

Time for Peanut Butter Challenge/Page 3

The Wakulla Sun

"It's a New Day"

Locally Owned & Operated

$1 One Section

Our 5th Year 42nd Issue
Thursday, October 15, 2026

WAKULLA WeatherSTEM

Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy
Hi: 87° Lo: 66° 20%	Hi: 87° Lo: 63° 9%	Hi: 77° Lo: 60° 2%
Sunrise 7:39 AM Sunset 7:06 PM	Sunrise 7:40 AM Sunset 7:05 PM	Sunrise 7:41 AM Sunset 7:04 PM

Lake Ellen boat ramp

County abandons decades-long effort to keep public access to private lake

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor



The closed county boat ramp at Lake Ellen with barricades and No Trespassing signs.

Wakulla County commissioners took a step back from a battle that has gone on for years: providing public access to Lake Ellen, which is a private lake

Commissioners voted unanimously at their meeting on Monday, Oct. 5 to abandon the hand-launch boat ramp on Lake Ellen Drive that the county constructed several years ago.

Back in the early 1960s, when the Jones family developed Lake Ellen Estates, the roads in the subdivision were dedicated to the county. In the late 1960s, the state Game and Fish Department constructed a boat ramp on the lake, but it was put on private property.

Fast forward to 2017, Steve Fults bought property on the lake that included the state boat ramp – and Fults closed it to the public, constructing barricades. Fults, at the time, cited concerns about his personal liability for boaters since the ramp is on his land.

The county, using the theory that the road maintenance agreement gives the public a right to access the lake, then constructed a hand-launch boat ramp at the end of Lake Ellen Drive, which runs to the edge of the lake.

There was an ongoing legal battle between Fults and the county over the location of that county ramp, including a lawsuit contending the county has no right to construct a boat ramp on the private property.

At the meeting on Oct. 5, several of the neighborhood's residents showed up in support of closing the boat ramp.

On the agenda was a proposal to buy out Fults property for $250,000 – based on an appraisal – and built a public boat ramp.

Jimmie Duggar, noting the potential financial impacts to the county if Amendment 3 passes in November, recommended maintaining the current status to close access to the lake by the public.

Resident Sara Robinson said she was speaking for several of her neighbors who were opposed to opening the boat ramp: "My biggest concern is safety," she said. You can't have more than two or three people out there on the lake at a time, she said, and she tells her children they have to wait for people to get off the lake.

She also asserted that the lake is private, not public. "Keep the lake private," she said.

Robinson noted that four people have been killed on the lake since the 1960s – those deaths involved boating and water-skiing.

Commissioner Fred Nichols made a motion to close the boat ramp, and it was seconded by Commissioner Quincee Messersmith.

Commissioner Ralph Thomas commented that it wasn't the right time to spend $250,000 to give the public access, but indicated his belief that the county has right-of-way for Lake Ellen Drive, and that public road gives the public a right to access the lake.

"We're walking away from it now," Thomas said, adding: "We're just kicking the can down the road."

In a conversation after the meeting, Thomas

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Hurricane hits Panhandle, very little impact to Wakulla

Staff Report

Wakulla County received rain and some wind from outer bands of Hurricane Isaias as the storm made landfall on Friday, Oct. 9 in Destin.

Emergency Management Director Jennifer Nagy appeared in a Facebook video with Billy Jones, sheriff's office chief of staff, as she reported that one home had a tree fall on it. Otherwise, the county suffered minimal damage – some trees were down and there were some power outages, though power had largely been restored on Saturday, Oct. 10.

In response to the storm, Wakulla schools were closed on Friday, and the district football game against Godby was postponed until Tuesday, Oct. 13.

Also, the Boots & Bingo fundraiser for Rotary Club of Wakulla, which had been set for Saturday, was postponed until Jan. 9 at 3Y Ranch.



Jeff Gentry is welcomed by City Attorney Bill Garner.

New St. Marks city commissioner is appointed

By LINDA ANN McDONALD
Correspondent

The City of St. Marks appointed Jeff Gentry to the City Commission by unanimous vote.

A resident of the city since 2008, Gentry brings a deep environmental background shaped by his 31-year career with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, from which he recently retired. He and his wife, Julie, are proud to call the community home.

His commitment to public service extends beyond his professional work, reflected in his many years of volunteer service with the local fire department.

"I have been a citizen for a long time. I have had time to unwind after retiring, and I am now focused on helping the Commission and City of St. Marks. I am looking forward to being responsible for city growth and road clean up.

"I was attracted to St. Marks because of the residents here, and getting involved and contributing to the place I live is important to me," he said.

City Commissioner Sharon Rudd said, "It goes without saying, with your background at DEP and the way you appreciate our citizens, you are going to provide a lot of value to the City of St. Marks."

Gentry is assuming the role after the passing of former Commissioner and community pillar, John Gunter, who passed away on Sept. 28.

Library opens with big crowd



Library Director Linda Oaks cuts the ribbon at the new library building located at the community center property.

Hundreds of people turned out on a rainy Tuesday morning for the opening of the new Wakulla County Public Library.

A ribbon-cutting was held, hosted by the Wakulla Chamber of Commerce, and Library Director Linda Oaks cut the ribbon to officially open the facility.

A new library has been in the works for years, with various plans and iterations discussed. The new library is actually smaller than the old library – but it feels bigger with its airy design and layout.

To mark the occasion, the Quilting Guild's Hazel Walker presented Oaks and the library with a new quilt with a literary theme: "Once upon a time/in a faraway land/ there lived a..."

– *William Snowden*



Oaks with the Quilting Guild's Hazel Walker.

Judge Layne Smith to face reprimand

News Service of Florida

Wakulla Circuit Judge Layne Smith has been directed to appear before the Florida Supreme Court for a public reprimand over comments telling lawyers in his Wakulla courtroom in a moment of frustration that he'd like to have a deputy "shoot all three of you."

The state justices recently issued an order to impose the reprimand for comments he made during that hearing in September 2025.

The order noted the attorneys couldn't confirm

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FARM BUREAU INSURANCE

Gene Lambert
Agency Manager



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of Wakulla County

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Student of the Week

Savannah Kent – Wakulla Institute

Principal: Vickie Tillman

Achievements/Reason for Nomination: Wakulla Institute is proud to recognize Savannah Kent as this week's Student of the Week. Savannah consistently demonstrates a strong work ethic, a positive attitude, and a commitment to excellence in everything she does. Each day, she arrives at school ready to learn, greet others with a smile, and contribute to a positive school environment. Known for her kindness and willingness to help others, Savannah is a valued member of the school community. She takes pride in her work, approaches every task with determination, and serves as a role model for her peers through her caring nature and respectful demeanor whether in class, in the Legacy Cafe or the Coffee Cafe. Her cheerful personality and dedication make a lasting impact on those around her. Congratulations to Savannah on this well-deserved recognition. We are proud of her accomplishments and grateful for the positivity and compassion she brings to Wakulla Institute each day.



STUDENT OF THE WEEK FEATURES A DIFFERENT SCHOOL EACH WEEK.

Plant of the Week By Sarracenia Chapter of FNPS

Sugarcane Plumegrass



By LYNN ARTZ, DAVID RODDENBERRY, and SANDY TEDDER

Sugarcane plumegrass (Saccharum giganteum) is a dramatically tall wetland bunch grass often reaching 10 feet or more. Equally dramatic are the 6-to-16-inch-tall flower panicles that sit atop erect stems and rival nonnative pampas grass. The showy plumes may be brown/copper, gold/yellow, gray/silver/white, pink, or red/burgundy. Sugarcane plumegrass is a native cousin to cultivated sugarcane from which sugar is made. It is a host plant for several skippers and the common wood-nymph. It provides year-round cover and birds may eat the seeds. Also called giant plumegrass, its range includes the eastern and southeastern U.S. It grows throughout Florida in freshwater marshes, swamps, ponds, lakes, bogs, and swales. It is easily seen now in very wet places in Wakulla County including roadsides and dikes in St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge.

Big Bend Hospice invites you to a

Wakulla County
Volunteer Orientation

BECOME A HOSPICE VOLUNTEER TODAY!

Become a Hospice Volunteer Today!
No prior experience needed, just an open heart and a desire to help.

Tuesday, October 20
9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Wakulla Big Bend Hospice Office
14 Medallion Lane Crawfordville, FL

To learn more, contact
Andrea Zinker
(850) 566-7485
azinker@bigbendhospice.org



Big Bend | Hospice



Wakulla County Tax Collectors Office
SPECIALTY TAGS
$15 - $30 additional to cost of tag.



FLORIDA BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION LICENSE PLATE



The Florida Breast Cancer Foundation (FBCF) was founded by 3 Miami women in 1993. Originally named The South Florida Breast Cancer Coalition, the organization began as a nonprofit, grassroots organization dedicated to ending breast cancer through advocacy, education, and research. With the introduction of the specialty End Breast Cancer license plate in 2002, a second organization was formed the Florida Breast Cancer Coalition Research Foundation - created to receive the funds from the sale of the plate. A few years later our official name changed to the Florida Breast Cancer Foundation, but our mission and vision remains the same.



Extension Office launches its annual Peanut Butter Challenge

By RACHEL PIENTA
4-H Director

UF/IFAS Extension Wakulla County is inviting residents, businesses, schools, civic groups and clubs to take part in the 2026 Peanut Butter Challenge, a monthlong effort that turns jars of peanut butter into practical help for neighbors facing food insecurity.

From Oct. 1 through Oct. 31, the community may donate unopened, unexpired jars of peanut butter in any size at the UF/IFAS Extension Wakulla County office, 84 Cedar Ave. in Crawfordville. Donations collected in Wakulla County will support local food assistance partners. Counties across Florida will also compare collection totals in a friendly statewide competition.

This year's local campaign recognizes the sustained advocacy of Wakulla 4-H member Josie Counce, who has helped make the challenge visible in the community since she was in elementary school. In 2020, as a second grader, Counce collected 162 jars for families in need through Wakulla County 4-H. The following year, Wakulla County 4-H celebrated her collection of 400 jars. In 2023, she stepped forward again to ask community members to join the countywide effort.



4-H member Josie Counce with peanut butter at the county commission meeting on Oct. 5.

"Josie's commitment shows what 4-H youth leadership looks like in action," said Dr. Rachel Pienta, UF/IFAS Extension Wakulla County 4-H youth development agent. "Year after year, she has used her voice, initiative and service to invite others into a simple act of generosity. Her example reminds us that young people can build momentum, strengthen community partnerships and make a measurable local difference."

The challenge began in Florida's Panhandle in 2012 and expanded statewide in 2020. In 2025, participating communities collected a record 44,564 pounds of peanut butter for local food pantries. The 2026 campaign marks the 14th annual challenge.

Peanut butter is a valuable pantry donation because it is shelf-stable, nutrient-dense and widely used by families. The campaign also celebrates Florida agriculture. Florida ranks third nationally in peanut production, and many of the state's peanut acres are concentrated in the Panhandle and other North Florida growing regions.

"Every jar matters, and every person or organization that hosts a collection helps extend the reach of this effort," Pienta said. "We encourage workplaces, classrooms, clubs, congregations and neighborhood groups to set a goal, challenge one another and bring their donations to the Extension office by Oct. 31."

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

• Donate unopened, unexpired jars of peanut butter in any size.

• Drop off donations Oct. 1–31 at UF/IFAS Extension Wakulla County, 84 Cedar Avenue, Crawfordville.

• Organize a collection at a school, club, workplace, business, congregation or community group.

• Call (850) 926-3931 to discuss a local partnership or collection effort.

• Learn more at sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/peanutbutter.

Lake Ellen

From Front Page

dragged on for nine years that he's been on the board and he anticipated it would just continue. He noted the original plat of the development showed a boat ramp at that location.

