



War Eagles beat Rickards/Page 18



WAKULLA

WeatherSTEM

Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
Hi: 86° Lo: 64° 7% Sunrise 7:27 AM Sunset 7:31 PM	Hi: 83° Lo: 62° 5% Sunrise 7:27 AM Sunset 7:30 PM	Hi: 84° Lo: 62° 4% Sunrise 7:28 AM Sunset 7:29 PM



\$1
One Section

"It's a New Day"

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Our 5th Year 39th Issue
Thursday, September 24, 2026

\$23M for WEI

The money will be used to build a Workforce Training and Resilience Facility

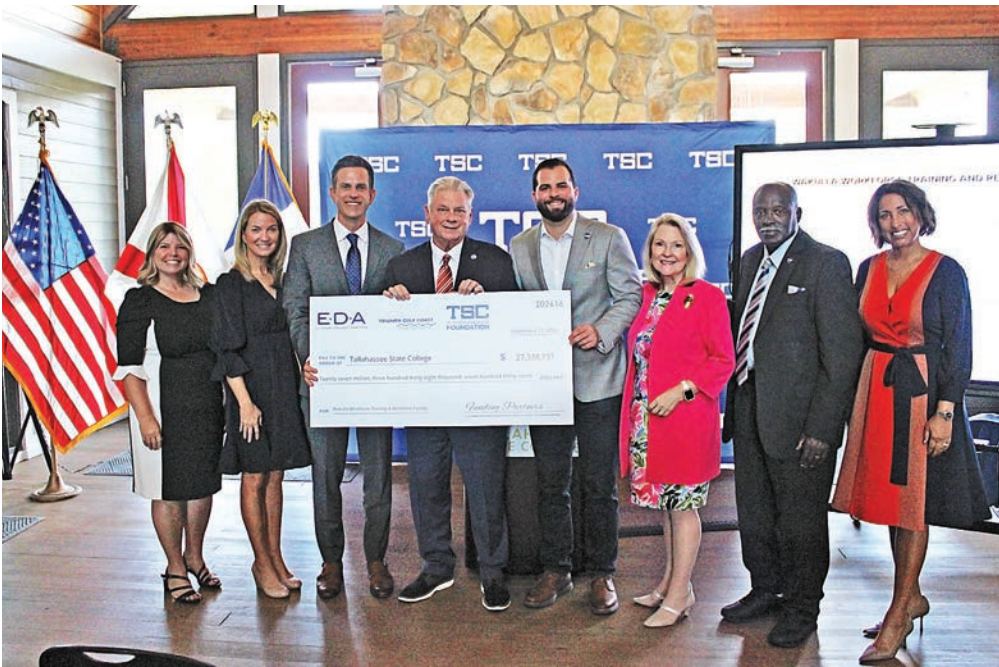
By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

Tallahassee State College announced a \$27.3 million investment in Wakulla County for a new facility that will expand workforce education and training opportunities while strengthening community resilience.

At a ceremony on Monday, Sept. 21 at Wakulla Environmental Institute, plans were announced for the new Wakulla Workforce Training and Resilience Facility.

The new facility will bring together programs currently offered at the TSC Wakulla Center and expand training in high-demand fields, including healthcare, education, environmental sciences, marine service technologies, construction trades, and more.

Funding for the project,



Jim Murdaugh, president of TSC, flanked by Education Commissioner Henry Mack and Christian Caban, chair of the TSC Board of Trustees and others.

includes more than \$17 million in federal funding from the U.S. Economic Development Administration through the 2025 Disaster Supplemental Grant Program and more than \$10 million from Triumph Gulf Coast. An additional \$266,000 was raised by the college's foundation.

Christian Caban, chair of the TSC Board of Trustees, said it is "the largest capital project that TSC has undertaken in Wakulla County," which drew applause from the crowd of about

of Trustees, said it is "the largest capital project that TSC has undertaken in Wakulla County," which drew applause from the crowd of about

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Murder trial set for Bahamian policeman

Berneil Pinder was charged after shooting Cody Castillo of Wakulla outside a Nassau bar

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

The police officer who shot a Wakulla man to death outside a Nassau bar in March has an upcoming court date on a murder charge on Sept. 25.

Berneil Pinder, 51, a police superintendent with the Royal Bahamian Police, was off-duty when he shot Cody Castillo, 31, in his truck. Pinder reportedly initially claimed that Castillo had driven towards him in the truck, but a dash cam inside the truck did not show that.

Castillo was from Wakulla and working as a lineman for the Pike Corporation in the Bahamas.

Castillo and other crewmates were eating dinner at Da Plantation Bar and Grill and watching a soccer match when a disturbance began.

After being charged with murder, Pinder was released on \$30,000 bond in June with conditions that he wear an ankle monitor and check in with the court three times a week.

Castillo's death came as he and wife Makayla were to celebrate their first wedding anniversary. She gave birth to their son recently.



Cody Castillo and wife Makayla.

JOY-FILLED JOURNEY



Festival of Joy

Saturday was one of the Festivals of Joy for special needs kids held quarterly at Wakulla Springs Lodge,

organized by Mary Wallace, who created the non-profit Joy-ful Journeys to support the events. Here, Ethan Pache gets a prize from a ball drop event. (Photo by Linda Ann McDonald)

Man dies while scalloping

Staff Report

A 66-year-old Tallahassee man died while scalloping off the St. Marks Lighthouse on Thursday, Sept. 17.

Wakulla Sheriff's Office Chief of Staff Billy Jones posted a video to Facebook that day, noting that dispatch received a call around 10 a.m. concerning a boater experiencing an apparent medical emergency while scalloping near the lighthouse.

Wildlife officers responded by boat, located the boater, and began lifesaving measures. Despite those efforts, the man was pronounced deceased.

Jones said the investigation by the sheriff's office and the state Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission remains ongoing.

Wakulla Sun to host candidate forum

Staff Report

The Wakulla Sun will host a candidate forum for the three candidates seeking the District 4 seat on the Wakulla County Commission: Republican Carrie Hughes, Democrat Beverly Keister, and independent Patricia Dyszer.

All three candidates have committed to attend.

The forum will be held on Thursday, Sept. 24 at the Chamber of Commerce office (the old courthouse) on the second floor beginning at 6 p.m.

Sun readers are encouraged to submit questions for the forum – send them to editor@thewakallasun.com or mail them to the Sun office, 12 Arran Road, Crawfordville FL 32327 or drop your questions off at the office.

POLITICAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Beverly Keister is running for BOCC

By BEVERLY KEISTER
Candidate

I have always been interested in politics and I am deeply concerned about the lack of responsiveness of the current Wakulla County government. I do not think the current administration is adequately representing the citizens of Wakulla County. I want to be sure the pristine natural beauty of Wakulla County is preserved and protected. I think there is a need for more access to recreational opportunities for our youth. I think developers should pay their fair share of new development.

I am a Christian Conservative who believes the citizens of Wakulla County should have the right to determine what their priorities are and



County commission candidate Beverly Keister

the ability to pursue those priorities. I will be respon-

sive to the needs of the people of Wakulla County.

My Grandmother was one of the first female delegates to the Democratic National Convention. She packed up their family and they drove across this country from southern Illinois to California to attend the convention in the 1920s. I continue her Christian Conservative values and appreciate this opportunity to represent you in our local Wakulla County government.

I was born in Louisville Kentucky, the 6th child of U.S. Air Force Fighter pilot, Joe Keister, and Leta Keister, and grew up in Thomasville, Georgia, where I graduated with honors from Thomasville High School and was inducted into the National Honor Society my Junior year. I went on to graduate with Honors and received a Masters degree

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Student of the Week

Caiden Williams – Riversprings Middle School

Achievements/Reason for Nomination: Riversprings Middle School is proud to recognize Caiden Williams as our Student of the Month. Caiden exemplifies what it means to be a dedicated student-athlete through his hard work, leadership, and positive attitude. As thequarterback for the Riversprings football team, he demonstrates determination, discipline, and the ability to lead by example both on and off the field. In the classroom, Caiden is respectful, responsible, and committed to doing his best. He consistently puts forth strong effort in his studies while encouraging those around him to succeed. His perseverance, teamwork, and willingness to help others make him a role model for his peers and a valued member of the Riversprings community. Congratulations, Caiden, on being named Student of the Month. Your achievements, leadership, and dedication make this recognition well deserved!



STUDENT OF THE WEEK FEATURES A DIFFERENT SCHOOL EACH WEEK.

Plant of the Week By Sarracenia Chapter of FNPS

Water Cowbane

By LYNN ARTZ, DAVID RODDENBERRY, and SANDY TEDDER





Water cowbane (Tiedemannia filiformis) displays its large white flower clusters in shallow freshwater wetlands in late summer and early fall. The flat clusters, called umbels, have a common center and equal length stalks. Each 1-2'-wide umbel has 12-22 smaller clusters (umbellets) with up to 25 dainty white flowers apiece. The blooms of water cowbane attract eastern black swallowtail butterflies. The eggs they lay become caterpillars that feed first on the flowers, and later the leaves. Water cowbane grows 3-5 feet tall in full sun in wet organic muck. Also called water dropwort, this long-lived perennial with a tap root is native to the southeastern US. It occurs throughout Florida in freshwater marshes, bogs, wet prairies, wet flatwoods, along small streams, and in roadside ditches. The pond at Sopchoppy Depot Park has many.

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Office

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to cost of tag.

Lisa
Craze,
CFC



Wakulla County Tax Collector

MARGARITAVILLE
BENEFITS THE
SINGING FOR
CHANGE CHARITY



The Margaritaville specialty license plate in Florida benefits the Singing for Change charity. This charity, founded by Jimmy Buffett, provides grants to Florida nonprofits that help communities recover from natural disasters. Specifically, the funds are directed towards organizations assisting with hurricane and other disaster recovery and rebuilding efforts.

Panacea
BLUE CRAB Parade

SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 26

Hwy 98 – Line up is 9:30

COME JOIN IN the FUN

Parade hosted by
Coastal Optimist Club

Groups and organizations should send their completed form to
Wakullaoptimist@yahoo.com
Entrants will receive an email to let them know their place in the line-up.
Email danielsj@rocketmail.com with any questions.



FOLLOW THE SUN.

Nearly 700 volunteers help at Coastal Cleanup in Wakulla

By **TAMMIE NASON**
KWCB Director

Keep Wakulla County Beautiful’s 2026 International Coastal Cleanup brought together approximately 700 volunteers on Saturday, Sept. 19, for a morning of service, education, and community celebration across Wakulla County.

Volunteers worked at sites including Woolley Park, Ochlockonee State Park, Mashas Sands Beach, Shell Point, Bottoms Road, St. Marks, the St. Marks Lighthouse, Wakulla Springs, and Cherokee Sink. Although the morning was very hot, volunteers persevered and made a strong impact throughout the county.

One standout group was NJROTC, whose members collected 136.59 pounds of debris despite the heat. At Cherokee Sink, Gabrielle Gabrielli and her crew from Life Worth Leading brought both divers and land-based volunteers. Gabrielli reported that the group collected more debris from that site than they had seen there in recent years, showing that some locations still need continued attention.

At many other cleanup sites, however, volunteers reported that overall trash levels were not as heavy as in previous years. That was encouraging news for KWCB and a hopeful sign that continued education, cleanup efforts, and community involvement may be helping reduce litter in some areas.

One form of litter that remains a major concern is cigarette waste. Volunteers collected thousands of cigarette butts during the morning as part of KWCB’s annual “Weigh Your Butts” contest. This year’s \$100 prize went to Students Working Against Tobacco, whose mem-



Divers with trash taken out of Cherokee Sink.

bers collected the greatest amount of cigarette litter.

Following the cleanup, volunteers gathered at Woolley Park to celebrate the morning’s accomplishments. Josh Lawhon, Rolbert Pillington, and Robert Manning grilled approximately 500 hot dogs to feed volunteers after a long, hot morning of cleanup work. During lunch, Chris “Cottonmouth” Perry entertained the crowd with live music.

The KWCB Youth Council also hosted a tent with games and activities for youth and showcased entries in the Trash to Tide Recycled Art Contest. This year’s winners were Breanna Rybak, McKenna Rybak, and Emma Mejia, whose creative projects helped reinforce the message of reusing materials and keeping waste out of waterways.

The Woolley Park celebration also included informational booths from local environmental groups and nonprofits, outdoor games for both kids and adults, and prize draw

ings. Volunteers had the opportunity to win cash through KWCB’s new Litter Loot drawings, as well as other prizes donated by community partners. Additional prizes included large cooler bags from Florida DEP Coastal Management and beautiful canvas prints from Nekked Eye Photography.

KWCB extends a heartfelt thank-you to the many volunteers, site captains, board members, community organizations, photographers, food volunteers, registration helpers, entertainers, and others who worked behind the scenes to make the event possible. From distributing shirts and supplies to collecting data, organizing sites, transporting debris, serving food, taking photos, and providing prizes, the event was truly a community effort.

KWCB is also deeply grateful to this year’s sponsors and community partners: Ace Hardware, Air Con, Barton’s Floors & More, Breakfast Station, Capital City Bank, Cen-

tennial Bank, Crawfordville Chiropractic Clinic, Crawfordville Lions Club, Darren Murphy, Marc Dickieson, English Financial, Forgotten Coast Exchange, Friends of Wakulla Springs, Gabrielle Consulting, Golden Construction, Amanda Gruebel, Caden Gruebel, Gulf Coast Lumber, Hydra Engineering, Just Fruits & Exotics, Panacea Waterfronts, Rachel Pienta, Rybak Realty, Songbird Nails, SRM, Trident, UPS, Wakulla Title, Waste Pro, and White Squirrel Nursery.

“Nearly 700 people gave their Saturday morning to help protect the places we all enjoy, despite the heat,” said KWCB Executive Director Tammie Nason. “Seeing fewer items at some sites is encouraging, while other areas reminded us that there is still plenty of work to do. We are incredibly grateful to every volunteer, sponsor, partner, and community member who helped make the day possible.”

The International Coastal Cleanup is about more than removing litter for one morning. It is about collecting valuable data, protecting wildlife and waterways, raising awareness, and encouraging people to think about how everyday choices affect the environment.

KWCB also reminds everyone enjoying Wakulla County’s parks, rivers, springs, beaches, and coastal areas to follow one simple rule: if you bring it in, take it out and dispose of it responsibly. Preventing litter at the source is the best way to protect wildlife, waterways, and the natural beauty we all enjoy.

For Keep Wakulla County Beautiful, the ultimate goal remains simple: fewer items to pick up each year because fewer items are being littered in the first place.

PAWS holds Pamper Your Pooch dog wash on Saturday



Far left, PAWS President Petra Shuff and a volunteer wash a dog. Center, the smallest customer. And above, getting nails clipped.

PHOTOS BY NICOLE CASE

Art in the Park is coming. Vendor applications due Sept. 25

By **NICOLE CASE**
Correspondent

Wakulla County and Visit Wakulla are ushering in a new tradition: the Art Walk in the Park, an event that began in Crawfordville in 2025.

The event, which seeks to highlight local artisans and musicians, will be held at Azalea and Hudson parks on Nov. 14, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Last year Wakulla County sponsored the first Art Walk in the Park — organized by Kinsey Miller, the county’s former Public Information Officer — which was a considerably smaller affair than this year’s Art Walk will be.

However, as of this year, the county’s Tourist Development Council has taken over sponsor-

ship for the event.

Since becoming the TDC Coordinator in February, Ashley Rowland-Yost, who also serves in Wakulla’s Planning and Community Development Department, has been brought on to organize the event.

She began planning and organizing the event back in July and hopes to make this year’s Art Walk bigger, potentially establishing it as an annual event.

“This is one of the things that we would like to see ongoing for our community,” Rowland-Yost explained, “and to get visitors to come visit Wakulla.”

Although it had several local vendors, 2025’s Art Walk had no live entertainment, something folks can expect to change in this year’s



TDC Coordinator Ashley Rowland-Yost.

fair.

“I was just reaching out to some local artists, but I also wanted to get ... the whole community involved,” said Rowland-Yost.

Performing music at the Art Walk will be the Riviera Flats, a Crawfordville-based rock and country band; the Wakulla High School guitar class, led by

Christopher Mrofchak, who also maintains a teaching studio at Timberlane Arts and Dance Academy; Lauren Wilhelm, a self-described “hairstylist, musician, and mom” who played Betty Rizzo in Wakulla’s 2023 production of “Grease!”; and CJ Beach, a musician from Panacea who founded the Deadman Walking

Music Festival supporting local artists — the fifth celebration of which was held on April 4th at Pavaler Tree Theater in Crawfordville.

All of these performances will be held at Hudson Park, where attendees can also find food and refreshments.

Other highlighted participants are WHS’ Culinary Class teacher, Ryan Warner, whose class will be selling food alongside the food trucks; and WHS’ art teacher Emily Strickland.

Rowland-Yost is still seeking vendor applications from local artisans.

“I’m hoping to have all of the ... artist applications in by Sept. 25th, but if there’s still spots available, then I would accept them.”

Artist categories range

from photography to woodworking; the work must be original and mostly or entirely handmade by the applicant.

Applicants will also be asked to provide their website or social media, if available; photographs of their art and workspace; and represent their work at the Art Walk.

To apply, there is a non-refundable \$35 fee. According to Rowland-Yost, if you’re selected, “that also includes your booth space at the park. Which is typically \$25.”

To find more information or apply as a vendor, visit the events section of mywakulla.com or contact Ashley Rowland-Yost at ayost@mywakulla.com or (850) 408-9392.

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.”

Florida Wild Mammal’s Feathers and Fur fundraiser is Oct. 17

Special to The Sun

Every year, North Florida residents encounter native wildlife in trouble – an orphaned squirrel after a storm, an injured owl along a roadway, a young raccoon separated from its mother, or another wild animal that suddenly needs help.

For more than three decades, the Florida Wild Mammal Association (FWMA) has been there to answer those calls. Based in Wakulla County, FWMA is dedicated to the

rescue, rehabilitation and release of Florida’s native wildlife, while also educating the public about the animals with whom we share our communities.

