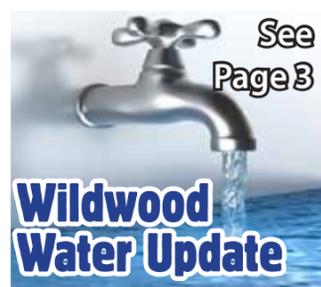




# SUMTER SUN TIMES



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## Living (and dying) with ALS



Dave Keeble enjoys a cruise aboard in Playa del Carmen, Mexico is 2013

By SHARON KEEBLE  
Correspondent

*Editor's note: This is the first of a three-part series on the impact of ALS (also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease).*

A few days ago my husband Dave sat propped-up in his hospital bed, tears slowly rolling down his face. "What's the matter?" I asked him as I gently held his hand.

"I'm tired," he managed to say, very slowly and almost a whisper, because he can't talk properly anymore. "I want to leave, Shez."

My eyes filled-up as they always do these days, and I brushed my tears aside.

"If you have to go, you go," I said and I looked into his green eyes that sadly now show a world of hurt and pain.

For the past five years Dave has been battling ALS, or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis — more commonly known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, after the famous baseball player whose career was cut tragically short by the disease.

For those who may not know, ALS is a progressive neurodegenerative condi-

ALS | 12

## Adams mourned by community



By Brenda Locklear

There are a lot of stories to tell about Jamie Adams. He spent decades in law enforcement, between his time as a wildlife officer and sheriff of Sumter County. He was in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne, served as a writer for various publications, including the Times, the Citrus County Chronicle and Woods and Water. He served as a commissioner for Florida's wildlife law enforcement agency.

Last week, 81-year-old Adams passed away in Summerfield. Born in Fenholloway, FL on Dec, 5, 1940, to James Louie, Sr. and Vercie Adams, he passed away on Sept. 15.

"I worked for Sheriff Adams for 16 years, the last five as his chief deputy," said current Sumter County Sheriff Bill Farmer. "He was a great man and a great sheriff. I enjoyed working

for him, he was specifically significant with influencing my career as sheriff for Sumter County. Our prayers are with his family."

Gerry Mulligan, retired publisher of the Citrus County Chronicle worked, with Adams over the years and shared his favorite Jamie Adams story.

"Back in the early 1980s, a little boy went swimming in a community canal east of Inverness. An alligator attacked the boy and tore up his leg," Mulligan said, noting that sheriff's deputies, EMS, fire department and fish and game were on hand to rescue the boy and get the gator.

"I was covering the attack as a reporter/photographer for the weekly Chronicle out of Inverness.

"The victim was rushed off to the hospital and within a few hours, all of the emergency personnel left the scene. Only Jamie Adams remained, and he told me 'I'm not leaving until I get that gator.'"

Mulligan said Adams was afraid someone else would get hurt.

"So I sat out in the hot sun with Jamie for a couple of hours, looking for the gator."

They were there for about two and a half hours when Adams pointed and said "there he is."

Mulligan said he looked down the canal and didn't see anything.

Adams pointed his rifle and took a single shot.

"I got him right between the eyes," Mulligan quoted Adams as saying, adding, "I didn't even see the gator and seriously doubted Jamie's claim."

Some of the deputies came back to the site later, to help dredge the lake bottom.

"About an hour later, this big gator was pulled out of the water. He had one bullet lodged in his head right between his eyes. I never doubted the word of Jamie Adams again," Mulligan said.

Adams was also responsible for bringing the sheriff's office

ADAMS | 2

## MISSING

From the  
Sumter County  
Sheriff's Office  
Man missing, last  
seen in Bushnell



Christopher Michael Shirer is missing, according to the Sumter County Sheriff's Office. He was last seen in early July, in Bushnell and authorities are urging anyone with information on his whereabouts to contact them.

Christopher Michael Shirer was last seen on, or about, July 3, 2022 near Bushnell.

MISSING MAN | 2

## Wildwood man Killed in crash

A 44-year-old Wildwood man was killed Thursday night, when the driver of a pickup turned into the path of his motorcycle, just before 9 p.m., according to the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP).

The motorcycle was traveling westbound on C.R. 466 at intersection of C.R. 223. The pickup collided with the front right of the motorcycle and the driver was transported to an area hospital, where he later died from injuries suffered, according to FHP.

## FALL CALENDAR

Lincoln Day Dinner  
set for October

The Sumter County Republican Party is excited to announce that the annual Lincoln Day Dinner, their biggest fundraiser of the year, will be held on Oct. 1, 2022 at the Brownwood Hotel & Spa.

CALENDAR | 2

## Wildwood Street Sweepers hard at work



Volunteers out working the Wildwood Street Sweepers cleanup event are shown here. They were Amanda Salazar – director of Wildwood's parks and recreation, Tara Tradd – code compliance manager, Melanie Peavy – Development Services director, Melissa Tuck – Human Resources manager, Steve Laign – Public Works operations manager, Silas Daniel – GIS manager, Linda Piotrowicz – Executive Department, public engagement, Jody Wilson – resident/Sumter Sun Times, Doug Davidson, Mark Francis, Susan Wassang – resident, Richard Devine – resident, Susan Thomas – resident.

The City of Wildwood has a new project rolling with their Wildwood Street Sweepers – a group of local residents and community members who are volunteering to help with cleaning up litter along the streets.

The effort started with a coordinated effort between code enforcement, public works and the parks and recreation de-

partment, according to Tara Tradd, the city's code compliance manager.

In recent weeks, they sent out fliers and advertised to get residents involved, asking them to meet up last Saturday, Sept. 16, for breakfast, before heading out to pick up litter along the

STREET SWEEPERS | 2

## Scam Likely

Your phone rings, you look at your caller ID, and it says scam likely. Do you answer or do you just block it? These scam callers are increasing everyday it seems like.

Most are people trying to separate you from your money. There are a lot of scams in the world. At First Baptist Church of Lake Panasoffkee, we believe the ultimate scammer is Satan. He tries to scam people into believing that there is no hope, there is no God, and you are worthless. You are not worthless in God's eyes. He loves you so much He sent His Son to die on the cross and pay your penalty of sin.

We would love to show you, from God's Word, this Jesus whom you can know personally and who can change your life. Our worship service is Sunday at 10:00am. Growth Group bible studies are at 9:00am Sunday morning and 6:00pm Sunday evening as well as Wednesday night at 6:30pm.

We have Growth Group bible studies for



all ages. We also offer a wonderful children's program called Kid Venture and an awesome youth ministry that meet on Wednesday evening, and Sunday mornings, at the listed growth group times. We would love to have you come and visit us with your family. First

Baptist Church of Lake Panasoffkee is located at 802 County Road 470 in Lake Panasoffkee. Our phone is 352-793-5510, and our website is fbclp@fbclakepan.com. We live stream every Sunday morning at 10:00 am.

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