Thomas said residents of Lake Ellen Estates who are not on the lakefront should get together and file a lawsuit to get a judge to determine if they have rights to access the lake.

The county used the same theory of right-of-way on a public road to build a boat ramp on Blue Dolphin Drive in Oyster Bay, near Shell Point.

But that ramp was also constructed on private land and maintenance by the county was abandoned – it was on a canal that is privately owned and the county's right-of-way did not extend to the water. That boat ramp has signage that it is private and warns that vehicles parked on the right-of-way will be towed.

Property owners on Lake Ellen own to the bottom of the lake and are taxed on it, which makes it private, the landowners contend. The land was part of the Forbes Purchase and predates Florida statehood.

A memo in the county commission's agenda packet notes that the question of whether the lake is private or if the dedication of Lake Ellen Drive gives the public a right to access has not been determined by a court.

At the Oct. 5 meeting, Commissioner Josh Lawhon asked if that portion of Lake Ellen Drive could be abandoned? The only property owners on that part of the dirt road are Fults and Joe Avara, both of whom have opposed the boat ramp.

County Attorney Heather Encinosa said abandonment of the road by the county is "Up to the property owners."

Several area residents have complained about drinking and drugs at the ramp.

A recent visit to the area by the Wakulla Sun showed a barricade across the ramp and numerous signs warning visitors to "Keep out" and "No trespassing." There were also numerous security cameras covering the lake front and road.

Judge Smith

From Front Page

that a party had been properly served, and Smith stated: "I would like to tell the deputy to pull his gun and shoot all three of you as far as my level of frustration right now. I really don't want him to do that."

The court order also notes that Smith, who recused himself from the case on Oct. 2, 2025, also called the attorneys "Keystone Cops" and the "Apple Dumpling Gang."

Smith self-reported his behavior on Oct. 21 and issued a public apology.

The Judicial Qualifications Commission in recommending the reprimand stated Smith's actions violated various canons of the Code of Judicial Conduct, which requires judges to "perform judicial duties without bias or prejudice." But the commission also noted Smith had "no prior disciplinary history and has been remorseful and cooperative."

The justices wrote that "although we accept the Commission's recommendation, we emphasize that Judge Smith's conduct fell far below the standard of professionalism that Florida judges owe to those who appear before them."

Smith was appointed to the Second Circuit Court in 2020 by Gov. Ron DeSantis. He had been a Leon County judge since 2015 and previously served as general counsel for the Department of Lottery and the Department of Business and Professional Regulation.

PUBLIC NOTICES:

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

FLORIDA PUBLIC NOTICES
WWW.FLORIDAPUBLICNOTICES.COM

City of Sopchoppy Notice of Public Meeting

The City of Sopchoppy will hold a regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 27, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at City Hall, 105 Municipal Avenue, Sopchoppy, FL.

Purpose of Meeting: General Business.

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

Persons with a disability needing a special accommodation should contact the City of Sopchoppy, Administration Office at least two (2) days prior to the meeting at (850) 962-4611.

Oct. 15, 2026

FLORIDA PACE FUNDING AGENCY

NOTICE OF INTENT TO USE UNIFORM METHOD OF COLLECTING NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENTS

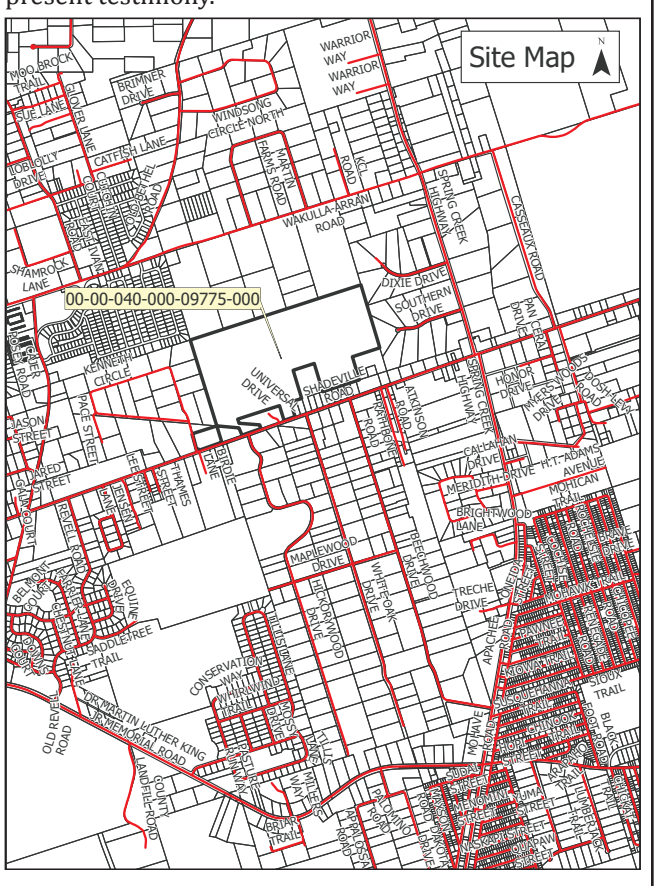
The Board of Directors (the "Board") of the Florida PACE Funding Agency, a public body corporate and politic, (the "Agency"), hereby provides notice, pursuant to Sections 163.08, 163.081, 163.082 and 197.3632(3)(a), Florida Statutes, each as amended from time to time, of its intent to use the uniform method of collecting non-ad valorem assessments for more than one year to be levied within the area encompassed by the boundaries of every county in Florida, or any of the municipalities therein, served by the Agency's statewide provision of funding and financing to assist property owners who wish to construct, install or otherwise obtain qualifying improvements identified by the Legislature including, but not limited to, energy conservation and efficiency improvements, renewable energy improvements, and wind resistance improvements, in accordance with Section 163.08, et seq., Florida Statutes, as amended (collectively, the "Qualifying Improvements"). By law and resolution of the Agency, a property owner may apply to the Agency for funding and financing of Qualifying Improvements. The non-ad valorem assessments contemplated by this notice are voluntary and are only imposed by the Agency with the prior written consent authorized by or on behalf of affected property owners who determine to obtain financing for Qualifying Improvements from the Agency. The Agency is authorized by state law to fund and finance Qualifying Improvements and is required to annually collect repayment by non-ad valorem assessments to be collected by the Tax Collector in each County. The Board will consider the adoption of a resolution electing to use the uniform method of collecting such assessments as authorized by Section 197.3632, Florida Statutes, after a public hearing to be held at 401 Dyer Blvd Kissimmee FL on November 3, 2026, at 2pm. In the event of a local or national emergency, a hurricane, or any other interfering circumstance, if necessary, the meeting may be continued to a time, date, and place certain, and notice thereof, along with appropriate means for public attendance and participation, if other than in-person, will be posted on the Agency's website. Such resolution electing to use such uniform method will state the need for the levy and will contain a legal description of the boundaries of the real property that may be subject to the levy – which is the entirety of the State of Florida. A copy of the proposed form of resolution and other information may be viewed at the Agency's website: www.FloridaPACE.Gov. All affected property owners have the right to be heard on the matter via advance written objection or by appearing in person at the public hearing. Advance written communication will be given equal weight to comments or objections made in person, and may be submitted to the Board via email to Info@FloridaPACE.Gov; and should be received by the Agency on or before November 2, 2026 at 8am, so that copies can be distributed to Board members for advance review and hearing preparation purposes. Any person desiring to speak in person may appear at the public hearing. If any person decides to appeal any decision made with respect to any matter considered at this public hearing, such person will need a record of proceedings and for such purpose such person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made at their own expense and which record includes the testimony and evidence on which the appeal is based. Any person requiring a special accommodation at this meeting due to disability or physical impairment or needing an interpreter to participate in this proceeding should contact the Agency at 850-400-PACE at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. If hearing impaired, Florida Relay Service numbers for assistance are (800) 955-8771 (tdd) or (800) 955-8770 (voice).

Oct. 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

FOLLOW THE SUN.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING AN APPLICATION FOR APPEAL TO THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

The Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners, serving as the Board of Adjustment, will hold a special meeting and public hearing to consider the proposed appeals described below. A Special Meeting and Public Hearing is scheduled before the **Board of County Commissioners on Wednesday, October 28, 2026, at 1:00 P.M. unless otherwise noted below or as time permits.** The public hearing will be held at the County Commission Chambers located west of the County Courthouse at 29 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida 32327. Interested parties are invited to attend and present testimony.



1. Application for Appeal to the Board of Adjustment: BOA26-01 and BOA26-02

Applicant: Richard Garth Blake II

Proposal: appeal of the Planning and Community Development Director's approval of the issuance of Development Permit Application DP#26-001038

Tax ID Number: 00-00-040-000-09775-000

Existing FLU Map: Rural 2 (FLUE Policy 1.2.5); Agriculture (FLUE Policy 1.2.3); Urban Fringe (FLUE Policy 1.2.7)

Current Zoning: PUD (Section 5-50, LDC)

FEMA Flood Info: "X" & "A" zones on Panel 0250E

Parcel size: 174.50+/- acres

Location: north side of Shadeville Road, approximately three-quarters of a mile east of Cajer Posey Road

Hearing Required: BOCC: Wednesday, October 28, 2026 @ 1:00 PM

Copies of applications, draft ordinances, and any related public record files may be viewed at the County Planning Department located at 11 Bream Fountain Road, Crawfordville, FL 32327, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM M-F; Phone (850) 926-3695. Any person desiring to appeal a decision of a County Board must ensure a verbatim transcript or copy is made of the testimony and exhibits presented at said hearings. Persons with a disability needing a special accommodation should contact the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners Administration Office at least two (2) days prior to the meeting at (850) 926-0919; Hearing and Voice Impaired at 1-800-955-8771; or email at ADARequest@mywakulla.com.

October 15, 2026

Opinions

THE FIRST AMENDMENT

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

LETTERS FROM READERS

Friends of the Refuge need help

Editor, The Sun:

The non-profit Friends group that supports education and conservation of the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge in Wakulla County needs help. If you are interested in sharing your skills with us for a few hours each month, please read on!

Are you organized, like crunching numbers and want to enjoy helping the St. Marks wildlife? Please consider applying for the Treasurer position with our dedicated Board of Directors. You will train with our Bookkeeper and become an important contributor to the Friends' mission in keeping the refuge strong and vibrant. Whether you are an experienced financial professional or an organized volunteer looking to make a difference in the community, consider checking out this important position. Please email Bookkeeper Joye Vail at smrbookkeeper1931@gmail.com for more information.

Love the refuge and like meeting people? Please consider applying to become one of our Nature Store volunteers. The store provides the largest source of income for the Friends of St. Marks Wildlife Refuge to support refuge programs. The store is currently open on Fridays and Saturdays in the refuge Visitor Center and shifts are 3.5 hours. No prior sales experience needed – just your friendly smile and enthusiasm! Please email Nature Store Manager Robbin Trindell at naturestoremanager@gmail.com for more information and come by and check out the store!

Friends of St. Marks National Refuge



WCHS volunteer is Gail Campbell

Gail Campbell, left, was named the Wakulla County Historical Society's volunteer of the year at the group's annual dinner held Thursday, Oct. 8. Seen with Campbell are WCHS secretary Arlene Vause and President Andrea Carter. (Photo by Lynda Kinsey)

Thanks BOCC for Lake Ellen vote

Editor, The Sun:

I believe all the residents of Wakulla County should be thanking our Wakulla County commissioners for their October 5 decision against purchasing the Lake Ellen landing property and for initiating the process to close this water-access area that was placed on private property. Their decision reflects the financial discipline our growing county needs – today and in the years ahead.

The reported $253,000 property appraisal represented clearly only the beginning of the potential expense. Developing and operating a public landing would bring construction, maintenance, policing, and safety costs, along with potentially substantial liabilities and legal expenses. Purchasing the property also would not settle the disputed questions of lake ownership or public access.