This fall, FWMA is inviting the community to support that mission in a very special way: On Saturday, October 17, the Historic Sopchoppy Gymnasium will be transformed for FWMA’s Feathers & Fur Masquerade Ball – Moonlight in the Wild. The event, from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m., will combine the elegance of

a masquerade ball with the natural beauty of North Florida.

Tickets are \$75 per person, with proceeds supporting FWMA’s wildlife rescue, rehabilitation, release and educational efforts.

Businesses, organizations and individuals are supporting Moonlight in the Wild through sponsorships, silent auction donations, in-kind contributions and volunteer service.

FWMA continues to welcome sponsors, silent auction donors and volunteers as preparations for the

October event move forward.

The 2026 Feathers & Fur Masquerade Ball – Moonlight in the Wild will be held Saturday, October 17, from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. at the Historic Sopchoppy Gymnasium in Sopchoppy. Tickets are \$75 per person.

For information about tickets, sponsorship opportunities, volunteering, silent auction donations or the Florida Wild Mammal Association, contact FWMA at (904) 424-5473 or donna.fwma@gmail.com.

Remember Jubel, run for hospice

Editor, The Sun:

The Wakulla Free Riders’ 8th Annual Memorial Poker Run for Jubel, “Remembering Jubel, Run for Hospice” will be held on Saturday, Oct. 10. All proceeds from the event will be donated to Big Bend Hospice of Wakulla County. This event is sponsored by Wakulla Free Riders, in memory of Jubel Bissonnette.

The Wakulla Free Riders, Jubel’s wife Sandy, dedicated volunteers, and local businesses are honored to raise money for Big Bend Hospice of Wakulla County in memory of their friend and fellow Free Rider, Jubel. Together, the Free Riders and the community hope to surpass last year’s proceeds and provide even greater support for the compassionate care Hospice provides to local patients and families.

“We are incredibly grateful for Wakulla Free Riders’ continued support of Big Bend Hospice over the past 7 years. Their generosity from the Annual Memorial Poker Run for Jubel

has made a lasting difference for patients and families we serve in Wakulla County,” sai Dena Hendrix, Big Bend Hospice Foundations President.

The first bike leaves Dux in Crawfordville at 11:30 a.m., followed by stops at Salty Donkey in Panacea, Outzts II in Newport, and Hobbit at South Capital Circle and Crawfordville Highway. The final stop is the Wakulla Free Riders Clubhouse, 45 Allen Harvey Road, with the last bike in at 5 p.m. All bikes and cars are welcome, and no coolers are permitted.

Event donation jars are available throughout Wakulla County. The poker run costs \$10 per hand, and participants may draw at any stop. Those who make all five stops receive an extra card. Prizes include \$100 for best hand, \$25 for worst hand, 50/50, and raffle. A hand-knitted throw blanket will be open for auction. Jubel Poker Run Koozies and T-shirts will be available for purchase.

The clubhouse gates open at 2 p.m. Live music by Big Poppa & The Shuffle Brothers begins at 4 p.m., and barbecue chicken will be served with all the fixings.

For more information, call Bryan at 850-694-2789.

Adopt a senior for Christmas

Editor, The Sun:

Many local seniors spend the holidays alone. This Christmas, WakullaGiving Hands is giving our community a chance to change that.

Our Adopt a Senior for Christmas program connects local businesses and individuals with enrolled seniors who need a little extra love during the holidays. As a sponsor, you can

adopt one or more seniors, donate gifts, make a monetary donation, or volunteer your time.

Suggested gifts include: warm blankets, socks, toiletries, puzzle books, gift cards, and handwritten Christmas cards.

Contact us at (448) 215-5391 or visit wakullagivinghands.org for deadlines and drop-off locations.

Together, we can make this Christmas unforgettable.

Thanks for making a difference,

Marcia Mathis
Wakulla Giving Hands Ambassador

Something on your mind?

Email Letters to the Editor to editor@thewakullasun.com; or mail it The Wakulla Sun, 12 Arran Road, Crawfordville FL 32327; or drop it by the office on the courthouse square.

On the Horizon

Calendar of events for the week of September 24

Thursday, September 24	Friday, September 25	Saturday, September 26	Sunday, September 27	Monday, September 28	Tuesday, September 29	Wednesday, September 30
• ‘We Will Not Be Silent,’ a play by David Meyers based on a true story set in Munich 1943 will be performed at Palaver Tree Theater, 59 Shadeville Road, at 8 p.m. Tickets at palavertreetheater.org. • The Rotary Club of Wakulla County meets at the TSC Wakulla Center at 8:30 a.m. • 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.	• Wakulla War Eagles host district rival Suwannee Bulldogs at J.D. Jones Stadium at 7 p.m. • ‘We Will Not Be Silent,’ a play, will be performed at Palaver Tree Theater, 59 Shadeville Road, at 8 p.m. Tickets at palavertreetheater.org. • Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon and 7 p.m. every Friday at 54 Ochlockonee St.	• Blue Crab Festival in Panacea begins with a parade at 10 a.m., then moves to Woolley Park for opening ceremony. There will be music and dance performances, craft and food vendors, and a crab race at 3 p.m. Admission to the park is \$3 per person, children 12 and younger are free.	• ‘We Will Not Be Silent,’ a play, will be performed at Palaver Tree Theater, 59 Shadeville Road, at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Tickets at palavertreetheater.org.	• 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.	• 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.

“It’s A New Day!”

The Wakulla Sun



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That means:

- More reporters on the street
- More local news about our community
- More local content on the environment and local businesses

A little bit goes a long way. With your help, we can keep the presses running through hard times. We would very much appreciate your contribution.

William Snowden
Editor & Publisher
The Wakulla Sun

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Polled at Paws Spa Day event:

What is your dog’s favorite treat?



NICOLE JOHNSON

Benefits Analyst

“The natural grade duck jerky.”



ALLEN HARDESTY

Residential Elevators – Retired

“She’s a pit bull, and she’s a little spoiled. I make all of her treats and her food from scratch at home. She loves the chicken strips the best!”



CARLA HANKS

CFO - Hanks HRM Solutions

“Chicken! I make Gracies’s and Puddin’s dog food from scratch. If any chicken hits the floor, she gobbles it up.”



KAREN, FRAZEY

Iris Ann’s – Retired

“Ice cubes! Our vet says that is the perfect fat free treat. You would think it’s chicken.”



KATHRYN PLOUFFE

Escrow Officer

“Peanut butter, I give it to her on a spoon.”

Wakulla Crossroads

By Verna Brock

How pleasant to begin to have cooler mornings and afternoons! The changes are negligible, but still noticeable. Leaves have begun to change color and slowly drift to the ground. Lows occasionally hover in the 60s as dawn breaks, and the evening dews gather on the grass, which has begun to slow its breakneck pace of growth.

My bones feel the changes too, every time the barometric pressure shifts up or down. I remember my grandparents talking about “the rheumatism” and predicting coming weather changes.

Now I can relate to their experiences and remedies. Granddaddy used horse liniment liberally on stiff joints which had a distinctive odor I can still smell when I reminisce. But he swore by it!

Granny had a heating pad to help with her sore back after a long day hoeing her garden and cooking for a crowd. I remember my mom saying she inherited her mother’s back, with the exact same “spots,” and here I am, just like them!

Recently, I have spotted an eagle (or two) soaring over the treetops in the neighborhood. I never fail to be thrilled at the sight, and will pull my car over

to watch a little longer.

Cardinals seem to be on the move again, migrating southward in preparation for winter and colder temps. We’ve had two clutches of bluebird chicks at Casa Brock this summer, and I’m still catching glimpses of hummingbirds around my flower garden.

We’ve had bumper crops of tiny toads and baby lizards this summer, and I love watching them grow all around the house. There’s not much cuter than tiny lizard hatchlings or penny-sized toads hopping for cover.

We’ve been blessed with semi-regular rain showers lately, which helped my flowers and blooming trees survive the scorching highs the summer brought.

My favorite perennials will always

be wildflowers like morning glories, lantana, red “spider lilies,” and purple “Mexican Petunias” that volunteer all across my property.

Soon, goldenrod will be in full bloom and Spanish Needle will punctuate every ditch and fence line.

Won’t be long, and we’ll be in the middle of sweater weather, dressing in layers that can be easily shed or added as the weather seems to change on a whim of Mother Nature.

I hope you can find time to embrace the new season, and enjoy it all! Time is flying by, and the holidays will soon be upon us. Now is the time to let the stress of the hot summer go and lean into the refreshing Autumnn.

Buckhorn News

By Ethel Skipper

I was sharing my school days with my great-grands and grandchildren, remembering back.

Living here in Sopchoppy in the 1940s, we had to walk to school. I walked 3 miles from Surf Road to Buckhorn School. When the weather was cold, by the time we got to school, we were frozen. There was one wood heater

that everyone would circle around. We had one outdoor toilet. Our textbooks always came from Sopchoppy School after they had been used.

When we got to school, it was always devotions. Each student was happy to see each other.

There were a few who would share their lunch with others who didn’t have food.

At Buckhorn School, all the students

walked to school.

Happy belated birthday to some August friends: Dianne Bell on the 15th, Chris Rosier on the 1st, Joshua Davis on the 6th, Marion Paschal on the 23rd, Brandon Grimmatt on the 23rd, Miranda Paschal on the 26th.

September happy birthdays to Xavier Ash on the 1st, Esella Rosier on the 3rd, Antionett Easter on the 6th, Sierra Beard on the 8th, Helyy Richardson on the 10th, Janie Andrews on the 11th, Leroy Wood on the 13th, Dre Rosier (Flip) on the 16th, Crystal Green on the

19th, and Nathaniel Smith on the 25th.

At Skipper Temple Church of Christ Written in Heaven on Sunday, Sept. 27, beginning at 6 p.m., will be an hour of prayer service with the words of the Gospel. The community is invited to join in this service

Our prayer and concern goes out to the Hines family, the Godbolt family, and the Perkins family on the death of their loved ones. Let us pray for each other.

St. Marks City Commission holds first budget hearing

By Linda Ann McDonald
Correspondent

City of St. Marks had a busy night recently, holding both the regular monthly commission meeting and the first public hearing on the budget on Sept. 13 at City Hall.

City Manager Katherine Gatewood presented the amended budget with the rolled back millage rate to 4.5%, which was later approved. The millage rate was previously 5.24%, and the rolled back rate was 5.0671%.

The roll back rate has not been this low since the 2009-10 fiscal year. This roll back is mainly due to the boat ramp being self-sufficient, not being supported by the general fund.

“I am proud of myself,” Gatewood said. “There is an 11.19% rollback rate and no increase to property taxes.”

The reduced millage rate results from shifting the operational costs of the boat ramp from the property owners of St. Marks to the visitors who use it. The boat ramp remains free

for verified property owners in the St. Marks city limits. Residents are asked to contact City Hall for their annual sticker by calling (850) 925-6224.

At the regular commission meeting, the on-going Wakulla Street discussion resulted in St. Marks considering an ordinance that would require property owners along the Wakulla Street right-of-way to pay a license fee to use docks that sit on public land.

Former City Attorney Chuck McMurry discussed historical information regarding the city, and the

property in the right of way. McMurry suggested a representative from the city work with homeowners before any decisions are finalized.

St. Marks City Attorney William Garner mentioned that the ordinance is intended to preserve the riverfront and would only affect properties along the Wakulla Street right-of-way.

Also under the proposed ordinance, a \$3,000 one-time application and annual license fee will be implemented, along with other costs.

Keister

From Front Page

in Accounting and two Bachelors of Science on in Accounting and the other in Hotel and Restaurant Management from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale.

I was a member of the Golden Key National Honor Society and Beta Alpha Psi. I tutored accounting through Beta Alpha Psi. I was the Graduate Assistant to the Dean of Accounting at Southern Illinois University while I

was in Graduate School.

Upon graduation, I went on to work for Peat, Marwick and Mitchell, now known as KPMG in St Louis, MO. I became a Certified Public Accountant while in St Louis. I moved to Atlanta and worked at Dekalb Federal Savings Bank as Assistant Controller and then Arthur Andersen, as a Manager in their Contract Financial Management division. I was hired by Hazlett, Lewis and Bieter when they took over the contract with the Resolution Trust Corporation that I was the manager on. I was the Manager of the Atlanta office for HLB until it closed and I went

to work at the Cobb County Chamber of Commerce as the Chief Financial Officer.

I was injured in a car accident and moved to Wakulla County in 1997, into the house my father built. I worked with Watkins Engineers and Constructors in Tallahassee, the Wakulla County Clerk of Court and the Florida Department of Revenue.

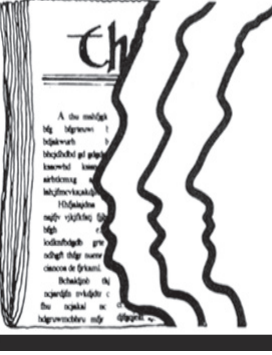
I ran for the office of Wakulla County Tax Collector in 2004 while working for the Clerk of Court. I was the Treasurer for Habitat for Humanity of Wakulla County for many years and volunteered at the Panacea Volunteer

Fire Department and the Wakulla County Visitors Center in Panacea. I worked at the Gulf Specimen Marine Lab for several years after I retired.

Currently I am the Treasurer for Ochlockonee Bay United Methodist Church and volunteer for the Ochlockonee Bay United Methodist Food Pantry.

I have one Daughter, Sara, who graduated from Wakulla High School and two precious grandchildren, Oliver, 7, and Camille, 4.

Please get out and Vote in November for a more responsive Wakulla County government.



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HOME ON THE RANGE

Three full-size 9mm handguns



By MARJ LAW

“I think it’s time to compare three full-sized 9mm handguns,” announces Joe last Wednesday.

Wednesdays are the days when we visit the Wakulla County Sheriff’s Office range around 10 a.m. We often meet up with other shooter friends and we’re there to assist newcomers to the sport.

“Okay. Which guns are we discussing this week?”

“How about my Tara, the H&K P30L you stole from me for a year, and your Springfield XDM with the match barrel?”

“Wait just a minute,” I reply. “Stole is a pretty harsh word. I just, um, appropriated your H&K to compete with for a while. You do have it back, don’t you? And, sure, I’ll pit my Springfield against Tara and even that H&K any day of the week.”

I’m pretty confident. My Springfield is almost a half an inch longer than the others. It has a barrel of 5.25 inches while Tara’s is 4.5 inches and H&K is 4.45 inches

long. Generally, the longer the barrel, the more accurate the gun. Like the spin on a football, the extra spin of the rifling of the barrel should aid in making the bullet hit the target just where you want it.

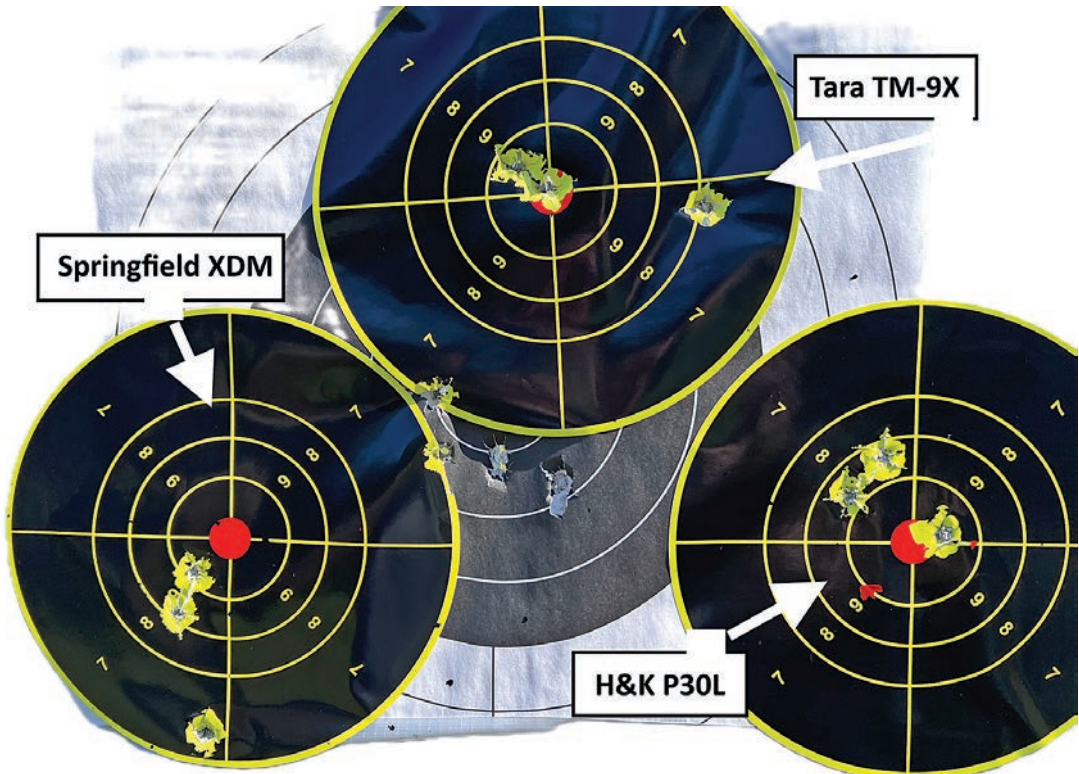
And my Springfield has a red dot reflex sight on it. Place the red dot of the sight to the red of the bull’s-eye on the target and the bullet ought to go straight where you want it. I think sighting is much easier with the red dot than going to the trouble of aligning the white dot sights on Tara and H&K.

The third reason that I’m confident is that an armorer friend of ours adjusted the trigger pull on my Springfield. You have to be super careful shooting this gun as the trigger pull is less than 3 pounds. It’s a very light trigger pull.

So, for all these reasons, the Springfield will beat out the others, and I’m not afraid to compete with Joe’s guns.

Generally, the more mass a gun has, the more accurate it will be. A lighter gun will have more recoil and be snappier in your hands. According to AI: “heavier rifles absorb more recoil, reducing felt recoil.” Again, Springfield wins out by weighing more than Tara or H&K. Springfield weighs 30 ounces, Tara weighs 26 ounces, and H&K weighs 27.5 ounces.

