



STEAM Maker Derby held Saturday/Page 12





WeatherSTEM

Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday

Friday

Saturday







Hi: 91° Lo: 74° 13%

Hi: 93° Lo: 75° 12%

Hi: 92° Lo: 75° 24%

Sunrise 6:51 AM
Sunset 8:36 PM

Sunrise 6:51 AM
Sunset 8:35 PM

Sunrise 6:52 AM
Sunset 8:35 PM



\$1
One Section

"It's a New Day"

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& Operated*

Our 5th Year 29th Issue
Thursday, July 23, 2026

State of Education in Wakulla

District is an A and all district schools are an A

By VICTORIA STEPHENS
Wakulla Schools

Wakulla County Schools is proud to announce a historic achievement following the release of school grades by the Florida Department of Education. For the first time in district history, every traditional school in Wakulla County Schools earned an "A" rating.

All seven graded schools in Wakulla County Schools received an "A" for the 2025-26 school year, placing Wakulla County Schools 8th among Florida's 67 school districts. (COAST Charter School, which is a public school but run independently of the district, was graded a C.)

"This monumental achievement is not only a testament to our unwavering commitment to excellence but also solidifies the promise we've made to our community – that regardless of your address, every child in Wakulla County has access to a world-class education and truly phenomenal experiences at each of our schools," said

Turn to Page 3



Wakulla Superintendent of Schools Rick Myhre spoke before a crowd of about 100 Chamber of Commerce members last week at the community center about issues related to local schools.

Myhre gives report at Chamber lunch event

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

Wakulla Superintendent of Schools warned that he was going to brag on the school system at a Chamber luncheon event last week slugged as the State of Education.

At the Tuesday, July 14 event at the community center attended by about 75 people, Myhre did just that, boasting that Wakulla is the highest performing district in the Big Bend, No. 1 in graduation rate in the state, and No. 1 in middle school acceleration.

Wakulla is ranked in the Top 10 in the state at No. 8 and "within striking district of being No. 5," Myhre said.

It's also the first time that every school in the district is an A. (COAST Charter School is a public school but run independently and for the second year in a row had a grade of C.)

While proud of the district grade, "My goal is to be No. 1," Myhre said. "Being the Top 10 is wonderful, but I want to be No. 1."

This is the fourth consecutive year of A performance by Wakulla

schools.

Myhre noted that growth in the Crawfordville area has led to Crawfordville Elementary reaching its limit on students, leading to rezoning that is directing students to Medart Elementary.

"No matter where you live in Wakulla County, every school is an A," Myhre said.

He touted the high school's vocational programs through the War Eagle Academy, a \$20 million facility paid for largely by Triumph Gulf Coast money that offers 16 career pathways.

He noted the planned return of art and music instruction to elementary schools this year.

And he promoted the optional 1 mill tax referendum that will appear on the November ballot as an effort to sustain excellence.

He noted that 20 of the 67 school districts in Florida already do the optional 1 mill.

Myhre also said his annual tax bill for schools is less than his phone bill.

"There is no better investment in our community than public education," Myhre said.

1 mill school levy to appear on Nov. ballot

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

A ballot measure for a 1 mill levy for schools is to be put on the November ballot for voters to approve or deny.

The Wakulla County Commissioners voted at their meeting on July 13 to send the ballot language to the supervisor for elections to be included on the Nov. 3 general election ballot. (County commissioners were only conducting a magisterial vote to put the matter on the ballot; the school board voted unanimously back in June to ask for the 1 mill of additional revenue from local voters.)

Superintendent Rick Myhre told county commissioners at their meeting that the extra revenue would go towards teacher pay, student athletics and activities – and to continue free school meals for all students.

Myhre calculated the cost of meals at \$4 per day times 180 school days for a total of \$740 per student.

BOCC looks to lower tax rate

Commission also proposes keeping solid waste fees unchanged

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

At a budget workshop prior to the start of last week's county commission meeting, commissioners discussed proposals to lower the property tax rate to 7.7 mills or 7.5 mills and keeping the solid waste and fire fees flat.

But after much discussion among themselves and staff, the board had a tentative agreement to lower taxes to 7.7 mills, keep the solid waste fee unchanged, but increase the fire fee.

The tax rate for the last year was 7.9 mills. The rollback rate – the millage levy that would bring in the same amount of tax revenue – is 7.82 mills, which would bring in \$19.7 million in taxes.

A levy of 7.7 mills would produce \$19.3 million, a reduction of about \$306,000.

A mill is a tax rate of \$1 per \$1,000 of taxable value. A \$300,000

home in Wakulla with a \$50,000 homestead exemption, with a 7.7 mill levy, would pay \$1,925 in county property taxes. (Other agencies also levy property taxes, including the water management district and the school board. The school board's advertisement for tax levy and budget appears on Page 3.)

The fire assessment is scheduled to increase this year on residential property from \$263 to \$277. Other types of real estate, such as commercial property, are assessed per square foot, and vacant land is assessed per acre.

Commissioners expressed concern that the fire fee, which is projected to generate about \$4.7 million this year, isn't covering its own costs and is being underwritten by about \$400,000 from the general fund.

The fire fee is broken down at \$4.3 million for operating costs and \$377,000 in cap-

ital equipment. But \$412,000 is administrative costs that the county takes out of its general revenues.

The Solid Waste Fee are currently \$214 per residence, which covers weekly pick up by Waste Pro, plus covers costs for the landfill/transfer station.

That fee was proposed to increase to \$222 per home this year.

All five commissioners indicated at their meeting on Monday, July 13, that they supported lowering the tax rate to 7.7 mills, keeping the solid waste fee unchanged, and raising the fire assessment to \$277.

Commission Chair Ralph Thomas pointed at the Legislature's proposed property tax reform measure that will appear on the November ballot and would increase homestead exemption to \$150,000 next year and \$200,000 the year after. (Under the proposal, school board taxes would be exempt,

meaning all homeowners would be assessed.)

Of the 15,000 or so homes in Wakulla County, Thomas said, there would be 5,689 homes that would no longer pay property taxes as the assessed value is less than \$150,000.

Another 3,000 homes would pay no taxes the following year when homestead is raised to \$200,000, Thomas said.

"That means 8,817 homes out of 15,000 would pay no taxes," Thomas said, noting that's 57%, leaving 43% to pay county taxes.

Thomas also took exception to some comments on social media that, if the property tax proposal passes, local government just needs to cut the fat from its budget.

Thomas insisted Wakulla's budget is already lean.

"When you're talking about cutting, you're talking about cutting people," Thomas said.

Crum v. Wakulla gets court hearing

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

Panacea businessman Ronald Fred Crum was in court on Tuesday, July 14, for a hearing in his lawsuit against Wakulla County over a disputed easement on some bayfront property he owns.

Crum owns acreage on Dickerson Bay off Clark Drive that he wants to develop as a boating and fishing resort. It's where Division Street dead ends.

Old plats show an easement for Division Street continuing onto Crum's property.

Crum initially sought to have the county open the road, or open it himself. When the county denied either request, Crum filed a lawsuit in circuit court. As part of a forensic title search, he discovered where the county passed a resolution in 1980 abandoning the easement.

The county contends it never abandoned anything and has a deed from A.B. Taff from 1983 giving the roadway to the county.

Wakulla Circuit Judge Layne Smith noted that the case appears to come down to the question of whether Taff had ownership and transferred the land to the county or did not have any ownership interest and nothing was conveyed.

At the hearing, Judge Smith granted a county motion to refile its counter-claim against Crum contending he had slandered its title by claiming adverse possession.

Crum's lawyer, Tallahassee attorney Chris Lunny of the Radey law firm, indicated he was planning to move forward with a request for summary judgment.

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County employee of the quarter

Richard 'Bear' McCombs was named the Wakulla County employee of the quarter at the county commission meeting on Monday, July 13. McCombs, at left in the photo with Animal Control Director Walter Class, is an Animal Control Officer. McCombs said at the meeting he enjoys his work and considers it a privilege to work for the county assisting citizens. (Photo by William Snowden)



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NOTICE OF TAX FOR SCHOOL CAPITAL OUTLAY

The District School Board of Wakulla County will soon consider a measure to continue to impose a 1.500 mill property tax for the capital outlay projects listed herein.

This tax is in addition to the School Board’s proposed tax of 3.877 mills for operating expenses and is proposed solely at the discretion of the School Board.

The capital outlay tax will generate approximately \$4,336,816 to be used for the following projects:

CONSTRUCTION AND REMODELING

New Wakulla High School

MAINTENANCE, RENOVATION, AND REPAIR

Reimbursement of the Maintenance, Renovation, and Repairs paid through the General Fund as permitted by Florida Statute

Replacement of HVAC systems – Riversprings Middle School

MOTORVEHICLE PURCHASES

Purchase of one (1) 14-Passaenger Multi-Functional School Activity Bus

Purchase of maintenance vehicles

NEW AND REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT, COMPUTER AND DEVICE HARDWARE AND OPERATING SYSTEM SOFTWARE NECESSARY FOR GAINING ACCESS TO OR ENHANCING THE USE OF ELECTRONIC AND DIGITAL INSTRUCTIONAL CONTENT AND RESOURCES, AND ENTERPRISE RESOURCE SOFTWARE

Skyward enterprise resource software acquired via maintenance fee, including accompanying hosting maintenance fee

PAYMENT OF PREMIUMS FOR PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INSURANCE NECESSARY TO INSURE THE EDUCATIONAL AND ANCILLARY PLANTS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Insurance Premium on District Plant

PAYMENT OF COSTS OF LEASING RELOCATABLE EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

Leasing of portable classrooms at Wakulla High

PAYMENT OF SALARIES AND BENEFITS

Salaries and benefits of school bus drivers

CHARTER SCHOOL CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECTS PURSUANT TO S. 1013.64(2), F.S.

