



Keep Wakulla County Beautiful Awards/Page 12



\$1
One Section

Our 5th Year 29th Issue
Thursday, July 16, 2026



Engineer Alberto Lopez, in the jacket, who worked on the Sunfish robot explorer, talks with visitors about the mapping of the underwater caves that feed Wakulla Springs.

Wakulla Springs mapping

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

State Rep. Jason Shoaf, R-Port St. Joe, credits the controversy a couple of years ago over a gas station that planned to locate over a recently mapped underground cave with water that flowed to Wakulla Springs as a catalyst.

County officials were saying the problem was that there were no specific meets-and-bounds description of the cave that would allow it to require a setback – no red flags in the ground, as it were, to mark above ground where the edge of the cave is 200 or 300 feet below ground.

Shoaf said he charged his staff to come up with a solution – and they came back touting the abilities of the Sunfish,



Chris Brown of Friends of Wakulla Springs asks questions of scientists Ming Ye of FSU, Patricia Spellman of USE, Joel Trexler of FSU, Harley Means, state geologist, and Chris Werner, geologist who heads the Woodville Karst Plain Project.

an underwater drone that is outfitted with GIS to map the caves.

(The controversy of the gas station was

eventually settled with a land swap that moved the gas station across the road and purchased the property with the

underground cave system as conservation land.)

At an expo on Friday,

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Case against teacher who whipped students refiled as felony

Diesel instructor Eric Kasheta is facing first degree felony charges for malicious punishment for hitting students with a bungee cord

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

A former Wakulla High School diesel mechanic instructor is facing four first-degree felony charges for allegedly whipping students in his class with a bungee cord.

Eric Kasheta, who was fired as an instructor in March 2025 after the allegations came to light, was initially charged with four counts of misdemeanor battery, punishable by up to a year in jail. The state attorney's office dropped those charges and refiled in August as felonies, each of which is punishable by up to 30 years in prison.



Former teacher Eric Kasheta

In a motion hearing on Thursday, July 9, before Wakulla Circuit Judge Layne Smith, defense attorney Ray Curtis of Perry who argued for the case to be dismissed saying there's no grievous injury or disfigurement. The students, at most, suffered a red welt or bruise as a result of the classroom punishment.

Wakulla Chief Prosecutor Andrew Deneen responded that "There's a huge difference between punishment and hitting students with a rubber strap in the genitals."

There was discussion of the meaning of "malicious" – and suggestion that it referred to going beyond what a reasonable parent would do in a similar situation.

Judge Smith denied the defense's motion to dismiss and said the question of whether it was a malicious act was for a jury to determine.

Kasheta, who was actually an employee of Lively Vocational who taught diesel mechanics at Wakulla High School, would allegedly give students who acted up in class the option of a disciplinary referral or

Turn to Page 3

POLITICAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Judge Lee Marsh seeks re-election

By LEE MARSH
Special to The Sun

Greetings, residents of Wakulla County. I am Judge Lee Marsh, and I am running for re-election as one of your circuit judges for the Second Judicial Circuit.

As a retired United States Navy Officer, I have dedicated my life to public service and to my community. I was born and raised just up the road in Tallahassee and graduated as Leon High School's valedictorian. It was there that I met my wife of over 30 years, Karin.

After graduating with distinction from the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Karin and I married and started our Navy adventure where I served on submarines. The Navy then sent me to law school where I got my law degree and became a career Navy judge advocate.



Throughout my legal career, both in the navy and afterward, I concentrated my practice on trial work. I have represented both the state as a prosecutor, and individuals as a defense attorney. I have practiced in military, state, and federal

courts, to include my time working for the Florida Office of the Attorney General.

It was my love of the law and for public service that led me to the bench. For the last 8 years as your circuit judge, I have presided over the family, criminal,

The Wakulla Sun offers candidates the opportunity to announce their candidacy, and tell voters the issues that are important to them.

nal, and civil divisions. I have tried over 110 jury trials, including first degree murders. I have the experience of doing this job. I also have the commitment to fairness and justice needed for everyone that appears in the courtroom. I love the people of our community.

As a member of our local community, I have committed myself to serve. I am a church elder, a Rotarian, and a proud chorus dad. My family has been here for generations, and we are proud to call it home.

If you want to know more about me, please check out keepjudgemarsh.com. I ask for your vote on August 18th! Thank you.

Wakulla Sun to host candidate forum

Staff Report

The Wakulla Sun will host a candidate forum for the two Republican candidates for the county commission seat – incumbent Quincee Messersmith and challenger Carrie Hughes – on July 28 at the public library beginning at 6 p.m.

Additionally, the Sun is inviting the candidates for Congress, Republicans and Democrats, to appear at the forum to introduce themselves and speak on their views.

The Sun will livestream the forum on our YouTube page.

The primary election day is Aug. 18.

Minor injuries in 3-car crash

Staff Report

A three-car crash on U.S. Highway 319 near Songbird Avenue resulted in only minor injuries, according to the Florida Highway Patrol.

On Thursday, July 9, around 6 a.m., a Jeep Compass driven by a 29-year-old Tallahassee woman crossed into the northbound lane and hit a Mitsubishi Eclipse, driven by a 49-year-old Crawfordville woman. The Jeep then hit a Toyota Camry driven by a 31-year-old Crawfordville man, according to FHP.

The Mitsubishi spun 180 degrees in the roadway and the Toyota ended up in a ditch. The Jeep stopped on the grass shoulder facing south.

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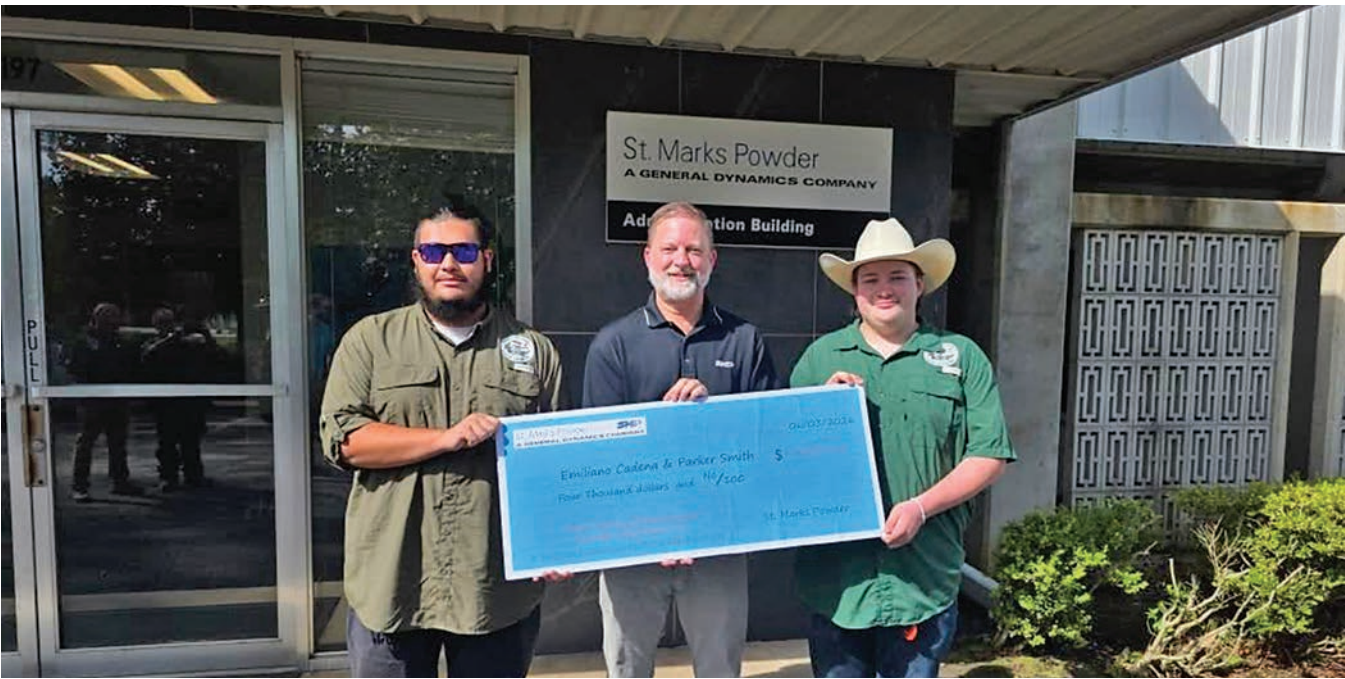
Turn to the Experts



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Please Recycle



\$4,000 donation for 4-H shooters

A donation of \$4,000 was made to the UF Foundation from St Marks Powder to help support the travel costs of Wakulla 4-H members Emiliano Cadena and Parker Smith and their parents to attend and participate in the National Shooting Sports Championships in Grand Island, Nebraska. General Manager Brandon

Conrad is in the photo with them. Funds donated by local businesses and community members were used to offset hotel and car rental costs for the trip for youth and parents for the week-long competition. (Photo submitted)

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Lightning and thunder – are they good or bad?