And trigger pull? Again, Springfield has less than 3 pounds, while



Tara has what they are calling a DARE trigger system, which, without going deeply into it has a striker-fired trigger that acts similar to a da/sa hammer gun. Since this is a story unto itself, that’s all I’m saying about Tara’s trigger, except...

Except that Tara has a very long and very hard trigger. While the Springfield has a tender, less than 3-pound trigger, Tara’s trigger is at least 7 pounds. That’s a lot of trigger. Add to that a long, long trigger pull, Tara is not meant to be a target gun. It’s a defensive weapon. It doesn’t need a safety, because, with a trigger like this, it is not going to fire accidentally.

Joe and I both like trigger pull and trigger travel of the H&K P30L. Pull is easy, but not tender like the Springfield, and travel is not long.

You could fire the H&K numerous times and your finger won’t object.

Grips on all three handguns are fairly fat, and it would be a rare person who would experience ‘pinky dangle.’ The H&K has finger grooves in it which made my small hands fit fairly well, but all three are big for me. They fit Joe well.

Tara’s magazines come holding either 15 or 17 rounds. Springfield holds 19 rounds and the H&K holds 15 rounds.

Which handgun will be the most accurate?

With its extra barrel length and easy easy trigger, I still expect my Springfield to win. Hands down.

With its awful long and hard trigger, I just know I’ll be lucky to hit the target with Tara. And my index finger won’t be happy.

With a nice trigger pull and travel, I expect the

H&K to give the Springfield a hard time. Part of the reason it was, ahem, in my possession for a year or so was that Joe had sent it to a famous gunsmith to have its internals worked over. Now, the H&K is a real slick shooter.

I begin with my favorite: the Springfield on the left target. I’m shooting three rounds each. Ah! The light trigger of this gun! The long barrel! Three shots with this guy on an 8-inch target and... What? The first bullet only hits the 7-ring? That’s not so good.

The next bullet hits the 9-ring. Better, but I expect more out of Springfield. The last bullet finally hits within the center ring.

Next comes three rounds on the right target with the H&K.

About time. A bull’s-eye. That’s more like it. The next two bul-

lets hit the 9-ring. This H&K is nicely accurate. Guess that’s why I had it so long. Drat. Should’a kept it.

Last, I shoot the Tara. I saved it for last because I remember shooting it a few years ago. It is simply not fun to shoot with its long, hard trigger and I have low expectations. Low.

I aim and pull and pull. Is this thing ever going off? Finally, it fires. Whack. Right into the bull’s-eye. And another! I shake out my sore finger and fire the third shot. Okay, smack on the 8-ring.

How is this possible? Joe’s Tara and H&K both beat out my nice Springfield! That just doesn’t make any sense to me.

Jon Wayne Taylor, in The Truth About Guns said: “The TM-9X’s reliability was nothing short of perfection.”

Clearly, I wouldn’t shoot the Tara as a target gun, but as a defensive handgun? You bet. It’s spot on.

The H&K? Yes, it’s a fine gun and I’d compete with it again. In a heart-beat.

The Springfield? It’s a mighty fine target gun, but I’m going to have to take it back to the range. Several times.

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



HARDHEAD SALTWATER CATFISH
(*Arius felis*)

With painfully sharp spines on its fins, hardheads growing to 2ft and 4lbs. They are bottom feeder using whisker-like barbells to aggressively locate food on sandy or muddy bottoms. Females lay 50 or so pea sized eggs which males pick up and hold them in their mouths until hatching. The growing babies then use their father’s mouth as a home. He does not eat during this month long period, but once his appetite is triggered he will not hesitate to eat his own offspring. The bones of this catfish are sold in curio shops as the ‘crucifix’ bone.

Eukarya, Animalia, Cordata, Actinopterygii, Siluriformes, Ariidae



WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO



Retired park ranger Robert Thompson was on his wildlife survey at Wakulla Springs recently and shot this photo of a Yellow Crowned Night Heron.

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Thursday 24 Sun rise/set 7:26 AM Moon rise/set 6:23 PM 7:31 PM 5:19 AM Moon Illumination 95 % Friday 25 Sun rise/set 7:26 AM Moon rise/set 6:52 PM 7:29 PM 6:18 AM Moon Illumination 99 % Saturday 26 Sun rise/set 7:27 AM Moon rise/set 7:22 PM 7:28 PM 7:18 AM Moon Illumination 100 % Sunday 27 Sun rise/set 7:28 AM Moon rise/set 7:54 PM 7:27 PM 8:21 AM Moon Illumination 99 % Monday 28 Sun rise/set 7:28 AM Moon rise/set 8:30 PM 7:26 PM 9:26 AM Moon Illumination 96 % Tuesday 29 Sun rise/set 7:29 AM Moon rise/set 9:11 PM 7:24 PM 10:33 AM Moon Illumination 90 % Wednesday 30 Sun rise/set 7:29 AM Moon rise/set 10:02 PM 7:23 PM 11:43 AM Moon Illumination 83 %	For tides at the following points add to Dog Island Listings: Carrabelle 28 Min. High Tide Apalachicola 1 Hr., 53 Min. Low Tide 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 Sept. 24 - Sept. 30 GO FISH! Tide charts by tides4fishing.com  First Oct. 18 Full Sept. 26 Last Oct. 3 New Oct. 10 Best fishing days this month Best fishing day(s) is in the center of date ranges. Sept. 24-29	Thursday 24 Major Times 11:55 AM 6:24 PM Minor Times 5:19 AM — Friday 25 Major Times 12:17 AM 12:39 PM Minor Times 6:19 AM 6:53 PM Saturday 26 Major Times 8:33 AM 7:22 PM Minor Times 7:19 AM — Sunday 27 Major Times 2:11 PM 7:54 PM Minor Times 8:21 AM — Monday 28 Major Times 2:35 AM 3:01 PM Minor Times 8:30 PM 9:26 AM Tuesday 29 Major Times 3:27 AM 3:55 PM Minor Times 9:11 PM 10:34 AM Wednesday 30 Major Times 4:24 AM 4:53 PM Minor Times 10:02 PM 11:43 AM
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The Old Pro: Scalloping is good, bear hunt applications are open



By AL HARTMAN

This has been a hot summer! But the fishing is good if can get around the storms. Scallops have been really plentiful this season. Best I've seen in years. If you go by yourself (witch you shouldn't) you can put in at St. Marks Lighthouse, get your catch limit, and be back at the ramp in a hour! You should take someone, even if they don't hunt for them, in case of emergencies. Remember Scallop season ends Sept. 24 in our area.

There have been some large bull sharks seen this year, and two reports I got about tiger sharks. Bull's are one of top attack sharks on the shark bite list. Florida has had a lot of shark bites this year and alligator attacks. The latest gator attack was on the 7th of this month at Weeki Wachee Preserve. A bunch of young school children were swimming in a no swimming area. The boy was bitten on a arm and a leg. Luckily it was was not life threatening and no loss of limbs. I have to laugh. Tigers eat almost anything. I read a article years back about a very large tiger that had the bumper of a small car with the li-cense still on in its stomach. Some have been found with small propane tanks, sports balls and all sorts of cookware.

Well lets see how this goes. The state through Fish and Wildlife Conservation Com-mission is now taking applica-tions for the next bear sea-son to be held in December. You can apply as many times you want at \$5 per applica-tion plus a handling fee. If you are picked the permit fee will cost \$100 for Florida res-idents and \$300 for non-res-idents plus a handling fee for residents and nonresidents. Good luck to you! Happy hunting and fishing and take a youngster!



Be BearWise this fall

From FWC News

As fall approaches, Flori-da black bears are packing on the calories to prepare for the upcoming winter. You can help protect both people and bears by securing garbage and other items that could at-tract these animals to where you live and work. This time of year, the search for food keeps bears busy up to 20 hours a day as they are looking to increase their body fat for cooler months. Easy meals in neighborhoods are often more convenient for bears than foraging in the woods, which encourag-es them to stay in the area. However, if food attractants such as garbage, birdfeeders and pet food are not available, bears have no reason to lin-ger, and they typically leave on their own. By following BearWise tips, you can help reduce conflicts

- with bears in your neighbor-hood:
- Secure household gar-bage in a sturdy shed, garage or a wildlife-resistant con-tainer.
 - Put household garbage out on the morning of pickup rather than the night before.
 - Secure commercial gar-bage in bear-resistant dump-sters.
 - Protect gardens, bee yards, compost and livestock with electric fencing.
 - Encourage your home-owner's association or local government to institute ordi-nances to require trash be se-cured from bears.
 - Feed pets indoors or bring the dishes in after feeding.
 - Be aware when walking your dog and use a non-re-tractable leash.
 - Clean grills and store them in a secure place.
 - Pick ripe fruit from trees and remove fallen fruit from

- the ground.
- Remove wildlife and bird feeders or make them bear-re-sistant.
- See how-to videos and in-formation on securing attrac-tants in the “Brochures and Videos” section at MyFWC.com/Bear.
- It is illegal in Florida to in-tentionally feed bears or to leave out food or garbage that will attract bears and cause human-bear conflicts. If you see or suspect that someone is feeding or attracting bears, please call the FWC's Wildlife Alert Hotline at 1-888-404-FWCC (3922).
- Be aware of your surround-ings this time of year as you drive in bear country, espe-cially during dusk and dawn. If you see a bear crossing sign, pay close attention as these areas have frequent ve-hicle-bear collisions. To learn more about living in bear country, go to BearWise.com.



Underwater Wakulla

By Gregg Stanton

Our Tides. February 21, 2013

Last week my neighbor in St. Marks called to say my sail-boat was leaning over so far that the mast was threatening bodily harm to the boat next door. By the time I got there, the threat had passed leaving everything peacefully afloat. The river was noticeably low, presumably because of low rainfall. After all, the town of St. Marks is five miles inland and upriver from the sea. Could it be tides? Gravitational forces of the sun and moon primarily pull our planet's water towards them. As these objects move through space, one (the moon) orbiting the earth and the other (the sun) both earth and moon orbit about, they align their grav-itational pull on the earth. When both sun and moon are pulling in the same angular plane, this force is greatest, the tide is most extreme. We call this a Spring Tide. When these same forces are at perpendic-ular angles, the tides are minimal and are called Neap Tides. So tides contribute to the rise and fall of the oceans water level. We take advantage of a falling tide to visit a mud or sand flat exposing marine life trapped in tide pools. Boats ride in or out over a harbor's sand bar on a high tide. We all know that fishing conditions are predicted based upon a rising or falling tide. And divers know that the high tide brings better visibility to a dive site with shore ward driven tidal waters. The movement of celestial bodies is predictable giving rise to tide tables. If the tide was responsible for my boat's behavior, then I could have found the low tide published. But other forces may undermine these tables.

On shore or offshore winds can alter the intensity of a tide, pushing or pulling water further on or off a beach than what the tide tables predicted. Typically, during our winter, we see a northerly wind (from the north) pushing the water south and creating lower tides. During our summers we have the opposite effect with southerly winds creating higher tides. Tides reach inland through our rivers both above ground and below. Years ago, I placed a current meter at the opening to the Wakulla Springs cave (at 185 feet). The data collected reflected a tidal pulse. Here two forces, earth's gravity pulling water downhill and tides altered the flow of the water, reflected in the pulsing current of the spring. Many of our Archaehaline (marine connected) sinkholes have a tide, that is to say they rise and fall on a schedule that is tidal. They also reflect the water table, which is a reflection of the amount of local rainfall filling our aquifer. My boat slip is on the shore of the St. Marks River and is usually floating year around. But on those days when the wind is out of the north, the rainfall or water table is low, and the tides are in spring condition, my hull rests on the river bank and for a short time lays her lofty rigging over those around her. And I get the 2 a.m. phone call of a pending disaster.

Editor's Note: This is a repeat of a column from 2013.



www.kwcb.org



Leave Nothing But Your Footprints

When trusting God is hard



By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

Perhaps you're not a Christian yet, but you're not sure why. You've heard convincing reasons to trust Christ as your Savior, but for some reason you can't

say the sinner's prayer (repenting of your sins and accepting Jesus' death on the cross as payment for them) ... at least not yet.

Somewhere deep inside, you want to believe, but something from your past makes trusting God hard. A heartbreak so profound that you're struggling to recover. An event so devastating that you wonder, "If God is real, why didn't He do something to stop it?"

As the years went on, books, online posts and

other messages confirmed your belief that God was only a myth.

Or maybe someone you trust betrayed you. Worse, someone who claimed to be a Christian behaved so un-Christlike that it turned you away from the One they said they followed. For this, I am truly sorry. This reason for your unbelief especially hurts my heart.

Some of you once believed, but faith seemed to have failed you.

You prayed for healing that didn't come.

You lost a job, a home, a loved one. You look at wars, floods, famine and wonder how any of this makes sense in a "God is good" world.

I won't deny that these issues are real. Difficult. Painful. And often unexplainable.

Others of you ask, "Why?" "Why would Jesus waste His time on me? Why would He love me, let alone die for me?"

Knowing the truth matters, and since not knowing it will affect your eternity, I'd like to

try to answer your questions, praying as I do. I'm praying that by the end of our conversation, you will come to believe – at least enough to consider the possibility that God is real and that He loves you.

Can we agree that the actual question is: Is God worthy of your trust? Is He what He says He is? Is He Who He says He is?

Next week, I'll do my best to answer some of these objections. We'll talk about a God Who loves you so much that

He cares about everything you care about. A God Who hates the thought of you spending even one minute in hell, let alone all eternity, that He gave His life ... for you. A God Who is worthy of your trust.

I can't wait to tell you more.

Until next time ...

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.

Rough seas and waiting rooms



By **CHERYL CRUCE**

There was a time in my life when the Lord taught me something I have never forgotten – just how much He loved and cared for me.

I had been diagnosed with cancer, and by my fifth treatment, I was tired in every way – physically, emotionally, and spiritually. I sat in that waiting room feeling completely wrapped up in my own sickness and feeling sorry for

myself.

As I looked around that room, I felt the need to pray. I thought, I have prayed, and I am still sick. But something in my heart told me to pray for the person next to me. I remember thinking, I don't even know them. But I prayed anyway.

Then I felt that same voice prompting me to pray for the next person. So I did. I looked around that waiting room and began praying for each individual. I didn't know their names or their stories. I simply prayed – one person at a time, silently praying my way around the room.

Something began to happen within me. I had walked into that waiting room complete-

ly wrapped up in my own sickness. I was hurting, I was tired, and I was feeling sorry for myself. But as I began praying for the people around me, I stopped thinking so much about my own storm.

When I finally circled back to myself, I wasn't so bad anymore. I had started out thinking about my own story, and through my prayers God was reminding me that everyone has a story.

That experience has stayed with me through the years. Recently, while reading the story of Jesus calming the storm in Mark 4, I noticed something I had never really paid attention to before. Mark tells us that there were

other boats with the Lord.

I had always read past that sentence. I didn't know who was in those boats or what happened to them. They were simply there and I never noticed. We hear so much about the disciples in their boat that I had never stopped to think about the others.

And suddenly, I thought about that waiting room. I didn't know the names of the people sitting around me. I didn't know what they were carrying or what had brought them there. I only knew they were there.

And that day, when I stopped looking only at my own life and began praying for the people around me, something changed within.

I didn't walk out of that room healed. My circumstances had not changed; however, my heart had opened up to the others and their storms.

Perhaps that is why those other boats caught my attention. I knew what it felt like to be so wrapped up in my own pain that I couldn't see beyond it. There were other people sitting in that room with me, each carrying something I knew nothing about. I had been so focused on my own need that I had forgotten I wasn't alone. Others were hurting too.

Sometimes we can become so focused on what is happening in our own lives that we don't see the people sitting right beside us.

We don't know their stories, but God does. We may never know what our simple prayer, our kindness, or our willingness to notice someone might mean to them.

That day, God opened my eyes to the people around me. And somehow, in praying for them, He brought peace to my own heart, calming the restless waters of my spirit.

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

A flashback to my grandfather's pipe



By **JAMES SNYDER**

This week, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I went shopping. Normally, I don't go shopping, at least not with her. However, this was a special occasion, and so I tagged along.

I'm not quite sure what she was shopping for, and after 55 years of marital bliss, I don't ask. I have found that if I ask, she'll respond, which is more than I want.

We were in the store for just a few moments, and she had to go down an aisle to get some stuff, so I went the other way. If I tagged along with her, she would say repeatedly, "What do you think of this? You think I should get this?"

Telling her what she needs is so far above my pay grade that I'll

never reach it. I have learned to let her make her own decisions, which makes our home a happy place. I like my happy place.

I was going down several aisles when I saw something I hadn't seen in a long time. There, in a glass case, was a large collection of smoking pipes. Looking at them, one flashed my grandfather's face back. I was stunned. Nothing like this had ever happened to me before.

Looking at that one pipe, I realized it was exactly the kind my grandfather had. Since my grandfather died over 50 years ago, I was surprised I remembered what his pipe looked like.

I looked at it and came very close to purchasing it in memory of my grandfather. I'm sure he would've enjoyed that. I don't smoke, and I had no plans to smoke that pipe; I was just looking at it and being reminded of my grandfather. He never went anywhere without that pipe. I'm not sure what that pipe meant to him, but he was really at-

tached to it. Sometimes he had it when he wasn't even smoking.

Many times, I spent an afternoon with my grandfather; as we were chatting, he puffed on his pipe. I never could understand why he did that, but I watched him, and that picture stayed clear in my mind. I never expected to have this kind of experience, and I can't remember the last time I thought about my grandfather.

As I was enjoying my view, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came up and said, "You're not thinking what I think you're thinking? Are you?"

After all these years of marital bliss, I still can't figure out the latest question she throws my way.

I turned around, looked at her, and said, "What do you think I'm thinking?"

She just stared at me, and finally I said, "See that pipe right there? That is the exact pipe that my grandfather had when I was a young boy."

She looked at it, smiled very gingerly, and said, "Are you thinking of buying it?"

I looked at her for a moment, then looked back at the pipe and thought for a long time.

"Well, I gave that a little bit of thought because it would be a great reminder to me of my grandfather. That pipe defined him in many regards."

"Where would you like to hang it at the house?" she asked.