Renovation, Repair, and Maintenance of School Facilities

All concerned citizens are invited to a public hearing to be held on July 27, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. in the Board Room at the Wakulla County School Board Administrative Offices, 69 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida.

A DECISION on the proposed CAPITAL OUTLAY TAXES will be made at this hearing.

July 23, 2026

District is an A

From Front Page

Superintendent of Schools Rick Myhre.

Riversprings Middle School, Wakulla Middle School, Medart Elementary School, Crawfordville Elementary School, and Shadeville Elementary School maintained their “A” ratings, while Wakulla High School and Riversink Elementary School returned to an “A” rating.

“While we are proud of this achievement, it will not be our peak,” said Myhre. “Each school has already begun planning an even brighter future for our students. We are instilling a spirit of growth and determination where ‘good enough’ isn’t part of

the conversation. Our purpose is to ensure Wakulla County Schools stand as the beacon of American exceptionalism that our forefathers envisioned for our country 250 years ago. The very best of America’s communities are built on the bedrock of successful public schools, and Wakulla is the very epitome of that reality.”

This milestone reflects the district’s continued commitment to academic excellence, student support, and strong school-community partnerships. It also aligns with the Wakulla County Schools Five-Year Strategic Plan, which focuses on increasing student achievement, supporting rigorous and relevant in-

struction, strengthening culture and climate, and using data to guide continuous improvement.

The district’s Strategic Plan identifies student achievement as a key priority area, with a goal of increasing overall achievement on state standardized assessments so that Wakulla County Schools ranks in the Top 10 of all Florida districts. With this year’s results, Wakulla County Schools has reached that target and continues to demonstrate what is possible when students, families, teachers, staff, administrators, and the community work together with a shared commitment to student success.

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.

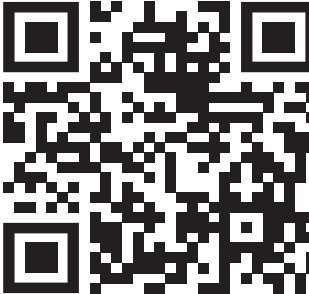


More Public Notices appear on Page 3.

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The District School Board of Wakulla County will soon consider a budget for fiscal year 2026 - 2027. A public hearing to make a DECISION on the budget AND TAXES will be held on July 27, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. in the Board Room at the Wakulla County School Board Administrative Offices, 69 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida.

July 23, 2026



SCAN ME for an electronic edition of



2026-2027 BUDGET SUMMARY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF WAKULLA COUNTY

THE PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET EXPENDITURES OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF WAKULLA COUNTY ARE 25.4% MORE THAN LAST YEAR’S TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES

	PROPOSED MILLAGE LEVY				
	REQUIRED LOCAL EFFORT (including Prior Period Adjustment Millage)	3.1290	BASIC DISCRETIONARY OPERATING	0.7480	
	BASIC DISCRETIONARY CAPITAL OUTLAY	1.5000			
			TOTAL MILLAGE	5.3770	
	GENERAL	SPECIAL REVENUE	CAPITAL PROJECTS	ENTERPRISE FUNDS	TOTAL ALL FUNDS
Revenues					
Federal	366,500.00	6,206,376.14	0.00		6,572,876.14
State Sources	40,291,745.96	30,384.00	763,306.25		41,085,436.21
Local Sources	12,315,952.42	146,977.12	6,844,140.47	123,500.00	19,430,570.01
TOTAL REVENUES	52,974,198.38	6,383,737.26	7,607,446.72	123,500.00	67,088,882.36
Transfers In	2,466,464.42	300,000.00	385,018.23		3,151,482.65
Other Financing Sources	20,000.00	0.00	25,698,269.06		25,718,269.06
FUND BALANCES - (July 1, 2026)	10,067,709.31	291,658.77	5,602,084.93	23,062.80	15,984,515.81
TOTAL REVENUES AND BALANCES	65,528,372.11	6,975,396.03	39,292,818.94	146,562.80	111,943,149.88
Expenditures					
Instruction	32,955,642.25	2,027,505.22			34,983,147.47
Pupil Personnel Services	3,488,118.58	534,937.40			4,023,055.98
Instructional Media Services	579,028.85	0.00			579,028.85
Instructional & Curriculum Development Services	553,080.34	69,816.66			622,897.00
Instructional Staff Training	142,870.15	395,089.21			537,959.36
Instructional Related Technology	231,806.20	0.00			231,806.20
Board of Education	629,895.61	0.00			629,895.61
General Administration	527,834.35	138,074.88			665,909.23
School Administration	3,115,889.18	0.00			3,115,889.18
Facilities Acquisition Construction	343,017.12	0.00	33,098,102.38		33,441,119.50
Fiscal Services	551,753.37	0.00			551,753.37
Food Service	750.00	3,780,949.07			3,781,699.07
Central Services	1,035,305.09	6,150.00		123,500.00	1,164,955.09
Pupil Transportation Services	4,238,169.59	4,400.00			4,242,569.59
Operation of Plant	7,101,847.24	0.00			7,101,847.24
Maintenance of Plant	911,664.46	0.00			911,664.46
Administrative Technology Services	876,819.27	0.00			876,819.27
Community Services	5,000.00	0.00			5,000.00
Debt Services	0.00	0.00	1,613,303.69		1,613,303.69
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	57,288,491.65	6,956,922.44	34,711,406.07	123,500.00	99,080,320.16
Transfers Out	300,000.00	0.00	2,851,482.65		3,151,482.65
FUND BALANCES - (June 30, 2027)	7,939,880.46	18,473.59	1,729,930.22	23,062.80	9,711,347.07
TOTAL EXPENDITURES, TRANSFERS, & BALANCES	65,528,372.11	6,975,396.03	39,292,818.94	146,562.80	111,943,149.88

THE TENTATIVE, ADOPTED, AND/OR FINAL BUDGET ARE ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED TAXING AUTHORITY AS A PUBLIC RECORD.

July 23, 2026

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.”

Got questions for the county commission candidates? Send them in

The Wakulla Sun will host a candidate forum for the two Republican candidates for the District 4 county commission seat – incumbent Quincee Messersmith and challenger Carrie Hughes – on July 28 at the public library beginning at 6 p.m.

Do you have questions you want to ask the candidates? Submit them to editor@thewakullasun.com.

Can't be there in person? The Sun will livestream the forum on Facebook and archive it on our YouTube page.

The primary election day is Aug. 18. We had also intended to invite Congressional candidates, but learned

there's a competing event in Lynn Haven at the same time that many candidates had committed to.

We have reserved the library meeting room for the next Tuesday, Aug. 4, beginning at 6 p.m. for Congressional candidates to appear and introduce themselves to voters.

We have received commitments from several of the Congressional candidates to appear.

There are eight Republican candidates and four Democrats. The winners of the party primaries will face off in the November general election.

Endorsement for candidate Hughes

Editor, The Sun:

The Wakulla County Commission Primary Election takes place on Aug. 18th when Republican voters have the opportunity to remove the incumbent

Commissioner representing District 4. The incumbent is part of the Commission majority, which has consistently voted to approve changes to the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan and zoning maps to the favor of developers, regardless of citizen input or benefit to the County.

Carrie Hughes, the Republican primary candidate for District 4, is the

responsible choice to lead Wakulla County during this period of transition. Carrie is not against growth or progress. Her vision for Wakulla is a future where growth is planned responsibly, infrastructure keeps pace with development, and the character of our community is protected. Key objectives of her campaign include listening to citizens' concerns and being open to differing viewpoints.

It seems the intent of the Wakulla County Commission majority is to follow the same mistakes made by so many other small communities in Florida that have been transformed by rapid, poorly planned development without consideration of long-term

impact. On August 18th, Wakulla County residents have the unique opportunity to ensure progress does not change the character and charm of this beautiful area which made it the reason many of us choose to live here.

Please note that the Aug. 18th District 4 Primary Election is open to all Wakulla County residents, not just those who live in District 4. You can read Carrie's complete vision for Wakulla County on her website: <https://hughes4wakulla.wixsite.com/hughes4wakulla>

John Parks
Crawfordville

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.

Library News

By **LINDA OAKS**
Library Director

Library News July 23rd– July 29th

Thursday, July 23rd

- NO CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS THIS WEEK
- Creative Writing I 10am

Friday, July 24th

- Free Lunch for kids with Summer Breakspot 12pm
- Friends of the Library 6pm
- Quilting Guild 10am
- Family Game Night 4pm

Saturday, July 25th

- No programs

Sunday, July 26th

- Closed

Monday, July 27th

- No Programs

Tuesday, July 28th

- NO CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS THIS WEEK
- Creative Writing II 10am

- Veteran's Support/A time to change counseling 1pm
- Evening Mahjong 4:30pm
- Wakulla Sun Candidate Forum 6pm

Wednesday, July 29th

- NO CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS THIS WEEK
- Mahjong 1pm
- Knitting Group 4pm

On the Horizon

Calendar of events for the week of July 23

Thursday, July 23 • The Rotary Club of Wakulla County meets at the TSC Wakulla Center at 8:30 a.m. on Thursdays. (No meeting this week) • Line dancing is 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Women's Club. 6:30 to 8 for beginners. \$10. • 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.	Ochlockonee St. Saturday, July 25 • FRESH Back to School backpack giveaway will hold a drive-thru distribution at Panacea Plaza from 9 a.m. to noon. Next week, on Aug. 1, a drive-thru giveaway will be held at Sopchoppy City Hall. On Aug. 8, the big giveaway will be held at the community center from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, July 26 • Wakulla Giving Hands food giveaway every Sunday from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the facility across from Medart Elementary on Highway 98. Line up begins at 11 a.m.	• Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Sunday at 6:30 p.m. at 54 Ochlockonee St. Monday, July 27 • Wakulla County School Board will hold a special budget meeting at 6 p.m. in the district office. • 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.	Tuesday, July 28 • Wakulla Sun candidate forum for the distrct 4 seat on the county commission – incumbent Quincee Messersmith and challenger Carrie Hughes – will be held at the library meeting room at 6 p.m. • Sopchoppy community dinner is held every week at the Towles House at 6:30 p.m. • Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at 54 Ochlockonee St. Wednesday, July 29 • Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon and 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday at 54 Ochlockonee St.
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"It's A New Day!"