By **SAM HAND**
FAMU Extension

Many, many years ago, Ben Franklin proved lightning was electricity. Franklin and his son flew a kite into a violent storm with a key attached to the kite’s string while he held on.

Luckily only the key was charged by the high voltage strike. Today we know a lightning strike’s temperature is hotter than the sun’s surface. It is no wonder Franklin’s key glowed in the aftermath of the storm.

Keep that thought in mind as we answer my wife’s question asked after an unusually loud thunderclap. “What is that and what causes thunder? Is it dangerous?”

Well, we know that electricity can be dangerous, but it can also be used for good, like Thomas Edison’s light bulb. Without electricity, we might still be reading by coal oil lamps after the sun went down.

Lightning also helps the plants.

The heat from a 30,000-degree Fahrenheit lightning strike causes nitrogen in the air to change from an inert gas to soil nitrate, NO3, which plants can use like



The past few weeks have seen several people in Florida struck by lightning. With the rainy season at hand there are likely to be more human residents who have the unfortunate experience of being hit by lightening bolts. There are precautions which can minimize the potential for a this shocking experience.

fertilizer.

However, lightning bolts misdirected and uncontrolled can do all kinds of damage. It can start forest fires, damage buildings or property, or kill trees, animals and even people.

That is why we put lighting rods on buildings and in trees, to protect them by providing another path to ground for the

strikes, it super heats the air it passes through and causes the air to expand like in a hot air balloon.

As the air cools, it rushes back together and it creates a loud roaring sound wave called thunder as the molecules in the air collide with each other rushing back together. If there were no air, and the lightning strike occurred in a vacuum, there would be no sound produced for anyone to hear.

So, to sum up, you do not need to be afraid of the thunder, just the lightning, and there are things we can do to help protect us from the lightning.

As the old saying goes you will never hear the thunder from the lightning bolt that strikes you, only thunder from the one that missed you.

So do not let the thunder scare you next time we have a thunderstorm.

Instead, take the sound of thunder as a warning shot and get to a safe location until the storm has passed.

Sam Hand is FAMU Extension Associate Professor and Director of Industry Credentialing Training Programs, FAMU Cooperative Extension.

Mapping

From Front Page

July 10 at Wakulla Environmental Institute hosted by the Friends of Wakulla Springs, Shoaf was credited with finding \$2.5 million in state funding for the Sunfish’s exlorations, and he told the more than100 attendees that he envisions a future with drones that can provide state of the art water quality monitoring.

In an example told to the Sun, Shoaf said what if somebody in the backwoods is dumping car batteries. The drones would find the pollution as it reached the water, and state regulators could pinpoint where the violation had occured and clean it up.

Scientists gave reports on their latest studies: Chris Werner, geologist and director of the Wakulla Karst Plain Project, on mapping the caves, and a study that indicated conductance spikes are not saltwater intrusion but due to rainwater and perhaps deep aquifer.

Joel Trexler of the FSU Marine Lab has been tracing water going to Wakulla Springs using bacterial DNA in the water.

Patricia Spellman of USF noted the use of Sunfish to look at contaminants in underground water with an eye to land use regulation.

The star of the day was the Sunfish and news that a second generation drone is in the works, smaller and with more power.

The Sunfish, which is tethered, can only travel about a half-mile per use, but the new drone will be untethered and able to travel 3.7 miles and get in smaller spaces and stronger water flows.

Teacher

From Front Page

corporal punishment. According to some students in the class, in-

terviewed by sheriff’s deputies investigating the allegations, Kasheta started off at the beginning of the year with a rubber tube that hurt but didn’t leave a mark.

Later, he allegedly started using a bungee

cord that he had removed the metal hooks from – which was more painful.

The defense indicated the students who were alleged victims in the case have yet to have their depositions taken.



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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.



THE SCHOOL BOARD OF WAKULLA COUNTY ANNOUNCES THE FOLLOWING:

EVENT:	School Board Meeting
DATE:	Monday, July 27, 2026
TIME:	5:45 pm
PLACE:	School Board Room, 69 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida
PURPOSE:	Special School Board Meeting

For further information please contact:
Superintendent’s Office
Wakulla County Schools
Post Office Box 100, 69 Arran Rd
Crawfordville, Florida 32326
850-926-0065

July 16, 2026

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

WAKULLA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
INVITATION TO BID NO.
ITB 2026-15
PFA 1 EDGEWOOD & GOLD-EN GATE SEPTIC TO SEWER PROJECT
ADVERTISEMENT BEGIN DATE:
JULY 16, 2026
RELEASE DATE: JULY 16, 2026
BIDS DUE TO BOCC:
AUGUST 18 @ 3:00 PM EST

Sealed bids will be received at the office of the Board of County Commissioners, 3093 Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville, FL 32327; until **3:00 P.M. EST. on AUGUST 18, 2026**, at which time the bids will be opened and read aloud. Bids received after the deadline will not be accepted.

The principal feature of this procurement by the County is known as **PFA 1 EDGEWOOD & GOLDEN GATE SEPTIC TO SEWER PROJECT**. The specifications of this procurement are stated in **ITB 2026-15**.

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

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

A mandatory pre-bid conference is scheduled for **July 23, 2026, at 3:00 P.M. EST**. The meeting will be held at the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners Administration Office, 3093 Crawfordville Hwy., Crawfordville, FL 32327. The meeting is **MANDATORY** for all contractors who plan to submit bids. Attendees must sign in at the pre-bid conference in order to be authorized to bid on the project. All questions asked at the pre-bid meeting will not be formally addressed via addendum unless provided to the County in writing.

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

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

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

July 16, 2026



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Polled at The America 250! event on the courthouse lawn on July 2:
What do you think should have been in the 2076 time capsule?

- Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

JOANN DANIELS
Coastal Optimist President

“An article about how good the Wakulla County Schools have been over the past 50 years.”

MICHAEL BEGLEY
Retired

“A note saying glad to see you made it! I’m really glad I am here today. ”

COL. RAY JOHNSON
Wakulla Sheriff’s Office

“I would say photos of this event and the opening of the 2026 time capsule. Info about how safe it was when we were all growing up... and a picture of me.”

ASHLEY ROWLAND-YOST
Planning Department

“A Twinkie!”

TAMIKA RICH
Life Coach

“Photos of what Wakulla’s downtown looks like today and interviews from some of our elders.”

Wakulla Crossroads

By Verna Brock

Consider, for a moment, the humble palmetto bug. A form of cockroach, these large critters inhabit the entire swath of the Southern United States, always preferring moist mulch and cool shadows. Texas and Florida comprise their largest habitats. Their actual species can be either the American Roach or the Florida Woods Roach, although many roach species may be referred to as palmetto bugs.

Our many transplanted northern neighbors find these native animals deeply disgusting and shocking. The size of the palmetto bug alone can send the uninitiated running for high ground.

Both types of palmetto bugs have wings and are great fliers. They seem to specialize in flying into faces as folks enter their homes in the evening, as they are attracted to lights at night. If you travel our Florida back roads in the heat of summer, you have glimpsed these aeronauts. Zooming about in front of your car, looking like bejeweled fairies, they glimmer and glisten in the bright morning sunlight as heat waves shimmer over the blacktop pavement. You probably had no idea these glittering creatures were

that most repulsive of creatures, the roach!

We humans typically see them in our homes, and that is where things can get sticky. Most often spotted on their backs, skittering around our bathtubs, you would NEVER guess they are accomplished fliers. They seem incapable of even righting themselves, let alone taking flight. Easily dehydrated, palmetto bugs are drawn to sources of water, and what better than a bathroom and its tub?

During our hot Florida summers, I will find at least one palmetto bug, every week, somewhere in my house. Looking for all the world like a corpse, on its back, all six legs pointing skyward, it lies motionless. Rather than squash it like the bug it is, I test for signs of life. At the least touch, all six legs begin to paddle the air as if running for survival. At that point, I scoop it up and toss it out the door. I hate cleaning up the yucky mess they make when squashed. My father preferred to drown them in Raid, claiming their anguished screams (audible only to other insects) would warn their ilk to avoid OUR house.