Chuckling a little, I looked back at her and said, "I said I gave it a little bit of thought, but as much as I would like to, I am not going to buy a pipe and take it home."

As we were going home in the Sissy Van, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage said, "What is it about that pipe that reminded you so much of your grandfather?"

That's the kind of question you can't answer in a few words.

Thinking along those lines, for the first time in many years, I thought about my grandfather and all the good times we had together; he was a Class A prankster in many ways. If anybody could prank you, it was my grandfather.

One prank I remember was when our pastor came to visit him, and when he left, he forgot his hat. That was my grandfather's cue to prank the pastor.

My grandfather took the pastor's hat to a friend who owned a men's clothing store. He had that friend stretch the hat almost twice its original size.

The next Sunday my grandfather came to church and brought the pastor's hat with him. After the service, he went up to the pastor with the hat and said, "Pastor, you left your hat at my place this past week. I thought I'd bring it to you today."

The pastor was happy because he couldn't remember where he left his hat. He took it from my grandfather, put it on his head, and it slid down to his chin. Very slowly, the pastor took his hat off, looked at my grandfather, and tried to smile.

That's just the be-

ginning of the pranks I remember my grandfather playing.

That event brought a Bible verse to mind.

"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you" (John 14:26).

I often get frustrated when I forget something. As a Christian, I can rely on the Holy Spirit to bring to my mind what I need to know and when I need to know it..

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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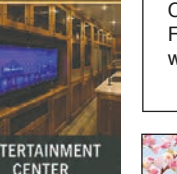
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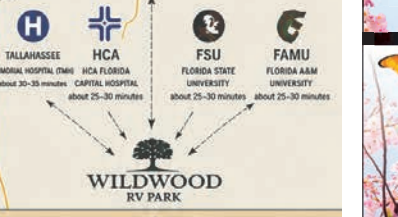
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NOTICE OF FICTITIOUS NAME

FICTITIOUS NAME
Notice under Fictitious Name Law, pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida
Statutes. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, Miss Kayla
Gaming LLC, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of
MK GAMING ACADEMY
Located at 367 Parkside Circle Crawfordville, FL 32327
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 Sept. 24, 2026

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NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

0917-0924 TWS NOFS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION
LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC, CASE NO. 25000125CAAXMX
Plaintiff,
vs.
CASSANDRA CHARLENE KRIMMEL A/K/A CASSANDRA KRIMMEL, et al.,
Defendants

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated January 06, 2026, and entered in 25000125CAAXMX of the Circuit Court of the SECOND Judicial Circuit in and for Wakulla County, Florida, wherein LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC is the Plaintiff and CASSANDRA CHARLENE KRIMMEL A/K/A CASSANDRA KRIMMEL; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ACTING ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF CASSANDRA CHARLENE KRIMMEL A/K/A CASSANDRA KRIMMEL; FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION are the Defendant(s). Greg James as the Clerk of the Circuit Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at 3056 Crawfordville Hwy., the Front Lobby, Wakulla County Courthouse, Crawfordville, FL 32327, at 11:00 AM, on October 08, 2026, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

LOTS 4 AND 5 IN BLOCK A OF WAKULLA HEIGHTS UNIT 1, AS SHOWN BY PLAT OF SAID SUBDIVISION OR RECORD ON PAGE 68, PLAT BOOK 1, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA. TOGETHER WITH IMPROVEMENTS LOCATED THEREON, INCLUDING THE 1999 MOBILE HOME WIHT VIN NUMBERS OW65172A AND OW65172B, AND TITLE NUMBERS 79331230 AND 79331278.

Property Address: 19 ATKINSON RD, CRAWFORDVILLE, FL 32327
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 in accordance with Florida Statutes, Section 45.031.

Dated this 8th day of September 2026.

{{County Court Seal}}

Greg James
As Clerk of the Court
By: /s/ Rachel L Howard
As Deputy Clerk



IMPORTANT

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT: If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact: ADA Coordinator; 301 South Monroe Street; Tallahassee, FL 32301; 850.606.4400; at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711. Sept. 17, 24, 2026

0924-1001 TWS NOFS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION
CARRINGTON MORTGAGE SERVICES, LLC,
Plaintiff,
CASE NO. 2026CA000011CA
vs.
MATTHEW ROBERT MILLARD, ET AL.,
Defendants

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant the Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated September 8, 2026 and entered in Case No. 2026CA000011CA of the Circuit Court of the Judicial Circuit in and for Wakulla County, Florida wherein CARRINGTON MORTGAGE SERVICES, LLC, is the Plaintiff and MATTHEW ROBERT MILLARD; CHRIS ANNE MILLARD; SUMMERFIELD OF WAKULLA COUNTY HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC., are Defendants, Wakulla County Clerk of Courts, Greg James, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at **Wakulla County Courthouse lobby, 3056 Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville, FL 32327 at 11:00 a.m. on November 12, 2026** the following described property set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

LOT 21, OF SUMMERFIELD PHASE 1, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 6, PAGE(S) 31-33, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
Commonly known as: 57 Springdale Dr, Crawfordville, FL 32327

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.

If the sale is set aside, the Purchaser may be entitled to only a return of the sale deposit less any applicable fees and costs and shall have no other recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney.

Dated this 17th day of September 2026.

{{County Court Seal}}

Greg James
As Clerk of the Court
By: /s/ Rachel L Howard
As Deputy Clerk



Sept. 24, Oct. 1, 2026

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
FANNIE ROSE SAITTA
DECEASED
DIVISION: PROBATE

File No.: 26-CP-000133

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
(Summary Administration)

TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS OR DEMANDS AGAINST THE ABOVE ESTATE:

You are hereby notified that an Order of Summary Administration has been entered in the estate of Fannie Rose Saitta, deceased, File Number: 26-CP-000133, by the Circuit Court for Wakulla County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 3056 Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville, Florida 32327; that the decedent's date of death was February 13, 2026; that the total value of the estate is \$137,248.00 and that the names and addresses of those to whom it has been assigned by such order are:

Name	Address
William Joseph Saitta	4 Chinook Trail, Crawfordville, FL 32327

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE NOTIFIED THAT:

All creditors of the estate of the decedent and persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent other than those for whom provision for full payment was made in the Order of Summary Administration must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702. ALL CLAIMS AND DEMANDS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER APPLICABLE TIME PERIOD, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The personal representative has no duty to discover whether any property held at the time of the decedent's death by the decedent or the decedent's surviving spouse is property to which the Florida Uniform Disposition of Community Property Rights at Death Act as described in sections 732.216-732.288 Florida Statutes, applies, or may apply, unless a written demand is made by a creditor as specified under section 732.2211, Florida Statutes. The written demand must be filed with the clerk.

The date of first publication of this Notice is September 10, 2026.

Attorney for Person Giving Notice: /s/ Michele Diglio-Benkiran, Esquire Michele Diglio-Benkiran, Esquire Florida Bar Number: 0162620 Legal Counsel, P.A. 13330 W. Colonial Drive, Unit 110 Winter Garden, FL 34787 Telephone: (407) 982-4321 E-Mail: efilings@legalcounselpa.com Secondary E-Mail: michele@legalcounselpa.com Attorney for Petitioner, William Joseph Saitta	Person Giving Notice: William Joseph Saitta 4 Chinook Trail Crawfordville, Florida 32327 Sep 17, 24, Oct 1, 8, 2026
---	---

NOTICE OF ACTION

0917-1008 TWS NOA

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

HARLAN N. HARLOW, Case No.: 2026 CA 000115
PLAINTIFF,
V.

BLANCHE HAMILTON, PAMELA HAMILTON, TARAE HAMILTON, AND SHANNA HAMILTON, AS HEIRS OF RICHARD HAMILTON, DECEASED; MICHAEL FARMER, SR.; BRIDGETT FARMER; GREGORY FARMER; QIANAPATTERSON, YOLANDA FARMER, GERALD FARMER, JR., JOSHUA FARMER, JOHNTAY FARMER, KEVIN FERGUSON, RONNIE FARMER, AND ANTHONY FARMER, AS HEIRS OF GERALD FARMER, DECEASED, CHARLES FARMER; JACKIE FARMER; CYNTHIA FARMER JACKSON; DAVID FARMER; PATRICIA E. FARMER; TANIA C. OGLESBY, JONATHAN ROBINSON, NATIA OGLESBY, JOH'NIA ROBINSON, AND SAMMIE PHILLIPS, JR., AS HEIRS OF BENJAMIN C. FARMER, JR., DECEASED; BETTY HAWKINS BEY A/K/A BETTY HAWKINS BAY; DIANE HAWKINS; BOOKER HAWKINS, JR.; IRENE HAWKINS STAUFFER A/K/A IRENE HAWKINS; ROSAPHINE MITCHELL; KENNETH HUGHES, DERRICK HUGHES, DIANA BLUE, CONNIE HUGHES, AND RITA MARCHESSAULT, AS HEIRS OF QUEEN MCRAE A/K/A QUEEN CANNON; LEONARD MCPHERSON; SANDRA A. LITTLETON, ANTHONY STORY, FREDERICK STORY, AND JAMEICA CHESTER, AS HEIRS OFFLOREE J. MCPHERSON A/K/A FLOREE JOHNSON-MCPHERSON, DECEASED; PHILIP MCPHERSON; ERNESTINE LITTLE;

THE UNKNOWN GRANTEES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, SPOUSES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS CLAIMING ANY RIGHT, TITLE, OR INTEREST UNDER OR AGAINST THAT CERTAIN DEED DATED MARCH 26, 1921, RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 10, PAGE 504 PUBLIC RECORDS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST W.H. HAWKINS A/K/A WILL HAWKINS, DECEASED, EMMA HAWKINS, DECEASED, ELIZABETH HAWKINS FARMER A/K/A LIZZIE G. FARMER, DECEASED, BOOKER T. HAWKINS, DECEASED, QUEEN MCRAE A/K/A QUEEN CANNON, DECEASED, ELMORE HAWKINS MCPHERSON A/K/A ELMA HAWKINS MCPHERSON, DECEASED, FLOREE JOHNSON-MCPHERSON A/K/A FLOREE J. MCPHERSON, DECEASED, MABEL FARMER LONG, DECEASED, RICHARD HAMILTON, DECEASED, GERALD FARMER, DECEASED, BENJAMIN C. FARMER, JR., DECEASED, OR ANY OF THE NAMED Defendants, their spouses, or their predecessors in title, Defendants

NOTICE OF ACTION

To: **ALL DEFENDANTS NAMED ABOVE, AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST NATHANIEL FARMER, DECEASED, AND WILL HAWKINS a/k/a W.H. HAWKINS, DECEASED, and all parties having or claiming to have any right, title or interest in the property described herein.**

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action has been commenced against you to quiet title on real property, lying and being and situated in Wakulla County, Florida, which is more particularly described as follows:

Commence at a light wood hub making the Northeast Corner of Lot 5, of the Hartsfield Survey of Lands in Wakulla County, Florida; thence run along the Northerly boundary line of said Lot 5, South 70 degrees 59 minutes 35 seconds West 646.35 feet; thence leaving said Northerly boundary line run South 15 degrees 40 minutes 35 seconds East 1401.65 feet to a found iron rod, said point being the POINT OF BEGINNING; thence leaving said POINT OF BEGINNING run North 72 degrees 14 minutes 00 seconds East 645.95 feet to an iron pipe lying on the Easterly boundary line of Lot 5, of said Hartsfield survey offland; thence run along said Easterly boundary line as follows: South 15 degrees 57 minutes 33 seconds East 150.79 feet to a found concrete monument; thence run South 14 degrees 26 minutes 47 seconds East 56.91 feet to a concrete monument; thence run South 15 degrees 37 minutes 11 seconds East 43.17 feet to a concrete monument; thence run South 16 degrees 55 minutes 08 seconds East 163.19 feet to a concrete monument; thence leaving said Easterly boundary line run South 73 degrees 08 minutes 14 seconds West 633.95 feet; thence run North 17 degrees 08 minutes 00 seconds West 403.85 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING. Containing 6.00 acres more or less.

Street Address: 2504 Dr. MLK Jr. Memorial Rd, Crawfordville, FL 32327

Parcel ID: 00-00-005-000-06237-000

This action has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defense, if any upon Plaintiffs Attorney, Eric S. Haug, Legacy Legal & Consulting, 2618 Centennial Place, Tallahassee, Florida 32308 within thirty (30) days after the first publication of this notice, September 17, 2026, and to file the original with the Clerk of the Court either before service on the Plaintiffs attorney or immediately thereafter otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

DATED this 10th day of September, 2026.

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



Sept. 17, 24, Oct. 1, 8, 2026

NOTICE OF ACTION

0903-0924 TWS NOA

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

PAFFORD PROPERTIES & CONSTRUCTION, LLC, A FLORIDA LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY,
PLAINTIFF,
Case No.: 2026-CA-000102
V.
CLAIRE P. HOUSER AND BEN P. HOUSER, IF ALIVE, AND IF DECEASED, UNKNOWN SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, CREDITORS, ASSIGNS, AND ALL OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST THEM,
Defendants

NOTICE OF ACTION

To: **CLAIRE P. HOUSER and BEN P. HOUSER; if alive, and if deceased, unknown spouses, heirs, devisees, grantees, creditors, assigns, and all other parties claiming by through, under or against them**
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that a Complaint for Quiet Title on the following property in Wakulla County, Florida:

LOT FIFTY-TWO (52) BLOCK “N” MAGNOLIA GARDENS, AS PER PLAT OF SAID SUBDIVISION RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 37, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

Wakulla County Parcel ID No. 00-00-078-013-11303-000

Address: Ted Lott Lane, Crawfordville, FL

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

DATED this 24th day of August, 2026.

{{County Court Seal}}

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



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18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner			Date
William Snowden, Editor			09/17/2026
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PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS AND REVISIONS FOR THE 2026 GENERAL ELECTION

I, CORD BYRD, Secretary of State for Florida, do hereby give notice that the ballot title, summary and proposed text for each of the following proposed amendments and revisions to the Florida Constitution will be on the General Election ballot on November 3, 2026, in each county. The full text may also be found at <https://constitucionalinitiative.sos.fl.gov/>, at FloridaPublicNotices.com, and at this newspaper's website.

No.1 Constitutional Amendment
Article III, Section 19

ARTICLE III
LEGISLATURE

SECTION 19. State Budgeting, Planning and Appropriations Processes.—

(a) ANNUAL BUDGETING.

(1) General law shall prescribe the adoption of annual state budgetary and planning processes and require that detail reflecting the annualized costs of the state budget and reflecting the nonrecurring costs of the budget requests shall accompany state department and agency legislative budget requests, the governor's recommended budget, and appropriation bills.

(2) Unless approved by a three-fifths vote of the membership of each house, appropriations made for recurring purposes from non-recurring general revenue funds for any fiscal year shall not exceed three percent of the total general revenue funds estimated to be available at the time such appropriation is made.

(3) As prescribed by general law, each state department and agency shall be required to submit a legislative budget request that is based upon and that reflects the long-range financial outlook adopted by the joint legislative budget commission or that specifically explains any variance from the long-range financial outlook contained in the request.

(4) For purposes of this section, the terms department and agency shall include the judicial branch.

(b) APPROPRIATION BILLS FORMAT. Separate sections within the general appropriation bill shall be used for each major program area of the state budget; major program areas shall include: education enhancement "lottery" trust fund items; education (all other funds); human services; criminal justice and corrections; natural resources, environment, growth management, and transportation; general government; and judicial branch. Each major program area shall include an itemization of expenditures for: state operations; state capital outlay; aid to local governments and nonprofit organizations operations; aid to local governments and nonprofit organizations capital outlay; federal funds and the associated state matching funds; spending authorizations for operations; and spending authorizations for capital outlay. Additionally, appropriation bills passed by the legislature shall include an itemization of specific appropriations that exceed one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) in 1992 dollars. For purposes of this subsection, "specific appropriation," "itemization," and "major program area" shall be defined by law. This itemization threshold shall be adjusted by general law every four years to reflect the rate of inflation or deflation as indicated in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, U.S. City Average, All Items, or successor reports as reported by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics or its successor. Substantive bills containing appropriations shall also be subject to the itemization requirement mandated under this provision and shall be subject to the governor's specific appropriation veto power described in Article III, Section 8.

(c) APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS.

(1) No later than September 15 of each year, the joint legislative budget commission shall issue a long-range financial outlook setting out recommended fiscal strategies for the state and its departments and agencies in order to assist the legislature in making budget decisions. The long-range financial outlook must include major workload and revenue estimates. In order to implement this paragraph, the joint legislative budget commission shall use current official consensus estimates and may request the development of additional official estimates.

(2) The joint legislative budget commission shall seek input from the public and from the executive and judicial branches when developing and recommending the long-range financial outlook.

(3) The legislature shall prescribe by general law conditions under which limited adjustments to the budget, as recommended by the governor or the chief justice of the supreme court, may be approved without the concurrence of the full legislature.

(d) SEVENTY-TWO HOUR PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD. All general appropriation bills shall be furnished to each member of the legislature, each member of the cabinet, the governor, and the chief justice of the supreme court at least seventy-two hours before final passage by either house of the legislature of the bill in the form that will be presented to the governor.

(e) FINAL BUDGET REPORT. A final budget report shall be prepared as prescribed by general law. The final budget report shall be produced no later than the 120th day after the beginning of the fiscal year, and copies of the report shall be furnished to each member of the legislature, the head of each department and agency of the state, the auditor general, and the chief justice of the supreme court.

(f) TRUST FUNDS.

(1) No trust fund of the State of Florida or other public body may be created or re-created by law without a three-fifths vote of the membership of each house of the legislature in a separate bill for that purpose only.

(2) State trust funds shall terminate not more than four years after the effective date of the act authorizing the initial creation of the trust fund. By law the legislature may set a shorter time period for which any trust fund is authorized.