The Wakulla Sun



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William Snowden
Editor & Publisher
The Wakulla Sun

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

Polled at STEAM Makers Derby on Saturday:
What made your car fast?



JOE HAND

11, Riversprings Middle

“The shape of the car and the weight.”



THOMAS LATHAN

11, Wakulla Middle

“The aerodynamics and the weight. The car is a triangle made from a rectangle. It’s a cyber truck.”



REMINGTON SHADRICK

10, Shadeville

“It’s how it’s built, it has Sponge Bob as a face and at the bottom it has the American Flag.”



ELI PARKS

6, Medart

“The weight.”



CASON PARKS

12, Wakulla Middle

“I put a quarter on the back of it. I may have won the creative category today.”

Wakulla Crossroads

By Verna Brock

There is a spit of land, barely forming a point, between two rivers flowing to the vast Gulf. Both empty the great subterranean river that waxes and wanes with the vagaries of weather, draining the entire Southeastern watershed; this is the enormous Florida Aquifer.

Upon the spit, clinging precariously to limerock and sand, stands an ancient cypress tree. Its roots are clearly revealed as they worm their way around and through the weathered rock. Limbs are gnarled and twisted by wind and rain, as if shaped by a giant’s hand carving a bonsai. The cypress remains a thing of wild beauty.

It stands surrounded by daughter trees, sprung from its seeds. Palms lean away from the wind, and palmettos grow thickly among them. Vines climb, and bloom, while coastal birds make their homes there. Otters, alligators, and raccoons move unmolested as they seek shelter and sustenance.

There was a time when the tree

watched as tribal peoples came to the rivers’ edge, generation after generation. Their waters offered an endless bounty of fish, oysters, and crabs. Mothers gathered to scrub hides in the brackish water stained with tannin, as their children splashed and shouted with delight in the cooling waves lapping at the shore.

Flint-knappers formed blades and arrows upon the grassy spit, preparing their tools for hunting and fishing. Bones and antlers harvested from deer were worked into useful needles and knives. Low murmurs flowed between the workers as the knapping strikes sang out rhythmically and the chert piles grew.

For the most part, the tree lived in peace, and time stretched day into day, sunrise into sunset. One day, an apparition appeared on the horizon. A tall ship with billowing sails, boasting the emblems of Spain and Christianity, effortlessly sailed into the mouth of the river and dropped anchor.

These people had their own ways, and bustled about fortifying and surveying. A fort was established, while

the original inhabitants quickly discovered their world would never be the same. The tree stood and watched as settlements rose and fell. Wars were fought, with losers and winners.

The British were bold enough to encroach and engage, as the first nations’ peoples slipped deep into the swamps and silently observed. Escaped slaves joined the natives in the swamps and worked to choose their allies wisely. Finally the territory became a part of the nascent United States, and settlers bearing names like Ladd and Jefferson came to tame the wilds of North Florida.

The tree held firm when a ferocious hurricane tore the bustling port of Magnolia to splinters. When the waters retreated, the town and its bridge were no more. But San Marcos/Saint Marks continued to grow, along with Newport just up the river.

When the young nation was tottering on dissolution, being torn asunder by the Civil War, the cypress stood vigil. Union ships sailed past the ancient tree, disgorging their forces there along the coast. The mostly colored troops began their long and fateful slog up the river. Cannons rang and roared, battling from the coast, all the way to the headwaters of

the St. Marks. Farmers and Seminary students rushed to meet the battle, finally stopping the Union troops at the Battle of Natural Bridge.

The echoes of gunfire enveloped the land and the tree, as the fight raged for days, until it raged no more. Letters spoke of the sound of cannon fire carrying as far away as Madison and Monticello, alerting inhabitants to a ferocious battle being waged to conquer Florida’s state capital.

When the war was finished, and peace restored, life and commerce began anew. The tree continued to stand watch as people came and went. Boats, ships, and tankers moved in and out, and families prospered. A great Depression plagued the land, and World Wars erupted. But nothing was new to the tree. The whims of time and history moved steadily along.

Even now, tides rise and fall. Storms blow. Sunsets glow pink and red and purple. And the cypress continues its vigil, still standing at the convergence of two rivers as the world revolves, undeterred by any of this. It is a timeless sentinel, a witness to the swirling eddies of history that flow past even today.

Buckhorn News

By Ethel Skipper

I feel real good about some of the things I’ve done: working with Friends of the Library, Keep Wakulla County Beautiful, Sopchoppy Fourth of July, Panacea Blue Crab Festival, the Homemakers group, and other community activities.

During that time each

community had a community writer. We have come a long ways thanks to social media. What would we do without Facebook, YouTube and others.

In my community you can keep up with things that happen.

The John and Charlotte Rosier Family and Friends Celebration was

well attended and family traveled from out of town.

Happy birthday wishes to Azliah Jenkins, on July 8; Myles Grimmett on July 9; Doria Gantt on July 10; Pastor Wender Gavin on July 12; Kraven Gavin on July 29; Edward Harris on July 22; Isaiah Hines on July 10; Brianna Beard

on July 11; Aamina Rosier on July 24; Elizabeth Clary on July 18; Za’kai Whitaker on July 17.

I celebrated my 90th birthday on June 23. Thanks to all who sent cards, visited, posted comments on Facebook – and those who brought my favorite food. It was a month of celebration.

Someone asked me how does it feel to be 90? If you have been here for 90 x 365 = a lot of days.



Bonnie

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The McGrew League Presents

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Join us as we help students in our community start the new school year prepared, confident, and ready to succeed!

Sunday, August 2, 2026
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Wakulla Community Center
318 Shadeville highway
Crawfordville, Florida 32327

Backpacks

Girls Nail Services

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Outdoors

outdoor sports

HOME ON THE RANGE

Ruger Mark III 22/45 vs. Sig Sauer’s P322



By MARJ LAW

After shooting our friend Greg’s High Standard .22 last week, I got excited all over again about shooting .22s. Naturally, Joe and I usually shoot larger caliber handguns, but this time we decide to shoot the Ruger Mark III 22/45, which is a target pistol and the Sig Sauer P322. The Sig is a much smaller and lighter pistol. If you have a good-sized purse, you might fit the Sig in, but not the Ruger. It is a much larger and heavier handgun.

We’re visiting the Wakulla County Sheriff’s Office range and are shooting at 8 inch targets about 20 feet away. Now, I know it’s almost cheating, but I’ve got the Ruger. It has a long bull barrel and ought to shoot very accurately. Also, I’m going to admit that it has a red dot reflex sight. To me, reflex sights make shooting any handgun easier, but a purest like Joe might feel shooting a gun with a reflex sight to be almost cheating. So, I

have 2 points in my favor as we shoot against each other.

Too bad for Joe! Let’s talk more about these two guns.

The Ruger is meant to be a fine target gun. It is. It has a 5.5 inch bull barrel. A “bull” barrel is used to indicate a particularly heavy, thick barrel. This is good when you want to shoot well. The heaviness holds the gun in place (some) and the length ensures accuracy. The longer the barrel, the more energy is imparted into the bullet, which makes it fly out of the barrel. This adds to accuracy.

As I said, I have a reflex sight on my Ruger. According to Robert Sadowski, the “red dots allow the user to shoot with both eyes open for a wide field of view and no tunnel vision aiming.”

I’m sure he’s correct, but I like the reflex sight because you don’t have to align front and back sights. You just place the red dot on the red center of the target, and that’s where the bullet will go. Supposedly.

While the gun is fine, the shooter may be inexperienced or (ahem) mature. Any shooting outside of the center ring is probably due to shooter error. The gun itself can only do so much. This is why I’m showing the handgun and not my target. Ten years ago, I would have shown the target with pride, but today is different.



Shooters get something I’d compare to the “yips” that golfers often get as they become older. Today my shooting reflects either shooter “yips” or too much coffee in the morning. Sigh.

This particular Ruger’s slide and barrel are made of stainless steel. The overall length is 9.75 inches with a barrel length of 5.5 inches. It is 1.20 inches wide and has a height of 5.5 inches. With so much metal, the gun is heavy at 42 ounces. It is obviously not a purse gun. The magazine holds 10 rounds.

Joe is shooting the Sig Sauer P322. This is a much smaller and lighter handgun. At 7” inches overall, it has a barrel of 4 inches. It is 1.4 inches wide and is 5.5 inches in height. And, because of its size and polymer frame, the Sig only weighs 17.1 ounces. Big difference. As I said earlier, you might be able to put this gun in your purse, but it’s not the smallest handgun on the planet.

Why a .22?

These .22s have very light triggers. They have little recoil. New shooters are often afraid of recoil, which makes them “flinch” when the gun fires. This is a bad habit, and one you have to lose. So, shooting a gun with very little recoil helps the new shooter learn without fearing recoil.

Why a .22?

The slides on both guns are fairly light and easy to pull back. The Ruger has “ears” on the end of the slide. These ears give you a good grip so it’s easy to rack the slide.

Why the Ruger .22?

The Ruger has buttons and levers similar to the 45 caliber 1911 style handgun, so you can learn on a gun of lower caliber, but become familiar with the higher caliber gun.

Why a .22?

.22s can be useful in getting rid of vermin like snakes and squirrels. When you learn to place your shot well, you might also dispatch rabid raccoons, coyotes, and bobcats.

Why a .22?