Personally, I imagine these prehistoric little opportunists holding their breath, trying to remain undiscovered, invisible. In my household, that is a crapshoot. My three cats seem to always suffer from unrelenting ennui. Anything, moving or not, is a chance to play kitty-cat futbol. If it can be swatted and sent spinning across floors, the game is ON! All three eagle-eyed felines will relentlessly join the sport, batting and chasing the unlucky wretch until they tire and retire for a summer snooze. My dogs are far more interested in smelling the creature (should they happen upon it before the cats), and occasionally try to “taste” it. For the sake of science, of course. Said bug seldom survives the canine experimenter, but is also seldom swallowed. I hypothesize palmetto bugs are not very tasty.

There is not much more disconcerting than to be awakened by a palmetto bug crawling over your recumbent form in the middle of the night. You all know exactly to what I refer. The exact weight, and the feel of six prickly feet, as the uninvited interloper travels your back, shoulders, FACE(!), is unmistakable.

Yanked into horrified wakefulness, you leap out of bed, jumping and twisting this way and that. Arms windmill as hands swipe at the unseen but clearly felt invader. This is generally accompanied by much yelping and shuddering. If you have a partner sharing the bed, that person has probably joined the war dance

too. The poor, unsuspecting bug is generally sent reeling, leaving the humans to fruitless attempts to reclaim rest.

Campfire tales abound of unsuspecting naturalists discovering a tiny nymph palmetto bug has decided to make a home in their ear canal. These are probably “urban myths” but nonetheless chilling to countless children as they lie awake in their tents in the woods. Meanwhile, the adults on the scene chuckle as they send their offspring off to a restless sleep. That is, until they themselves must try to find sweet repose. Me? I worry a whole lot more about the random snake seeking the warmth of my body inside my sleeping bag...

All in all, the palmetto bug is a harmless native that will probably outlast the human race. They almost never bite (another “urban myth” perhaps?), prefer the great outdoors (except when thirsty), and mean us no harm.

I will allow, more people have probably been injured in frantic attempts to escape this humble interloper, than actually hurt by the beastie itself. So consider my advice: take a deep breath when confronted by the palmetto bug, and react appropriately to the threat level.

And remember, you can always call Florida Pest Control!

Sopchoppy News

By DJ Butch

Finally getting some rain.... What a blessing! The grass is gonna grow fast now.

Sopchoppy 4th of July Started later in the day this year. Parade at 4pm. The sheriff was in the parade on a float and gave me a shout out. I thought that was cool. I also got a shout out from the little league football float. I liked the jeeps and it

was good to see WHS football players. My little cousin was collecting candy with an upside down umbrella. Genius! The floats tried to ring it and he had plenty of room for more candy! The parade was followed by the city park for vendors, food and entertainment. Fireworks at dark. I didn’t perform or do sound this year. However I did stop by... I also watched the fireworks from the old historic Sopchoppy school. A few

people did the same. We rode our golf carts to the school and it was awesome!

I did DJ July 3rd at Low Tide (under Trident) it was craaaaaaazy! So many people and so much fun! It gets bigger every year. Fireworks were at 10 p.m. and they are so cool!

It was a long week for me. I went to Biloxi, Mississippi on Monday and got back on Thursday. That was an amazing week of food, casinos, a musical and good times. I actually won some money. It was awesome to go and experience Biloxi. It also gives me the opportunity to make

great content. But I was right back for our Fourth of July celebrations. On the 4th I spent it with friends hanging out. It was a hot day. Well it was a hot week but it was filled with so much fun and excitement.

Few times I went fishing the fish were biting. I’m in the process of getting my lil Jon boat together. I’m excited about this. I’m even trying to get it legal...haha. They usually won’t find me where I go but it’s good to be legal just in case...

Well, I’m sending you all love from Sopchoppy!

Library News

By Linda Oaks
Library Director

Library News July 16th–
July 22nd

Thursday, July 16th

- Tiny Tummy Time 9:30am
- Creative Writing I 10am
- Veteran’s Meetup 11am
- Free Lunch for kids with Summer Break-

spot 12 noon

- Junior Readers 3rd-5th Grade Summer Reading Book Group 1pm
- Paint & Assemble Day for small car derby with Wakulla Steam 6pm
- Amateur Radio 6:30pm

Friday, July 17th

- Quilting Guild 10am
- Career Source Employ Florida 2pm

Saturday, July 18th

- Girl Scouts 9:30am
- Read Therapy Dogs 10am

Sunday, July 19th

- Closed

Monday, July 20th

- American Legion Post 114 6pm
- American Legion Auxiliary Unit 114 6:30pm

Tuesday, July 21st

- No Morning Children’s Programs

Wednesday, July 22nd

- No Morning Children’s Programs
- Free Lunch for kids with Summer Break-spot 11am
- Mahjong 1pm
- Knitting Group 4pm

Creative Writing II 10am

Free Lunch for kids with Summer Break-spot 11am

Lego Club 4:30pm

Evening Mahjong 4:30pm

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HOME ON THE RANGE

The .22 High Standard



By MARJ LAW

On Wednesday, when Joe and I were at the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office Range, like we usually are on Wednesday mornings, I find a pleasant surprise.

Our friend Greg has surprised us by bringing a .22 handgun. Not only any handgun, mind you, but a .22 High Standard.

"Just a .22?" you say. No. Not just any .22.

Greg hands me the gun. Of course, because the range is "hot," he hands me the gun with the muzzle pointed downrange in a safe direction so we are able to handle it.

I plop it into my hand as if to shoot.

Wow.

It seats firmly into the crook of my hand between thumb and forefinger. Great balance! Yes, it is all metal and has a 5.5 inch barrel. And what a barrel. This .22 is probably mainly used as a target gun. Why not? The barrel is not only 5.5 inches long, but it is a

very heavy barrel. I feel the grip. The checkering feels good. It's not exactly high, but is firm and not harsh. There's a fancy brass circle on both sides of the grip. Seems like there's an eagle on the left side, and a decorative mark on the right. Hard to tell...

Looking it over, the bluing is deep; not a cheap coating. I don't see any spots where the bluing has been worn off. No scrapes. The finish is in great condition.

Hm. No magazine release button on the left side of the gun. I turn it upside down. Sure enough, it has what I'd call a "European" magazine release at the bottom of the magazine. I push the button towards the back, but the mag stays in place. Since it isn't my gun, I'm not about to push any button very hard.

Wordlessly, I hand it over to Greg. He has been observing and knows exactly the problem. He quickly pushes the button, showing me as he does so. OK, I get it. It needed a firmer push.

So far, this type of mag release is the only thing I don't appreciate on the gun. I prefer a push button on the grip. If a person wanted to compete, the easiest access to releasing the magazine would be the best. For me, the grip push button is much easier to access.

I look down at the trigger. It has a knob



thingie on the back of the curve.

"What's this thing?" I ask Joe later in the day, as we inspect the photos I've taken of the gun.

"It's a trigger stop," he answers.

"Why bother?" I wonder. "The trigger's going to stop on the frame, anyway."

"It can be important to a target shooter," he replies. "This way, the trigger is stopped from over traveling when you're attempting to shoot precisely."

"And I've been reading about 'weights,'" I say. "What are they for?"

"Those weights are also for precision shooting. They screw into holes under the barrel."

"I don't know why anyone would want to add weights. The barrel is nice and heavy, and balance and weight are fine too. Seems like adding weights is like gilding the lily."

"Gilding the lily?" he mocks. "What century are we in?"

"OK. But still, adding weights seems unnecessary," I grumble.

"Unless you're really looking for all the precision you can get," he adds.

"What's this round knob in front of the trig-

ger guard?" I wonder.

"You push that in. It is keyed to release the barrel and makes is easy to clean or change out the barrels."

Still on the left side of the gun, I note a button. It's at the top of the grip and moves up onto the slide. That must be the safety. Otherwise, there are no other levers or buttons on this side. Hm.

The rear sight sits a bit high and you can adjust for both elevation and windage.

"I have it set downward so you can see the target's center through the notch in the rear sight," Greg explains. "Otherwise, if you align the sights so the front sight sits in a straight line with the back sights, you can't see the target's red center."

The front sight is a ramp with a smoothed-off rectangle on top of the ramp. There's a red circle in the top of the rectangle. Of course, since the gun was made in 1968, the red is painted on and is not a fiber optic sight.

Turning it over, I see a lever on the slide just above the grip. Aha! That's where the slide release lever is hiding! Usually, I'd see it on the left side of the gun.