For Lake Ellen's 37 lakefront homeowners, these concerns are deeply personal. They involve property rights, privacy, safety, and the quiet enjoyment of our homes, particularly those immediately beside the landing. The county attorney's reported assessment that important access questions would require judicial review underscores the substantial financial risk of proceeding.

The larger issue is now how Wakulla prepares for its future. Population growth places increasing demands on county services. Hurricanes, severe storms, and flooding require financial reserves and resilient infrastructure. Pressure to reduce property taxes makes careful spending even more important.

At the same time, artificial intelligence is creating new opportunities – and uncertainties – for businesses, workers, and state and local governments. Wakulla should prepare for those changes and explore responsible ways to use AI to reduce administrative costs and improve services. Every avoidable recurring expense leaves fewer resources for essential needs.

I also encourage commissioners to review whether the approximately 500-foot dead-end section of Lake Ellen Drive leading to the former landing should remain county-maintained. Both homeowners along that section favor closure. If maintenance costs are $2,000 to $3,000 annually, as estimated, that represents $20,000 to $30,000 over a decade, before inflation. The county should verify those costs and consider a lawful closure that preserves necessary residential, utility, and emergency access.

Thank you again, commissioners, for considering both the short and the long-term costs and consequences of this proposed purchase.

John Lee, Ph.D.
Lake Ellen resident

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 October 15

Thursday, October 15

• Stone Crab season opens.
• Barns Liquors in Panacea will host a Chamber After-Hours/customer appreciation from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
• The Rotary Club of Wakulla County meets at the Wakulla Public Library 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.

Friday, October 16

• Wakulla War Eagles have a bye week.
• Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon and 7 p.m. every Friday at 54 Ochlockonee St.

Saturday, October 17

• Feathers & Fur Masquerade Ball – Moonlight in the Wild, a fundraiser for Florida Wild Mammal Association, will be held from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. at the Historic Sopchoppy Gymnasium in Sopchoppy. Tickets are $75 per person. Contact FWMA at (904) 424-5473 or donna.fwma@gmail.com.
• First Baptist Church Fall Festival will be held at the church from 3 to 6 p.m.
• Craft Bake and Plant Sale will be held at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sunday, October 18

• Wakulla Giving Hands food giveaway every Sunday from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the facility across from Medart Elementary on Highway 98. Line up begins at 11 a.m.
• Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Sunday at 6:30 p.m. at 54 Ochlockonee St.

Monday, October 19

• Wakulla County School Board meets at the district office at 5:45 p.m.
• Wakulla County Commission meets in commission chambers at 6 p.m.
• The Wakulla Respite Program is available for anyone with memory impairment at no cost from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Lake Ellen Baptist Church every Monday.
• Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6 p.m. for women and 8 p.m. for men every Monday at 54 Ochlockonee St.
• Gentle Yoga and Stetching Class with Margaret every Monday at 11 a.m. First Baptist Church CLC Building in Crawfordville. Bring a mat.

Tuesday, October 20

• Sopchoppy community dinner is held every week at the Towles House at 6:30 p.m.
• Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at 54 Ochlockonee St.

Wednesday, October 21

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

UPCOMING
Saturday, October 24

• Story Walk, the Wakulla Public Library's giant Halloween-themed festival, will be held at Hudson and Azalea parks from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

"It's A New Day!"
The Wakulla Sun






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You can support The Wakulla Sun with a tax-deductible donation to help us cover the stories that matter to you.
By donating, you help us keep citizens informed, hold officials accountable and cover the most important topics in our community.
Your contributions will equip our newsroom to better serve you and all our readers.
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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– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

Polled at the Wakulla County Historical Society's annual dinner:

What is a fun historical fact about Wakulla County?



BRENT THURMOND
Retired Clerk of Courts
"The Spanish were here 500 years ago. There are only a handful of places in the U.S. that can celebrate the 500 year anniversary of a historical event."



CATHY FRANK
WCHS Board Member
"We have so many beautiful natural resources. You can still visit the old Fort and many other historical locations in Wakulla."



GAIL CAMPBELL
WCHS Volunteer
"We were just talking about the Salt Works and how they gained traction here in Wakulla. It was so good for the economy for Wakulla County during the Civil War. "



DONNIE SPARKMAN
Property Appraiser
"I don't think there is anywhere in the state of Florida that has saltwater, fresh water, refuges, forests, springs and the greatest people in the world. We have it all!"



MARK HUDSON
Retired
"Wakulla used to be part of Leon County!"

Wakulla Crossroads

By VERNA BROCK

Well, neighbors, we seem to have mercifully dodged a bullet named Isaias. Considering many continue to recover from Hurricanes Michael, Idalia and Helene, any escape from further damage is a true blessing.

Folks to our West have not been so fortunate, and many will be cleaning up for a while. As we have painfully learned, storms don't have to be Category 4 or 5 to turn lives upside down.

Kudos to all the Good Samaritans who have stepped up and volunteered. Gratitude to all the linemen, lawmen, and businesses that are filling the gaps while our fellow Floridians dig their way out from under storm damage and debris. Once again, human kindness prevails.

The Wakulla United Methodist Church had a meaningful Homecoming celebration this past Sunday, full of fellowship and good food. Much reminiscing about the past, as well as loved ones no longer with us, filled conversations. This congregation has witnessed nearly two centuries of history: from statehood, to the Civil War, to reconciliation, two world wars and a great depression, the civil rights movement and the advent of the digital age.

Time never stops moving forward, and change is a sign of life. Right now, change seems to be rocketing along at light speed! I hope my little church continues, with God's help, to weather any and all shifts that may come our way for the next century.

Last week, news of a relative's death arrived, leaving my family feeling sad and a little shocked. He lived some distance away, so opportunities to see him were few and far between. But his nearness was always felt. In my mind, he was always a vital and young-at-heart presence, despite being nearly 90.

Part of my grief rests in my regret at not seeing him for so long, in not making sure he knew how much I appreciated him. From his warm sense of humor, to his compassion for others and his dedication to family, I loved everything about him from the first time I met him. He was a truly good and decent man, and will be deeply missed. But I never actually told him this, maybe because that would have meant acknowledging how short time is growing.

I am going to make an effort to avoid repeating this mistake. I think that great affliction, denial, continues to blind me to the realities of getting older, no matter how firm my resolve to resist its lies.

Mundane life makes it easy to ignore how quickly time is slipping away, stealing opportunities to reach out to our loved ones before it's too late. Mark my words, one day we'll wake up and realize there will be no "later on." The time is now, or it will be never. I am convinced it is far more important to tell our loved ones how we feel now, rather than pretend we have plenty of time left. Because really, do any of us know the hour or the day when our moments will cease?

The least I can do is learn my lesson and focus on being more aware of how I embrace the moments I have left!

Library News

By LINDA OAKS
Library Director

Library News October 15th– October 21st

Thursday, October 15th
• Rotary Club of Wakulla 8:30am

Friday, October 16th
• Quilting Guild 9:30am
• Tiny Tummy Time 9:30am
•Creative Writing I 10am
• Veteran's Meetup 11am
• Bible Reading 6pm
• Wakulla Amateur Radio Club 7pm

Saturday, October 17th
• Read Therapy Dogs 10am

Sunday, October 18th
• CLOSED

Monday, October 19th
• American Legion Post 114 5:30pm
• American Legion Auxiliary 6:30pm

Tuesday, October 20th
• Book Bunch 10am

Wednesday, October 21st
• Book Babies 10am
• Mahjong 1pm
• Knitting Group 4pm
• Lego Club 4:30pm
• Evening Mahjong 4:30pm
• Lego Robotics 6pm
• Fla Sarracenia Chapter Native Plant Society 6pm

Finance workshop offered

A finance workshop is being offered at Little Salem Primitive Baptist Church on Saturday, Oct. 17 from 9 a.m. to noon.

The workshop is being facilitated by William McCloud, Certified Financial Planner.

The workshop will cover topics such as retirement, investments, wills vs. trusts, Social Security, and Medicaid and Medicare.

Little Salem is located at 1998 Wakulla-Arran Road in Crawfordville.

The event is open to the community.

For more information, call (850) 284-9223 or (850) 597-2344.





Outdoors

outdoor sports

HOME ON THE RANGE

Three .38 revolvers



By MARJ LAW

"What shall we shoot today?" I ask Joe on Wednesday when we are at the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office range. We like to go on Wednesdays about 10 in case others would like to shoot with us or need a bit of assistance.

".38s," Joe replies.

"You know how I hate them, especially for those of us who like a light trigger and a light recoil," I remind him. "Guys buy revolvers all the time for women, probably because they think women can only learn to point and shoot and can't figure how to manage a semi-automatic."

"Maybe these three will change your mind," he suggests.

I really don't want to do this, but it's probably time to talk .38 revolvers.

Joe sets us up. We are using a Smith & Wesson K38 Masterpiece, a Colt Diamondback, and a Smith & Wesson Chief's Special. Barrel lengths are different. The Chief is 1 7/8 inches, the Colt is 3 7/8 inches, and the K-38 is 5 3/4 inches. Will the length of the barrels make a difference in recoil and accuracy?

"We're going to make this easy," says Joe. "First, we'll shoot single action only." (This is when you cock the hammer, so the trigger only has to release it. Shooting .38s is a lot easier when all you have to do is cock the hammer first.)

"Furthermore, we'll shoot Wadcutters. Wadcutters have a lighter charge, so there should be less recoil. And in single action, the trigger will be light, too," says Joe.

"Yeah, yeah, yeah." I'm so not into revolvers.

First, we get to shoot that snubby Chief. I pull the trigger and shoot. Wow! Easy trigger pull!

Recoil is a different matter. It's stiff. Joe thinks so too.

We shoot three rounds each. Yep, all six bullets have hit the target. That doesn't mean I like shooting the Chief.

Next, we shoot the Colt with the longer barrel. Cocking the hammer, trigger is light. Recoil? OK, recoil is a bit less than the snubby. Not a whole lot less, but less.

Last, we shoot the K-38. It has that nice long barrel. Again, trigger is light in single action. Recoil? It's less than the other two handguns.

We have shot three rounds each in each target and each target shows six holes. That's good. In a time of danger, will you remember to cock the hammer first?



Next, we're going to shoot using PMC Bronze .38s in Full Metal Jacket.

And this time we're shooting in double action. Great. Double action means you don't cock the hammer first. This means that trigger is going to have to cock the hammer, rotate the cylinder, and then release the hammer, which makes for a much harder trigger pull.

What do you know? Joe wants to shoot the snubby Chief first. Joe will shoot three, and then I will shoot three rounds.

Goody.

Joe reports trigger pull is firm, but he gets all three rounds on the target.

My turn. I pull. It's hard. Can't do it. I push the trigger with my shooting finger all the way to the first knuckle. No dice.

Finally, I stick my left finger on top of my right shooting finger. Now, I'm able to pull the trigger. Even with two fingers in the trigger, the snubby Chief has a strong trigger pull. Not fun at all. And travel? That's long, too. But the good news? All of my three rounds are on the target too.

You have to really decide to shoot the Chief, because trigger pull is so hard, and travel is long. This gun definitely won't fire unless you're good and ready. And even then, I wouldn't want to shoot it for fun at the range.

"With Joe's three and my three, none have made a tight grouping. But as a defensive weapon, the snubby does work." I think grudgingly, looking at the six holes in the targets and shaking out my sore trigger finger.

Next, we shoot the Colt. I still need two fingers to pull the trigger. It's hard. Joe thinks differently and says it's lighter than the Chief. Well, his fingers are stronger than mine.

Travel on this gun is somewhat long. Not so long as the snubby, but long. Recoil is strong; almost as hard as the snubby.