.22 rounds are cheap when you compare them to 9mm or 45-caliber rounds. You can shoot .22s all day long for a fraction of the price of other guns. This makes training really inexpensive.

Speaking of .22 ammunition, be sure to use name brand, clean ammunition. The .22 semi-automatic handgun is sensitive. You might want to try out a few different makes of ammunition because some .22s are picky. Find the one that shoots the best in your gun.

Watch out for old and bulk ammunition. Pick up a round and feel it. Does it have a slightly sticky residue? Your gun won’t like that at all. If you try to use old ammo in the .22, you may find that you get “stovepipes” or other shooting problems. Also, .22s are sensitive to shooting residue and dirt that clogs in the chamber, on the ramp or in the ejection port. If you don’t keep a .22 clean, you’ll likely have shooting problems.

The Sig versus the Ruger

Joe finds the trigger pull and travel very light on the Sig. I tried it out later and found this to be true also.

The slide is smooth and easy and the recoil is light. Joe finds this little gun seems to like the 40-grain CCI rounds and the CCI Minimag. He shot a fairly tight grouping southwest of the center ring of the target.

Joe wants to remind you that the Sig’s magazine holds a whopping 20 rounds. Joe cautions the shooter to load the magazines one round at a time. It can be tempting to pull the mag button down and plop several rounds into it, but this can give you stacking problems, where the rounds go in cock-eyed.

I shoot the Ruger. Yes, I really like the red dot sight we put on it. Oh, and the Sig does have a plate where you can add a red dot if you want to. The Sig comes with a fiber optic front sight and back sight which are easy to see. But my red dot is better. (!)

Both the Ruger’s bull barrel and heavy overall weight help to hold the gun steady. You can laugh at the recoil as you shoot round after round. However, after a while, the gun starts to feel heavy at those 42 ounces versus the 17.1 ounces of the Sig.

Both .22s are easy to shoot, simple to learn, rugged and affordable. They’re great for plinking or getting rid of vermin.

Pick a cool morning and arrange to visit the WCSO range with a friend. Shooting your .22 is relaxing and fun way to spend a morning. By noon, you’ll be ready to go out to lunch!

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



SAND DOLLAR
(Mellita quinquiesperforata)

The sand dollar lives most of its life party buried in sand in costal regions from Virginia to Brazil. They burrow through the sand eating tiny crustaceans and sea mites and leaving others behind such as nematodes. A relative of sea urchins and sea stars its underside is covered with tiny hairs that is uses to move. Thousands, all of one size exist in a single beach. They spawn in summer.

Eukarya, Animalia, Echinodermata, Echinodermata, Echinoidea, Clypeasteroidea, Mellitidae

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Darby**

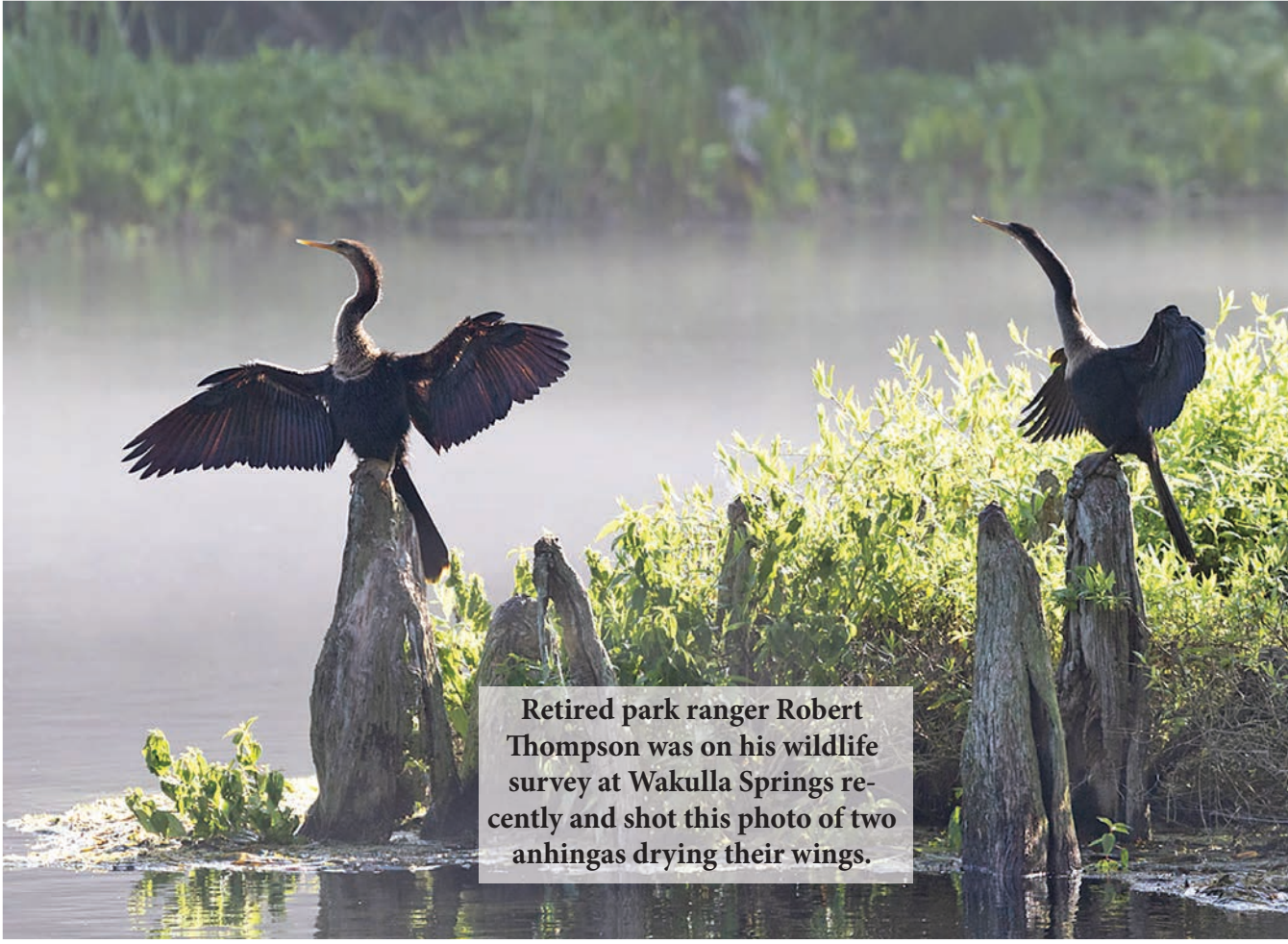
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WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO



Retired park ranger Robert Thompson was on his wildlife survey at Wakulla Springs recently and shot this photo of two anhingas drying their wings.

Water Ways

a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences

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Thursday 23

Sun rise/set
6:50 AM
8:37 PM

Moon rise/set
4:09 PM
1:42 AM

Friday 24

Sun rise/set
6:51 AM
8:36 PM

Moon rise/set
5:05 PM
2:21 AM

Saturday 25

Sun rise/set
6:51 AM
8:36 PM

Moon rise/set
6:00 PM
3:05 AM

Sunday 26

Sun rise/set
6:52 AM
8:35 PM

Moon rise/set
6:50 PM
3:55 AM

Monday 27

Sun rise/set
6:53 AM
8:34 PM

Moon rise/set
7:35 PM
4:49 AM

Tuesday 28

Sun rise/set
6:53 AM
8:34 PM

Moon rise/set
—
5:47 AM

Wednesday 29

Sun rise/set
6:54 AM
8:33 PM

Moon rise/set
8:15 PM
6:45 AM

Moon Illumination 97%

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 23 - July 29

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 26-Aug. 1

Thursday 23

Major Times 7:52 AM 7:29 PM

Minor Times 1:12 AM 3:39 PM

Friday 24

Major Times 8:41 AM 8:16 PM

Minor Times 1:51 AM 4:35 PM

Saturday 25

Major Times 9:31 AM 9:06 PM

Minor Times 2:35 AM 5:30 PM

Sunday 26

Major Times 10:23 AM 9:57 PM

Minor Times 3:25 AM 6:20 PM

Monday 27

Major Times 11:14 AM 10:49 PM

Minor Times 4:19 AM 7:05 PM

Tuesday 28

Major Times 12:03 PM 11:39 PM

Minor Times 5:17 AM ---

Wednesday 29

Major Times 12:28 AM 12:51 PM

Minor Times 6:15 AM 7:45 PM

St. Marks River Entrance

Th	1st 1:54 AM ▲ 2.1 ft	2nd 8:47 AM ▼ 3.2 ft	3rd 5:33 PM ▲ 0.8 ft	4th —
Fr	1st 12:38 AM ▲ 2.4 ft	2nd 3:12 AM ▼ 2.3 ft	3rd 10:26 AM ▲ 3.2 ft	4th 6:39 PM ▼ 0.5 ft
Sa	1st 1:30 AM ▲ 2.6 ft	2nd 5:03 AM ▼ 2.3 ft	3rd 11:51 AM ▲ 3.3 ft	4th 7:29 PM ▼ 0.3 ft
Su	1st 2:04 AM ▲ 2.8 ft	2nd 6:21 AM ▼ 2.2 ft	3rd 12:48 PM ▲ 3.5 ft	4th 8:09 PM ▼ 0.1 ft
Mo	1st 2:35 AM ▲ 2.9 ft	2nd 7:16 AM ▼ 2.0 ft	3rd 1:31 PM ▲ 3.6 ft	4th 8:44 PM ▼ 0.0 ft
Tu	1st 3:04 AM ▲ 3.1 ft	2nd 8:00 AM ▼ 1.8 ft	3rd 2:07 PM ▲ 3.8 ft	4th 9:13 PM ▼ -0.1 ft
We	1st 3:31 AM ▲ 3.3 ft	2nd 8:39 AM ▼ 1.6 ft	3rd 2:40 PM ▲ 3.9 ft	4th 9:40 PM ▼ -0.2 ft

Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay

Th	1st 2:05 AM ▲ 1.6 ft	2nd 8:39 AM ▼ 2.4 ft	3rd 5:44 PM ▲ 0.5 ft	4th —
Fr	1st 12:30 AM ▲ 1.8 ft	2nd 3:23 AM ▼ 1.7 ft	3rd 10:18 AM ▲ 2.4 ft	4th 6:50 PM ▼ 0.4 ft
Sa	1st 1:22 AM ▲ 2.1 ft	2nd 5:11 AM ▼ 1.7 ft	3rd 11:43 AM ▲ 2.5 ft	4th 7:40 PM ▼ 0.2 ft
Su	1st 1:56 AM ▲ 2.1 ft	2nd 6:32 AM ▼ 1.6 ft	3rd 12:40 PM ▲ 2.6 ft	4th 8:20 PM ▼ 0.1 ft
Mo	1st 2:27 AM ▲ 2.2 ft	2nd 7:27 AM ▼ 1.5 ft	3rd 1:23 PM ▲ 2.7 ft	4th 8:55 PM ▼ 0.0 ft
Tu	1st 2:56 AM ▲ 2.3 ft	2nd 8:11 AM ▼ 1.3 ft	3rd 1:59 PM ▲ 2.8 ft	4th 9:24 PM ▼ -0.1 ft
We	1st 3:23 AM ▲ 2.5 ft	2nd 8:50 AM ▼ 1.2 ft	3rd 2:32 PM ▲ 2.9 ft	4th 9:51 PM ▼ -0.1 ft

City of St. Marks

Th	1st 2:58 AM ▲ 1.9 ft	2nd 9:23 AM ▼ 2.9 ft	3rd 6:37 PM ▲ 0.7 ft	4th —
Fr	1st 1:14 AM ▲ 2.2 ft	2nd 4:16 AM ▼ 2.1 ft	3rd 11:02 AM ▲ 2.9 ft	4th 7:43 PM ▼ 0.5 ft
Sa	1st 2:06 AM ▲ 2.4 ft	2nd 6:04 AM ▼ 2.1 ft	3rd 12:27 PM ▲ 3.1 ft	4th 8:33 PM ▼ 0.3 ft
Su	1st 2:40 AM ▲ 2.6 ft	2nd 7:25 AM ▼ 2.0 ft	3rd 1:24 PM ▲ 3.2 ft	4th 9:13 PM ▼ 0.1 ft
Mo	1st 3:11 AM ▲ 2.7 ft	2nd 8:20 AM ▼ 1.8 ft	3rd 2:07 PM ▲ 3.4 ft	4th 9:48 PM ▼ 0.0 ft
Tu	1st 3:40 AM ▲ 2.9 ft	2nd 9:04 AM ▼ 1.7 ft	3rd 2:43 PM ▲ 3.5 ft	4th 10:17 PM ▼ -0.1 ft
We	1st 4:07 AM ▲ 3.0 ft	2nd 9:43 AM ▼ 1.5 ft	3rd 3:16 PM ▲ 3.6 ft	4th 10:44 PM ▼ -0.1 ft

St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.

Th	1st 12:01 AM ▲ 2.0 ft	2nd 2:23 AM ▼ 2.0 ft	3rd 9:03 AM ▲ 2.8 ft	4th 5:34 PM ▼ 0.4 ft
Fr	1st 10:05 AM ▲ 2.8 ft	2nd 6:33 PM ▼ 0.2 ft	3rd —	4th —
Sa	1st 2:35 AM ▲ 2.3 ft	2nd 5:34 AM ▼ 2.3 ft	3rd 11:10 AM ▲ 2.9 ft	4th 7:21 PM ▼ 0.1 ft
Su	1st 2:57 AM ▲ 2.3 ft	2nd 6:36 AM ▼ 2.1 ft	3rd 12:07 PM ▲ 3.0 ft	4th 8:01 PM ▼ 0.0 ft
Mo	1st 3:16 AM ▲ 2.4 ft	2nd 7:20 AM ▼ 2.0 ft	3rd 12:54 PM ▲ 3.0 ft	4th 8:35 PM ▼ 0.0 ft
Tu	1st 3:35 AM ▲ 2.4 ft	2nd 7:58 AM ▼ 1.9 ft	3rd 1:36 PM ▲ 3.1 ft	4th 9:06 PM ▼ -0.1 ft
We	1st 3:54 AM ▲ 2.5 ft	2nd 8:34 AM ▼ 1.8 ft	3rd 2:16 PM ▲ 3.1 ft	4th 9:35 PM ▼ -0.1 ft

Shell Point, Spring Creek

Th	1st 2:54 AM ▲ 2.1 ft	2nd 9:24 AM ▼ 3.4 ft	3rd 5:43 PM ▲ 0.6 ft	4th —
Fr	1st 12:31 AM ▲ 2.6 ft	2nd 4:07 AM ▼ 2.3 ft	3rd 10:41 AM ▲ 3.4 ft	4th 6:47 PM ▼ 0.4 ft
Sa	1st 1:28 AM ▲ 2.8 ft	2nd 5:28 AM ▼ 2.3 ft	3rd 11:53 AM ▲ 3.5 ft	4th 7:39 PM ▼ 0.2 ft
Su	1st 2:10 AM ▲ 3.0 ft	2nd 6:37 AM ▼ 2.3 ft	3rd 12:49 PM ▲ 3.6 ft	4th 8:22 PM ▼ 0.0 ft
Mo	1st 2:46 AM ▲ 3.1 ft	2nd 7:29 AM ▼ 2.1 ft	3rd 1:34 PM ▲ 3.8 ft	4th 8:59 PM ▼ -0.1 ft
Tu	1st 3:19 AM ▲ 3.3 ft	2nd 8:13 AM ▼ 2.0 ft	3rd 2:12 PM ▲ 3.9 ft	4th 9:32 PM ▼ -0.1 ft
We	1st 3:50 AM ▲ 3.4 ft	2nd 8:52 AM ▼ 1.8 ft	3rd 2:48 PM ▲ 4.0 ft	4th 10:01 PM ▼ -0.1 ft

Dog Island West End

Th	1st 8:51 AM ▲ 2.6 ft	2nd —	3rd 5:38 PM ▼ 0.4 ft	4th —
Fr	1st 9:52 AM ▲ 2.6 ft	2nd 6:44 PM ▼ 0.3 ft	3rd —	4th —
Sa	1st 10:48 AM ▲ 2.6 ft	2nd 7:35 PM ▼ 0.1 ft	3rd —	4th —
Su	1st 4:14 AM ▲ 2.2 ft	2nd 6:51 AM ▼ 2.2 ft	3rd 11:41 AM ▲ 2.7 ft	4th 8:14 PM ▼ 0.0 ft
Mo	1st 4:16 AM ▲ 2.2 ft	2nd 7:48 AM ▼ 2.1 ft	3rd 12:37 PM ▲ 2.7 ft	4th 8:46 PM ▼ -0.1 ft
Tu	1st 4:26 AM ▲ 2.3 ft	2nd 8:21 AM ▼ 1.9 ft	3rd 1:32 PM ▲ 2.8 ft	4th 9:16 PM ▼ -0.1 ft
We	1st 4:38 AM ▲ 2.3 ft	2nd 8:52 AM ▼ 1.8 ft	3rd 2:21 PM ▲ 2.8 ft	4th 9:44 PM ▼ -0.1 ft

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

Sheriff's Report

Sheriff's Report is for activity July 10 to 17. There were 1,526 total calls for service.

FRIDAY, JULY 10

MONDAY, JULY 13

• Deputy Ian Kilbourn responded to Walmart and made contact with Asset Protection, who reported an unidentified female entered the store, placed several items in her shopping cart and proceeded to self-checkout. Once at self-checkout, the female failed to scan all the items in the cart and passed the last point of sale with \$56 in unpaid merchandise. Case forwarded to Criminal Investigations Division.

• Deputy Aimee Love and Sgt. Wade Wright responded to an agency assist requested by a Fish and Wildlife officer, who was on a traffic stop. While on scene, both occupants of the vehicle, Catherine Gordie and Carl Johns were determined to have active warrants out of Franklin and Bay counties. After confirming extradition, both subjects were placed under arrest. During an inventory of the vehicle, Sgt. Wright located suspected methamphetamine between the front driver and passenger seat. Both subjects were also arrested for possession of meth.

• Deputies assisted Wakulla Fire-Rescue in retrieving a subject who was locked in an elevator. The door had to be pried opened, causing minor damage to the frame and door.

SUNDAY, JULY 12

• Walmart Asset Protection reported a delayed theft. Taken was approximately \$50 worth of unpaid merchandise. Case forwarded to CID.

• Deputy Aimee Love responded to Solomon Drive and made contact with the reporting person who claimed that, while driving her moped south on Spring Creek Highway, a man known to her drove up behind her and intentionally ran her off the road, then he continued south to Shell Point. After data-mining it was determined

covered inside Walmart by Asset Protection agents. Upon contact, it was determined Mispel had been Trespassed from Walmart indefinitely on Dec. 24, 2024, Mispel was placed under arrest and transported to the Wakulla County Jail.

• Walmart Asset Protection reported an unknown female entering the store on July 11 and loading a shopping cart with merchandise. After observing her on security cameras, she was observed at a self-scan register, where she can be seen scanning several items and placing them back into the cart on top of un-scanned merchandise. She paid with a debit card belonging to Lativia La' Shae Crumity. The total loss for the unpaid items was \$90.47. Case forwarded to CID.