(3) Trust funds required by federal programs or mandates; trust funds established for bond covenants, indentures, or resolutions, whose revenues are legally pledged by the state or public body to meet debt service or other financial requirements of any debt obligations of the state or any public body; the state transportation trust fund; the trust fund containing the net annual proceeds from the Florida Education Lottery; the Florida retirement trust fund; trust funds for institutions under the management of the Board of Governors, where such trust funds are for auxiliary enterprises and contracts, grants, and donations, as those terms are defined by general law; trust funds that serve as clearing funds or accounts for the chief financial officer or state agencies; trust funds that account for assets held by the state in a trustee capacity as an agent or fiduciary for individuals, private organizations, or other governmental units; and other trust funds authorized by this Constitution, are not subject to the requirements set forth in paragraph (2) of this subsection.

(4) All cash balances and income of any trust funds abolished under this subsection shall be deposited into the

(g) BUDGET STABILIZATION FUND.

(1) For purposes of this subsection, the term "revenue collections" means the last completed fiscal year's net revenue collections for the general revenue fund.

(2) Subject to the provisions of this subsection, an amount equal to at least 5% of the last completed fiscal year's net revenue collections for the general revenue fund shall be retained in the budget stabilization fund. The budget stabilization fund's principal balance shall not exceed an amount equal to 25% 40% of the last completed fiscal year's net revenue collections for the general revenue fund.

(3) The legislature shall transfer the lesser of \$750 million or the amount required to increase the principal balance of the budget stabilization fund to an amount equal to 25% of revenue collections from the general revenue fund to the budget stabilization fund no later than June 30th of each fiscal year. The legislature may suspend this transfer in a fiscal year in which:

a. Funds are withdrawn from the budget stabilization fund pursuant to paragraph (4);

b. Funds are withdrawn from the budget stabilization fund for the purpose of funding a critical state need pursuant to paragraph (5); or

c. The legislature determines there is a critical state need that requires the expenditure of general revenue funds in an amount that exceeds the transfer amount required by this paragraph. A suspension for a critical state need pursuant to this subparagraph must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the membership of each house of the legislature in a separate bill for that purpose only and may not occur more than once every five years.

(4) The legislature shall provide criteria for withdrawing funds from the budget stabilization fund in a separate bill for that purpose only and only for the purpose of covering revenue shortfalls of the general revenue fund or for the purpose of providing funding for an emergency, as defined by general law.

(5) If the principal balance of the budget stabilization fund exceeds an amount equal to 15% of revenue collections, the legislature may withdraw funds for the purpose of funding on a nonrecurring basis a critical state need. Such withdrawal must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the membership of each house of the legislature in a separate bill for that purpose only. The withdrawal must not cause the principal balance of the budget stabilization fund to equal an amount that is less than 10% of revenue collections.

(6) General law shall provide for the restoration of this fund. The budget stabilization fund shall be comprised of funds not otherwise obligated or committed for any purpose.

(h) LONG-RANGE STATE PLANNING DOCUMENT AND DEPARTMENT AND AGENCY PLANNING DOCUMENT PROCESSES. General law shall provide for a long-range state planning document. The governor shall recommend to the legislature biennially any revisions to the long-range state planning document, as defined by law. General law shall require a biennial review and revision of the long range state planning document and shall require all departments and agencies of state government to develop planning documents that identify statewide strategic goals and objectives, consistent with the long-range state planning document. The long-range state planning document and department and agency planning documents shall remain subject to review and revision by the legislature. The long-range state planning document must include projections of future needs and resources of the state which are consistent with the long-range financial outlook. The department and agency planning documents shall include a prioritized listing of planned expenditures for review and possible reduction in the event of revenue shortfalls, as defined by general law.

(i) GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY TASK FORCE. No later than January of 2007, and each fourth year thereafter, the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the governor shall appoint a government efficiency task force, the membership of which shall be established by general law. The task force shall be composed of members of the legislature and representatives from the

private and public sectors who shall develop recommendations for improving governmental operations and reducing costs. Staff to assist the task force in performing its duties shall be assigned by general law, and the task force may obtain assistance from the private sector. The task force shall complete its work within one year and shall submit its recommendations to the joint legislative budget commission, the governor, and the chief justice of the supreme court.

(j) JOINT LEGISLATIVE BUDGET COMMISSION. There is created within the legislature the joint legislative budget commission composed of equal numbers of senate members appointed by the president of the senate and house members appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives. Each member shall serve at the pleasure of the officer who appointed the member. A vacancy on the commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. From November of each odd-numbered year through October of each even-numbered year, the chairperson of the joint legislative budget commission shall be appointed by the president of the senate and the vice chairperson of the commission shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives. From November of each even-numbered year through October of each odd-numbered year, the chairperson of the joint legislative budget commission shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and the vice chairperson of the commission shall be appointed by the president of the senate. The joint legislative budget commission shall be governed by the joint rules of the senate and the house of representatives, which shall remain in effect until repealed or amended by concurrent resolution. The commission shall convene at least quarterly and shall convene at the call of the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives. A majority of the commission members of each house plus one additional member from either house constitutes a quorum. Action by the commission requires a majority vote of the commission members present of each house. The commission may conduct its meetings through teleconferences or similar means. In addition to the powers and duties specified in this subsection, the joint legislative budget commission shall exercise all other powers and perform any other duties not in conflict with paragraph (c)(3) and as prescribed by general law or joint rule.

No. 2 Constitutional Amendment
Article VII, Section 3, and Article XII

ARTICLE VII
FINANCE AND TAXATION

SECTION 3. Taxes; exemptions.—

(a) All property owned by a municipality and used exclusively by it for municipal or public purposes shall be exempt from taxation. A municipality, owning property outside the municipality, may be required by general law to make payment to the taxing unit in which the property is located. Such portions of property as are used predominantly for educational, literary, scientific, religious or charitable purposes may be exempted by general law from taxation.

(b) There shall be exempt from taxation, cumulatively, to every head of a family residing in this state, household goods and personal effects to the value fixed by general law, not less than one thousand dollars, and to every widow or widower or person who is blind or totally and permanently disabled, property to the value fixed by general law not less than five hundred dollars.

(c) Any county or municipality may, for the purpose of its respective tax levy and subject to the provisions of this subsection and general law, grant community and economic development ad valorem tax exemptions to new businesses and expansions of existing businesses, as defined by general law. Such an exemption may be granted only by ordinance of the county or municipality, and only after the electors of the county or municipality voting on such question in a referendum authorize the county or municipality to adopt such ordinances. An exemption so granted shall apply to improvements to real property made by or for the use of a new business and improvements to real property related to the expansion of an existing business and shall also apply to tangible personal property of such new business and tangible personal property related to the expansion of an existing business. The amount or limits of the amount of such exemption shall be specified by general law. The period of time for which such exemption may be granted to a new business or expansion of an existing business shall be determined by general law. The authority to grant such exemption shall expire ten years from the date of approval by the electors of the county or municipality, and may be renewable by referendum as provided by general law.

(d) Any county or municipality may, for the purpose of its respective tax levy and subject to the provisions of this subsection and general law, grant historic preservation ad valorem tax exemptions to owners of historic properties. This exemption may be granted only by ordinance of the county or municipality. The amount or limits of the amount of this exemption and the requirements for eligible properties must be specified by general law. The period of time for which this exemption may be granted to a property owner shall be determined by general law.

(e) By general law and subject to conditions specified therein:

(1) Twenty-five thousand dollars of the assessed value of property subject to tangible personal property tax shall be exempt from ad valorem taxation.

(2) The assessed value of solar devices or renewable energy source devices subject to tangible personal property tax may be exempt from ad valorem taxation, subject to limitations provided by general law.

(f) There shall be granted an ad valorem tax exemption for real property dedicated in perpetuity for conservation purposes, including real property encumbered by perpetual conservation easements or by other perpetual conservation protections, as defined by general law.

(g) By general law and subject to the conditions specified therein, each person who receives a homestead exemption as provided in section 6 of this article; who was a member of the United States military or military reserves, the United States Coast Guard or its reserves, or the Florida National Guard; and who was deployed during the preceding calendar year on active duty outside the continental United States, Alaska, or Hawaii in support of military operations designated by the legislature shall receive an additional exemption equal to a percentage of the taxable value of his or her homestead property. The applicable percentage shall be calculated as the number of days during the preceding calendar year the person was deployed on active duty outside the continental United States, Alaska, or Hawaii in support of military operations designated by the legislature divided by the number of days in that year.

(h)(1) Tangible personal property that meets all of the following conditions shall be exempt from ad valorem taxation:

a. Habitually located or typically present on land classified as agricultural.

b. Used in the production of agricultural products or for agritourism activities.

c. Owned by the landowner or leaseholder of the agricultural land.

(2) The exemption provided by this subsection is subject to conditions and limitations and reasonable definitions as specified by the legislature in general law.

ARTICLE XII
SCHEDULE

Ad valorem exemption for tangible personal property on land classified as agricultural.—The amendment to Section 3 of Article VII, providing for a tax exemption for certain tangible personal property, and this section, shall take effect upon approval by the electors and shall first apply for assessments for tax years beginning January 1, 2027.

No. 3 Constitutional Amendment
Article VII, Sections 4, 6, and 9, and Article XII

ARTICLE VII
FINANCE AND TAXATION

SECTION 4. Taxation; assessments.—By general law regulations shall be prescribed which shall secure a just valuation of all property for ad valorem taxation, provided:

(a) Agricultural land, land producing high water recharge to Florida's aquifers, or land used exclusively for noncommercial recreational purposes may be classified by general law and assessed solely on the basis of character or use.

(b) As provided by general law and subject to conditions, limitations, and reasonable definitions specified therein, land used for conservation purposes shall be classified by general law and assessed solely on the basis of character or use.

(c) Pursuant to general law tangible personal property held for sale in stock in trade and livestock may be valued for taxation at a specified percentage of its value, may be classified for tax purposes, or may be exempted from taxation.

(d) All persons entitled to a homestead exemption under Section 6 of this Article shall have their homestead assessed at just value as of January 1 of the year following the effective date of this amendment. This assessment shall change only as provided in this subsection.

(1) Assessments subject to this subsection shall be changed annually on January 1st of each year; but those changes in assessments shall not exceed the lower of the following:

a. Three percent (3%) of the assessment for the prior year.

b. The percent change in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers, U.S. City Average, all items 1967=100, or successor reports for the preceding calendar year as initially reported by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(2) No assessment shall exceed just value.

(3) After any change of ownership, as provided by general law, homestead property shall be assessed at just value as of January 1 of the following year, unless the provisions of paragraph (8) apply. Thereafter, the homestead shall be assessed as provided in this subsection.

(4) New homestead property shall be assessed at just value as of January 1st of the year following the establishment of the homestead, unless the provisions of paragraph (8) apply. That assessment shall only change as provided in this subsection.

(5) Changes, additions, reductions, or improvements to homestead property shall be assessed as provided for by general law; provided, however, after the adjustment for any change, addition, reduction, or improvement, the property shall be assessed as provided in this subsection.

(6) In the event of a termination of homestead status, the property

shall be assessed as provided by general law.

(7) The provisions of this amendment are severable. If any of the provisions of this amendment shall be held unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, the decision of such court shall not affect or impair any remaining provisions of this amendment.

(8)a. A person who establishes a new homestead as of January 1 and who has received a homestead exemption pursuant to Section 6 of this Article as of January 1 of any of the three years immediately preceding the establishment of the new homestead is entitled to have the new homestead assessed at less than just value. The assessed value of the newly established homestead shall be determined as follows:

1. If the just value of the new homestead is greater than or equal to the just value of the prior homestead as of January 1 of the year in which the prior homestead was abandoned, the assessed value of the new homestead shall be the just value of the new homestead minus an amount equal to the lesser of \$500,000 or the difference between the just value and the assessed value of the prior homestead as of January 1 of the year in which the prior homestead was abandoned. Thereafter, the homestead shall be assessed as provided in this subsection.

2. If the just value of the new homestead is less than the just value of the prior homestead as of January 1 of the year in which the prior homestead was abandoned, the assessed value of the new homestead shall be equal to the just value of the new homestead divided by the just value of the prior homestead and multiplied by the assessed value of the prior homestead. However, if the difference between the just value of the new homestead and the assessed value of the new homestead calculated pursuant to this sub-subparagraph is greater than \$500,000, the assessed value of the new homestead shall be increased so that the difference between the just value and the assessed value equals \$500,000. Thereafter, the homestead shall be assessed as provided in this subsection.

b. By general law and subject to conditions specified therein, the legislature shall provide for application of this paragraph to property owned by more than one person.

(e) The legislature may, by general law, for assessment purposes and subject to the provisions of this subsection, allow counties and municipalities to authorize by ordinance that historic property may be assessed solely on the basis of character or use. Such character or use assessment shall apply only to the jurisdiction adopting the ordinance. The requirements for eligible properties must be specified by general law.

(f) A county may, in the manner prescribed by general law, provide for a reduction in the assessed value of homestead property to the extent of any increase in the assessed value of that property which results from the construction or reconstruction of the property for the purpose of providing living quarters for one or more natural or adoptive grandparents or parents of the owner of the property or of the owner's spouse if at least one of the grandparents or parents for whom the living quarters are provided is 62 years of age or older. Such a reduction may not exceed the lesser of the following:

(1) The increase in assessed value resulting from construction or reconstruction of the property.

(2) Twenty percent of the total assessed value of the property as improved.

(g) For all levies other than school district levies, assessments of residential real property, as defined by general law, which contains nine units or fewer and which is not subject to the assessment limitations set forth in subsections (a) through (d) shall change only as provided in this subsection.

(1) Assessments subject to this subsection shall be changed annually on the date of assessment provided by law; but those changes in assessments shall not exceed the following percentages ten-percent (40%) of the assessment for the prior year:

a. Before January 1, 2027, ten percent (10%).

b. Beginning January 1, 2027, five percent (5%).

(2) No assessment shall exceed just value.

(3) After a change of ownership or control, as defined by general law, including any change of ownership of a legal entity that owns the property, such property shall be assessed at just value as of the next assessment date. Thereafter, such property shall be assessed as provided in this subsection.

(4) Changes, additions, reductions, or improvements to such property shall be assessed as provided for by general law; however, after the adjustment for any change, addition, reduction, or improvement, the property shall be assessed as provided in this subsection.

(h) For all levies other than school district levies, assessments of real property that is not subject to the assessment limitations set forth in subsections (a) through (d) and (g) shall change only as provided in this subsection.

(1) Assessments subject to this subsection shall be changed annually on the date of assessment provided by law; but those changes in assessments shall not exceed the following percentages ten-percent (40%) of the assessment for the prior year:

a. Before January 1, 2027, ten percent (10%).

b. Beginning January 1, 2027, five percent (5%).

(2) No assessment shall exceed just value.

(3) The legislature must provide that such property shall be assessed at just value as of the next assessment date after a qualifying improvement, as defined by general law, is made to such property. Thereafter, such property shall be assessed as provided in this subsection.

(4) The legislature may provide that such property shall be assessed at just value as of the next assessment date after a change of ownership or control, as defined by general law, including any change of ownership of the legal entity that owns the property. Thereafter, such property shall be assessed as provided in this subsection.

(5) Changes, additions, reductions, or improvements to such property shall be assessed as provided for by general law; however, after the adjustment for any change, addition, reduction, or improvement, the property shall be assessed as provided in this subsection.

(i) The legislature, by general law and subject to conditions specified therein, may prohibit the consideration of the following in the determination of the assessed value of real property:

(1) Any change or improvement to real property used for residential purposes made to improve the property's resistance to wind damage.

(2) The installation of a solar or renewable energy source device.

(j)

(1) The assessment of the following working waterfront properties shall be based upon the current use of the property:

a. Land used predominantly for commercial fishing purposes.

b. Land that is accessible to the public and used for vessel launches into waters that are navigable.

c. Marinas and drystacks that are open to the public.

d. Water-dependent marine manufacturing facilities, commercial fishing facilities, and marine vessel construction and repair facilities and their support activities.

(2) The assessment benefit provided by this subsection is subject to conditions and limitations and reasonable definitions as specified by the legislature by general law.

SECTION 6. Homestead exemptions.—

(a)(1)a. Every person who has the legal or equitable title to real estate and maintains thereon the permanent residence of the owner, or another legally or naturally dependent upon the owner, shall be exempt from taxation thereon, except assessments for special benefits, as follows:

1.a. For school district levies, up to the assessed valuation of twenty-five thousand dollars; and

2.b. For all levies other than school district levies,

1. Beginning on January 1, 2027, up to the assessed valuation of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

2. Beginning on January 1, 2028, up to the assessed valuation of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

b. Every person who, on or after January 1, 2027, has the legal or equitable title to real estate and maintains thereon the permanent residence of the owner, or another legally or naturally dependent upon the owner, who had not maintained a permanent residence in this state as of December 31, 2026, shall be exempt from taxation thereon, except assessments for special benefits, as follows:

1. For school district levies, up to the assessed valuation of twenty-five thousand dollars; and

2. For all levies other than school district levies, up to the assessed valuation of fifty thousand dollars. Unless otherwise revised under sub-subparagraph (4)a.2., beginning with the fifth year of exemption under this subparagraph, such person shall be exempt up to the amount of assessed valuation provided by sub-sub-subparagraph a.2.(i), as adjusted pursuant to subparagraph (2)a. The legislature shall, by general law, prescribe uniform procedures to administer this subparagraph.

The exemptions provided by this paragraph apply only greater than fifty thousand dollars and up to seventy-five thousand dollars; upon establishment of right thereto in the manner prescribed by law. The real estate may be held by legal or equitable title, by the entireties, jointly, in common, as a condominium, or indirectly by stock ownership or membership representing the owner's or member's proprietary interest in a corporation owning a fee or a leasehold initially in excess of ninety-eight years. The exemptions exemption shall not apply with respect to any assessment roll until such roll is first determined to be in compliance with the provisions of section 4 by a state agency designated by general law. These exemptions are this exemption is repealed on the effective date of any amendment to this Article which provides for the assessment of homestead property at less than just value.