Together, our 6 rounds make a tight group south of the bull's-eye.

Finally, we shoot the K-38.

This guy has a lighter trigger with less travel than the others. Yes, I can shoot it with just my dominant trigger finger, but it's still hard enough for me to want to use both fingers. Not so bad.

Recoil is lighter, too. H'm. With this long-barreled gun, I might change my mind about .38s. All three shots hit the target, just like Joe's.

Heck, all of the targets have six holes with Joe shooting three and me shooting three in double action. All three .38s are accurate.

Whether a long or short barrel gun, a .38 is a good defensive weapon.

Have I changed my mind about 38s?

No. Both the S&W K-38 and the Colt are too long for my holster or purse, and they are not fun to shoot.

The snubby S&W Chief?

No. Trigger pull and travel are hard and long. Would I want to go to the range for practice? No. No. This is why I hope women try out a .38 at a range before they consider purchasing one.

A snubby .38 that fits in your purse is not fun to shoot. And, because the .38 has a cylinder, it's wider than almost any semi-automatic handgun. So, if a small person were to wear it in a holster inside the waistband or in a purse, it'll be fatter than a semi-automatic.

Some .38s are very light. Even though they may not weigh down your purse, they'll have more recoil than the Chief because the heavy mass of the metal Chief will absorb some of the recoil. Lightweight guns have little mass to absorb recoil, so they'll be even more difficult to control.

In my opinion, a .38 is not a handgun for a small-boned, challenged, or mature new shooter. It's fat to hide, has a hard trigger and a stiff recoil.

The good thing is that 9mm or even .380 handguns can be much easier to manage, and can hit the target just as well. You'll be more likely to want to practice at the range. Practice is a good thing.

If you ever need to protect your life, having practiced with your gun ahead of time means you're more likely to be alive should you ever have to protect yourself from certain harm.

"Have you changed your mind about .38s?" Joe asks. "Especially the snub-nose .38?"

"That's a hard 'NO!' for the snubby. And trigger pull on these other .38s is too much for me.

However, I have to admit that when we shot three rounds each, every single bullet hit those 8-inch targets at 7½ yards."

Still. I'm not crazy about .38s.

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



LINED SEA HORSE
(Hippocampus erectus)

This larger seahorse species lives in sea grass and coral reefs feeding on tiny crustaceans using its long tongue. All sea horses are "marsupium" with the father taking eggs from the mother and carrying the babies until they are ready to swim free. Sea horse males will spar for a female with tail wrestling and head snapping. Seahorses form monogamous pair bonds after an elaborate courtships dance that lasts for three days before mating. The female stay with the male throughout his pregnancy.

Eukarya, Animalia, Chordata, Actinopterygii, Gasteroteiformes, Sygnathisdae, Hippocampus erectus

Gulf Specimen Marine Laboratory
www.gulfspecimen.org

WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO



Retired park ranger Robert Thompson was on his wildlife survey at Wakulla Springs recently and shot this photo of a pair of white ibis.

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Water Ways

a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences



Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

Oct. 15 - Oct. 21

Tide charts by tides4fishing.com

	First	Full	Last	New
	Oct. 18	Oct. 26	Nov. 1	Nov. 9

Best fishing days this month

Best fishing day(s) is in the center of date ranges.

Oct. 18, 23-29

For tides at the following points add to Dog Island Listings:

	High Tide	Low Tide
Carrabelle	28 Min.	25 Min.
Apalachicola	1 Hr., 53 Min.	2 Hrs., 38 Min.
Cat Point	1 Hr., 13 Min.	2 Hrs., 31 Min.
Lower Anchorage	1 Hr., 36 Min.	2 Hrs., 3 Min.
West Pass	1 Hr., 26 Min.	2 Hrs., 39 Min.

St. Marks River Entrance

Th	1st 4:11 AM ▲ 3.6 ft	2nd 11:44 AM ▼ 0.4 ft	3rd 6:12 PM ▲ 2.9 ft	4th 10:57 PM ▼ 1.8 ft
Fr	1st 4:41 AM ▲ 3.5 ft	2nd 12:35 PM ▼ 0.6 ft	3rd 7:09 PM ▲ 2.7 ft	4th 11:36 PM ▼ 2.0 ft
Sa	1st 5:17 AM ▲ 3.3 ft	2nd 1:42 PM ▼ 0.9 ft	3rd 8:28 PM ▲ 2.6 ft	4th —
Su	1st 12:36 AM ▼ 2.2 ft	2nd 6:09 AM ▲ 3.0 ft	3rd 3:03 PM ▼ 1.0 ft	4th 10:01 PM ▲ 2.6 ft
Mo	1st 2:20 AM ▼ 2.2 ft	2nd 7:56 AM ▲ 2.8 ft	3rd 4:18 PM ▼ 0.9 ft	4th 11:06 PM ▲ 2.8 ft
Tu	1st 4:17 AM ▼ 2.0 ft	2nd 10:20 AM ▲ 2.8 ft	3rd 5:16 PM ▼ 0.9 ft	4th 11:48 PM ▲ 3.0 ft
We	1st 5:29 AM ▼ 1.6 ft	2nd 11:36 AM ▲ 3.1 ft	3rd 6:00 PM ▼ 0.8 ft	4th —

City of St. Marks

Th	1st 4:47 AM ▲ 3.4 ft	2nd 12:48 PM ▼ 0.4 ft	3rd 6:48 PM ▲ 2.7 ft	4th —
Fr	1st 12:01 AM ▼ 1.7 ft	2nd 5:17 AM ▲ 3.2 ft	3rd 1:39 PM ▼ 0.6 ft	4th 7:45 PM ▲ 2.5 ft
Sa	1st 12:40 AM ▼ 1.8 ft	2nd 5:53 AM ▲ 3.0 ft	3rd 2:46 PM ▼ 0.8 ft	4th 9:04 PM ▲ 2.4 ft
Su	1st 1:40 AM ▼ 2.0 ft	2nd 6:45 AM ▲ 2.8 ft	3rd 4:07 PM ▼ 0.9 ft	4th 10:37 PM ▲ 2.4 ft
Mo	1st 3:24 AM ▼ 2.0 ft	2nd 8:32 AM ▲ 2.6 ft	3rd 5:22 PM ▼ 0.8 ft	4th 11:42 PM ▲ 2.6 ft
Tu	1st 5:21 AM ▼ 1.8 ft	2nd 10:56 AM ▲ 2.6 ft	3rd 6:20 PM ▼ 0.8 ft	4th —
We	1st 12:24 AM ▲ 2.8 ft	2nd 6:33 AM ▼ 1.5 ft	3rd 12:12 PM ▲ 2.8 ft	4th 7:04 PM ▼ 0.7 ft

Shell Point, Spring Creek

Th	1st 4:26 AM ▲ 3.7 ft	2nd 12:00 PM ▼ 0.5 ft	3rd 6:28 PM ▲ 3.0 ft	4th 11:13 PM ▼ 1.9 ft
Fr	1st 4:56 AM ▲ 3.6 ft	2nd 12:51 PM ▼ 0.7 ft	3rd 7:25 PM ▲ 2.8 ft	4th 11:52 PM ▼ 2.1 ft
Sa	1st 5:32 AM ▲ 3.4 ft	2nd 1:58 PM ▼ 1.0 ft	3rd 8:44 PM ▲ 2.7 ft	4th —
Su	1st 12:52 AM ▼ 2.3 ft	2nd 6:25 AM ▲ 3.1 ft	3rd 3:19 PM ▼ 1.1 ft	4th 10:17 PM ▲ 2.7 ft
Mo	1st 2:36 AM ▼ 2.3 ft	2nd 8:12 AM ▲ 2.9 ft	3rd 4:34 PM ▼ 1.0 ft	4th 11:22 PM ▲ 2.9 ft
Tu	1st 4:33 AM ▼ 2.1 ft	2nd 10:36 AM ▲ 2.9 ft	3rd 5:32 PM ▼ 1.0 ft	4th —
We	1st 12:04 AM ▲ 3.1 ft	2nd 5:45 AM ▼ 1.7 ft	3rd 11:52 AM ▲ 3.2 ft	4th 6:16 PM ▼ 0.9 ft

Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay

Th	1st 4:03 AM ▲ 2.7 ft	2nd 11:56 AM ▼ 0.3 ft	3rd 6:04 PM ▲ 2.2 ft	4th 11:08 PM ▼ 1.4 ft
Fr	1st 4:33 AM ▲ 2.6 ft	2nd 12:47 PM ▼ 0.5 ft	3rd 7:01 PM ▲ 2.0 ft	4th 11:48 PM ▼ 1.5 ft
Sa	1st 5:09 AM ▲ 2.4 ft	2nd 1:54 PM ▼ 0.7 ft	3rd 8:20 PM ▲ 1.9 ft	4th —
Su	1st 12:28 AM ▼ 1.7 ft	2nd 6:01 AM ▲ 2.2 ft	3rd 3:15 PM ▼ 0.8 ft	4th 9:53 PM ▲ 1.9 ft
Mo	1st 2:12 AM ▼ 1.7 ft	2nd 7:48 AM ▲ 2.1 ft	3rd 4:30 PM ▼ 0.7 ft	4th 10:58 PM ▲ 2.1 ft
Tu	1st 4:09 AM ▼ 1.5 ft	2nd 10:12 AM ▲ 2.1 ft	3rd 5:28 PM ▼ 0.7 ft	4th 11:40 PM ▲ 2.3 ft
We	1st 5:21 AM ▼ 1.2 ft	2nd 11:28 AM ▲ 2.4 ft	3rd 6:12 PM ▼ 0.6 ft	4th —

St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.

Th	1st 4:15 AM ▲ 2.8 ft	2nd 12:08 PM ▼ 0.4 ft	3rd 6:16 PM ▲ 2.3 ft	4th 11:05 PM ▼ 1.5 ft
Fr	1st 4:45 AM ▲ 2.7 ft	2nd 12:59 PM ▼ 0.6 ft	3rd 7:13 PM ▲ 2.1 ft	4th 11:44 PM ▼ 1.6 ft
Sa	1st 5:21 AM ▲ 2.5 ft	2nd 2:06 PM ▼ 0.8 ft	3rd 8:32 PM ▲ 2.0 ft	4th —
Su	1st 12:40 AM ▼ 1.8 ft	2nd 6:13 AM ▲ 2.3 ft	3rd 3:27 PM ▼ 0.9 ft	4th 10:05 PM ▲ 2.0 ft
Mo	1st 2:24 AM ▼ 1.8 ft	2nd 8:00 AM ▲ 2.2 ft	3rd 4:42 PM ▼ 0.8 ft	4th 11:10 PM ▲ 2.2 ft
Tu	1st 4:21 AM ▼ 1.6 ft	2nd 10:24 AM ▲ 2.2 ft	3rd 5:40 PM ▼ 0.8 ft	4th 11:52 PM ▲ 2.4 ft
We	1st 5:33 AM ▼ 1.3 ft	2nd 11:40 AM ▲ 2.5 ft	3rd 6:24 PM ▼ 0.7 ft	4th —