• Deputy Jackson Kittrell responded to the area of Wakulla Arran Road and Crawfordville Highway in reference to a suspicious vehicle driving with no tag attached. After a short search of the area, Deputy Kittrell located the vehicle traveling southbound from Walmart. Deputy Kittrell positioned himself behind the vehicle and attempted to conduct a traffic stop. The vehicle failed to stop, and appeared as though the driver was waving for Deputy Kittrell to follow. After coming to a final stop at Wyngate Drive the back seat passenger exited the and fled on foot. Deputy Kittrell then made contact with the driver and front passenger and had them exit the vehicle. The driver was immediately detained and secured in the patrol vehicle. During the stop, all parties were identified. The driver, Karl Cannon, advised he was told not to stop by the passenger, William Timmons, who had fled on foot. Karl was then asked about the backpack that was located in the driver side floorboard. Karl advised the backpack was not his but did have some items in it that belonged to him. Due to Karl advising he was not the owner of the backpack, Deputy Kittrell attempted to locate some form of ID to verify ownership. While looking for identification, Deputy Kittrell located two baggies with a white powdery substance. The substance was field tested and produced a presumptive

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Underwater Wakulla

By Gregg Stanton

The Road Trip. December 13, 2012

Winter training continues now that we are back from a 7,500 mile, month long road trip. We set out at the beginning of November to attend the Diving Equipment Manufacturers Association (DEMA) in Las Vegas, Nev. I hate flying, encourage staff to join me on the road, and visit collaborating facilities along the way. So I drive whenever I can. Not surprisingly, I drive a diesel Jetta, which has wonderful mileage and plenty of room. Two years ago I drove our diesel Sprinter because I needed to get all our DOT banks hydrostatically tested at one of the oldest stations in the country, in Oklahoma City, at City Carbonics, half way to Las Vegas. I picked them up on the way back. This year we expanded our hydrotestatic test facility to service these larger cylinders ourselves. Joerg Hess and I took our technician, Travis, to DEMA this year and then flew him back to Wakulla. After test diving a new rebreather in Lake Meade, we continued west to spend Thanksgiving with my brother in Oregon. By Monday, we were at Innerspace Systems Corporation in Washington State, the folks who make the most successful rebreather in this country, the Megalodon. We were visiting to become qualified to repair their newest rebreather, one half the size, cost and still as capable a rig as the Megalodon. Rebreathers have changed the way we dive the caves. This new platform will change the way we dive the ocean from Wakulla County. Mechanical repairs to the Jetta held us in Oregon for a few extra days, forcing us to work outside in dreary weather. But rain in the Siuslaw Valley means mushrooms spring forth from their forests. During a brief break in the weather, I found a huge Boletus mushroom that tasted delicious! Eating eggs from range-fed chickens and organic vegetables during our stay made up for the layover. My brother is a back-to-the-basics farmer now. He even heats his house with used vegetable oil. A road trip is a time for imaginering. Days and miles on end between visits to manufacturer facilities, Dr. Hess and I brainstormed topics that will shape where Wakulla Diving will go in the coming years. We visited American Underwater Products (second largest dive manufacturer in the world) near San Francisco for a day of training on their new rebreather, the Prism2. We stayed with Mike Menduno, legendary Tech diver, visionary and editor of Aquacore Magazine. Then we drove over the Donavan Pass to Reno and east-bound to Salt Lake to visit our Russian colleague, Konstantine Kovalenko. There's a chance he may join us, dramatically adding new dimensions to diving support in Wakulla. In Boulder, Colo., we visited Spark Fun. Three newly graduated engineers from the local university loved to play with electronics, and shared their enthusiasm. They still do, but now employ 130 employees to help them do it. We toured their facility, and were amazed at how they pulled it off (lessons learned there). We have returned with new plans, toys and renewed enthusiasm, to re-engage with the Madison County Police Dive Team for another two weeks of training. We introduced an inexpensive remotely operated vehicle (ROV), that they loved (almost as much as we do!). It will be an exciting new year underwater in Wakulla County. Editor's Note: This is a repeat of a column from 2012.



By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

Does 1 Corinthians 2:9 (ESV) make you excited about heaven? “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared

for those who love him.” Me too! Yet, if we’re honest, we might fear the dying process, even though we don’t fear death itself (because of the new life we’ll live for eternity). We hope that when our time comes, we’ll die peacefully rather than suffer a long, lingering death.

Let’s take this same thought about dying and apply it in a spiritual context.

When we fight an unrelenting temptation, we enter a season (sometimes a long, drawn-out one) of suffering until

we finally die to that desire or behavior. Once we’re free of a behavior that isn’t God-honoring, such as an addiction, sexual immorality, or even a “lesser” sin like gossip, we can live differently.

Second Corinthians 5:17 (ESV) tells us, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” “In Christ” refers to someone who has placed their trust in Him as their Savior. “Savior” means Someone (Jesus) Who

paid the penalty for our sins on the cross, thereby saving us from the control of sin – and eternity in Hell.

During this week and every week after, would you consider confessing to God (Who powerfully loves you) a specific area you’re struggling with and asking Him to help you die to it? To separate your sinful passions from your heart so your heart can passionately desire God’s ways instead?

Ask Him to give you a glimpse of what “the new” looks like?

Dying to bad habits or sinful behavior (which, if we were honest, we love) is painful. It doesn’t have to be a long process, though, especially when we share our struggle with an accountability partner or a small group. These people will help us keep our eyes on our Savior, even when all hell breaks loose. As a bonus, a marvelous bond forms when we partner with others who also want to live unpromisingly for Christ.

What one sin or bad habit will you ask God to help you with this week?

What sin will you finally hate enough to put to death by the power of the living Christ who dwells within you?

Because we are a new creation, we are free to live a new life in Christ. And we look forward to an eternity so incredible that it is beyond our imagination.

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.

One more trip



By **CHERYL CRUCE**

Saturdays were shopping days at the old A&P grocery store in my hometown, and I always looked forward to going with Mom. We would take a cart and make our way up one aisle and down another as she carefully marked each item off her list. At checkout, the cashier rang up each purchase while the bag boy packed

everything into sturdy brown paper bags.

Those paper bags had limits. Fill them too full, and they would split before we made it from the car to the house. So we carried one or two bags at a time and returned for the rest. No one thought twice about making another trip.

Somewhere along the way, paper gave way to plastic. Plastic bags were stronger, had handles, and stretched just enough to hold “one more thing.” Before long, we found ourselves carrying four or five bags in each hand, fingers turning white as we insisted on making only one trip from the car to the house. With keys hooked onto our fingers, a purse slipping from

our shoulder, and an elbow trying to open the front door, it became a balancing act. And isn’t life just like that?

On one occasion, my determination to make only one trip left me sprawled on the ground as groceries scattered in every direction. Pride had persuaded me I could carry it all. The pavement reminded me otherwise. We believe we can handle the daily juggling of responsibilities and burdens if we only try a little harder. Then, in a single moment, everything tumbles out of control, leaving us off balance.

Through the seasons of life, God has patiently taught me that I was never intended to carry everything at once.

Somewhere along the way, however, I convinced myself that if I tried a little harder, I could handle one more responsibility...

one more worry... one more commitment... one more burden. Perhaps the lesson was never about finding stronger hands to carry the load. Perhaps it was about recognizing that some things were never meant for us to carry alone.

Moses tried to carry the weight of Israel on his shoulders. From morning until evening, he judged the concerns of the people. When Jethro saw this, he reminded Moses that the work was too heavy for one person to carry alone. Moses was not failing because he was

weak; he was carrying more than one person was meant to bear. With Jethro’s wisdom, Moses shared the responsibility with others (Exodus 18:13-26).

Jesus understood the weight we carry. That is why He invites us to come to Him and take His yoke upon us. A yoke was designed to join two together for a shared task. Through His invitation, Jesus reminds us that we do not walk through life carrying every burden by ourselves (Matthew 11:28-30). Peter reminds us that we can place our worries and anxieties in the hands of the One who cares for us (1 Peter 5:7).

Maybe we made more trips from the car to the

house, but we made them with steady steps. The load was lighter because we were no longer trying to carry it all at once. Perhaps life isn’t about how much we can carry in a single trip, but about recognizing our limits, trusting God with what feels too heavy, and allowing Him to walk beside us. After all, the goal was never to carry every bag alone. The goal was simply to make it home.

Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2).

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

OUT TO PASTOR

After all, a penny is a penny



By **JAMES SNYDER**

As I was leaving the post office, I hurried across the parking lot to get to my vehicle. As I usually do, I kept my eyes focused on the ground as I walked to my vehicle.

Then, I saw it. There it was in all of its stunning beauty. I stopped for a few moments to look at it, and then bent over and picked it up. It was a penny. That’s right, one cent.

I couldn’t wait to get home to show it to The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. She knows how much I love collecting pennies. Of course, I have other coins as well, but it’s so great to walk in a parking lot and find a penny.

Walking in the front door of the house, I shouted, “Honey, I’m home. You’ll never guess what I found today.”

She shouted back at me, “Let me guess. You found a penny in the parking lot.”

Quite stunned, I replied, “How did you know?”

“Well,” she said, “I knew you were going to the post office which has a large parking lot and you always find a penny in the parking lot. So I really wasn’t guessing I just knew what you found.”

I walked into the kitchen where she was and showed her the penny I found at the parking lot. With a great smile on my face, I said, “Isn’t this penny beautiful?”

“You do know,” she said, “that a penny is only a penny?”

“I know a penny is a penny and I’ve been collecting them for years.”

She wasn’t really impressed with my obsession with coins. I had a fairly large coin collection, and I can always add to it, even if it’s just a penny.

I tried to explain to her that 100 pennies equal one dollar, and even if it’s just a penny, collecting them is about enjoying the small wins and the simple pleasures in life, which I believe everyone can appreciate. What I find intriguing about pennies in a parking lot is that they don’t cost anything. These tiny treasures bring me simple happiness, and I enjoy the feeling of finding something free and unexpected.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is one of those BOGO shoppers, and she’s quite proud of how she can really get bargains. When you buy one and then get one free, that means they’re half the cost. Anytime you can save money is okay with me.