And, this side of the

barrel is imprinted with the words: "Hamden, Conn."

Greg hands me the magazine which holds 10 rounds. The magazine has a button on the top. I push down the button and slide in the first round, then start pushing in the rest. After six or so rounds, there's a lot of resistance and it's difficult to continue pushing them in. I break out an UpLula to help and the last rounds go in the magazine easily.

I pull back the slide. It flies back like lightening. What a smooth, light slide! Dang!

Then we shoot the High Standard. Greg warns me: "Trigger pull is both short and light."

So, I keep my finger off the trigger carefully until I intend to shoot. (When someone gives you a hint about their gun, it's best to listen and be prepared.)

Sure enough, trigger is short. It's also very smooth, with absolutely no crunch like you'll find in many new or unbroken-in guns.

And light. If it's a 4-pound trigger, it's a very short 4-pounds. Wow!

And recoil? What's that? There is no "felt recoil" in this. I find it hard to believe some-

one would actually add weights to reduce recoil.

I'm shooting disappointingly until I recall what Greg had said about the way he set the rear sights to see through them in order to view the center red dot of the target. I usually set up my own handguns to align the front sight in a flat line with the rear sights. So, keeping in mind Greg's words, shooting went really well.

What a great gun! Easy to pull the slide, easy to pull the trigger, light trigger, and very accurate to shoot! I'm going to get me one.

So, once home, I look up the High Standard Model 104. Drat. Looks like other people have also discovered that the High Standard is a mighty good gun.

Well, if I can't afford one, it's a good thing to have friends who bring really fine handguns to the WCSO range for me to shoot!

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



SERPENT STAR
(Ophioderma brevispinum)

This distinctive sea star can grow to 3 inches. It lives in shallow subtidal sea grass areas. These starfish are predatory and scavenger both catching prey or eating detritus. They have a high tolerance for fluctuations in salinity. This sea star has an unusual life cycle. The larvae hatch, enter a plankton stage for a mere 4-5 days and then metamorphose to the nonswimming form. This adaptation allows them to survive in the unstable water conditions of shallow seas..

Eukarya, Animalia, Echinodermata,
Ophiuridia, Ophidermataidae, Ophiderma

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WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO

Retired park ranger Robert Thompson was on his wildlife survey at Wakulla Springs recently and shot this photo of an otter at the boat dock.



Water Ways

a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences

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Thursday 16 Sun rise/set 3:21 AM 2:57 PM Moon rise/set 8:40 AM 9:30 PM Moon Illumination 3.7% Friday 17 Sun rise/set 4:08 AM 3:46 PM Moon rise/set 9:46 AM 10:06 PM Moon Illumination Saturday 18 Sun rise/set 4:53 AM 4:31 PM Moon rise/set 10:48 AM 10:37 PM Moon Illumination 9.3% Sunday 19 Sun rise/set 5:37 AM 5:15 PM Moon rise/set 11:48 AM 11:07 PM Moon Illumination Monday 20 Sun rise/set 6:21 AM 5:59 PM Moon rise/set 12:46 PM 11:36 PM Moon Illumination 16.9% Tuesday 21 Sun rise/set 6:43 AM 6:43 PM Moon rise/set 12:05 AM 1:43 PM Moon Illumination Wednesday 22 Sun rise/set 7:09 AM 7:09 PM Moon rise/set 12:37 AM 2:41 PM Moon Illumination 25.8% 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. Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac July 16 - July 22 GO FISH! Tide charts by tides4fishing.com First July 29 Full Aug. 5 Last Aug. 12 New July 21 Best fishing days this month Best fishing day(s) is in the center of date ranges. July 11-17, 21, 26-Aug. 1 Thursday 16 Major Times 6:46 AM 8:40 PM Minor Times 9:10 AM 10:00 PM Friday 17 Major Times 6:47 AM 8:39 PM Minor Times 10:16 AM 10:36 PM Saturday 18 Major Times 6:47 AM 8:39 PM Minor Times 11:18 AM 11:07 PM Sunday 19 Major Times 6:48 AM 8:39 PM Minor Times 12:18 PM 11:37 PM Monday 20 Major Times 6:49 AM 8:38 PM Minor Times 1:16 PM 12:06 AM Tuesday 21 Major Times 6:49 AM 8:38 PM Minor Times 2:13 PM 12:35 AM Wednesday 22 Major Times 6:50 AM 8:37 PM Minor Times 3:11 PM 1:07 AM
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St. Marks River Entrance Th 1st 4:53 AM ▲ 3.4 ft 2nd 10:02 AM ▼ 1.4 ft 3rd 4:01 PM ▲ 4.2 ft 4th 11:05 PM ▼ -0.3 ft Fr 1st 5:25 AM ▲ 3.4 ft 2nd 10:49 AM ▼ 1.2 ft 3rd 4:48 PM ▲ 4.0 ft 4th 11:37 PM ▼ 0.2 ft Sa 1st 5:53 AM ▲ 3.4 ft 2nd 11:37 AM ▼ 1.0 ft 3rd 5:35 PM ▲ 3.6 ft 4th — Su 1st 12:05 AM ▲ 0.7 ft 2nd 6:20 AM ▼ 3.4 ft 3rd 12:29 PM ▼ 1.0 ft 4th 6:26 PM ▲ 3.2 ft Mo 1st 12:29 AM ▲ 1.2 ft 2nd 6:45 AM ▼ 3.3 ft 3rd 1:28 PM ▼ 1.0 ft 4th 7:27 PM ▲ 2.7 ft Tu 1st 12:51 AM ▲ 1.6 ft 2nd 6:13 AM ▼ 3.3 ft 3rd 2:40 PM ▼ 1.0 ft 4th 8:52 PM ▲ 2.4 ft We 1st 1:16 AM ▲ 1.9 ft 2nd 7:48 AM ▼ 3.2 ft 3rd 4:07 PM ▼ 0.9 ft 4th 10:53 PM ▲ 2.3 ft City of St. Marks Th 1st 5:29 AM ▲ 3.2 ft 2nd 11:06 AM ▼ 1.3 ft 3rd 4:37 PM ▲ 3.9 ft 4th — Fr 1st 12:09 AM ▲ -0.3 ft 2nd 6:01 AM ▼ 3.2 ft 3rd 11:53 AM ▼ 1.1 ft 4th 5:24 PM ▲ 3.7 ft Sa 1st 12:41 AM ▲ 0.2 ft 2nd 6:29 AM ▼ 3.1 ft 3rd 12:41 PM ▼ 0.9 ft 4th 6:11 PM ▲ 3.3 ft Su 1st 1:09 AM ▲ 0.6 ft 2nd 6:56 AM ▼ 3.1 ft 3rd 1:33 PM ▼ 0.9 ft 4th 7:02 PM ▲ 2.9 ft Mo 1st 1:33 AM ▲ 1.0 ft 2nd 7:21 AM ▼ 3.1 ft 3rd 2:32 PM ▼ 0.9 ft 4th 8:03 PM ▲ 2.5 ft Tu 1st 1:55 AM ▲ 1.4 ft 2nd 7:49 AM ▼ 3.1 ft 3rd 3:44 PM ▼ 0.9 ft 4th 9:28 PM ▲ 2.2 ft We 1st 2:20 AM ▲ 1.7 ft 2nd 8:24 AM ▼ 3.0 ft 3rd 5:11 PM ▼ 0.8 ft 4th 11:29 PM ▲ 2.1 ft Shell Point, Spring Creek Th 5:09 AM ▲ 3.5 ft 2nd 10:20 AM ▼ 1.6 ft 3rd 4:16 PM ▲ 4.3 ft 4th 11:25 PM ▼ -0.3 ft Fr 1st 5:42 AM ▲ 3.5 ft 2nd 11:10 AM ▼ 1.4 ft 3rd 5:05 PM ▲ 4.0 ft 4th 11:59 PM ▼ 0.1 ft Sa 1st 6:12 AM ▲ 3.5 ft 2nd 12:01 PM ▼ 1.2 ft 3rd 5:55 PM ▲ 3.6 ft 4th — Su 1st 12:30 AM ▲ 0.6 ft 2nd 6:42 AM ▼ 3.6 ft 3rd 12:55 PM ▼ 1.1 ft 4th 6:49 PM ▲ 3.2 ft Mo 1st 12:58 AM ▲ 1.1 ft 2nd 7:11 AM ▼ 3.5 ft 3rd 1:55 PM ▼ 1.0 ft 4th 7:55 PM ▲ 2.8 ft Tu 1st 1:28 AM ▲ 1.5 ft 2nd 7:44 AM ▼ 3.5 ft 3rd 3:05 PM ▼ 0.9 ft 4th 9:22 PM ▲ 2.6 ft We 1st 2:03 AM ▲ 1.9 ft 2nd 8:26 AM ▼ 3.4 ft 3rd 4:25 PM ▼ 0.8 ft 4th 11:05 PM ▲ 2.5 ft Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay Th 4:45 AM ▲ 2.6 ft 2nd 10:13 AM ▼ 1.0 ft 3rd 3:53 PM ▲ 3.2 ft 4th 11:16 PM ▼ -0.2 ft Fr 1st 5:17 AM ▲ 2.5 ft 2nd 11:00 AM ▼ 0.9 ft 3rd 4:40 PM ▲ 3.0 ft 4th 11:48 PM ▼ 0.1 ft Sa 1st 5:45 AM ▲ 2.5 ft 2nd 11:48 AM ▼ 0.8 ft 3rd 5:27 PM ▲ 2.7 ft 4th — Su 1st 12:16 AM ▲ 0.5 ft 2nd 6:12 AM ▼ 2.5 ft 3rd 12:40 PM ▼ 0.7 ft 4th 6:18 PM ▲ 2.4 ft Mo 1st 12:40 AM ▲ 0.8 ft 2nd 6:37 AM ▼ 2.5 ft 3rd 1:39 PM ▼ 0.7 ft 4th 7:19 PM ▲ 2.0 ft Tu 1st 1:02 AM ▲ 1.1 ft 2nd 7:05 AM ▼ 2.5 ft 3rd 2:51 PM ▼ 0.7 ft 4th 8:44 PM ▲ 1.8 ft We 1st 1:27 AM ▲ 1.4 ft 2nd 7:40 AM ▼ 2.4 ft 3rd 4:18 PM ▼ 0.7 ft 4th 10:45 PM ▲ 1.7 ft St. Teresa, Turkey Pt. Th 5:13 AM ▲ 2.6 ft 2nd 9:59 AM ▼ 1.7 ft 3rd 3:48 PM ▲ 3.4 ft 4th 11:04 PM ▼ -0.2 ft Fr 1st 5:41 AM ▲ 2.6 ft 2nd 10:57 AM ▼ 1.4 ft 3rd 4:47 PM ▲ 3.1 ft 4th 11:42 PM ▼ 0.2 ft Sa 1st 6:07 AM ▲ 2.7 ft 2nd 11:56 AM ▼ 1.2 ft 3rd 5:47 PM ▲ 2.8 ft 4th — Su 1st 12:17 AM ▲ 0.6 ft 2nd 6:34 AM ▼ 2.8 ft 3rd 12:56 PM ▼ 0.9 ft 4th 6:51 PM ▲ 2.5 ft Mo 1st 12:48 AM ▲ 1.0 ft 2nd 7:03 AM ▼ 2.8 ft 3rd 1:59 PM ▼ 0.8 ft 4th 8:06 PM ▲ 2.2 ft Tu 1st 1:18 AM ▲ 1.4 ft 2nd 7:35 AM ▼ 2.9 ft 3rd 3:10 PM ▼ 0.6 ft 4th 9:43 PM ▲ 2.0 ft We 1st 1:47 AM ▲ 1.7 ft 2nd 8:14 AM ▼ 2.9 ft 3rd 4:24 PM ▼ 0.5 ft 4th — Dog Island West End Th 1st 5:46 AM ▲ 2.5 ft 2nd 10:30 AM ▼ 1.6 ft 3rd 4:04 PM ▲ 2.9 ft 4th 11:20 PM ▼ -0.1 ft Fr 1st 6:06 AM ▲ 2.5 ft 2nd 11:32 AM ▼ 1.4 ft 3rd 5:00 PM ▲ 2.6 ft 4th 11:57 PM ▼ 0.3 ft Sa 1st 6:24 AM ▲ 2.5 ft 2nd 12:29 PM ▼ 1.2 ft 3rd 5:56 PM ▲ 2.4 ft 4th — Su 1st 12:28 AM ▲ 0.7 ft 2nd 6:44 AM ▼ 2.5 ft 3rd 1:21 PM ▼ 1.0 ft 4th 6:53 PM ▲ 2.1 ft Mo 1st 12:52 AM ▲ 1.1 ft 2nd 7:05 AM ▼ 2.5 ft 3rd 2:18 PM ▼ 0.8 ft 4th 8:08 PM ▲ 1.8 ft Tu 1st 1:09 AM ▲ 1.4 ft 2nd 7:30 AM ▼ 2.6 ft 3rd 3:25 PM ▼ 0.7 ft 4th 10:53 PM ▲ 1.7 ft We 1st 1:10 AM ▲ 1.7 ft 2nd 8:02 AM ▼ 2.6 ft 3rd 4:32 PM ▼ 0.5 ft 4th —