(2)a. The twenty-five thousand dollar amount of assessed valuation exempt from taxation provided in sub-sub-subparagraph (1) a.2.(i), subparagraph (a)(1)b. shall be adjusted annually for inflation beginning on January 1, 2029, and of each year thereafter for inflation using the percent change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, U.S. City Average, all items 1967=100, or successor reports for the preceding calendar year as initially reported by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, if such percent change is positive.

b. The amount of assessed valuation exempt from taxation provided in sub-sub-subparagraph (1)b.2. shall be adjusted annually for inflation beginning on January 1, 2028, and each year thereafter, using the percent change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers,

U.S. City Average, all items 1967=100, or successor reports for the preceding calendar year as initially reported by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, if such percent change is positive.

(3) Except for the exemptions provided in sub-subparagraphs (1)a.2. and b.2. and paragraph (4), the amount of assessed valuation exempt from taxation for which every person who has the legal or equitable title to real estate and maintains thereon the permanent residence of the owner, or another person legally or naturally dependent upon the owner, is eligible, and which applies solely to levies other than school district levies, that is added to this constitution after January 1, 2025, shall be adjusted annually on January 1 of each year for inflation using the percent change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, U.S. City Average, all items 1967=100, or successor reports for the preceding calendar year as initially reported by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, if such percent change is positive, beginning the year following the effective date of such exemption.

(4)a.1. The legislature shall, by general law, prescribe a uniform procedure for counties and municipalities, for their respective levies, to increase the amount of assessed valuation exempt from taxation under paragraph (1), up to all remaining assessed valuation.

2. Beginning on or after January 1, 2030, a county or municipality, by two-thirds vote of the membership of the governing body, may determine that a reduction of the five-year requirement provided under sub-subparagraph (1)b.2. is warranted for a critical local need.

b.1. A special district may, upon approval by referendum by the electors of the district, increase the amount of assessed valuation exempt from taxation under sub-subparagraphs (1)a.2. and b.2., for its respective levy, up to all remaining assessed valuation. By general law, the legislature shall provide the manner in which a referendum may be called; the frequency with which such referendum may be held, which may not be more than once in a 12-month period; a ballot statement and question of such referendum; and other requirements for the referendum not inconsistent with this paragraph. The approved exemption increase shall take effect on and first apply beginning on the January 1 immediately succeeding approval by referendum.

2. A special district may adjust the amount of assessed valuation exempt from taxation as approved under sub-subparagraph 1. annually on January 1 of each year for inflation using the percent change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, U.S. City Average, all items 1967=100, or successor reports for the preceding calendar year as initially reported by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, if such percent change is positive.

(b) Not more than one exemption shall be allowed any individual or family unit or with respect to any residential unit. No exemption shall exceed the value of the real estate assessable to the owner or, in case of ownership through stock or membership in a corporation, the value of the proportion which the interest in the corporation bears to the assessed value of the property.

(c) By general law and subject to conditions specified therein, the Legislature may provide to renters, who are permanent residents, ad valorem tax relief on all ad valorem tax levies. Such ad valorem tax relief shall be in the form and amount established by general law.

(d) The legislature may, by general law, allow counties or municipalities, for the purpose of their respective tax levies and subject to the provisions of general law, to grant either or both of the following additional homestead tax exemptions:

(1) An exemption not exceeding fifty thousand dollars to a person who has the legal or equitable title to real estate and maintains thereon the permanent residence of the owner, who has attained age sixty-five, and whose household income, as defined by general law, does not exceed twenty thousand dollars; or

(2) An exemption equal to the assessed value of the property to a person who has the legal or equitable title to real estate with a just value less than two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, as determined in the first tax year that the owner applies and is eligible for the exemption, and who has maintained thereon the permanent residence of the owner for not less than twenty-five years, who has attained age sixty-five, and whose household income does not exceed the income limitation prescribed in paragraph (1).

The general law must allow counties and municipalities to grant these additional exemptions, within the limits prescribed in this subsection, by ordinance adopted in the manner prescribed by general law, and must provide for the periodic adjustment of the income limitation prescribed in this subsection for changes in the cost of living.

(e)

(1) Each veteran who is age 65 or older who is partially or totally permanently disabled shall receive a discount from the he amount of the ad valorem tax otherwise owed on homestead property the veteran owns and resides in if the disability was combat related and the veteran was honorably discharged upon separation from military service. The discount shall be in a percentage equal to the percentage of the veteran's permanent, service-connected disability as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. To qualify for the discount granted by this paragraph, an applicant must submit to the county property appraiser, by March 1, an official letter from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs stating the percentage of the veteran's service-connected disability and such evidence that reasonably identifies the disability as combat related and a copy of the veteran's honorable discharge. If the property appraiser denies the request for a discount, the appraiser must notify the applicant in writing of the reasons for the denial, and the veteran may reapply. The Legislature may, by general law, waive the annual application requirement in subsequent years.

(2) If a veteran who receives the discount described in paragraph (1) predeceases his or her spouse, and if, upon the death of the veteran, the surviving spouse holds the legal or beneficial title to the homestead property and permanently resides thereon, the discount carries over to the surviving spouse until he or she remarries or sells or otherwise disposes of the homestead property. If the surviving spouse sells or otherwise disposes of the property, a discount not to exceed the dollar amount granted from the most recent ad valorem tax roll may be transferred to the surviving spouse's new homestead property, if used as his or her permanent residence and he or she has not remarried.

(3) This subsection is self-executing and does not require implementing legislation.

(f) By general law and subject to conditions and limitations specified therein, the Legislature may provide ad valorem tax relief equal to the total amount or a portion of the ad valorem tax otherwise owed on homestead property to:

(1) The surviving spouse of a veteran who died from service-connected causes while on active duty as a member of the United States Armed Forces.

(2) The surviving spouse of a first responder who died in the line of duty.

(3) A first responder who is totally and permanently disabled as a result of an injury or injuries sustained in the line of duty. Causal connection between a disability and service in the line of duty shall not be presumed but must be determined as provided by general law. For purposes of this paragraph, the term "disability" does not include a chronic condition or chronic disease, unless the injury sustained in the line of duty was the sole cause of the chronic condition or chronic disease. As used in this subsection and as further defined by general law, the term "first responder" means a law enforcement officer, a correctional officer, a firefighter, an emergency medical technician, or a paramedic, and the term "in the line of duty" means arising out of and in the actual performance of duty required by employment as a first responder.

SECTION 9. Local taxes.—

(a)(1) Counties, school districts, and municipalities shall, and special districts may, be authorized by law to levy ad valorem taxes and may be authorized by general law to levy other taxes, for their respective purposes, except ad valorem taxes on intangible personal property and taxes prohibited by this constitution.

(2) Ad valorem taxes levied by counties and municipalities shall be used only to:

a. Provide for public safety, including law enforcement, fire service, and emergency medical services;

b. Provide funding for education and public schools;

c. Finance or refinance infrastructure, including expenditures on road and bridge construction and maintenance and stormwater control;

d. Finance or refinance natural resource projects, including flood control measures;

e. Issue local bonds for uses consistent with this paragraph and to make debt service payments for existing obligations;

f. Meet obligations for retirement benefits of local government employees; or

g. Fund the operations and administration of county officers and commissioners established under Article VIII and municipalities, and the expenditures approved by such county officers or county or municipal governing bodies, except those expenditures prohibited by general law.

(b) Ad valorem taxes, exclusive of taxes levied for the payment of bonds and taxes levied for periods not longer than two years when authorized by vote of the electors who are the owners of freeholds therein not wholly exempt from taxation, shall not be levied in excess of the following millages upon the assessed value of real estate and tangible personal property: for all county purposes, ten mills; for all municipal purposes, ten mills; for all school purposes, ten mills; for water management purposes for the northwest portion of the state lying west of the line between ranges two and three east, 0.05 mill; for water management purposes for the remaining portions of the state, 1.0 mill; and for all other special districts a millage authorized by law approved by vote of the electors who are owners of freeholds therein not wholly exempt from taxation. A county furnishing municipal services may, to the extent authorized by law, levy additional taxes within the limits fixed for municipal purposes.

ARTICLE XII
SCHEDULE

Limitation on the assessment of real property, homestead property exemptions, and local government revenue.—This section, and the amendments to Sections 4 and 6 of Article VII, relating to a limitation on the assessed value of real property, an increase to the homestead property tax exemption, and the creation of a new homestead exemption beginning January 1, 2027, and the amendment to Section 9 of Article VII, relating to the uses of certain revenues by counties and municipalities, shall take effect January 1, 2027.

Yo, Cord Byrd, el Secretario de Estado de la Florida, por el presente notifico que el título del boleta, el resumen del boleta, y el texto de las siguientes enmiendas constitucionales propuestas y revisiones estarán en el boleta de las elecciones generales en el día 3 de noviembre de 2026, en cada condado. El texto completo de estas enmiendas como se presenten aquí también se puede encontrar en https://constitutionalinitatives.dos.fl.gov/, en FloridaPublicNotices.com, y en el sitio web de este periódico.

No.1 Enmienda constitucional
Artículo III, Sección 19
ARTÍCULO III
LEGISLATURA

SECCIÓN 19. Procesos de elaboración del presupuesto estatal, planificación y apropiación de fondos. —
(a) PRESUPUESTO ANUAL.

(1) La legislación general estipulará la adopción de procesos anuales de elaboración del presupuesto y planificación del estado y exigirá que los proyectos de presupuesto presentados por los departamentos y organismos estatales, el presupuesto recomendado por el gobernador y los proyectos de ley de apropiación de fondos vengan acompañados de información detallada que refleje los costes analizados del presupuesto estatal y los costes no recurrentes de las solicitudes presupuestarias.

(2) A menos que se apruebe por una mayoría de tres quintos de los miembros de cada cámara, las asignaciones realizadas con fines recurrentes a partir de fondos de ingresos generales no recurrentes para cualquier período fiscal no excederán el tres por ciento del total de los fondos de ingresos generales que se estime que estarán disponibles en el momento en que se realice dicha apropiación.

(3) Según lo dispuesto en la ley general, cada departamento y agencia estatal tendrá la obligación de presentar una solicitud presupuestaria legislativa que se base en y refleje las perspectivas financieras a largo plazo adoptadas por la comisión presupuestaria legislativa conjunta o que explique específicamente cualquier desviación respecto a las perspectivas financieras a largo plazo contenidas en la solicitud.

(4) A los efectos de esta sección, los términos «departamento» y «agencia» incluirán al poder judicial.

(b) FORMATO DE LOS PROYECTOS DE LEY DE APROPIACIONES PRESUPUESTARIAS. Se asignarán secciones independientes dentro del proyecto de ley de apropiaciones generales a cada área programática principal del presupuesto estatal; las áreas programáticas principales incluirán: partidas del fondo fiduciario de la «lotería» para la mejora de la educación; educación (el resto de fondos); servicios sociales; justicia penal y sistema penitenciario; recursos naturales, medio ambiente, gestión del crecimiento y transporte; administración pública general; y poder judicial. Cada área programática principal comprenderá un desglose de los gastos correspondientes a: operaciones estatales; gastos de capital estatales; ayudas a las operaciones de los gobiernos locales y las organizaciones sin ánimo de lucro; ayudas a los gastos de capital de los gobiernos locales y las organizaciones sin ánimo de lucro; fondos federales y los fondos estatales de contrapartida asociados; autorizaciones de gasto para operaciones; y autorizaciones de gasto para inversiones de capital. Además, los proyectos de ley de asignación aprobados por la legislatura incluirán un desglose de las asignaciones específicas que superen el millón de dólares (1.000.000,00\$) en dólares de 1992. A los efectos de esta subsección, los términos «asignación específica», «desglose» y «área programática principal» se definirán por ley. Este desglose se ajustará mediante ley general cada cuatro años para reflejar el índice de inflación o deflación tal como se indica en el índice de Precios al Consumidor para Todos los Consumidores Urbanos (Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers), (U.S. City Average, All Items), o en informes sucesores, según lo reportado por el Departamento de Trabajo de los Estados Unidos, la Oficina de Estadísticas Laborales o su sucesora. Los proyectos de ley sustantivos que contengan apropiaciones también estarán sujetos al requisito de desglose establecido en esta disposición y al derecho de veto específico del gobernador sobre las apropiaciones descrito en el artículo III, sección 8.

(c) PROCESO DE APROPIACIONES.

(1) A más tardar el 15 de septiembre de cada año, la comisión presupuestaria legislativa conjunta emitirá una perspectiva financiera a largo plazo en la que se establezcan las estrategias fiscales recomendadas para el estado y sus departamentos y organismos, con el fin de ayudar a la legislatura a tomar decisiones en materia presupuestaria. Las perspectivas financieras a largo plazo deben incluir estimaciones de la carga de trabajo y los ingresos principales. Con el fin de aplicar este párrafo, la comisión presupuestaria legislativa conjunta utilizará las estimaciones oficiales consensuadas vigentes y podrá solicitar la elaboración de estimaciones oficiales adicionales.

(2) La comisión presupuestaria legislativa conjunta consultará al público y a los poderes ejecutivo y judicial cuando elabore y recomiende las perspectivas financieras a largo plazo.

(3) La legislatura establecerá mediante la ley general las condiciones en las que podrán aprobarse ajustes limitados al presupuesto, tal y como recomienden el gobernador o el presidente del Tribunal Supremo, sin la concurrencia de la legislatura en pleno.

(d) PERÍODO DE REVISIÓN PÚBLICA DE SETENTA Y DOS HORAS. Todos los proyectos de ley de asignaciones generales se pondrán a disposición de cada miembro de la asamblea legislativa, cada miembro del gabinete, el gobernador y el presidente del tribunal supremo al menos setenta y dos horas antes de la aprobación definitiva del proyecto de ley por cualquiera de las cámaras de la asamblea legislativa, en la forma en que se presentará al gobernador.

(e) INFORME PRESUPUESTARIO DEFINITIVO. Se elaborará un informe presupuestario definitivo conforme a lo dispuesto en la legislación general. El informe presupuestario definitivo se elaborará a más tardar el 120.^o día tras el inicio del período fiscal, y se enviará a cada miembro de la asamblea legislativa, al jefe de cada departamento y organismo del estado, al auditor general y al presidente del tribunal supremo.

(f) FONDOS FIDUCIARIOS.

(1) No podrá crearse ni recrearse por ley ningún fondo fiduciario del Estado de Florida u otro organismo público sin el voto de tres quintos de los miembros de cada cámara de la legislatura en un proyecto de ley independiente dedicado exclusivamente a ese fin.

(2) Los fondos fiduciarios estatales vencerán a más tardar cuatro años después de la fecha de entrada en vigor de la ley que autorice la creación inicial del fondo fiduciario. Por ley, la legislatura podrá establecer un plazo más breve para la autorización de cualquier fondo fiduciario

(3) Los fondos fiduciarios obligatorios para los programas o mandatos federales; los fondos fiduciarios que se crean para cumplir con las cláusulas de los bonos, los contratos de emisión o las resoluciones, cuyos ingresos están legalmente comprometidos por el Estado o un organismo público para hacer frente al servicio de la deuda u otras obligaciones financieras derivadas de cualquier deuda del Estado o de cualquier organismo público; el fondo fiduciario estatal de transporte; el fondo fiduciario que contiene los ingresos netos anuales de las Loterías Educativas de Florida; el fondo fiduciario de jubilación de Florida; los fondos fiduciarios para instituciones bajo la gestión de la Junta de Gobernadores, cuando dichos fondos fiduciarios se destinen a empresas auxiliares y contratos, subvenciones y donaciones, tal y como se definen dichos términos en la legislación general; los fondos fiduciarios que sirven como fondos o cuentas de compensación para el director financiero o las agencias estatales; los fondos fiduciarios que contabilizan los activos mantenidos por el Estado en calidad de fideicomisario, como agente o fiduciario de particulares, organizaciones privadas u otras unidades gubernamentales; y otros fondos fiduciarios autorizados por la presente Constitución, no están sujetos a los requisitos establecidos en el párrafo (2) de este artículo.

(4) Todos los saldos de caja y los ingresos de cualquier fondo fiduciario suprimido en virtud de este apartado se depositarán en el

(5) FONDO DE ESTABILIZACIÓN PRESUPUESTARIA.

(1) A los efectos de este artículo, el término «recaudación de ingresos» se refiere a la recaudación neta de ingresos del último ejercicio fiscal completado para el fondo de ingresos generales.

(2) Sin perjuicio de lo dispuesto en el presente subsección, se retendrá en el fondo de estabilización presupuestaria un importe equivalente, como mínimo, al 5 % de los ingresos netos recaudados durante el último período fiscal completado para el fondo de ingresos generales. El saldo del capital del fondo de estabilización presupuestaria no podrá ser superior a un importe equivalente al 25 % 40-% de los ingresos netos recaudados durante el último período fiscal completado para el fondo de ingresos generales.

(3) La asamblea legislativa transferirá al fondo de estabilización presupuestaria, a más tardar el 30 de junio de cada período fiscal, la menor de las siguientes cantidades: 750 millones de dólares o la cantidad necesaria para aumentar el saldo principal del fondo de estabilización presupuestaria hasta un importe equivalente al 25 % de los ingresos recaudados por el fondo de ingresos generales La asamblea legislativa podrá suspender esta transferencia en un ejercicio fiscal en el que,

a. Se retiren fondos del fondo de estabilización presupuestaria de conformidad con el párrafo (4);

b. Se retiren fondos del fondo de estabilización presupuestaria con el fin de sufragar una necesidad estatal crítica de conformidad con el párrafo (5); o

c. La asamblea legislativa determine que existe una necesidad estatal crítica que requiere el gasto de fondos de ingresos generales por un importe que excede el importe de la transferencia exigido por este párrafo. Una suspensión por una necesidad estatal crítica de conformidad con este subpárrafo deberá ser aprobada por una mayoría de dos tercios de los miembros de cada cámara de la legislatura en un proyecto de ley independiente destinado exclusivamente a ese fin y no podrá producirse más de una vez cada cinco años.

(4) La asamblea legislativa establecerá los criterios para la retirada de fondos del fondo de estabilización presupuestaria en un proyecto de ley específico destinado exclusivamente a tal fin y con el único objetivo de cubrir déficits de ingresos del fondo de ingresos generales o de proporcionar financiación para una emergencia, tal y como se define en la legislación general.