I spent some time in the afternoon looking at my collection of pennies. I knew all of the parking lots where I found a penny. I’ve been on vacation and found a penny in a parking lot. I can’t tell you how much pleasure I get just looking at these

pennies I found. Pennies that cost me nothing, I like.

There was that one time when The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came home and said, “You’ll never guess what I found today. I found a quarter in the Publix parking lot.” Then she laughed most hysterically.

She came into my office, where I was working, held up that quarter, and said to me, “See, a quarter is much more than a penny.” All she talked about that day was the quarter she found in the parking lot. A quarter equals 25 pennies. Duh!

I knew what she was doing, and I congratulated her on her wonderful findings for the day. I know that quarter will be used in her BOGO shopping. Believe me, I was happy for her.

Once in a while, I’ll

find a quarter or a nickel or even a dime, which brings me great pleasure, I can assure you.

I know these parking lot findings are really that valuable. But, as I tell The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, they’re all free. And that makes them special to me.

This will never happen, but one day I would love to find a \$100 bill in a parking lot. That thrill of surprise would make my day, and I’d be eager to share it with The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

Since the government has stopped producing pennies, maybe one day my collection will be worth a lot. Until then, I appreciate how my frugal habits, like saving pennies, reflect a wise approach to life and money.

My father passed his frugal attitude down to

me. Because of that, I have a great deal of respect for coins like pennies. I believe it’s not how much you make in life, but how much you spend. A friend won a million-dollar lottery. Within two years, he was bankrupt.

Another attitude of my father was that it’s not how much you make, but how deep in debt you are. And I’ve been very careful over the years not to get into debt. I don’t need the best of things or the latest; just what I can afford.

One of my favorite Bible verses is 1 Timothy 6:10. “For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some

coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”

Many people misunderstand this verse and use it out of context. Money is not the problem; the “love of money is the root of all evil.” I need money to live, but I must realize that there is more in my life than money.

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

DEATH NOTICES

• William Ray Hicks, 72, of Panacea, died July 14, 2026.

• Deatra Holley, 61, of Woodville, died July 14, 2026.
• JoAnn Koeth, 85, of Tallahassee, died July 16, 2026.

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

Sheriff’s Report

From Page 7

to not being able to identify the owner of the backpack, the cocaine was seized for destruction. Karl was placed under arrest for fleeing and eluding and transported to the county jail without further incident.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

• Deputy Ian Kilbourn responded to the Sopchoppy City Park in reference to a suspicious person. Upon arrival contact was made with Roger Rosier, who was exhibiting strange behavior. Ultimately Rosier was asked not to be making unwanted

contact with others in the park.

• Deputy Joshua Martin responded to the lobby of the Sheriff’s Office and made contact with the reporting person, who stated she works for Spark Delivery. She stated while delivering groceries to Klickitat Drive, a German Shepherd exited a residence and began aggressively jumping on her causing scratches. She stated she was scared to the point she was unable to move until members of the residence restrained the canine. Animal Control was contacted in reference to this incident.

THURSDAY, JULY 16

aged. Contact was also made with the woman, who refused to comment on anything. Due to him changing his recollection of events several times pertaining to the damage, this case was documented for information, until further information becomes available.

• Deputy Zachary Godwin and Deputy Moen responded to Page Oliver Road and made contact with the reporting party, who stated an individual who claimed to be a Verizon representative and advised she was eligible for a new device and a gift card. She agreed to the new device; it was delivered and placed on her porch while she was away. She stated the package was later removed from her porch by an unknown

male. She stated she only wanted the incident documented for information, so Verizon would provide her with a refund.

FRIDAY, JULY 17

• A citizen reported working on her computer and pop-up ads appeared indicating her computer had been infected with a virus. She contacted the “Microsoft” help number provided in the pop-up. The “Microsoft” agent directed her to send \$11,700 via Bitcoin to fix her computer. She withdrew the funds and deposited them in the Bitcoin machine at “The Smoke Shop” in Crawfordville.

• Deputy Jackson Kittrell responded to the Coin Laundry in reference to a theft.

Contact was made with a citizen who advised she started doing laundry at 4:45 p.m. After starting her laundry, she left to pick up her boyfriend and returned an hour later. When she got back, she stated someone had taken her laundry. Deputy Kittrell was able to review video surveillance. While reviewing the video, no one was seen tampering with the washing machines she had started. Due to no one tampering with the washing machine or her clothes, this incident was documented for informational purposes.

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

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.

**FLORIDA PUBLIC NOTICES**
WWW.FLORIDAPUBLICNOTICES.COM

More Public Notices appear on Page 3.

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

WAKULLA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
INVITATION TO BID NUMBER: RFQ 2026-16
REBID PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR WAKULLA GARDENS STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE
ADVERTISEMENT BEGIN DATE: JULY 23, 2026
RELEASE DATE: JULY 23, 2026
BIDS DUE TO BOCC: SEPTEMBER 1, 2026 @ 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., Local Time, on September 1, 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 REBID PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR WAKULLA GARDENS STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE. The specifications of this procurement are stated in RFQ 2026-16. The RFQ 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 or Procurement@mywakulla.com.

All technical inquiries and clarification requests shall be submitted in writing to the Procurement Office located at the Wakulla County BOCC or Procurement@mywakulla.com in accordance with the RFQ. Verbal clarifications will not be provided.

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.

Wakulla County is an Equal Opportunity Employer
MBE/WBE businesses are encouraged to participate
Wakulla County strictly enforces open and fair competition

Wakulla County does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, marital status and disability/handicapped status in employment or provision of service.

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 23, 2026

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

WAKULLA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
INVITATION TO BID NO: 2026-17
PANACEA OVERFLOW PARKING LOT RESURFACING
BID ADVERTISEMENT BEGIN DATE: JULY 23, 2026
BID RELEASE DATE: JULY 23, 2026
BIDS DUE DATE AND TIME: AUGUST 13, 2026 @ 3:00 P.M. 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., Local Time, on AUGUST 13, 2026, at which time the bids will be opened and read aloud. Bids received after said time will be returned unopened.

The principal features of this procurement by the County are known as: PANACEA OVERFLOW PARKING LOT RESURFACING. The specifications of this procurement are stated in ITB 2026-17.

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 Wakulla County BOCC Procurement Office at 850-926-0919 or Procurement@mywakulla.com.

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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FICTITIOUS NAME

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Located at 50 Claxton Vause Sr Rd, 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 July 23, 2026

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 Statute 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 lis pendens 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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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: Frances Casey Lowe, Esq.
Florida Bar No. 521450
Frances Casey Lowe, P.A.
68-A Feli Way
Crawfordville, Florida 32327
(850) 926-8245

Personal Representative: 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

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
CAROLYN GILLEY,
DECEASED
DIVISION: PROBATE

CASE NO: 2026-CP-100

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the Estate of Carolyn Gilley, deceased, File 2026-CP-100 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 July 23, 2026.

Attorney for Personal Representative:	Personal Representative:
Frances Casey Lowe, Esq.	Clayton Gilley
Florida Bar No. 521450	70 Ace High Stables Rd.
Frances Casey Lowe, P.A.	Crawfordville, FL 32327
68-A Feli Way	
Crawfordville, Florida 32327	
(850) 926-8245	July 23, 30, 2026

NOTICE OF ACTION

0723-0816 TWS NOA

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

ESTES HOMES AND CONSTRUCTION, LLC, Case No.: 2026-CA-106
PLAINTIFF,
V.
HAROLD R. JOHNSON (DECEASED), UNKNOWN SPOUSE(S) OF
HAROLD R. JOHNSON, KNOWN AND UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES,
GRANTEES, JUDGMENT CREDITORS AND ALL PARTIES CLAIMING BY
THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST HAROLD R. JOHNSON (DECEASED)
OR THE UNKNOWN SPOUSE(S) OR THE RESPECTIVE ESTATE(S);
KNOWN AND UNKNOWN PARTIES IN POSSESSION; AND ALL
CLAIMANT(S), PERSON(S) OR PARTIES, NATURAL OR CORPORATE,
OR WHOSE EXACT LEGAL STATUS IS UNKNOWN, CLAIMING UNDER
ANY OF THE ABOVE NAMES OR DESCRIBED DEFENDANTS HEREIN,
Collectively "Defendants".

NOTICE OF ACTION

To: **HAROLD R. JOHNSON (DECEASED);**
UNKNOWN SPOUSE(S) OF HAROLD R. JOHNSON;
KNOWN AND UNKNOWN PARTIES IN POSSESSION, AND ALL
CLAIMANT(S), PERSON(S) OR PARTIES, NATURAL OR CORPO-
RATE, OR WHOSE EXACT LEGAL STATUS IS UNKNOWN, CLAIM-
ING UNDER ANY OF THE ABOVE NAMES OR DESCRIBED DEFEN-
DANTS HEREIN,

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to quiet title to the following property in Wakulla County, Florida:

Lot 45, Block 8, WAKULLA GARDENS, a subdivision as per map or plat thereof, recorded in Book 1, Page(s) 39, of the Public Records of Wakulla County, Florida.

PIN #: 00-00-035-008-06964-000

has been filed against you. You are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to the action on Frances Casey Lowe, Esquire, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 68-A Feli Way Crawfordville, Florida 32327, on or before the date not less than 28 days and no more than 60 days after the first publication, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately after service; otherwise, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint or Petition.

DATED this 16th day of July, 2026.