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.

The Old Pro: It’s hot



By AL HARTMAN

Hot enough for you? It’s gonna’ get worse. I just can’t wait. The ticks this year are horrible. I pick five or six off me every day just being in the yard.

But here is the good news. Talk about hot, the scallops are in, and I have never seen them in so many numbers. A person can get their limit in no time at all.

The parking at the boat ramps is really nearly impossible. If

you are going, get there early.

I thought I was early enough and found only three places left, and I had to hunt for them.

I met a man who told me that a fellow went out the day before it opened, got his limit, then put them in a crab trap and came back opening day and picked them up. I’m sure that’s not legal!

Going out on a week day is a lot better and you don’t have to wait at the ramp to long the load your boat either.

Season is open July 1 thru Sept. 24. You can get



2 gallons in shell or 1 pint of just meat per person.

A lot of people don’t know about this hunt that started July 10 and runs to July 19. The Burmese Python challenge. You can hunt them all year, but this is a special hunt with prize money.

The person who gets the most pythons wins \$10,000. There are other prizes for the largest, the smallest, and youngster’s largest catch. They have had this going on for a few years now and it gets bigger every year.

It’s too late to join now you have to pre register, but you can get info at FWC.com.

The fish- ing has been real good both fresh and salt water. Go early or go late seems to be the best and is somewhat cooler!

So get out and do it!



Underwater Wakulla

By Gregg Stanton



A booth featuring a site in Florida where divers and manatees can swim together, at the Diving Equipment Manufacturing Association (DEMA) show. (PHOTO BY GREGG STANTON)

What brings tourists. November 22, 2012

Every year my staff and I travel to the Diving Equipment Manufacturing Association (DEMA). We then drive on to visit suppliers all the way up to Washington.

Thousands of dive operations – stores, travel destinations, manufacturers, environmental groups and training agencies – all converge to inspect each other and promote their cause. Their displays fill a convention center for four days, spilling into the night with after hour meetings brokering deals and generally moving the industry forward.

We attend to learn, to decide on new products for next year, and network with the many friends that build up over the years. This year we were bombarded with the disbelief that Wakulla Springs would remain closed to diving. Many told us they were altering their plans to go elsewhere and wished us well.

We investigated travel options to move our customers to other diving destinations with greater visions of prosperity. We have also expanded into other income revenue opportunities such as expanding our hydrostatic retesting capability, Underwater Crime Scene Investigation technology, and of course new rebreathers. There are many places to put investment funds.

Then we stumbled upon the display shown above and marveled at their audacity! It seems for years, at a site just three and a half hours drive south of Wakulla, a community created a dive destination. They are now advertising nationally at the DEMA, about a place where divers and manatees can swim together. Just that feature alone attracts thousands of tourists who spend millions of dollars in a small community. This easily justifies paying for this expensive display booth at DEMA.

We congratulated them for their courage and insight. Because their manatee became so valuable, the community protects and supports all of the systems that surround the attraction.

Just like the hunting associations that provide more resources to promote the animals they harvest to maintain a healthier stock, the manatee at this dive destination are protected by much more than a regulation. As a result the community is rewarded with jobs and prosperity.

Why can’t we share?

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

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16TH ANNUAL BACK-TO-SCHOOL BACKPACK GIVEAWAY

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SATURDAY, JULY 18, 2026
Coast Charter School
48 Shell Island Road
St. Marks, FL
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

SATURDAY, JULY 25, 2026
Panacea Plaza
1353 Coastal Highway
Panacea, FL
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 2026
Sopchoppy City Hall
105 Municipal Ave.
Sopchoppy, FL
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

ON-SITE DISTRIBUTION EVENT

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 2026
Wakulla County Community Center
318 Shadenville Road
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TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2026
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Valerie Russell, APRN, FNP

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TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR YOUTH!