Dog Island West End

Th	1st 3:51 AM ▲ 2.5 ft	2nd 11:24 AM ▼ 0.5 ft	3rd 5:52 PM ▲ 2.1 ft	4th 10:37 PM ▼ 1.6 ft
Fr	1st 4:21 AM ▲ 2.4 ft	2nd 12:15 PM ▼ 0.7 ft	3rd 6:49 PM ▲ 1.9 ft	4th 11:16 PM ▼ 1.7 ft
Sa	1st 4:57 AM ▲ 2.2 ft	2nd 1:22 PM ▼ 0.9 ft	3rd 8:08 PM ▲ 1.8 ft	4th —
Su	1st 12:16 AM ▼ 1.9 ft	2nd 5:49 AM ▲ 2.0 ft	3rd 2:43 PM ▼ 1.0 ft	4th 9:41 PM ▲ 1.8 ft
Mo	1st 2:00 AM ▼ 1.9 ft	2nd 7:36 AM ▲ 1.9 ft	3rd 3:58 PM ▼ 0.9 ft	4th 10:46 PM ▲ 2.0 ft
Tu	1st 3:57 AM ▼ 1.7 ft	2nd 10:00 AM ▲ 1.9 ft	3rd 4:56 PM ▼ 0.9 ft	4th 11:28 PM ▲ 2.2 ft
We	1st 5:09 AM ▼ 1.4 ft	2nd 11:16 AM ▲ 2.2 ft	3rd 5:40 PM ▼ 0.8 ft	4th —

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

Thursday 15	
Sun rise/set	Moon rise/set
7:39 AM 7:06 PM	12:26 PM 9:33 PM
Moon Illumination 20 %	

Friday 16	
Sun rise/set	Moon rise/set
7:40 AM 7:05 PM	1:17 PM 10:23 PM
Moon Illumination 28 %	

Saturday 17	
Sun rise/set	Moon rise/set
7:40 AM 7:04 PM	2:03 PM 11:16 PM
Moon Illumination 36 %	

Sunday 18	
Sun rise/set	Moon rise/set
7:41 AM 7:03 PM	2:43 PM —
Moon Illumination 46 %	

Monday 19	
Sun rise/set	Moon rise/set
7:42 AM 7:02 PM	3:19 PM 12:12 AM
Moon Illumination 55 %	

Tuesday 20	
Sun rise/set	Moon rise/set
7:42 AM 7:00 PM	3:52 PM 1:09 AM
Moon Illumination 65 %	

Wednesday 21	
Sun rise/set	Moon rise/set
7:43 AM 6:59 PM	4:22 PM 2:07 AM
Moon Illumination 74 %	

Thursday 15	
Major Times	Minor Times
5:05 PM 5:30 AM	12:26 PM 9:33 PM

Friday 16	
Major Times	Minor Times
5:50 PM 6:15 AM	1:17 PM 10:23 PM

Saturday 17	
Major Times	Minor Times
6:40 PM 7:05 AM	2:03 PM 11:16 PM

Sunday 18	
Major Times	Minor Times
7:28 PM 7:53 AM	2:43 PM —

Monday 19	
Major Times	Minor Times
8:14 PM 8:39 AM	3:19 PM 12:12 AM

Tuesday 20	
Major Times	Minor Times
8:59 PM 9:24 AM	3:52 PM 1:09 AM

Wednesday 21	
Major Times	Minor Times
9:45 PM 10:10 AM	4:22 PM 2:07 AM

Refuge will conduct aerial swine management operations

Special to The Sun

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will conduct aerial operations for feral swine management at St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge from Tuesday, October 13, through Thursday, October 15, 2026. Operations will utilize a helicopter crew consisting of a certified pilot and a highly trained firearms expert.

To ensure public safety during these operations, all trails along Lighthouse Road will be closed to the public. The Lighthouse Levee Trail will remain open. Portions of the Florida National Scenic Trail will be temporarily re-routed to support operational needs. Visitors are asked to observe all posted closures and signage during this period.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service conducts aerial operations to manage large feral swine populations that cause significant agricultural damage and negatively impact native ecosystems. These operations are particularly effective in areas where traditional control methods, such as trapping, are not sufficient. Aerial management provides meaningful population reduction to help protect wildlife, habitats, and refuge resources.

All missions are conducted in accordance with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service safety and operational protocols. Crews utilize GPS flight-following systems, GIS mapping technology, and established communication plans to ensure safe, efficient, and effective operations.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is committed to conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. Safety, precision, and responsible wildlife management remain top priorities throughout these operations.

For additional information and updates, please monitor official communications from St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge.

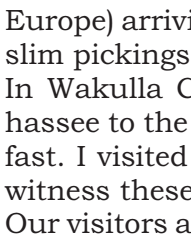
The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov

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Underwater Wakulla

By Gregg Stanton

Rain! *April 11, 2013*

We hope the spring rains are over! While most terrestrial folks have seen yards and ditches fill with an abundance of water, the story is entirely different underwater.

Yes, we love the rain, but when the swamps overflow as they most certainly have done recently, the discharge finds its way into sinkholes that deliver these tannins and other organics into our caves.

Mind you, the residents of these caves are only too happy for the replenishment to their limited diet. Local caves are teeming with blind crayfish and amphipods foraging on the ceilings, walls and floors.

The Suwannee River rose so high that Peacock Springs State Park went underwater several weeks ago, back-flushing their springs and caves. And nearly all the caves along the Suwannee are inundated.

Little River, a favorite county park was closed when river water covered most of the two stories of steps leading down to the waterfront. I met some desperate British cave divers who swam with a line tied to the flooded steps out into the park in search of the cave opening, which they did find. It was clear but with a low flow.

Manatee Springs, east of Tallahassee in Madison County, is also flooded. There are just too few sites left right now.

With the usual Spring Break diving tourists (many from Europe) arriving in the middle of our deluge, they found slim pickings at the usual dive sites.

In Wakulla County, the conduit running from Tallahassee to the Gulf of Mexico was very dark and flowing fast. I visited Emerald Sink and Whiskey Still Sink to witness these conditions myself.

Our visitors also inquired at Indian Springs, now under new ownership and management, to find conditions there deteriorated. So we sent them to Marianna and Jackson Blue Springs. All of the Merritt's Mill Pond dive sites are clear and busy for all divers (within their respective diving qualifications) this time of the year.

I have never been so busy with classes on cave and rebreathers during these flooding times. We trained continuously for six weeks either at Jackson Blue, Ginnie Springs east of us over by High Springs, Blue Grotto near Williston and Eagle's Nest north of Tampa. We even made a dark dive in Squirrel Swamp near our facility.

One class stood out above all the rest. I trained four diving scientists from Bogota, Colombia on rebreathers. They are marine biologists like myself, so we could relate to the many joys a rebreather will bring to their research. In spite of the long drives and challenging visibility, they mastered the skills and challenges required to continue their coral reef studies. They were not cold-acclimatized, we had a cold spring weather, and even our year around constant water temperature was a big strain on them. We bundled them up as best as possible and they endured.

I have been advised to NOT bring a dry suit when, in September, I am to travel to Cartagena and join them on a coral spawn investigation.

Imagine a toasty south Caribbean ocean dive for four hours chasing coral gametes! Nothing could be finer.

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

Managing thoughts when living with depression



By SHERYL H. BOLDT

I was one busy and exhausted mama. Three children under 4, with another on the way, consumed my days and zapped my energy.

Worse, the depression I'd battled since I was a teenager made even the simplest parts of life seem overwhelming.

I cried almost every day, begging God to help me hold it together.

One day, my then pastor's wife shared Philippians 4:8 (ESV) with me: "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."

She emphasized the last phrase: "think about these things."

I nodded, faking understanding. I wish I'd been honest and asked her to teach me how to "think about these things." How could I think about true, honorable and lovely things when most of my thoughts were consumed with how to make it through another day?

I tried meditating on God's Word, but my thoughts would race, making all the words run together. And chasing three small kids with that ever-growing belly of mine didn't leave me with much spare time.

Thankfully, I finally developed a method that worked.

Each morning, when I read my Bible and came across a verse that was relevant to my needs, I wrote it on an index card. Because I had trouble focusing on long sentences, I focused on one small segment at a time.

Using Philippians 4:8 as an example, I wouldn't try to ponder the entire verse at once. Rather, whenever I could grab a minute, I'd think and pray about a few words at a time, such as, "Finally, brothers, whatever is true." I'd ask the Holy Spirit for insight by praying something like, "Lord, teach me Your truths and how to recognize when the enemy is lying to me."

Then I'd pause to allow God to speak to my heart.

An hour or two later, or whenever my thoughts would head in a negative direction, I'd think about the phrase again or move to the next small segment, allowing the verse to continue to reorient or reshape my thinking. Learning to align my thoughts with God's Word has been one of the most transformative things I've done in my Christian walk.

Do you think this might work for you?

Try it for the rest of October, National Depression Awareness Month. Whether or not you struggle with depression or anxiety, watch how God uses His Word to transform your thoughts – one small segment at a 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.

Whatever you do, do it well



By CHERYL CRUCE

When I was in third grade, Mom decided it was time for her to work outside the home. She found a job at a dry-cleaning shop and took pride in learning her new trade. She didn't see herself as a spot remover; she called herself a "benzine cleaner," an old term from the early days of the trade.

I remember seeing her sitting at the dining table, studying the book that gave her the knowledge she needed for her new trade. She wanted to learn her work and do it well. Looking back now, I realize that she was teaching us something without ever having to say it. She showed us that whatever we do, it is worth doing well.

Dad had been working three jobs, and when Mom began working, he was finally able to leave one of them. Dad was a millwright, an occupation that has nearly faded from the fabric of America. I don't think I ever understood what he did. His work kept machinery running, and I suppose that was enough for me to know.

What I understood was that Dad worked hard, and no matter how long the day or how many jobs, he came through that door with an evening hug, smelling of machinery grease and sawdust. That fragrance meant Dad was home.

If it is true that one of the best ways of teaching is to lead by example, then my parents taught us well. With retirement knocking at my own door, I realize just how well. The lessons I watched them live out as a child have followed me into adulthood: work hard, take pride in what you do, and give it your best. Those lessons were never written on a chalkboard or handed to us in a book. We learned them by watching two people do what needed to be done – and do it well.

As I have thought about those lessons over the years, I have come to realize they reach beyond our work. They reach into the way we live our lives and, for me, into the way I live out my faith. If we were taught to take pride in doing our work well, how much more should we approach our service to God with a willing heart and a desire to honor Him?

We serve a God of excellence, and the way we live and serve should reflect the One we serve.

Jesus taught that faithfulness begins with the little things. In Luke 16:10, He says that if we are trusted with little, then we can be trusted with more. When we give our best to what has been placed in our hands, we are preparing ourselves for whatever comes next. That may be the challenge before us. We may not all be called to do great things, but each of us is given a task in life, someone to care for, or some responsibility to carry.

What matters is that we are faithful with what has been entrusted. God is not asking us to be extraordinary, but faithful.

Perhaps that is where my parents' example has come full circle. They taught us by the way they lived, and now we have the same opportunity. Our faith is not only something we believe; it is something we live. In ordinary moments, the work we do, and the people we care for, we have the opportunity to reflect God's character. What others see in us may become a glimpse of Him.

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord. Colossians 3:23

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

OUT TO PASTOR

I really do listen, I just can't remember



By JAMES SNYDER

At my age, people, particularly The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, believe that I do not listen when people talk. Of course, some people aren't worth listening to. But I digress.

When I'm around people, I don't have any problem talking with everybody and responding to every conversation. My main goal is to make people laugh, and I'm pretty good at it, especially among my relatives. Seriously, I'm not quite sure if some are laughing with me or at me.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage has noticed this. She thinks that when she's talking to me, I am not listening. Often, she says, "Are you listening to me?" She says this several times, and I stare at her while nodding my head in the affirmative. Of course I'm listening; I just don't know when to respond.

Sometimes I get up and go to my office for my normal workday, and The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage comes to the door and says, "Are you ready?"

I look at her as though I don't know what she's saying and respond, "Oh, yes, I'm ready to work for the rest of the day. Thanks for asking."

She never accepts that and responds, "Do you remember what I told you the other day?"

To me, that is a trick question because she tells me a lot of things every day; how am I going to remember something she told me several days ago?

"No, my dear, I'm sorry, I don't remember what you told me the other day. What was it?"