{{County Court Seal}}

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

July 23, 30, August 6, 13, 2026

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
TAX DEED FILE NO. 2026 TXD 114

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 #: **1019** Date of Issuance: **May 31, 2024**

Parcel #: **00-00-034-012-09631-001**
Description of Property:
Wakulla Gardens Unit 5
Block 54 Lot 2
OR 37 P 472 & OR 614 P 736
OR 646 P 803, OR 646 P 804 OR 659 P 485

Name in which assessed **LUISA MOORE** said property being in the County of Wakulla, State of Florida. Unless suchcertificate 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

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
TAX DEED FILE NO. 2026 TXD 111

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 #: **884** Date of Issuance: **May 31, 2024**

Parcel #: **00-00-034-009-08162-000**
Description of Property:
Wakulla Gardens Unit 2
Block 3 Lot 23
OR 5 P 543 & OR 88 P 561
OR 525 P 145
OR 641 P 291

Name in which assessed **HERBERT LEE PLYMPTON SR ESTATE** said property being in the County of Wakulla, State of Florida. Unless suchcertificate 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

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
TAX DEED FILE NO. 2026 TXD 112

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 #: **1007** Date of Issuance: **May 31, 2024**

Parcel #: **00-00-034-012-09571-064**
Description of Property:
Wakulla Gardens Unit 5
Block 48 Lots 63 & 64
OR 48 P 784 OR 361 P 590
OR 447 P 825 OR 560 151/152
OR 740 P 212 OR 859 P 473

Name in which assessed **DONNA ACKERMAN TAYLOR** said property being in the County of Wakulla, State of Florida. Unless suchcertificate 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

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
TAX DEED FILE NO. 2026 TXD 115

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **NAR SOLUTIONS INC** 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 #: **1173** Date of Issuance: **May 28, 2021**

Parcel #: **00-00-054-000-09911-001**
Description of Property:
Lot 54 HS P-6-1-m-14
also .50 acres in the NE 1/4
of Lot 54 HS
OR 90 P 749 & OR 96 P 961
OR 80 P 697 & OR 96 P 960

Name in which assessed **STEPHEN LANCASTER/CHRISTIE LANCASTER** said property being in the County of Wakulla, State of Florida. Unless suchcertificate 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

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
TAX DEED FILE NO. 2026 TXD 116

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **RAM TAX LIEN FUND II LP/RTL F - FL II 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 #: **1202** Date of Issuance: **May 31, 2024**

Parcel #: **00-00-078-013-10734-000**
Description of Property:
Magnolia Gardens
Block A Lots 8 & 9
DB 60 P 253 Less R/W
OR 121 P 861 OR 673 P 28
OR 784 P 101 OR 1068 P 839

Name in which assessed **VICKI S ROBINSON/CEDRIC O ROBINSON** said property being in the County of Wakulla, State of Florida. Unless suchcertificate 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

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
TAX DEED FILE NO. 2026 TXD 117

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **FIG 20 LLC FBO SEC PTY** 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 #: **1285** Date of Issuance: **May 31, 2024**

Parcel #: **00-00-092-000-11669-002**
Description of Property:
Lot 92 HS P-12-2-M-28
Lying in SE 1/4 of lot 92 HS
OR 95 P 617 OR 96 P 263
OR 159 P 633
OR 918 P595 ESMT
OR 973 P 623 OR 979 P 402

Name in which assessed **ROBERT BENSON HANWAY** said property being in the County of Wakulla, State of Florida. Unless suchcertificate 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 30, 2026

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

Published on July 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
TAX DEED FILE NO. 2026 TXD 118

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **FIG 20 LLC FBO SEC PTY** 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 #: **1269** Date of Issuance: **May 31, 2024**

Parcel #: **00-00-086-188-11586-05B**
Description of Property:
Wildwood Acres Phase II
Block B Lot 5
OR 172 P 938 OR 567 P 544
OR 821 P 15, OR 831 P 493

Name in which assessed **JOSE M TZINTZON** said property being in the County of Wakulla, State of Florida. Unless suchcertificate 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 30, 2026

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

Published on July 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026



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THE WAKULLA SUN, Thursday, July 23, 2026 – Page 11

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
TAX DEED FILE NO. 2026 TXD 119

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **FIG 20 LLC FBO SEC PTY** 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 #: **1050** Date of Issuance: **May 31, 2024**

Parcel #: **00-00-044-000-09819-004**
Description of Property:
Lot 44 HS P-6-M-11 23.84 AC
In SE 1/4 of Lot 44 Cont 50 AC
M/L Lying in SE 1/4 of HS 44
OR 706 P 753, OR 1074 P 739 and Tract 2

Name in which assessed **SARAH C KING** said property being in the County of Wakulla, State of Florida. Unless suchcertificate 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 30, 2026

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

Published on July 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
TAX DEED FILE NO. 2026 TXD 120

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **FIG 20 LLC FBO SEC PTY** 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 #: **1028** Date of Issuance: **May 31, 2024**

Parcel #: **00-00-036-076-09686-001**
Description of Property:
Lot 36 HS
Crestwood Acres Unit 1
Tract 3
OR 18 P 220 & OR 75 P 50, OR 126 P 554 OR 436 P 360

Name in which assessed **AUGUST GARNER** said property being in the County of Wakulla, State of Florida. Unless suchcertificate 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 30, 2026

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

Published on July 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
TAX DEED FILE NO. 2026 TXD 121

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **FIG 20 LLC FBO SEC PTY** 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 #: **936** Date of Issuance: **May 31, 2024**

Parcel #: **00-00-043-010-08824-000**
Description of Property:
Wakulla Gardens Unit 3
Block 19 Lot 49
OR 9 P 533 OR 68 P 512
OR 188 P 39 OR 294 P 751, OR 398 P 257 OR 570 P 566

Name in which assessed **ROSS ALLEN MATHEWS JR** said property being in the County of Wakulla, State of Florida. Unless suchcertificate 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 30, 2026

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

Published on July 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
TAX DEED FILE NO. 2026 TXD 122

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **SAMMIE D & DONNA G SIMMONS** 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 #: **430** Date of Issuance: **May 31, 2024**

Parcel #: **30-2s-01w-000-04171-004**
Description of Property:
30-2s-01w Lot "A"
Corbett Subdivision PB 6 P 58
Prior deed ref OR 1214 P 290
OR 1139 P 349
OR 23 P 79 & OR 68 P 917

Name in which assessed **THE DEBORAH HOGAN TRUST/DEBORAH HOGAN TRUSTEE** said property being in the County of Wakulla, State of Florida. Unless suchcertificate 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 30, 2026

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

Published on July 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026



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Celebrity judges Chase Savary (Questionable Judge), Brett Surace (Judge Dredd), Danielle Folsome(Judge Wheel Whisper), Verna Brock (Super Judge), and Serena Davanzo (Judge Master of Mayhem).



One of the youngest contestants, 3-year-old Felix Lathan with his Shark car racer in the Outlaw Division. Center, some of the race cars at the finish line.

STEAM Maker Derby is held



All of the racers at Saturday’s derby at the livestock pavilion.

Story By **LINDA ANN McDONALD**
Photos By **GERALD BROWN**

Wakulla STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math), held its first Maker Derby on Saturday, July 18 at the livestock pavilion at the extension office.

The derby cars, made from a block of wood, are fitted with plastic wheels and metal axles, and decorated with paint, decals, or other creative details.

To emphasize creativity and individuality, some contestants personalized their cars to resemble sharks, ketchup bottles, a block of cheese, a pink flamingo – even an America 250! car was created.

With adult guidance, contestants cut, carved, and shaped the wood, then painted and decorated the car. Additional modifications such as adding weights to optimize speed or adjusting wheel alignment were made for the competitive racing.

The car must meet specific size and weight limits, not to exceed 5 ounces, as well as conform to restrictions in

length of 2 ¾ inches, a width of 3/8 inches, and a height of 3 inches.

The races are friendly competitions that teach kids about physics, engineering, and sportsmanship, as well as factors like weight distribution, friction, and aerodynamics, and how they affect a car’s performance.

With a pinewood derby track borrowed from the Wakulla County Boy Scouts Pack 5, more than 50 cars raced, competing for trophies designed and printed by STEAM event organizer, Tyson Folsom.

Derby cars were placed into youth, teen, adult and outlaw categories. Cars that exceeded the strict requirements for racing were placed in the outlaw category, and competed against each other exclusively.

Each car raced on the track four separate times, with the slowest time being dropped, and then averaging the remaining three times together for the time.

Within the Youth category, Asa Havird took home first place with a time of 2.5253 seconds followed by Tyler

Fortenberry with a time of 2.5727 seconds, and third place went to Asa’s sister, Emily Havird with a time of 2.6900 seconds.

First place in the teen category went to Jackson Lovel, with a time of 2.6350 seconds; Fisher Lovel took home the second-place with a 2.6847 second score, and Jace Perez took third place with a time of 2.7310 seconds.

Adults competed, and Christa Bingle took home first place with a time of 2.4483 seconds. Kyle Barnes took second place with 2.5107 seconds, and Karen Zak won third place with 2.5380 seconds.

The outlaw category went to Robbie Baker with 2.4540 seconds, following close behind was Erik Barns with 2.4797 seconds and Christa Bingle, again, took another win with her third place time of 2.4900 seconds.

A computer software program called “Grand Prix Manager” was used to record times. During the event, David Pienta, event emcee, said, “If these cars were normal cars, the derby cars would be running about 180 miles per

hour or more.”

Community partners such as the Wakulla County Public Library, Wakulla 4-H, Wakulla Boy Scouts Pack 5, as well as the Wakulla County Sheriff’s Office, local businesses, and many volunteers, pulled together to make this event a huge success.

Folsom, of Wakulla STEAM said, “We learned a lot today, and we’re already looking forward to making next year’s event even bigger and better. Thank you, Wakulla County, for reminding us of what a wonderful community we have.

“Thank you to every participant and family who joined us,” Folsom added. “Your creativity, sportsmanship, and excitement made the very first Wakulla Maker Derby something truly special.”

Dr. Rachel Pienta, of Wakulla 4-H said, “This is my first derby and I learned a lot, it was great to see the community together to make this event happen, and this here, says a lot about our community.”

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