By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

What do you call a piece of spaghetti wearing a false mustache? An impasta!

All levity aside, there’s nothing funny about someone deceiv-

ing or lying to us. In fact, there’s no better way to sabotage a relationship. Lying – any form of deception – kills relationships.

Being an impasta can manifest in many ways, such as submitting false expense accounts or taking credit for someone else’s work. Withholding information is also deceptive, including giving vague responses to avoid the truth.

It could also include exaggerating about our successes or skills. Ouch. It’s scary how

easy it is to lie or exaggerate about ourselves, thus compromising our integrity.

If we’re honest (while discussing our lack of honesty), could we admit that even those of us who profess to be Christ-followers struggle with this sin? Perhaps we should all ask God to show us areas where we’re living in less-than-genuine ways.

Our questions shouldn’t be, “What little white lie or exaggeration can I get away with and still be Christlike?” or “What behavior can I

get away with and still be OK with God?”

Rather, we should ask ourselves, “How can I behave in such a way as to reflect the One Who made me in His image?” We’d be wise to remember that “a lying tongue” is one of the seven things God hates: “There are six things that the LORD hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue” (Proverbs 6:16-17 ESV).

I’m not proud of the times I’ve deceived others in any way, espe-

cially since becoming a Christ-follower.

Read Ephesians 4:25 (ESV), taking special notice of the last phrase: “Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.”

If we live and speak dishonestly to those with whom we do life, we not only compromise our Christian witness, we chip away at our self-respect and cheapen our relationships. Our friends will never get to know the real us.

Eventually, we’ll lose sight of the truth about ourselves and others. Is lying, for any reason, worth the price?

Most of all, is it worth grieving our heavenly Father?

Let’s choose not to be an impasta. Especially a Christian impasta.

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.

Grace in a Mr. Goodbar



By **CHERYL CRUCE**

It is strange how something as simple as riding the country dirt roads with my daughter can stir treasured memories from yesteryear. Moments you thought were long gone suddenly rise again – not as distant memories, but as living lessons you didn’t even know you were teaching at the time. As we rode and talked, she

reminded me of one lesson I had almost forgotten...

Years ago, when my twins were young, I ran to the corner store while their Dad watched them and I promised I would bring them back a surprise. When I got home, I handed each of them a little brown paper bag. Inside was a Mr. Goodbar.

I helped them unwrap the candy and went back to preparing supper. Then I heard my son say through tears, “Mommy... you gave me a broke one.” I smiled and said, “No, son – you are so special, I gave you two.” Before he could enjoy that discovery, his twin sister began to cry, “But Mommy... you only gave me one.” I looked

at her and said, “Yes, sweetheart... but you’re so precious, I bought you a really big one.” With tears fading and their meal interrupted by chocolate, I turned back to my work. Nothing changed in that moment except their perspective.

The candy bars were exactly the same. Michael’s broken Mr. Goodbar no longer felt “broken” to him – what looked like brokenness became two bars of candy instead of one. And Michelle’s single bar suddenly felt like the largest gift she had ever received. The situation didn’t change – only how they were seeing it. And so often in life, the difference is not in what is placed in our hands, but in how we understand

what God has given us.

We can always find a grander picture when we look through the eyes of the Father. The prophet Elisha’s story in 2 Kings 6 shows us this. When the enemy surrounded the city and all seemed lost, fear gripped Elisha’s servant as he was overwhelmed by what was before him. But Elisha prayed that God would open his understanding, and when He did, the servant saw the hills filled with a heavenly army –horses and chariots of fire – surrounding and protecting them. What changed? Only perspective, and the willingness to look beyond the circumstances.

In the same way, Paul reminds us not

to be shaped by what is around us, but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. As our thinking is changed, we begin to discern what God is doing – what is good, pleasing, and perfect (Romans 12:2).

And maybe that is where God meets us – in those ordinary moments that do not change at all, except for how we see them. The circumstances may remain the same – the diagnosis, the disappointment, the unanswered prayer. But when God opens our eyes, the picture changes. What once looked like brokenness may begin to look like provision. What once felt like “not enough” may begin to look like abundance. What once seemed like

loss may begin to look like something held safely in the hands of God.

And just like two children with a simple Mr. Goodbar, nothing in their hands changed – but everything changed in their understanding. And so it is with us: even what looks ordinary can become an unexpected gift, and what looks broken can reveal God’s abundant grace.

So, we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal (2 Corinthians 4:18).

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

OUT TO PASTOR

Is crazy contagious?



By **JAMES SNYDER**

Getting into trouble seems to be an ongoing habit of mine. It doesn’t matter what the trouble is at the time; it somehow associates itself with me.

Whenever I think I’m perfect and everything is going fine, I’m set up for something to go horribly wrong. Believe me, it happens to me all the time. If I could accept the fact that I’m not perfect, maybe my life would be just a little bit better. I’m working on that.

Every once in a while, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage will say to me, “Are you crazy?”

The fact that she asks that question indicates that she doesn’t really know the answer. Of course, I always answer in the negative. When I do, she looks at me, shakes her head, and walks away.

After all these years (we will celebrate our 55th wedding anniversary this year) she doesn’t really know if I’m crazy or not. I’ll give her another 55 years to figure that one out.

The other day, I began thinking about this idea of being crazy. I’m not quite sure I understand what “crazy” means, and I’m not going to look it up in the dictionary because you can’t believe everything you read in

that dictionary. At least I can’t.

I began thinking of my relatives all the way back to my great-grandmother. We used to have yearly get-togethers, but that seems to have passed. I began thinking about those relatives of mine and realized that some of them actually were crazy.

I got up from my chair, went over to my library and pulled out my family photo album. I sat down and began to look through my album. I haven’t done this in quite a few years, so I had forgotten a lot about my relatives. I looked at them and began to think about them and what I remembered about them.

The more I looked through my photo album, the more I saw that some of my relatives were actually crazy. There is no way I would have to ask them, “Are you crazy?” I knew they were crazy and remembered some of the evidence that proved it.

As I was looking at these photos, I was chuckling and sometimes even laughing aloud, and then The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage walked by. She looked at me and said, “What are you laughing about?”

I looked up and said, “Remember the other day when you asked if I was crazy?”

She nodded her head and said, “Yes, I remember that and I’m still asking that question today.”

Looking at her, I laughed some more. I said to her, “After looking at the photo album of my family I have come to the

conclusion that crazy is contagious.”

Then I showed her a couple of photos of one of my cousins and said, “This cousin is the model of what crazy is all about.” Then I told her the story of that cousin and all of the crazy things he did back in “the day.”

As I was explaining to her, she finally said, “Well, that sure does explain a lot of things.”

I went on to show her other pictures of my relatives and told their stories and how crazy they really were, from my point of view. Although she did not know all of my relatives, she began to understand why I was so crazy.

“So,” The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage said, “when will this contagious craziness stop? With you?”

Thinking about that was a very serious con-

sideration for me. Am I going to be the last of the craziness in my family, or will I pass it on to my children and grandchildren?

I looked at her and said, “Well, my dear, you married crazy I didn’t.”

“I know I did,” she replied, “but at the time I didn’t think it was so contagious.”

Both of us laughed, realizing that craziness is quite contagious and runs in my family. It is impossible for one relative in a family to be crazy and not pass it on.

For a moment, I thought about asking about her family and whether there were any crazy people in it. However, I did not want to jinx my day. From my casual observation, a few of her relatives, including her siblings, showed signs of being crazy. I sure did not want to walk down that path of

thorns.

I guess being crazy is inherited and in some cases, craziness is contagious among the people around.

My primary agenda in life is to use my craziness to my benefit. I’m not just going to be crazy and let it go. Rather, I’m going to use it to profit in any way I can. I can’t profit from my intelligence, which isn’t there, but I can profit from my craziness, which is there.

I’m not sure what that means, but I’ll spend some time figuring it out and not waste any time.

I thought of some scripture along this line. “See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as

fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil” (Ephesians 5:15-16).

This doesn’t come automatically, I need to discipline myself along this line The world is not on my side, it only contributes to my craziness. I’m going to trust God each day to walk in God’s wisdom in such a way that He is pleased.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, email jamessnyder51@gmail.com, website www.jamessnyderministries.com.