Looking at me with a grimace all over her face, she said, "I told you the other day that we were going to go across town and have lunch with our friends. You agreed to that appointment at the time. Are you ready now to go?"

One question I get asked a lot from The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is, "Do you hear anything I'm saying?"

Sometimes at breakfast, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage will clear her throat and then say, "Do you know whose birthday it is today?"

There is absolutely no way that I can know whose birthday it is today or any other day, for that matter.

When she asks me that question, I look at her very seriously and say, "I thought that was your job?" Then I smile at her, but she doesn't return it.

In The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage's craft room, one section is dedicated to birthday cards. She hasn't bought a birthday card in I don't know how long. But she makes birthday cards herself. To make the birthday cards, she has to know whose birthday it is.

When I'm having a conversation with The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, I hear everything she says, and I can respond quite intelligently. I hear everything she says. However, give me two days, and I won't remember a word she just spoke.

As I reminisced about all of this, I was reminded of a verse in the Bible that sorta settles some of it.

"He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him" (Proverbs 18:13).

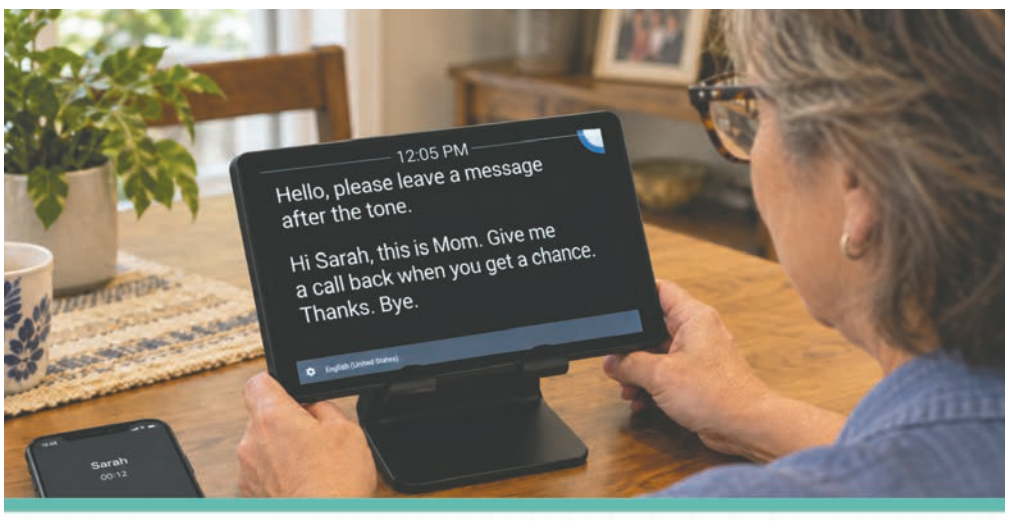
I have discovered that when I speak before I hear the whole sentence, I get it all wrong. I am still on the learning curve with The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage..

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

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Obituaries



Nora Louise Edwards Roddenberry

TALLAHASSEE - Louise Edwards Roddenberry, 89, known lovingly as "Nonnie," passed away peacefully, leaving behind a legacy rooted in faith, family, and grace.

Born November 25, 1936, in Bristol, Florida, to Joseph and Myrtle Edwards, she grew up in Sopchoppy and graduated from Sopchoppy High School.

On April 13, 1958, Louise married her high school sweetheart, Samuel Lee Roddenberry, sharing 65 cherished years of marriage. She earned a B.S. in Nursing from Florida State University in 1976 and worked as an Occupational Nurse for Westinghouse Corporation in South Florida before retiring in 1994.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Sam, and brothers Jack Edwards (JoAnn) and Clinton "Bully" Edwards (Arie).

She is survived by her three children: Samuel Stanley "Stan" Roddenberry, Bryan Shelton Roddenberry (Angela), and Suzanne Leigh Roddenberry Wilkinson (Ben); her grandchildren: Sarah Elizabeth Palowitch (Brendon), Alexa Nicole Louise Roddenberry, Samuel Moffitt Roddenberry (Natalie), Michael Anthony Roberts III "Trey" (Elisabet), Taylor Leigh Roddenberry, and Brooke Elizabeth Roddenberry; and her great-grandchildren: Kendall Leigh Palowitch, Charlotte Carolyn Roddenberry, and Matthew Bennett Roberts.

She is remembered with great affection by her brothers- and sisters-in-law: Jamie and Pat Roddenberry, Mark (deceased) and Yvette Roddenberry, Barbara "Babs" (her best friend) and Frank Chase, Mike and Jayne Roddenberry, and Harold and Elizabeth "Betty" Barwick (deceased); alongside a host of nieces, nephews, and extended family who adored their Aunt Louise.

In her final weeks, she reminded us that spending time with her grandchildren and watching them grow into adults was "the greatest joy of my life." We hold those words close, knowing that our sweet mother and Nonnie will forever be the greatest joy of ours.

A graveside service will be held at West Sopchoppy Cemetery on October 12, 2026, at 10 a.m. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Sopchoppy Southern Baptist Church.

Nora Louise Edwards Roddenberry



Betty Shivers McPherson

Born Betty Sue Powell in Omega, Ga. on November 26, 1933, she grew up in small farm community where everyone knew each other, their respective families, and attended the same church and school. One of those classmates was John "Bob" Shivers, a boy just a couple of years older, that she often watched from her parents' roof as he worked in the adjacent fields.

After a few years in Omega, Ga, and just before her 16th birthday, Betty married Bob and would begin an adventure that would last almost 63 years. Both the Powells and Shivers families would become friends and moved their families from Omega to Jacksonville in search of a better way of life.

In the late 1950's, Bob's company transferred them from Jacksonville to Tallahassee where they would stay permanently and spread their roots. The household increased over the next several years with the arrivals of five children: Russell, Gary, Lavonne, Wesley and Calvin. As the children grew older, Betty began to start her own career with Leon County School Cafeteria and would retire from the county after more than 30 years of service.

As the kids became adults and moved on to begin their lives, Betty and Bob would see their family grow to include 11 grandchildren, 27 great grandchildren and one great-great grandchild. Camping, fishing, hunting, sports, Canasta, dominoes, Sunday dinner and countless holidays were all part of the Shivers family traditions. Life would bring challenges and changes and it included the passing of her long-time husband, Bob. Betty found love a second time and married Neal McPherson and remained married to Neal until his passing.

Betty is preceded in death by her parents, John & Eva Powell, her brother Windell Powell, her son Russell Shivers, her husbands Bob Shivers and Neal McPherson, her granddaughters Rachel Shivers and Amanda Shivers, her great grandsons Landon Greene and Zander Shivers. She is survived by four children, Gary, Lavonne, Wesley and Calvin and by several grandchildren, great grandchildren and one great-great grandchild and countless friends, including Susan Peterson, who is like a second daughter.

Funeral arrangements are being made by Abbey Funeral Home and Tallahassee Memory Gardens.



Hiram Thomas 'Tom' Riggins

Hiram Thomas "Tom" Riggins was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and a man of faith who lived a life of service to his country, his family, and his community.

Tom was a graduate of Manatee County High School in Bradenton, Florida, Class of 1956. He continued his education at Florida State University earning a Bachelor of Science degree, and later earned his MBA from Central Michigan University. After graduating from FSU, Tom enlisted in the U.S. Army, beginning a distinguished military career. He retired in 1988 after 27 years of active military service. During his time in the Army, Tom served as a Military Intelligence Officer, with assignments throughout Europe, the Far East, and numerous locations across the continental United States. He was a Vietnam vet. He retired as a Lt. Colonel. Following his military service, Tom worked with Tropicana Products in Bradenton, Florida, before retiring in 1998. Tom was a member of Lake Ellen Baptist Church in Crawfordville, where he faithfully served as a deacon. He enjoyed playing golf and was an avid Florida State Seminoles football fan, attending FSU football games whenever he could.

Tom was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 44 years, Patricia Mason Riggins; his parents, Hiram Thomas Riggins Sr. and Irene Phillips Riggins; and a special uncle and aunt, Frank "Jim" Mead and Doris P Mead.

He is survived by his wife Janis Riggins; his two daughters, Christina Riggins Paiva (John) of Apollo Beach, Florida, and Patrica Riggins Allen (Jack) of Elizabethtown, North Carolina; his stepson, Randall Reid Phillips (Lorra) of Crawfordville; his grandchildren, Kyle, Kendall, Blake; and two great grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Monday, Oct. 5, 2026 at Lake Ellen Baptist Church beginning at 11 a.m. Family received friends one hour prior for visitation. Final resting will be Lake Ellen Baptist Church Cemetery.

Young Family Funeral Home is assisting the family at this time, Crawfordville 850-926-5919.

DEATH NOTICES

• **Barbara Ann Dabney,** 85, of Tallahassee, passed away October 8, 2026.

• **Barbara Jean Hard,** 77, of Crawfordville, passed away October 6, 2026.

• **Mary Lou Harvey,** 81, of Crawfordville, passed away October 11, 2026.

• **William Curtis Kelley,** 71, of Crawfordville, passed away October 8, 2026.

• **Jameson Isaac Pollock,** infant, passed away October 4, 2026.

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

Sheriff's Report

Sheriff's Report for activity October 2 to 9. There were 1,807 calls for service.

FRIDAY, OCT. 2

• Deputy Saba responded to the Triangle Petro in reference to the owner of "The Cloud Smoke Shop" reporting a current employee at the vape store, being scammed out of $11,200. While speaking with all parties, he received a phone call from a subject portraying to be his boss instructing him to remove money from the lock box located inside of the store and take it to a Bitcoin machine at the Triangle Petro. After placing the money in the Bitcoin machine, he made contact with his boss and informed him of the outcome, resulting in him contacting law enforcement. Case forwarded to Criminal Investigations Division.

SATURDAY, OCT. 3

• Deputies responded to Home Stretch Lane in reference to a citizen reporting her apartment being burglarized. During the investigation, it was determined that a large amount of clothes and shoes were stolen out of the residence. While conducting the investigation, she believed the person responsible for this was someone she knows. She did not want to pursue charges but wished for the incident be documented.

• Deputy Sullivan conducted a traffic stop in the area of Newport. The driver of the vehicle was determined to be in possession of marijuana. The marijuana was seized for destruction.

SUNDAY, OCT. 4

• Deputies responded to the 100 block of Mashes Sands Road in reference to a citizen reporting an unknown male walking into her house at approximately 11 p.m. While on scene, Deputy Love obtained a description of the male and ultimately began making contact with neighbors to obtain either camera footage or photos of the subject so that identification could be determined and contact could be made. Unfortunately, no neighbors were able to provide video footage.

MONDAY, OCT. 5

• Deputies Hinson and Kittrell responded to Raker Lane in reference to trespassing. Contact was made with the reporting person who advised several people have been on the property as of late. He stated he has also observed two people on the property and both have trespass warnings. While on scene, no one was located on the property. The reporting person refused to complete any paperwork for this incident. Due to the homeowner being incarcerated, this incident was documented for informational purposes.

• Capt. Harrell conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of Wakulla Arran and Old Bethel for a speeding violation. During the investigation it was discovered that the driver did not possess a valid driver's license. His license was suspended for failure to pay traffic fines. Due to this, he was issued an Notice to Appear for Driving While License Suspended or Revoked (DWLSR) with knowledge and provided a court date.

TUESDAY, OCT. 6

• Units responded to a call in reference to a vehicle fire. Units made contact with the vehicle owner. It was learned that the vehicle had battery issues recently.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 7

• Deputy Martin responded to Walmart in reference to asset protection reporting a theft that had occurred on Oct. 3. The suspect took numerous food items and passed all points of sale depriving Walmart of $119.71. Case forwarded to CID.

