY AMANDA HADDEN
 Last Known Address: 107 AVALON DR, HUNTSVILLE, TX 77320
 YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Modification of Time-Sharing and Support has been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Michael Thomas Hadden, whose address is C/O Jeffery S. Richardson, Esq., 400 Capital Circle SE, #18-134, Tall. FL 32301, on or before **June 15, 2026**, and file the original with the clerk of this Court at 3056 Crawfordville Hwy, Crawfordville, FL 32327, before service on Petitioner or immediately thereafter. If you fail to do so, a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition. Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office. You may review these documents upon request. You must keep the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office notified of your current address. (You may file Designation of Current Mailing and E-Mail Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915.) Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed or e-mailed to the addresses on record at the clerk's office.
 WARNING: Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings.
 Dated **May 18, 2026**
 {{County Court Seal}}
 Greg James
 As Clerk of the Court
 By: /s/ Lindsey Nichols
 As Deputy Clerk
 May 28, June 4, 11, 18, 2026

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NOTICE OF ACTION
 0604-0625 TWS NOA
 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR WAKULLA, FLORIDA
 CASE NO.: 2026 CC 99
 WE NOT ME FARMS MINISTRIES INC,
 PLAINTIFF,
 VS
 COASTAL TOWING OF WAKULLA LLC,
 DEFENDANT.
NOTICE OF ACTION
 TO: COASTAL TOWING OF WAKULLA LLC
 YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for establishment of ownership of personal property described as: **THE TITLE FOR A TRUCK AND MINISTRY PAPERWORK AND COSTS ASSOCIATED** has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Plaintiff, **We Not Me Farms Ministries Inc** whose address is: 2343 Crawfordville Hwy Suite 107-132 Crawfordville FL 32327, on or before **July 1, 2026**, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court immediately thereafter, otherwise a Default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.
 WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court this **May 5, 2026**.
 {{County Court Seal}}
 Greg James
 As Clerk of the Circuit Court
 By: /s/ Ethan Brown
 As Deputy Clerk
 Published June 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026

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NOTICE OF ACTION
 0528-0618 TWS NOA
 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR WAKULLA, FLORIDA
 FAMILY LAW DIVISION
 CASE NO.: 2026 DR 5
 TINA GRIER,
 PETITIONER/WIFE,,
 AND
 DEREK GRIER,
 RESPONDENT/HUSBAND.
NOTICE OF ACTION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE
 TO: DEREK GRIER
 106 CANTONMENT RD.
 CANTONMENT, FL 32533
 YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Petitioner/Wife Tina Grier's Petition For Dissolution Of Marriage has been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Adam R. Cowhey, Esquire, Petitioners' attorney, whose address is 247 E. 71h Avenue, Tallahassee, Florida 32303, no more than thirty (30) days from the date of first publication of this Notice Of Action, and file the original with the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Family Law Division, at 3056 Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville, FL 32327 before service on Petitioners' attorney or immediately thereafter. **If you fail to do so, a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.**
 Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Court's Office. You may review these documents upon request.
 You must keep the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office notified of your current address. (You may file Designation of Current Mailing and E-Mail Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915.) Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed or e-mailed to the addresses on record at the clerk's office.
 WARNING: Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings.
 WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court this **May 18, 2026**.
 {{County Court Seal}}
 Greg James
 As Clerk of the Circuit Court
 By: /s/ Lindsey Nichols
 As Deputy Clerk
 Published May 28, June 4, 11, 18, 2026

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NOTICE OF ACTION
 0528-0618 TWS NOA
 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR WAKULLA, FLORIDA
 FAMILY LAW DIVISION
 CASE NO.: 2026 DR 5
 TINA GRIER,
 PETITIONER/WIFE,,
 AND
 DEREK GRIER,
 RESPONDENT/HUSBAND.
NOTICE OF ACTION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE
 TO: DEREK GRIER
 106 CANTONMENT RD.
 CANTONMENT, FL 32533
 YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Petitioner/Wife Tina Grier's Petition For Dissolution Of Marriage has been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Adam R. Cowhey, Esquire, Petitioners' attorney, whose address is 247 E. 71h Avenue, Tallahassee, Florida 32303, no more than thirty (30) days from the date of first publication of this Notice Of Action, and file the original with the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Family Law Division, at 3056 Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville, FL 32327 before service on Petitioners' attorney or immediately thereafter. **If you fail to do so, a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.**
 Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Court's Office. You may review these documents upon request.
 You must keep the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office notified of your current address. (You may file Designation of Current Mailing and E-Mail Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915.) Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed or e-mailed to the addresses on record at the clerk's office.
 WARNING: Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings.
 WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court this **May 18, 2026**.
 {{County Court Seal}}
 Greg James
 As Clerk of the Circuit Court
 By: /s/ Lindsey Nichols
 As Deputy Clerk
 Published May 28, June 4, 11, 18, 2026

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