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Obituaries



Henry LeRoy Kight

Henry LeRoy Kight, age 80, went to his heavenly home on June 26, 2026. Roy was born to Samuel Lee Kight and Dorothy Williams Kight, on November 25, 1945, in Tampa, Florida. Roy’s Celebration of Life will be held at the Community Center, in the Wakulla Room on Friday, July 17 from 4 to 6 p.m. Roy is preceded in death by both of his parents Dorothy W. Gray and Lewis T. Gray, his biological father Samuel Lee Kight, and his brother Lewis O. Gray Jr. Roy served in the United States Air Force as an Air Policeman from 1963 to 1965 with the rank of Airman Third Class. Roy shared 42 beautiful years of marriage with his wife, Nikki. Their marriage was a love story built on devotion, deep friendship, and commitment to one another. Together they created a life full of love,

laughter, and cherished memories. In 2005, he retired from Holox Welding Company. Roy’s surviving siblings are James Kight (Cindy), Charles Kight (Jane), Gail Henderson (John), and sister-in-law Shelly Rebholz (John). Roy leaves behind his wife Nikki and his three children: Shalene Grassi (Dean), Sherri McCall (Jason) and Nathan Hogan (Jill). Additionally, he has 10 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren who brought him immense pride and joy. Roy’s love of animals started early in life, which led to a lifetime of working with and training animals. Roy never met a horse he couldn’t train and a dog he did not love. He was a hunter and a fisherman; if it involved being outside, Roy was your man. Heaven has gained a great storyteller who is holding court on high.

Sheriff’s Report

Sheriff’s Report is for activity July 3 to 10. There were 1,478 total calls for service.

FRIDAY, JULY 3

- Deputy Bushong responded to Walmart in reference to a retail theft that occurred at approximately 8:23 a.m. today. Deputy Bushong reviewed the security camera footage and observed an unidentified male pushing two shopping carts with multiple unpaid items past the last point of sale. The suspect was seen departing the parking lot in a gray in color Ford F-150. The vehicle was last seen traveling northbound on Crawfordville Highway into Leon County. The total value of items stolen was \$416.24. Case forwarded to Criminal Investigations Division.

SATURDAY, JULY 4

- Deputy Jonathan Kilbourn responded to Ridgeway Court in reference to an animal incident. Deputy Kilbourn made contact with the homeowner who was cooking food on his back porch when he noticed the exterminator arrived unannounced to the residence and spooked the sleeping dog. The dog awoke and bit him one time on each wrist, breaking skin causing minor lacerations on both wrists. Wakulla Fire Rescue arrived on scene and transported him to Southwood ER. He was unable to provide a statement due to him not feeling well.
- Deputy Kory Smith was dispatched to the front lobby in reference to found property. Contact was made with the reporting person who stated while walking her dog she located a brown leather wallet at Lower Bridge near the Wakulla River. Deputy Smith took possession of the lost wallet the wallet and contents were submitted to property and evidence for safekeeping.

SUNDAY, JULY 5

- A citizen reported that Tammy Kelly damaged her personal property and stole other items to include a vehicle key fob, cellphones and \$2,400 in cash. She allowed Tammy to come stay with her on July 3. She advised Tammy woke up and reportedly began damaging her home. Tammy allegedly took items of value from her and fled back to Lafayette County with the

items. Due to Tammy taking her cellphone, she had to travel to the Crawfordville Verizon Store to use a string phone in the store to notify WCSO of this incident.

MONDAY, JULY 6

- Deputy Dustin Saba conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle being driven by John Brenkus Jr. During the traffic stop it was determined Brenkus was DUI. FHP assisted at the jail with the breath test where Brenkus reportedly blew three times over the legal limit.
- Deputy Zachary Godwin conducted a traffic stop on a yellow Hummer. A registration check was conducted showing that the current tag on the vehicle belonged to a white F-150. Deputy Godwin made contact with the driver who was identified as Joseph Coleman. Coleman admitted to driving with only an ID card and admitted to placing the tag on the vehicle knowing it did not belong. Coleman was placed under arrest and transported to the Wakulla County Jail without incident.

TUESDAY, JULY 7

- Deputy Arturo Cordoba conducted a traffic stop on a white Ford Expedition for the registered owner Brigida Escalera having a suspended license. Deputy Cordoba made contact with Escalera who stated her license was expired and that she had two licenses. She was issued a Traffic Citation and left the scene without incident.
- Deputy Joshua Martin responded to the 1500 block of Coastal Highway and made contact with the reporting person. He stated he was missing a shower diverter that was said to have been delivered to his residence at Apache Road. He only requested this case be documented for informational purposes.
- Deputy Zachary Godwin responded to the front lobby of the sheriff’s office and made contact with the reporting person. He stated he began receiving calls from subjects identifying themselves as law enforcement. The subjects told him that he failed to show up for jury duty and that he would have a warrant for his arrest soon if he did not pay a fine. He withdrew \$700 from his bank account and paid for electronic gift

cards in order to send the money. He stated he only wanted this case documented for informational purposes.

- Deputy Ian Kilbourn responded to the 1400 block of Bloxham Cutoff and made contact with the reporting person, who stated he filed his taxes with a tax services, and the owner allegedly had his refund of \$8,496 routed to her bank account. He stated after several failed attempts to have the tax service owner transfer the money to his account, she has now blocked him. Case forwarded to CID.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8

- Lt. William Spence responded to the front lobby of the Sheriff’s Office in reference to a fraud. Contact was made with the reporting party who advised she was a part of an attempted fraud. According to her, she received a text message from Apple that there was an outstanding balance on her account and gave a phone number to call. She called the number provided and spoke with a woman who advised her the account was potentiality hacked and provided an additional phone number. The second number she called was a male who informed her to go to her bank and withdraw \$2,000 then go to Lowe’s and other stores to put money on gift cards in four different transactions. She soon realized this was not right and ended the conversation with the male subject and subsequently was not out any money. This incident was documented for informational purposes.
- Deputy McMullen responded to the Sheriff’s Office in reference to fraud. Contact was made with the reporting person. She stated she had been scammed of \$750 through the purchase of a TV at Walmart on July 6th. She stated when she was trying to set up the TV, a QR code popped up on the screen with a phone number to set up the account. She stated she called the number and spoke to an unknown male who she believed hacked into her phone and withdrew \$750 out of her Campus USA account. During this time she was unable to provide bank statements. Case forwarded to CID.
- Deputy Jonathan Kilbourn responded to the 2300 block of Crawfordville Highway in reference to an employee related theft. Contact was made with the reporting person who stat-

ed the store manager arrived at the business at 4:29 p.m., entered through the front door, and walked straight to the money safe located in the rear of the kitchen area. The manager removed a brown paper bag containing \$1,770.70, left the store and the owner has not heard from him again. He attempted to contact the manager numerous times via text message with no response. Case forwarded to CID.

- Deputy Jonathan Kilbourn responded to Walmart in reference to a retail theft. Contact was made with Asset Protection who advised a subject entered the store and began shopping around. He then went to self-checkout and began skip-scanning items he collected. He then proceeded to exit the store passing all final points of sale failing to pay for \$118.82 worth of merchandise. Case forwarded to CID.
- A citizen reported the theft of a 2006 Suzuki GSX-R1000 motorcycle from his store. He last saw the motorcycle on July 7 at around 3 p.m. When he arrived to the store today around 7 p.m. he noticed the motorcycle gone. The CCTV cameras in the front of the store were not functioning at the time of this incident. It is unknown who might have taken the motorcycle.

THURSDAY, JULY 9

- Deputy Joshua Parker responded to Mashess Sands Road in reference to a citizen locating potentially explosive ordnance in the water and bringing it to shore. Upon arrival, the area was cleared and sealed off. Capt. Steve Smith arrived on scene and contacted Leon County Explosive Ordnance Disposal who responded and took over the scene.
- Deputy Bushong conducted a traffic stop on a motorcycle for no tag displayed. During the investigation, it was discovered there was no tag assigned to the motorcycle and the motorcycle did not have any insurance. Due to this, the motorcycle was towed using rotation tow company and the driver, Christopher Rentz, was issued an Notice To Appear and released.

FRIDAY, JULY 10

- A citizen reported his camper and shop had been burglarized. Taken was an assortment of tools and equipment along with miscellaneous household items. Damag-

DEATH NOTICES

Verlie Byrd, 87, of Sopchoppy, died July 9, 2026.

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

es and total loss of all items were estimated at approximately \$5,000. Crime Scene responded and processed the scene. Case forwarded to CID.

- A citizen reported receiving a phone call advising she had federal warrants for her arrest. She made several cash withdrawals and deposited the money as instructed. She is out approximately \$5,294 from the scam at this time. Case forwarded to CID.
- Deputy Ian Kilbourn responded to Carter Road and made contact with the reporting parties who stated Jamie Chancellor was observed on game cameras being on the property, which he has an active Trespassing Warrant for. In addition to being on the property, one of the two game cameras were taken by the subject. Upon reviewing the digital images from the game camera, it was unable to be confirmed the subject in the image was in fact Chancellor.