THURSDAY, OCT. 8

• Deputies responded to Mill Creek Road in reference to a citizen wanting to report someone obtaining a Capital One credit card in her name. She stated she accidentally left her wallet at the Crawfordville Pharmacy after picking up her prescription. She stated she returned the next day to find her wallet to be missing but did not report it the Sheriff's Office. As time passed, she stated she received a bill in the mail from Capital One for $390.84 for an account she did not apply for. Case forwarded to CID

• Deputies blocked the east bound lane of Martin Luther King Highway in reference to a driver hitting a cyclist. The cyclist was taken to the hospital; this incident was transferred to FHP.

FRIDAY, OCT. 9

• Third party 911 call received regarding a vehicle that drove into the water at the boat ramp at Spring Creek Highway with unknown injuries or number of occupants. Unit arrival informed of the vehicle halfway in the water with all occupants outside, consisting of three children and one adult driver. The scene was turned over to FHP, resulting in the arrest of the driver.

• Deputy Krietlow responded to Neeley Road in reference to a tree falling on the residence. Contact was made with the homeowner who advised she heard a loud bang and realized a tree fell into her living room. Her insurance information was collected and a report was written for information.

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

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ESTATE SALE

SATURDAY – OCTOBER 17. ANTIQUES, VINTAGE, COLLECTIBLES, TOOLS, CHRISTMAS, HUNTING, FISHING, FURNITURE, GLASSWARE, SPORTS, COINS. WATERFORD CRYSTAL SNOW BABIES. 4 PINTAIL COURT CRAWFORDVILLE 7:30 – 1P.M.

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NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is given pursuant to Florida Self-Storage Facility Act, Florida Statues, Chapter 83, Part IV that Seminole Self Storage will hold a sale by sealed bid October 30, 2026, at 11:00 am. at 2314 Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville, Florida 32327, of the contents of Mini Warehouse containing personal property of

TERRI CARROLL

Before the sale date of October 30th, 2026. The Owners may redeem their property by payment of the Outstanding Balance and cost by mailing certified funds to 2314 Crawfordville Hwy, Crawfordville, Florida 32327 or Paying in person at the warehouse location.

October 15, 22, 2026



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NOTICE OF ACTION

1015-1022 TWS NTC
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF FILE NO. 2026 CP 124
CYNTHIA PATRICIA SHINGLES,
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of CYNTHIA PATRICIA SHINGLES, deceased, whose date of death was February 24, 2026, was processed in the Circuit Court for Wakulla County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 3056 Crawfordville Hwy, Crawfordville, Florida 32327. The names and addresses of the petitioner and the petitioner's attorney are set forth below.

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE NOTIFIED THAT: All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM. All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is October 15, 2026.

Attorney for Petitioner:
ENNIS LEON JACOBS, JR., ESQ. Law Office of Ennis Leon Jacobs, Jr. 603 N. Martin Luther King Blvd. Tallahassee, Florida 32301 (850) 491-2710 (850) 254-9781 Fla. Bar ID. 0714682
jacobslawfla@gmail.com

Petitioner:
Josephus Shingles, II 27 Gavin Road Crawfordville, FL 32327

Oct. 15, Oct. 22, 2026

1008-1015 TWS NOA-NOFS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION

UNION HOME MORTGAGE CORP., CASE NO.: 26000085CAAXMX
Plaintiff,
vs.
TIMOTHY J. PLESSINGER A/KIA TIMOTHY PLESSINGER, et al.,
Defendants

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: TIMOTHY J. PLESSINGER AJKJA TIMOTHY PLESSINGER

33 PAULETTE DRIVE, CRAWFORDVILLE, FL 32327

UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF TIMOTHY J. PLESSINGER A/KIA TIMOTHY PLESSINGER

33 PAULETTE DRIVE, CRAWFORDVILLE, FL 32327

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Foreclosure of Mortgage on the following described property:

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AS PER MAP OR PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 56, OF THE PUBLIC

RECORDS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it, on De Cubas & Lewis, P.A., Attorney for Plaintiff, whose address is PO BOX 5026, FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33310 on or before November 7, 2026, a date at least thirty (30) days after the first publication of this Notice in the (Please publish in THE WAKULLA NEWS) and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiffs attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.

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 Momoe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32301
850-606-4401

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.

Dated this 25th day of September 2026.

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

Oct. 8, 15, 2026

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
GILBERT BARFIELD
DECEASED
DIVISION: PROBATE

CASE NO: 2026-CP-145

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the Estate of Gilbert Barfield, deceased, File 2026-CP-145 is pending in the Circuit Court for Wakulla County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 3056 Crawfordville Hwy., Crawfordville, FL 32327. The name and address of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney is set forth below.

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

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

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

The date of the first publication of this Notice is October 8, 2026.

Attorney for Personal Representative:
Frances Casey Lowe, Esq.
Florida Bar No. 521450
Ausley McMullen
68-A Feli Way
Crawfordville, Florida 32327
(850) 926-8245

Personal Representatives:
Adam Thomas Barfield
225 Rehwinkel Rd.
Crawfordville, FL 32327

Oct. 8, 15, 2026

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Bill Webster, Attorney
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SMALL BUSINESS WORD SEARCH

R	Y	T	I	U	Q	E	H	Y	T	I	L	I	B	A	L	A	C	S	G
L	M	B	V	A	H	G	I	E	U	N	E	V	E	R	P	S	P	Y	I
L	N	E	O	B	U	B	S	W	N	O	E	L	N	I	C	H	E	E	F
O	C	S	P	O	S	U	Y	R	O	T	N	E	V	N	I	S	C	C	P
R	B	F	L	I	T	G	R	P	L	N	R	Q	O	S	F	P	H	N	G
Y	D	V	E	P	V	S	C	N	U	E	N	B	C	R	R	Y	V	A	F
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P	B	I	W	C	Y	O	T	R	E	E	H	N	L	R	H	I	R	L	C
Q	D	H	V	P	Q	U	V	D	A	P	U	O	U	T	S	L	L	P	A
N	Y	S	W	Q	G	U	O	P	A	P	Y	C	S	F	Q	I	M	M	P
O	C	R	B	F	G	M	I	R	E	P	P	C	F	Q	R	B	A	O	T
F	N	O	F	R	C	L	G	S	F	S	I	I	U	S	I	A	R	C	I
U	W	T	Q	P	A	O	D	Y	I	T	I	S	N	L	P	I	G	I	A
B	O	E	C	C	M	N	U	W	S	T	G	H	P	G	R	L	I	R	L
D	L	I	A	E	Q	F	D	I	R	R	I	O	C	O	P	O	N	Y	V
G	F	R	D	Q	F	N	G	O	W	P	E	O	H	N	M	E	A	D	B
C	H	P	T	L	E	O	D	N	Q	D	U	D	N	C	A	D	C	B	P
H	S	O	N	S	L	N	B	N	T	Y	F	L	G	D	H	R	S	F	L
D	A	R	A	Q	E	N	O	I	T	N	E	T	E	R	W	T	F	H	U
S	C	P	O	V	E	C	G	S	V	D	A	E	H	R	E	V	O	U	Y

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

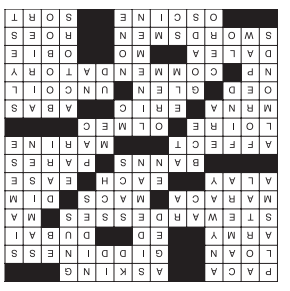
WORDS

ACQUISITION
BOOTSTRAPPING
BRAND
CAPITAL
CASHFLOW
COMPLIANCE
DEMOGRAPHICS
EQUITY
FRANCHISE
FUNNEL
INVENTORY
LIABILITY
LOGISTICS
MARGIN
MODEL
NICHE
OVERHEAD
PAYROLL
PIVOT
PROPRIETORSHIP
RETENTION
REVENUE
SCALABILITY
VENDOR

CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS
1. Nocturnal rodent
5. Requesting
11. Give temporarily
12. Frivolousness
16. Military arm
17. "Westworld" actor Harris
18. Persian Gulf port city
19. Air hostesses
24. Partner to "Pa"
25. Percussion instrument
26. Raincoats
27. Lower the light
28. Asian mountain range
29. Every one of two or more
30. Lack of difficulty
31. A public announcement of a proposed marriage
33. Reduces in size
34. Make an impact
38. Serviceman
39. A French river
40. Prehistoric people
43. Messenger ribonucleic acid
44. "Layla" singer Clapton
45. Ancient Greek sophist
49. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
50. "Top Gun: Maverick" actor Powell
51. A way to disentangle
53. Atomic #93
54. Manifesting approval
56. Indigo bush
58. Larry and Curly's pal
59. Off-Broadway theater award
60. Fencers
63. Masses of fish eggs
64. Passerine birds
65. Arrange systematically

CLUES DOWN
1. Colorless part of blood
2. Of a main artery
3. Photog's tool
4. Blues Traveler hit "But __"
5. Grew older
6. Not the leader
7. __ Lang: country singer
8. A driver's license is one
9. Nests of pheasants
10. Antelopes
13. One quintillion bytes
14. Japanese lute
15. A type of cat
20. It cools your home
21. Dorm official
22. Pouches
23. German trigraph
27. Form of Persian
29. __ route
30. Upper body part
31. Bridge building degree
32. Indicates position
33. Political action committee
34. Edible nuts
35. Front part of a quadruped
36. Locate
37. Geological time
38. Of I
40. Northern Utah city
41. They work in the trenches
42. Hammer is one
44. Tall deciduous tree
45. Performers
46. Slang for mistake
47. More open
48. Most slick
50. Provokes
51. Home of the NCAA's Flyers
52. Sodium
54. Large fish of the mackerel family
55. Not one
57. __ and behold
61. Atomic #21
62. "The Great Lakes State"



1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10	
11					12						13	14	15
16					17				18				
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39						40	41	42					
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49				50					51	52			
53			54					55					
56		57					58			59			
60					61	62				63			
			64							65			

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to small business.

V N I E T S

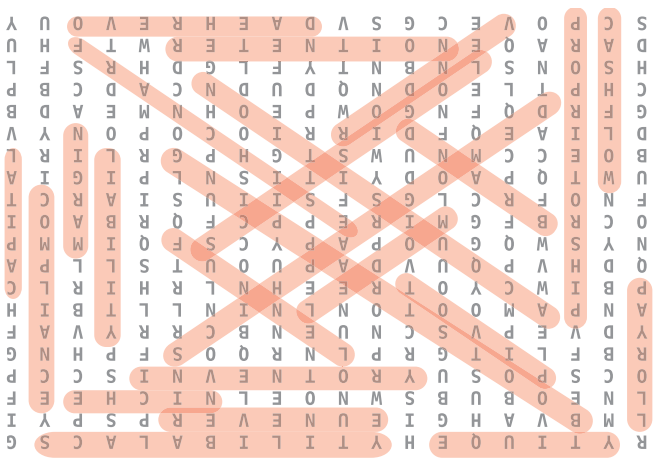
		9	6			1		
		8		4		2		
1	2	7	9		8			3
	7	5			9		2	
			5		4			1
3			8					
9	5	3		8		7		
		4				6		2
8							3	

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!
Here's How It Works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

GUESS WHO?

I am an athlete born on October 18, 1984, in Minnesota. I am one of only six women to have won World Cup races in all disciplines of alpine skiing. I have won four World Cup championships and hold an Olympic gold medal. I suffered a bad injury at the 2026 Winter Olympics.

Answer: Invest Answer: Lindsey Vonn



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Robyn Hurst remembered
Page 14

The Wakulla Sun
"It's a New Day"
Locally Owned & Operated
Our 2nd Year 24th Issue
Thursday, June 15, 2023
$1 One Section

WeatherSTEM
Weather forecast from Wakulla High School
Thursday Friday Saturday
AM Thunderstorms PM Thunderstorms Scattered Thunderstorms

Hertz, Looney to return for retrial

The two were found guilty of the Spears-King murders 25 years ago, will have a re-do of the death penalty phase of their trial

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

The resentencing of Guerry Wayne Hertz and Jason Looney on murder charges is scheduled to get underway on June 19 with jury selection.