(5) Si el saldo del capital del fondo de estabilización presupuestaria sobrepasa el 15 % de la recaudación de ingresos, la asamblea legislativa podrá retirar fondos con el fin de financiar, de forma no recurrente, una necesidad estatal crítica. Dicha retirada deberá ser aprobada por una mayoría de dos tercios de los miembros de cada cámara de la asamblea legislativa en un proyecto de ley específico destinado exclusivamente a ese fin. La retirada no debe hacer que el saldo del capital del fondo de estabilización presupuestaria sea inferior al 10 % de la recaudación de ingresos.

(6) La ley general dispondrá la reposición de este fondo. El fondo de estabilización presupuestaria estará compuesto por fondos no comprometidos ni destinados a ningún otro fin.

(h) DOCUMENTO DE PLANIFICACIÓN ESTATAL A LARGO PLAZO Y PROCESOS DE ELABORACIÓN DE DOCUMENTOS DE PLANIFICACIÓN DE LOS DEPARTAMENTOS Y ORGANISMOS. El gobernador preverá un documento de planificación estatal a largo plazo. El gobernador recomendará a la legislatura, de forma bial, cualquier revisión del documento de planificación estatal a largo plazo, tal y como se define en la ley. La ley general exigirá una revisión y revisión binal del documento de planificación estatal a largo plazo y exigirá a todos los departamentos y organismos del gobierno estatal que elaboren documentos de planificación. El documento de planificación estatal a largo plazo y los documentos de planificación de los departamentos y organismos seguirán estando sujetos a revisión y modificación por parte de la asamblea legislativa. El documento de planificación estatal a largo plazo deberá incluir proyecciones de las necesidades y recursos futuros del estado que sean coherentes con las perspectivas financieras a largo plazo. Los documentos de planificación de los departamentos y organismos incluirán una lista priorizada de los gastos previstos para su revisión y posible reducción en caso de déficit de ingresos, tal y como se define en la ley general.

(i) GRUPO DE TRABAJO SOBRE LA EFICIENCIA DEL GOBIERNO. A más tardar en enero de 2007, y cada cuatro años a partir de entonces, el presidente del senado, el presidente de la cámara de representantes y el gobernador nombrarán un grupo de trabajo sobre eficiencia gubernamental, cuya composición se establecerá mediante ley general. El grupo de trabajo estará compuesto por miembros de la legislatura y representantes de los sectores público y privado, quienes elaborarán recomendaciones para mejorar las operaciones gubernamentales y reducir los costes. El personal que asistirá al grupo de trabajo en el desempeño de sus funciones será asignado por ley general, y el grupo de trabajo podrá obtener asistencia del sector privado. El grupo de trabajo completará su labor en el plazo de un año y presentará sus recomendaciones a la comisión presupuestaria legislativa conjunta, al gobernador y al presidente del Tribunal Supremo.

(j) COMISIÓN PRESUPUESTARIA LEGISLATIVA CONJUNTA. Se crea, en el seno de la asamblea legislativa, la comisión presupuestaria legislativa conjunta, compuesta por un mismo número de miembros del senado, designados por el presidente del senado, y de miembros de la cámara de representantes, designados por el presidente de la cámara de representantes. Cada miembro permanecerá en el cargo a discreción del cargo que lo haya designado. Las posiciones vacantes en la comisión se cubrirán del mismo modo que el nombramiento original. Desde noviembre de cada año impar hasta octubre de cada año par, el presidente de la comisión legislativa conjunta de presupuesto será nombrado por el presidente del senado y el vicesecretario de la comisión será nombrado por el presidente de la cámara de representantes. Desde noviembre de cada año par hasta octubre de cada año impar, el presidente de la comisión presupuestaria legislativa conjunta será nombrado por el presidente de la cámara de representantes y el vicepresidente de la comisión será nombrado por el presidente del senado. La comisión presupuestaria legislativa conjunta se regirá por el reglamento conjunto del senado y la cámara de representantes, que permanecerá en vigor hasta que sea derogado o modificado mediante resolución conjunta. La comisión se reunirá como mínimo una vez al trimestre y se reunirá cuando lo convoquen el presidente del senado y el presidente de la cámara de representantes. La mayoría de los miembros de la comisión de cada cámara, sumada a un miembro adicional de cualquiera de las dos cámaras, constituirá quórum. Las resoluciones de la comisión requieren el voto mayoritario de los miembros de la comisión presentes de cada cámara. La comisión podrá desarrollar sus reuniones mediante teleconferencias o medios similares. Además de las facultades y funciones especificadas en esta subsección, la comisión presupuestaria legislativa conjunta ejercerá todas las demás facultades y desempeñará cualquier otra función que no entre en conflicto con el párrafo (c)(3) y según lo prescrito por la ley general o el reglamento conjunto.

No. 2 Enmienda constitucional
Artículo VII, Sección 3, y Artículo XII

ARTÍCULO VII
FINANZAS E IMPUESTOS

SECCIÓN 3. Impuestos; exenciones. —

(a) Se eximirá impositivamente todo inmueble de propiedad de una municipalidad utilizado exclusivamente por ésta con fines municipales o públicos. Un municipio que posea bienes fuera de su jurisdicción puede estar obligado, en virtud de la ley general, a efectuar el pago correspondiente a la entidad impositiva en la que se encuentren dichos bienes. Aquellas partes de los bienes que se utilicen predominantemente con fines educativos, literarios, científicos, religiosos o benéficos podrán quedar exentas de imposición en virtud de la ley general.

(b) Quedarán exentos de imposición, de forma acumulativa, para cada cabeza de familia residente en este estado, los enseres domésticos y efectos personales por un valor fijado por la ley general, no inferior a mil dólares, y para cada viuda o viudo o persona ciega o con discapacidad total y permanente, los bienes por un valor fijado por la ley general no inferior a quinientos dólares.

(c) Cualquier condado o municipio podrá, a efectos de su respectiva recaudación impositiva y con sujeción a las disposiciones de este párrafo y de la ley general, otorgar exenciones impositivas ad valorem para el desarrollo comunitario y económico a nuevas empresas y a la expansión de empresas existentes, tal y como se definen en la ley general. Dicha exención solo podrá otorgarse mediante ordenanza del condado o del municipio, y únicamente después de que los electores del condado o del municipio, al votar sobre dicha cuestión en un referéndum, autoricen al condado o al municipio a adoptar tales ordenanzas. La exención así otorgada se aplicará a las mejoras realizadas en bienes inmuebles por una nueva empresa o para su uso, así como a las mejoras en bienes inmuebles relacionadas con la expansión de una empresa ya existente; asimismo, se aplicará a los bienes muebles tangibles de dicha nueva empresa y a los bienes muebles tangibles relacionados con la expansión de una empresa ya existente. El importe o los límites del importe de dicha exención se especificarán en la ley general. El período de tiempo durante el cual se podrá otorgar dicha exención a una nueva empresa o a la expansión de una empresa ya existente se determinará en la ley general. La facultad para otorgar dicha exención vencerá a los diez años de la fecha de aprobación por parte de los electores del condado o municipio, y podrá renovarse mediante referéndum según lo dispuesto en la ley general.

(d) Cualquier condado o municipio podrá, a efectos de su respectiva recaudación tributaria y con sujeción a lo dispuesto en este párrafo y en la ley general, otorgar exenciones del impuesto ad valorem por conservación del patrimonio histórico a los propietarios de inmuebles históricos. Esta exención solo podrá otorgarse mediante ordenanza del condado o municipio. El importe o los límites del importe de esta exención y los requisitos para que los inmuebles sean elegibles deberán especificarse en la ley general. El período de tiempo durante el cual se podrá otorgar esta exención a un propietario se determinará mediante la ley general.

(e) Mediante la ley general y con sujeción a las condiciones especificadas en la misma:

(1) Veinticinco mil dólares del valor tasado de los bienes sujetos al impuesto sobre bienes muebles tangibles quedarán exentos del impuesto ad valorem.

(2) El valor de tasación de los dispositivos solares o de fuentes de energía renovable sujetos al impuesto sobre bienes muebles tangibles podrá estar exento del impuesto ad valorem, con sujeción a las limitaciones previstas en la ley general.

(f) Se otorgará una exención del impuesto ad valorem a los bienes inmuebles dedicados a perpetuidad a fines de conservación, incluidos los bienes inmuebles gravados con servidumbres de conservación perpetuas o con otras protecciones de conservación perpetuas, tal y como se definen en la ley general.

(g) En virtud de la ley general y con sujeción a las condiciones en ella especificadas, cualquier persona que se beneficie de una exención por vivienda familiar según lo dispuesto en la sección 6 del presente artículo; que haya sido miembro de las Fuerzas Armadas de los Estados Unidos o de las reservas militares, de la Guardia Costera de los Estados Unidos o de sus reservas, o de la Guardia Nacional de Florida; y que haya sido desplegada durante el año natural anterior en servicio activo fuera del territorio continental de los Estados Unidos, Alaska o Hawái en apoyo de operaciones militares designadas por la legislatura, recibirá una exención adicional equivalente a un porcentaje del valor imponible de su vivienda familiar. El porcentaje de aplicable se basará en la cantidad de días durante los que dicha persona haya prestado servicio activo durante el año calendario anterior fuera de la región continental de los Estados Unidos, Alaska o Hawái en apoyo de operaciones militares designadas por la legislatura, dividido por el número de días de ese año.

(h)(1) Los bienes muebles tangibles que cumplan todas las condiciones siguientes estarán exentos del impuesto ad valorem:

a. Que se encuentren habitualmente o estén normalmente presentes en terrenos clasificados como agrícolas.

b. Utilizados en la producción de productos agrícolas o para actividades de agroturismo.

c. Propiedad del propietario o arrendatario de los terrenos agrícolas.

(2) La exención prevista en este párrafo está sujeta a las condiciones, limitaciones y definiciones razonables que especifique la legislación en la ley general.

ARTÍCULO XII
APÉNDICE

Exención ad valorem para los bienes muebles tangibles situados en terrenos clasificados como agrícolas. —La modificación de la sección 3 del artículo VII, que establece una exención impositiva para determinados bienes muebles tangibles, y la presente sección, entrarán en vigor tras su aprobación por los electores y se aplicarán por primera vez a las liquidaciones correspondientes a los ejercicios fiscales que comencen el 1 de enero de 2027.

No. 3 Enmienda constitucional
Artículo VII, Secciones 4, 6, y 9, y Artículo XII

ARTÍCULO VII
FINANZAS E IMPUESTOS

SECCIÓN 4. Impuesto; tasaciones. — Se establecerán disposiciones de acuerdo con la ley general para asegurar una tasación justa de todos los bienes alcanzados por el impuesto ad valorem, con las condiciones que se enumeran a continuación:

(a) Los terrenos destinados a la explotación agrícola, los terrenos que generan gran carga de agua para los acuíferos de Florida o los terrenos utilizados en forma exclusiva para fines recreativos no comerciales pueden clasificarse según la ley general y tasarse únicamente en razón de su naturaleza o su uso.

(b) Según lo dispuesto por la ley general y sujeto a las condiciones, limitaciones y definiciones razonables especificadas en la misma, el terreno utilizado para fines de conservación se clasificará por ley general y se tasará únicamente en función de su carácter o uso.

(c) De acuerdo con la ley general, los bienes personales tangibles conservados para la venta en unidades de intercambio comercial o en cabezas de ganado podrán evaluarse para la determinación de impuestos a un porcentaje específico de su valor, podrán clasificarse con fines impositivos o podrán estar exentos del pago de impuesto.

(d) Se realizará una tasación del bien de familia al justo valor vigente al 1.^o de enero del año posterior a la fecha en que esta enmienda entre en vigencia a aquellas personas con derecho a la exención del pago de impuestos a los bienes de familia conforme en sección 6 de este Artículo. La tasación solo cambiará según lo dispuesto en esta subsección.

(1) Las tasaciones sujetas a esta subsección se modificarán el 1.^o de enero de cada año, dichos cambios no pueden exceder monto menor de los ítems enumerados a continuación:

a. Tres por ciento (3 %) de la tasación del año anterior.

b. El cambio porcentual en el índice de Precios al Consumidor en las ciudades, el Costo Promedio Urbano de EE. UU., todos los ítems 1967=100 o informes subsiguientes para el año calendario anterior según lo informado inicialmente por el Ministerio de Trabajo de los Estados Unidos (United States Department of Labor) y el organismo de Estadísticas Laborales (Bureau of Labor Statistics).

(2) Ninguna tasación superará el valor razonable.

(3) Con posterioridad a cualquier cambio de titularidad, de acuerdo con lo establecido por la ley general, se realizará la tasación del bien de familia al justo valor vigente al 1.^o de enero del año posterior, a menos que apliquen las disposiciones de párrafo (8). A partir de entonces, se realizará la tasación de los bienes de familia de acuerdo con las disposiciones establecidas en esta subsección.

(4) Se realizará la tasación del nuevo bien de familia según el justo valor al 1.^o de enero del año posterior a la constitución de dicho bien, salvo que apliquen las disposiciones de párrafo (8). La tasación solo podrá modificarse según lo dispuesto en esta subsección.

(5) Se realizará una tasación de las reformas, agregados, reducciones o mejoras a los bienes de familia de acuerdo con la ley general con la condición de que, con posterioridad a la revisión por cualquier reforma, agregado, reducción o mejora, se realice la tasación de los bienes de acuerdo con lo establecido en esta subsección.

(6) En caso de que caduque la condición de bien de familia, el bien se evaluará de acuerdo con lo dispuesto por la ley general.

(7) Las disposiciones de esta enmienda podrán considerarse en forma separada. En caso de que cualquiera de las disposiciones de esta enmienda sea declarada inconstitucional por un tribunal competente, la decisión de tal tribunal no afectará ni limitará las disposiciones restantes de esta enmienda

(8) A la persona que constituya un nuevo bien de familia al 1.^o de enero y que haya recibido una exención al pago de impuestos sobre el bien de familia conforme en Sección 6 de este Artículo al 1.^o de enero de cualquiera de los tres años inmediatos anteriores a constitución del nuevo bien de familia tendrá derecho a una tasación del nuevo bien de familia a un valor menor al justo valor. El valor de los bienes recientemente constituidos como bien de familia se determinará de la siguiente manera:

1. Si el justo valor del nuevo bien de familia es mayor o igual al justo valor del anterior bien de familia al 1.^o de enero del año en que el bien anterior fuera destruido, el valor del nuevo bien de familia será igual al justo valor del nuevo bien de familia menos un monto equivalente al menor monto entre \$500,000 y la diferencia entre el justo valor y el valor determinado del bien de familia anterior al 1.^o de enero del año en que el bien de familia anterior fuera destruido.

A partir de entonces, se realizará la tasación de los bienes de familia de acuerdo con las disposiciones establecidas en esta subsección.

2. En caso de que el justo valor del nuevo bien de familia sea inferior al justo valor del bien de familia anterior vigente al 1.^o de enero del año en que el bien de familia anterior fuera destruido, el valor determinado del nuevo bien de familia será igual al justo valor del nuevo bien de familia dividido por el justo valor del bien de familia anterior y multiplicado por el valor determinado del bien de familia anterior. Sin embargo, en caso de que la diferencia entre el justo valor del nuevo bien de familia y el valor determinado del nuevo bien de familia calculado conforme este sub-párrafo sea mayor a \$500,000, se aumentará el valor determinado del nuevo bien de familia de manera tal que la diferencia entre el justo valor y el valor determinado sea igual a \$500,000. A partir de entonces, se realizará la tasación del bien de familia de acuerdo con las disposiciones establecidas en esta subsección.

b. Por aplicación de la ley general y conforme los principios allí establecidos, la legislatura preverá la aplicación de este párrafo a los bienes que tengan más de un propietario.

(e) La legislatura podrá, según la ley general, a los fines de la tasación y de acuerdo con las disposiciones de esta subsección, facultar a los condados y municipalidades a autorizar por ordenanza la tasación de bienes históricos únicamente en razón de su naturaleza o uso. Dicha tasación en razón de su naturaleza o uso será aplicable únicamente dentro de la jurisdicción donde rija la ordenanza. La ley general debe especificar los requisitos para los bienes considerados admisibles.

(f) Un condado puede, de la manera establecida por la ley general, prever la reducción del valor determinado del bien de familia en el marco de cualquier incremento en el valor determinado de tal bien que resulte de la construcción o reconstrucción del bien con el fin de asignar un espacio para la vivienda a uno o varios padres o abuelos biológicos o adoptivos del propietario o su cónyuge en caso de que al menos uno de los padres o abuelos para quien se provee el espacio para la vivienda tenga 62 años o más. Tal reducción no podrá ser superior al monto menor de los ítems enumerados a continuación:

(1) El incremento del valor determinado que resulte de la construcción o reconstrucción del bien.

(2) El veinte por ciento del valor determinado total del bien mejorado.

(g) En relación con todos los gravámenes, a excepción de aquellos que sean en razón del distrito escolar, la tasación de los bienes residenciales, tal como la define la ley general, que consiste en nueve ambientes o menos y que no está sujeta a las restricciones de la tasación establecidas en los subsecciones comprendidos desde (a) hasta (d), se modificará únicamente conforme a lo dispuesto en esta subsección.

1) Las cuotas sujetas a este subpárrafo se modificarán anualmente en la fecha de liquidación prevista por la ley; sin embargo, dichas modificaciones no podrán exceder los siguientes porcentajes: el diez por ciento (10 %) de la cuota del año anterior:

a. Antes del 1 de enero de 2027, el diez por ciento (10 %).

b. A partir del 1 de enero de 2027, el cinco por ciento (5 %).

(2) Ninguna valoración superará el valor razonable.

(3) Con posterioridad a un cambio de titularidad o dominio, de acuerdo con lo establecido por la ley general, incluido cualquier cambio en la titularidad de una institución legal propietaria del bien, se realizará la tasación de dicho bien de acuerdo con el justo valor vigente a la próxima fecha de tasación. A partir de entonces, se realizará la tasación del bien según lo dispuesto en esta subsección.

(4) Se realizará la tasación de los cambios, agregados, reducciones o mejoras a dicho bien de acuerdo con lo establecido por la ley general. Sin embargo, luego de la revisión por cualquier reforma, agregado, reducción o mejora, se realizará la tasación del bien de acuerdo con las disposiciones establecidas en esta subsección.