Case forwarded to CID.

- Deputy Dustin Saba and Deputy Cole Irvin responded to Macks Meats and made contact with the store manager who stated Sadie Ward, who is an employee, emptied the cash drawers on all the registers and departed the store. Ward was located across the street at the Dollar General. She stated she received a call from an alleged FBI agent telling her the store was dealing in counterfeit currency. The “FBI” agent instructed Ward to take the money from the drawers, obtain gift cards with it and send the card numbers to them, which she did. Deputy Saba was able to recover \$435 of the stolen currency, returning it to the store owner. Ward was taken into custody and transported to the Wakulla County Jail.

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

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Miscellaneous

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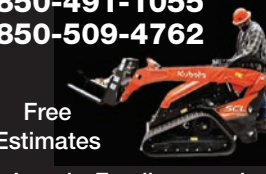
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NOTICE OF SALE

0716-0723 TWS NOS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:

Notice is hereby given that on Wednesday, August 1st, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. the following vessel may be sold at public sale at 85 Harbour Point Drive, Crawfordville, Florida 32327 for the amount owed on the vessel to satisfy the lien for storage charges and any administrative fees allowed pursuant to Florida Statue 713.585.

OWNER- HARRY SMITH 26' Cal. YEAR 1984 "Mellow" FL ID FL7402DT Vin #HUN26157M84H

The name, address and telephone number and public sale location of the marina claiming the lien for unpaid charges is Shell Point Harbor Marina 85 Harbour Point Drive, Crawfordville Florida 32327, 850-544-5658. The customer or person claiming an interest, or a lien may redeem the vessel by satisfying the amount due in cash on or before the sale date and time. The customer or person claiming an interest or lien on a vessel may file a demand for hearing with the Clerk of Court in Wakulla County where the vessel is held to determine whether the vessel has been wrongfully taken or withheld from him or her. At any time before the date of sale, a customer or person of record claiming a lien on the vessel may post a cash payment or Surety bond in the amount stated on the invoice with the Clerk of Circuit Court where the disputed transaction occurred.

July 16, 23, 2026

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NOTICE OF SALE

0716-0723 TWS NOS
NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO SECTION 328.17
NON-JUDICIAL SALE OF VESSELS:

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 328.17 Non-Judicial Sale of Vessels, that Sembler's Marina will hold a sealed bid on August 4th, 2026 at 10:00 AM at 28 Lynn Circle, St. Marks, FL. Vessel will go to highest cash bidder, with a minimum bid of \$2,408.75.00. Vessel will be sold as-is and must be removed by the buyer immediately following the sale. Arrangements for removal should be made prior to start of auction.

North Star Chris Craft, Registration number: FL 2233 SX, HIN: CCH-DJ16BM84C, Owner: Robert Clark.

For more information, call (850) 925-6083

July 16, 23, 2026

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

0716-0723 TWS NOFS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION

FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION,
Plaintiff,
vs.
RONALD EDWARD REYNOLDS JR., ET AL.,
Defendants

CASE NO. 65-2025-CA-000105-CAAM

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to the Final Judgment and/or Order Rescheduling Foreclosure Sale, entered in Case No. 65-2025-CA-000105-CAAM of the Circuit Court of the SECOND Judicial Circuit, in and for Wakulla County, Florida, wherein Freedom Mortgage Corporation is the Plaintiff and Ronald Edward Reynolds Jr.; Summerfield Subdivision Homeowners' Association, Inc.; Carmen E. Reynolds are the Defendants, that I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the front door of the courthouse, 3056 Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville, FL 32327, beginning at 11:00 AM on the 27th day of August, 2026, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

LOT 34, SUMMERFIELD PHASE 2, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 6, PAGE 43, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

TAX ID: R 00-00-055-429-19932-034

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the sale must file a claim before the clerk reports the surplus as unclaimed.

Dated this 8th day of July, 2026.

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



July 16, 23, 2026

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
RILDA AILEEN POSEY,
DECEASED
DIVISION: PROBATE

CASE NO: 2026-CP-102

The administration of the Estate of Rilda Aileen Posey, deceased, File 2026-CP-102 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 MJuly 16, 2026.

Attorney for Personal Representative:	Personal Representative:
Frances Casey Lowe, Esq. Florida Bar No. 521450 Frances Casey Lowe, P.A. 68-A Feli Way Crawfordville, Florida 32327 (850) 926-8245	Karen Posey Battle 710 Rehinkle Rd Crawfordville, FL 32327

July 16, 23, 2026

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
TAX DEED FILE NO. 2026 TXD 113

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **GREYMORR FL, 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 #: 474 Date of Issuance: **May 31, 2024**

Parcel #: **08-3s-01w-208-04334-028**

Description of Property:
Walkers Crossing Lot 28
OR 139 P 412 OR 144 P 3160R 146 P 778 OR 802 P 452
OR 986 P 870 OR 1037 P 258
OR 1299 P 653 OR 1304 P 769

Name in which assessed **ZELMA SMITH** 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: **August 19, 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.

June 25, 2026

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

Published on July 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026



Gene Lambert
Agency Manager



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Winners at Keep Wakulla County Beautiful’s awards banquet on Tuesday, July 7.

KWCB holds its annual awards banquet

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

Keep Wakulla County Beautiful held its annual awards ceremony last week to honor volunteers, businesses and civic groups that support the organization’s mission.

KWCB President Lesley Cushman was MC for the event, held Tuesday, July 7 at the community center.

The Adopt-a-Road of the Year Award went to the Apalachee Bay community

and was accepted by Quincee Messersmith.

Business or Neighborhood Community Pride Award went to Heather Rybak and Ryback Realty. Other nominees were Sopchoppy Feed, Forward Wellnes, Capital City Bank, and Niraj Patel.

“Community Roots” Civic Organization Partnership Award went to Sarracenia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society and accepted by numerous members of the group.

Other nominees were Rotary Club of Wakulla and the Wakulla 4-H Association Board.

Eco-Friendly Classroom Award went to UF IFAS Extension Wakulla County.

Green Trailblazer Youth Award went to John Alex Edwards. Other nominees were Hiroshi Yokiosha and Riley Shaefer.

“Heart of Service” Public Service Award went to Marquette Cowley. Other nominees were Jason Smith, Cody Solbury, and Ryan Warner.

Wakulla “Eco-Excellence” Award went to Gabrielle Gabrielli.

“Waste Wise” Waste Reduction Award went to Trident Restaurant.

Volunteer of the Year “Golden Vest” Award was presented to Ashlee Barton.

The Don Henderson Award was presented to JoAnn Palmer, who served as KWCB’s executive director for more than 8 years.

And the KWCB 2026 scholarship recipient was Griffin Colson.

‘Invasion of the G-Nats’



Cast and crew of the new film short ‘Invasion of the G-Nats’ – a 1950s sci-fi comedy-horror by filmmakers Stacy Brown and Joey Badia – got underway at the Palaver Tree Theater on Friday night. It’s planned as a 9-minute film to be entered in the Tallahassee Film Festival’s short film competition. On Saturday, there was some on-location shooting being done in Sopchoppy, at right.



PHOTOS BY GERALD BROWN

	3	5		6	4	7		9
9		1		3	5		6	
		6	1	7				
	4		7					3
1	9							
6							8	
		9	5	4	7			
	6			1	2			7
	2					5	3	1

Like puzzles? Then you’ll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here’s How It Works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

H	S	V	O	S	H	O	O	E
S	I	N	E	W	E	L	V	S
V	H	V	D	V	I	N	O	I
V	H	V	I	L				

1	3	5	6	9	7	2	2	2
7	4	8	2	1	2	7	8	9
6	2	8	7	5	6	9	3	3
4	8	1	3	2	6	7	5	9
5	7	2	9	8	4	4	3	6
3	6	9	1	5	1	7	9	8
2	5	3	6	9	1	7	1	4
8	9	4	5	3	2	7	1	6
6	7	1	9	6	8	5	2	3





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Wakulla County Tax Collectors Office

SPECIALTY TAGS

\$15 - \$30 additional to cost of tag. no added cost for 250 tag



Wakulla County Tax Collector

ENACTED: December 15, 2025

Unlike specialty plates, the America 250 plate serves as an alternative to the standard Florida license plate, with all regular fees applying. Motorists may request the America 250 license plate at the time of vehicle registration or renewal.