The question before jurors will be whether or not Hertz and Looney should be sentenced to death for the 1997 murders of Melanie King and Keith Spears. At their 1999 trial, Hertz and Looney were found guilty of two counts of first-degree murder and, by a vote of 10-2, the jury recommended death, which was ordered by the court.

A third man involved in the murders, Jimmy Dempsey, testified against Hertz and Looney at the trial in exchange for a sentence of life in prison.

The only issue before the jurors will be whether to recommend a death sentence. The jury is not at issue, and they will never be released from prison even if a jury recommends a life sentence.

In 1999, there was not a requirement in Florida for a unanimous jury verdict for a death sentence. The case was sent back for a re-do of the death penalty phase and has been pending for several years.

In this year's Legislative session, in response to the lack of a unanimous jury verdict for the death penalty at the trial of Parkland High School shooter Nikolas Cruz, Florida lawmakers changed the standard to an 8-4 vote for death.

Defense attorney Zachary Ward, who represents Hertz, noted at a docket sounding hearing on Wednesday, June 7, that the defense team had anticipated a change in the law on jury verdicts, but had anticipated the law would go into effect on Oct. 1 – which is why the defense had agreed to set the resentencing for June 19. The Florida Legislature made the change in jury verdicts immediate.

Turn to Page 3



Guerry Wayne Hertz



Jason Looney

Heavy security at hearing

There was drum-tight security at the Wakulla County Courthouse on Wednesday, June 7, as Looney two inmates, Guerry Wayne Hertz and Jason Looney were present for a hearing on their planned resentencing.

Wakulla deputies and Florida Department of Corrections officers were all over the courthouse – including in armed officer inside the courtroom during the hearing.

Security will be tight when the death penalty phase of Hertz's and Looney's trial gets underway starting June 19.



Members of the Charter Review Committee at a meeting last week at the community center.

Charter review discusses spring protection

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

from septic systems and the City of Tallahassee's or 1:5 (OSTDS) without enforceable development with a motion to approve the expansion of

St. Marks to raise sewer rates 75% on residents

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

Warned by their accountant that they are facing financial ruin if they don't do something, St. Marks City Commissioners voted to raise sewer rates 75% – which would translate to a $46 increase per month on residential utility bills.

It was roughly estimated that the increase would translate into an additional $183,000 into the city's utility fund.

City commissioners voted 3-1 for the increase, with the motion made by Dan Albers, seconded by Paula Bell, and supported by Mayor Paul Sheddan. Steve Rembe was the lone vote against the increase. Rembe had made a motion earlier for a 50% increase that was seconded by Bell for discussion and was ultimately voted down 1-3. City Commission Sharon Rudd was absent due to illness.

The meeting room at City Hall was full of citizens on Thursday, June 8, but none seemed especially upset by the sharp increase in rates.

One citizen did suggest that there must be money to cut, and Mayor Sheddan appeared irritated at the comment. The mayor replied that city commissioners had cut everything they could think of, but there was no way to make enough financial cuts to get out of the problem. Several residents in the audience suggested just going ahead with a 100% increase to get the pain over with.

It was noted that the city had been slow to raise



Auditions for Musical GREASE
Page 3

The Wakulla Sun
"It's a New Day"
Locally Owned & Operated
Our 2nd Year 28th Issue
Thursday, July 13, 2023
$1 One Section

WeatherSTEM
Weather forecast from Wakulla High School
Thursday Friday Saturday
PM Thunderstorms PM Thunderstorms Scattered Thunderstorms

Brad Harvey pleads to charges

The former property appraiser is charged with embezzling money from the office; he will be sentenced in September

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

Former Wakulla Property Appraiser Brad Harvey pleaded no contest in Wakulla Circuit Court on Wednesday, July 5 to numerous fraud charges that stemmed from overpayments he made to himself as well as using the office credit card for personal expenses.

Harvey had been set to go to trial later this month. After the plea, a pre-sentence investigation was ordered to determine what Harvey scores for punishment.

He is scheduled for sentencing on Sept. 7.

Harvey is charged with stealing more than $200,000 from the office, which he used for expenses like outfitting a hunting truck, and to take his family on a cruise after his daughter graduated from high school.

Assistant State Attorney Andrew Deneen, who is prosecuting the case, will reportedly be asking Wakulla Circuit Judge Jayne Smith, who is presiding over the case, for prison time for Harvey.

The matter started after members of the Rotary Club of Wakulla realized that checks and cash for a fundraiser had never been deposited. Harvey was club treasurer. After being told of the missing money, Sheriff Jared Miller, also a member of



Former Property Appraiser Brad Harvey

Rotary, ordered an investigation. After being interviewed by detectives, Harvey turned over about $1,000 in cash from a gun raffle the club had held. No charges were brought in the case because the evidence – namely, ticket receipts for the raffle – had not been retained by the club.

But the Rotary incident prompted a member of Harvey's staff to begin looking into office finances – and evidence quickly piled up that Harvey was stealing public money.

The staff member went to County Administrator David Edwards with the concerns – and FDLE was brought in to investigate.

In April 2020, Harvey was arrested on a warrant and processed in the Wakulla County Jail. Because of Covid restrictions at the time, Harvey was not put in a jail cell, and he did not have to post bond.

The same day, Gov. Ron DeSantis removed Harvey from office.

During the FDLE investigation, the news-paper was aware of the suspicions of financial irregularities and, along with another interested party, began making public record requests and writing to Gov. DeSantis' office. Later public record requests indicated that Harvey continued overpaying himself even after he knew he was under investigation by FDLE.

Asked by the newspaper to provide justification for the overpayments, Harvey pointed to a supplement he had received when he was chief deputy under the prior property appraiser for work done on Fire and Solid Waste tax rolls. He seemed to think he was still entitled to the supplement – though the total amount of overpayment far exceeded the supplement.

Harvey's statutory salary was $103,000 in 2016 when he was elected. It increased to $107,500 the next year, and to $108,336 in 2018.

Harvey had done payroll and other office financials as chief deputy under former appraiser Donnie Sparkman.

Turn to Page 14

SOPCHOPPY FOURTH OF JULY



Independence Day celebration in Sopchoppy starts with a parade, includes music and vendors, and concludes with Fourth of July fireworks. More photos on Page 13. (Photo by Gerald Brown)

Two drownings in separate incidents on July 4th

A man died while scalloping; a child drowned in a home pool

Staff Report

Two unrelated drownings were reported in Wakulla on July 4th: a man scalloping in St. Marks and a child who drowned in a backyard pool.

Names and other details were not released by the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office.

The sheriff's office did put out a press release the next day that read." Yesterday The Wakulla County Sheriff's Office responded to two separate and unrelated instances of drowning in our community, one at a residence in Crawfordville and another on the water near St. Marks. So far, the investigations into both instances appear to show these are nothing more than tragic accidents. Out of respect for the families and those involved The Wakulla County Sheriff's Office will not be making any further releases regarding either incident.

"WCSO would like to remind everyone to always be careful when swimming or enjoying the water, as drowning incidents can occur suddenly and even to the strongest swimmers.

"Please join Sheriff Miller and the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office in praying for the families affected by these incidents."

State braces for

The Wakulla Sun
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Thursday, July 27, 2023
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WeatherSTEM
Weather forecast from Wakulla High School
Thursday Friday Saturday
Partly Cloudy Partly Cloudy PM Thunderstorms



Chomp n Stomp held at Palaver Tree
Page 13

Election suit over after 3 years

Appeals court rules for Ed Brimmer in lawsuit over 2020 property appraiser in which Colby Sparkman lost by 3 votes

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

The First District Court of Appeal in Tallahassee last week upheld the Wakulla Circuit Court judge's ruling finding that Ed Brimmer was properly elected as property appraiser in 2020.

The DCA's ruling was released Tuesday, July 18, and said simply," Per curiam affirmed," which means that the appeals court affirms the trial court's decision without issuing an opinion or explanation of its own.

In February of last year, Wakulla Circuit Judge Jim Flury granted a summary judgement to the Wakulla County Canvassing Board and Property Appraiser Ed Brimmer finding that Colby Sparkman, who was a candidate for property appraiser against Brimmer in the 2020 election but who lost by four votes, presented no evidence that he would have won the election but for alleged misconduct.

The judge noted the lawsuit is "based on the treatment of 12 ballots out of 9,104" ballots cast in the race. The 12 ballots represented the number of votes rejected by the canvassing board because the signature on the vote-by-mail ballot did not match the signature on file.

Sparkman's attorney, Mark Herron, argued at a hearing held by Zoom back in February 2022 that the 12 ballots were not able to be cured because of mismatched by the supervisor of elections and the canvassing board. That included not telling voters whose ballots were rejected the correct amount of time they had to cure the problem, and telling Sparkman that he should not contact the 12 voters.





The 2020 candidates for Wakulla Property Appraiser included Colby Sparkman, left, and Ed Brimmer.

But Judge Flury wrote that, during the elections, a total of 53 ballots had signature problems. "Of those 53 ballots," the judge wrote, "41 were cured."

One of the 12 ballots, belonging to Debra Russell, was cured in a timely manner, but because of the narrow vote margin, she asked that her vote not be counted because it would reveal how she voted. The canvassing board accepted her appeal and did not count her vote.

"No evidence has been presented that shows the precluded ballots favored any particular candidate," Judge Flury wrote in his order. "Factually, the mathematical probability of a change in the result here is remote, if not absent."

At the hearing last year, attorneys Leonard Collins, representing Brimmer, and Wayne Malaney, representing the canvassing board, acknowledged that errors were made with the election, but contended there was no fraud and no effort to help one candidate or another.

The judge agreed. "There is no evidence to suggest that there was an ulterior motive that actually drove the canvassing board's decision. There is no reason to overturn the will of the people as expressed in the election results presented."

Sparkman appealed the judge's decision in March of 2022.

In the meantime, Sparkman did get a settlement in his lawsuit for wrongful termination. Sparkman was a deputy property appraiser under Brad Harvey, who was removed from office by Gov. Ron DeSantis after his arrested in 2018 on embezzlement and Faind charges. Harvey has pleaded no contest to the charges and faces a maximum sentence of 30 years when he is sentenced in September.

After Brimmer was installed in office in January 2021, he subsequently fired Sparkman for cause.

Much of the controversy in the case arises from Sparkman being told not to contact any of the 12 voters with the rejected ballots. He asked for and was given the names of the voters and acknowledged in deposition that he had called one, but couldn't remember who it was.

A voter called County Administrator David Edwards with concerns about Sparkman calling voters, and Edwards called two canvassing board members – County Judge Jill Walker, and County Commissioner Quincee Messersmith. Both said the issue would be brought before the canvassing board and then Supervisor of Elections Buddy Wells.

Edwards walked over to Wells' office and confronted the elections

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Sgt. Rob Holloway, kneeling, with kids of Wakulla County sheriff's deputies at the St. Marks Community Market.

Fired Chiles coach may join War Eagle coaching staff

Kevin Pettis and son Trey might join coaches at Wakulla High

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Staff Report

Kevin Pettis, who was recently fired as head football coach at Chiles High School may join the coaching staff of the Wakulla War Eagles under head coach Scott Kloss.

Superintendent of Schools Bobby Pearce noted that Pettis was offered a teaching and coaching position at Wakulla High School, but he reportedly turned the teaching position down to stay with Leon County Schools. He may still join coaches next month if cleared of all open investigations.

Pettis was let go as coach at Chiles in June after an investigation into alleged violations of athletic policies.

Pettis' son, Trey, was also on Chiles coaching