(h) En relación con todos los gravámenes, a excepción de aquellos que sean en razón del distrito escolar, las tasaciones de bienes raíces que no estén sujetas a las restricciones a la tasación establecidas en los subsecciones comprendidos de (a) a (d) y (g) podrán modificarse únicamente según lo establecido en esta subsección.

1) Las cuotas sujetas a este subpárrafo se modificarán anualmente en la fecha de liquidación prevista por la ley; sin embargo, dichas modificaciones no podrán exceder los siguientes porcentajes: el diez por ciento (10 %) de la cuota del año anterior:

a. Antes del 1 de enero de 2027, el diez por ciento (10 %).

b. A partir del 1 de enero de 2027, el cinco por ciento (5 %).

(2) Ninguna tasación superará el valor razonable.

(3) La legislatura debe estipular que se realice la tasación de dicho bien en razón del justo valor a la fecha de tasación posterior a una mejora de calidad, conforme lo define la ley general, realizada en el bien. A partir de entonces, se realizará la tasación del bien según lo dispuesto en esta subsección.

(4) La legislatura podrá prever que se realice la tasación de dicho bien en razón del justo valor a la fecha de tasación posterior al cambio de titularidad o dominio, según lo define la ley general, incluido cualquier cambio en la titularidad de la institución legal propietaria del bien. A partir de entonces, se realizará la tasación del bien según lo dispuesto en esta subsección.

(5) Se realizará la tasación de los cambios, agregados, reducciones o mejoras a dicho bien de acuerdo con lo establecido por la ley general. Sin embargo, luego de la revisión por cualquier reforma, agregado, reducción o mejora, se realizará la tasación del bien conforme las disposiciones establecidas en esta subsección.

(i) La legislatura, de acuerdo con la ley general y sujeto a las condiciones allí establecidas, podrá prohibir la consideración de lo enumerado a continuación en relación con la determinación del valor de los bienes raíces que se utilicen con fines residenciales:

(1) Cualquier reforma o mejora realizada con el propósito de mejorar la resistencia al daño causado por viento.

(2) La instalación de un dispositivo de fuente de energía solar u otra energía renovable.

(j)

(1) La evaluación de la propiedad costera utilizable se realizará en base al uso actual de la propiedad:

a. Terreno utilizado principalmente para la pesca comercial.

b. Terreno accesible al público utilizado para el lanzamiento de embarcaciones en aguas navegables.

c. Marinas y guarderías fuera del agua con acceso al público.

d. Astilleros dependientes del agua, instalaciones para la pesca comercial e instalaciones para la construcción y reparación de embarcaciones y sus actividades de soporte.

(2) El beneficio para la tasación que se establece en esta subsección está sujeto a las condiciones y restricciones y las definiciones razonables conforme los dispone la legislatura y la ley general.

SECCIÓN 6. Exenciones impositivas para viviendas familiares. —

(a)(1) A toda persona que tenga título legal o equitativo sobre bienes raíces y los mantenga como residencia permanente del propietario, u otra persona que dependa legal o naturalmente del propietario, estará exenta de tributación sobre los mismos, excepto las evaluaciones por beneficios especiales, como sigue:

1. a. En el caso de los impuestos de los distritos escolares, hasta un valor catastral de veinticinco mil dólares; y

2. b. En el caso de todos los impuestos distintos de los de los distritos escolares.

I. A partir del 1 de enero de 2027, hasta un valor catastral de ciento cincuenta mil dólares.

II. A partir del 1 de enero de 2028, hasta un valor catastral de doscientos cincuenta mil dólares.

b. Cualquier persona que, a partir del 1 de enero de 2027, tenga la titularidad legal o equitativa sobre un bien inmueble y mantenga en el mismo la residencia permanente del propietario, o de otra persona legal o naturalmente dependiente del propietario, que no hubiera mantenido una residencia permanente en este estado a 31 de diciembre de 2026, estará exenta del impuesto correspondiente, salvo las tasas por prestaciones especiales, de la siguiente manera:

1. En el caso de los impuestos de los distritos escolares, hasta un valor catastral de veinticinco mil dólares; y

2. En el caso de todos los impuestos distintos de los de los distritos escolares, hasta un valor catastral de cincuenta mil dólares. Salvo que se modifique lo contrario en virtud del subpárrafo (4)a.2., a partir del quinto año de exención en virtud de este subpárrafo, dicha persona estará exenta hasta el importe de la valoración catastral previsto en el sub-sub-párrafo a.2.II., ajustado de conformidad con el subpárrafo (2). La legislatura establecerá, mediante ley general, procedimientos uniformes para la aplicación de este subpárrafo.

Las exenciones otorgadas por este párrafo se aplican únicamente a cantidades superiores a cincuenta mil dólares y hasta setenta y cinco mil dólares, previa acreditación del derecho a las mismas en la forma prevista por la ley. La titularidad sobre los bienes raíces podrá ser legal o en equidad, mancomunada, solidaria, en común, como condominio, o indirectamente mediante la tenencia de acciones o participaciones que representen el derecho de propiedad del propietario o socio en una sociedad que tenga el dominio o los derechos de arrendamiento que inicialmente superen noventa y ocho años. Las exenciones exención no se aplicará respecto a ningún registro fiscal hasta que primero un organismo estatal designado de conformidad con la ley general determine que dicho registro cumple con las disposiciones de la sección 4. Estas exenciones se revocarán. Esta exención se revocará en la fecha de entrada en vigencia de cualquier enmienda a este Artículo que disponga la tasación de la vivienda familiar a un valor inferior al justo valor.

(2a) El importe de veinticinco mil dólares de la valoración catastral exenta de impuestos previsto en el sub-sub-párrafo (1)a.2.II, del apartado (a)(1)b. se ajustará anualmente por inflación a partir del 1 de enero de 2029, y de cada año posterior, por inflación utilizando el porcentaje de variación del Índice de Precios al Consumo para Todos los Consumidores Urbanos, media de las ciudades de EE. UU., todos los artículos 1967=100, o los informes sucesivos correspondientes al año natural anterior, tal y como los haya comunicado inicialmente la Oficina de Estadísticas Laborales del Departamento de Trabajo de los Estados Unidos, si dicho porcentaje de variación es positivo.

b. El importe de la valoración catastral exenta de impuestos puesta en el sub-subpárrafo (1)b.2 se ajustará anualmente el 1 de enero de 2028 y por cada año por inflación utilizando el cambio porcentual en el Índice de Precios al Consumidor para Todos los Consumidores Urbanos, Promedio de Ciudades de EE. UU., todos los elementos 1967=100, o informes posteriores para el año calendario anterior según lo informado inicialmente por los Estados Unidos, Departamento de Trabajo de los estados, Oficina de Estadísticas Laborales, si dicho cambio porcentual es positivo.

(3) Salvo las exenciones previstas en los sub-subpárrafos (1)a.2. y b.2, y el párrafo (4), el importe de la valoración catastral exenta de

impuestos a la que tiene derecho toda persona que posea la titularidad legal o equitativa de un bien inmueble y mantenga en él la residencia permanente del propietario, o de otra persona legal o naturalmente dependiente del propietario, y que se aplica exclusivamente a los gravámenes distintos de los del distrito escolar, que se añade a la presente Constitución después del 1 de enero de 2025, se ajustará anualmente el 1 de enero de cada año en función de la inflación, utilizando el porcentaje de variación del Índice de Precios al Consumo para Todos los Consumidores Urbanos, media de las ciudades de EE. UU., todos los artículos 1967=100, o los informes sucesivos correspondientes al año natural anterior, tal y como los haya comunicado inicialmente la Oficina de Estadísticas Laborales del Departamento de Trabajo de los Estados Unidos, si dicho porcentaje de variación es positivo, a partir del año siguiente a la fecha de entrada en vigor de dicha exención.

(4)a.1. La legislatura establecerá, mediante ley general, un procedimiento uniforme para que los condados y los municipios, en el marco de sus respectivos sistemas tributarios, puedan aumentar el importe de la valoración catastral exenta de impuestos con arreglo al párrafo (1), hasta alcanzar la totalidad de la valoración catastral restante.

2. A partir del 1 de enero de 2030, un condado o un municipio, mediante el voto favorable de dos tercios de los miembros del órgano de gobierno, podrá determinar que se justifica una reducción del requisito de cinco años previsto en el sub-subpárrafo (1)b.2, debido a una necesidad local imperiosa.

b.1. Un distrito especial podrá, previa aprobación mediante referéndum por parte de los electores del distrito, aumentar el importe de la valoración catastral exenta de impuestos con arreglo a los sub-sub-párrafos (1)a.2. y b.2., para su respectivo gravamen, hasta alcanzar la totalidad de la valoración catastral restante. Mediante una ley general, la legislatura establecerá la forma en que se podrá convocar un referéndum; la frecuencia con la que se podrá celebrar dicho referéndum, que no podrá ser superior a una vez en un período de 12 meses; el texto de la boleta y la pregunta de dicho

HUNTING & FISHING WORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

ANGLER
BAG LIMIT
BAIT
BLINDS
BOBBER
CAMO
CAMOUFLAGE
CASTING
CATCH
DECOY
FLETCHING
GAME
HABITAT
HARVEST
LICENSE
LURE
NET
POACHING
QUARRY
SCENT
SEASON
TACKLE
TRACKING
WILDERNESS

CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

1. A place for wor-ship
7. Referee declara-tion
10. Torsos
12. Used to introduce something
13. Healing method
14. Takes to the sea
15. Make law
16. French coastal city
17. Hawaiian dish
18. Young of domes-tic cattle
19. Women’s under-garments
21. 60-minute inter-vals (abbr.)
22. One after another
27. It’s a hot topic these days
28. Folk band front-man
33. They precede C
34. Heavenly
36. Fiddler crabs
37. Major Hindu deity
38. Hebrew given name

39. Cost per mile
40. ___ Romeo, car
41. Rural municipali-ty in Manitoba
44. Narratives
45. “A tragedy had ___ him”
48. Iranian city
49. Praises publicly
50. Founding Father Franklin
51. Herbal tea

CLUES DOWN

1. Indian unit of mass
2. “Tears in Heaven” singer Clapton
3. Part of a sailing vessel
4. Part of (abbr.)
5. Polynesian garland of flowers
6. Keyboard key
7. One who steals
8. Large oven
9. Former CIA
10. Idea
11. Solomon Islands capital
12. Afrikaans

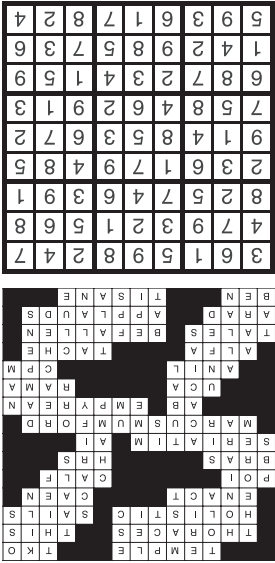
14. Remove thatch
17. Television net-work
18. Jalen Brunson is one
20. Title of respect
23. Flowering trees
24. Occurring in a tube
25. Exists
26. Woman (French)
29. Expression of doubt
30. NHL legend Bobby
31. Accomplished
32. Makes slightly wet
35. National Assn. of Manufacturers
36. Not sated
38. Poe’s middle name
40. Swiss river
41. Rhythmic pattern in Indian music
42. “Shane” actor Ladd
43. Popular whodunit board game
44. Bar bill
45. Ballplayer’s tool
46. Indicates near
47. Feet per second

			1	2	3	4	5	6			7	8	9
		10	11								12		
		13									14		
		15									16		
17											18		
19			20								21		
22				23	24	25	26				27		
	28							29			30	31	32
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			36								37		
			38								39		
		40								41	42	43	
44								45	46	47			
48								49					
50								51					

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to hunting and fishing.

R F E L I



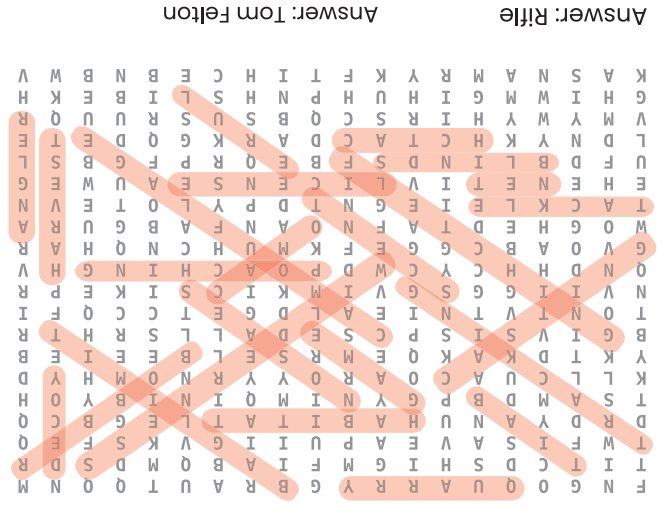
3				9			4	7
4	7			3	2	1		8
	2			7			9	
2					9			
	1	4	8	5				2
		8	4	6			1	3
	8		2	3				9
1							3	
5	9				7	8		

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GUESS WHO ?

I am an actor born on September 22, 1987, in England. I was a talented choir singer as a child and was offered an opportunity to join a prestigious choir. I ended up playing a child villain in a series of films based on books about wizards. Most recently I reprised the role on stage.



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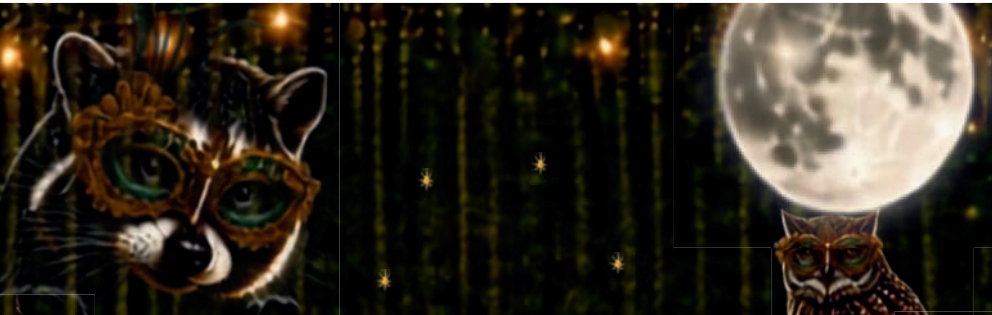
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Rec night at the War Eagle football game



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WEI

From Front Page

50 people in attendance. Shelly Bell, Vice President for Workforce Development at TSC, noted that in addition to workforce training, the design of the building will allow it to serve as a hurricane shelter up to a Category 3 hurricane.

The two-story building will feature classrooms, specialized laboratories, a healthcare simulation center, conference and community meeting spaces, and advanced instructional technology. Dr. Henry Mack, Education Commissioner, called the planned facility a “life-transforming opportunity” for Wakulla residents, and noted efforts by Gov. Ron De-

Santis’ administration to fund job training without student loans for short-term career and technical education programs. Jim Murdaugh, president of TSC, bestowed special credit on TSC’s Vice President for Workforce Development and Brendie Hawkins of the college’s grants department for the project.



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Next game:

Friday, September 25

Wakulla War Eagles host the Suwannee Bulldogs at 7 p.m. at J.D. Jones Stadium.



War Eagles beat Rickards, 14-7

By **WILLIAM SNOWDEN**
Editor

The Wakulla War Eagles outlasted an athletic Rickards Raiders team on Friday night, getting a 14-7 win and improving to 4-1.

Head Coach Derek Allen Jr. noted that his offense struggled to get something going. It was 7-7 at halftime and Wakulla didn’t score the go-ahead touchdown until 2 minutes to go in the 4th quarter.

By that time, the Wakulla offense had worn down the Rickards defense, who were noticeably gassed, as Coach Allen called running play after running play, led by wildcat quarterback Jaylen Jones, who always seems to move the ball forward. He scored on a 22-yard run with 2:21 left in the game.

That drive was set up by a great interception by Demarkus Roberts at his own 25.

Rickards only score came on a super-athletic interception at the line of scrimmage, pulling the pass out of the air and taking it in for a score. That was in the first quarter.

“Not much you could do about that,” Coach Allen said.

On the next series, the War Eagles came right back with a 50-yard bomb from quarterback Ashton Brooks to Demarkus Roberts.

That was all the scor-

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FOOTBALL

PHOTO OF THE WEEK!



Receiver Demarkus Roberts catches a 50-yard bomb for a touchdown. He also had an interception on defense.

Offensive player of the week was Jaylen Jones, who had 17 carries for 108 yards and a touchdown.

Defensive player of the week was Zavion Carnline who had five tackles including a tackle for loss.

Special teams player of the week was Peyton Griffin, the long-snapper.

And overall player of the week was Demarkus Roberts with his touchdown catch and interception.

Kicker Colby Carranza was 2-for-2 on extra points.

Linebacker Rayshon St. Hilaire had 12 tackles.

UP NEXT: SUWANNEE BULLDOGS

District play gets underway this week as the War Eagles host undefeated district rival Suwannee Bulldogs at J.D. Jones Stadium this Friday night.

The Bulldogs are undefeated, and Allen compared the team to Taylor County and his own War Eagles, adding: “They’re a tough opponent.”

Unlike Wakulla, the Bulldogs have really only had one close game out of the five they’ve played, said Allen.

The key to winning, the coach said, is just “Being us. Not trying to get too cute. Not looking for a big play – just taking what they give us.”

COACH'S CORNER

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**COACH
Derek Allen**

FROM THE COACH

Last week: A good win over an athletic Rickards team. Running game wore the Raider defense down.

Scouting: The undefeated Suwannee Bulldogs are a tough opponent. It's a district game.

Key to victory: War Eagles need to be themselves. Play their game, don't look for big plays, just take what the Bulldog defense gives them.

PHOTOS BY
KEN FIELDS

Quarterback Jaylen Jones running for the game-winning touchdown with 2 minutes left in the game.



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 DEMARKUS ROBERTS Receiver, defensive back	 JAYLEN JONES Quarterback	 ZAVION CARNLINE Defensive end	NO PHOTO PEYTON GRIFFIN Long snapper



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