



The Waldo Phoenix



FREE - TAKE ONE!

Volume Six - Issue 2, April, 2015

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W.H.S. News by Penny Dodd

Your Historical Society is very excited to announce that one of the projects we have been pursuing for what seems like eons, is actually coming to fruition.

When we were first told, back in 2008, that the City of Waldo would allow us to create a railroad museum inside the Waldo caboose, little did we know that it would not be an overnight sensation. Oh, no! Not even close. It has been such a learning experience for us in that thing called patience. Everything we tried to do seemed to take ten times longer than we thought it would.

We wanted everything to be authentic, so when we decided to paint inside, we asked and learned that the original caboose interior was painted "Schoolhouse Green." We happily acquired the required color, and the paint was applied. Do you know what "Schoolhouse Green" looks like? It's the same as what we used to call a blackboard, until they changed them to green. Very, very, dark.

That's when we decided it was so dark inside, that we needed to install lights so that our displays could actually be seen. All we needed was an electrician. It must be something about a Caboose, that makes finding an electrician so difficult. Oh, we found them. We called them, Set up appointments, and waited.

Some actually showed up, but never got back to us with an estimate. Some actually did give us an estimate, but it was astronomical. Most didn't bother to come at all, while we sat outside waiting for them. Many thanks to the City of Waldo for their help in getting light inside.

The first paint job was not very good (besides being dark), so we decided we'd have to go with a lighter shade. Acquiring paint isn't much of a problem - you just go to Lowe's or Home Depot. They have whatever you want. Getting it on the walls properly is a little more difficult.

But enough of our troubles, you say? Okay! We now have the inside painted by a professional painter, Mr. Scott Grady, lights are installed, air conditioning ready, upholstery being redone by Mr. Tom Rigney, Waldo resident, installation of a new deadbolt lock by American Locksmiths, and an agreement between the City of Waldo and the Waldo Historical Society.

So, we're happy to tell you that it won't be long now before we will be opening the doors to the Waldo Railroad Museum for the enjoyment of everyone who has been waiting patiently to see it.

There will be memorabilia donated by Waldo residents, information about how the Caboose was used, and by whom. We hope you will all come on opening day. Date To Be Announced.



LIMITED TO WALDO
RESIDENTS ONLY

CITY OF WALDO

APRIL 24 & 25, 2015

DUMPSTER LOCATIONS:

WATER TOWER
14750 WEEKS STREET

WALDO COMMUNITY CENTER
13550 NE 148TH AVE.

YERKES CENTER
14245 COLE STREET

TIRES ONLY (NO RIMS)
LIMITED TO 7 TIRES PER
PERSON

DO NOT DUMP ANY HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Examples include, but not limited to: paint, car batteries, oil, aerosol cans, pesticides, antifreeze etc.

QUESTIONS?

Call City Hall, 352-468-1001
(City Hall hours Monday-Friday
8am-5pm, closed for lunch 12-1pm)



Closing Waldo Community School is Closing the Wrong School

By John Nowak

Special to The Sun - Published:
Tuesday, March 17, 2015.

There is not a fiscal crisis in Alachua County public schools, there is a quality crisis.

Shell Elementary School in Hawthorne is a grade F school, has costs \$1,829 above average for each of its 185 pupils and is only half full. Superintendent Owen Roberts plans to fix Shell by closing the Waldo Community School and transporting its students to Shell.

Waldo costs \$520 less for each of its 197 students, is a higher-rated school and is nearer capacity. Waldo is the larger school. More students will be transferred to Shell than are currently enrolled there. This year's budget increase alone is more than five times Waldo Community School's entire annual budget of \$1.8 million.

Roberts' resume is impressive. However, there is no reason why Roberts' plan will work. Transferring so many children to a worse and more expensive school has a poor prognosis. It will do a lot of harm to Waldo. The plan promises no fixes. It will probably make things worse, and if it does, the damage is permanent.

There are many alternatives. There is time. There is money.

There has been no detailed analysis of why it would cost less to send Waldo's children to Shell. There has been no analysis

showing why this plan won't cost even more.

Waldo will become an unused facility but there will be huge costs to Shell when the Waldo students arrive. Transportation will be expensive. It's 35 miles minimum round trip. How many more buses and drivers will be needed? How much more maintenance and gas?

Few services between Waldo and Shell can be combined and eliminated. Shell will need teachers, administrators, support staff, utilities and maintenance for more than double the number of students.

How will Shell Elementary with 185 students accommodate 197 more? Shell will have to be completely reorganized as if it were a new school. Where is the plan? Does Shell really have the space? What about the condition? It sounds like Shell has been half-empty for a long time. Is there mold? Can old air conditioners and kitchen equipment take a double load? What's the budget for the new Shell?

Alternate schooling options have not been explained nor explored. Parents have found application deadlines to other schools and programs have already expired for next year. Applications to alternate schools take time to process and have waiting lists.

How many students will actually go to Shell? How many of Waldo's children will take the bus? No one knows. There has been no time to ask, no time to plan.

We do not know what it will cost to send Waldo's students to Shell. The data has not been provided because the data does

not yet exist. It will take at least a year to answer these questions.

The community must learn what its education options are. Only then might the School Board be able to actually count how many students will transfer to Shell. Only then can costs be estimated, educational plans made and any indication of success determined.

In some ways, closing Waldo Community School is not like closing a school in Gainesville. There are many schools in Gainesville, and they are only a few miles apart. There is only one school in Waldo with Shell 17 miles away.

However, many of the same questions concerning Waldo also concern the Duval, Metcalfe and Rawlings communities. All these communities must have detailed plans with time to consider them. There is time to listen and plan.

If Roberts insists that a school must be closed, he should consider closing Shell Elementary. Some can be transferred to Waldo, others can be transferred to the eastside reconfiguration plan. The Hawthorne community deserves better.

This matter is only part of the problem. A student at F-grade Hawthorne Middle/High school costs \$4,072 above average each for its 300 students, \$1.2 million total for the school. Many of Waldo's children go to Hawthorne. Perhaps closing Hawthorne should be on the table.

The School Board needs to think outside the schoolyard and look at the overall damage that closing Waldo school will do. There is no prospect of educational improvement that can overcome

the overall damage to the community.

Closing Waldo Community School is closing the wrong school. There are drastic plans without details or data. The School Board must investigate options, ask questions, get answers, analyze data and then determine action.

It needs detailed plans to show significant cost savings and educational benefits before closing any school. It needs to show this plan will not cause harm. The School Board should also investigate other options that might be of greater benefit. It needs to involve the communities on its plans before dictating its course.

John Nowak lives in Gainesville.

Community Center News by Thelma Bay

On Monday, March 9th, I became Manager of the Eldercare food site at the Waldo Community Center. I am happy and excited to have this new job and look forward to increasing our attendance at mealtime.

All seniors age 60 and above are welcome to stop by and have a free hot meal served at 11:30 a.m., 5 days a week. There is some paperwork involved but with your help, I will fill it out for you. This paperwork is good for a year.

Mr. John Powell from the Alachua County Tax Office will be here on Thursday, April 2nd to answer any questions about property taxes and any changes that might be coming.

We are hoping to have several speakers, the second of which will be Three Rivers Legal

Services. They will be here on Thursday, April 9th at 10 a.m. Bring your questions regarding wills, trusts, probate and other legal matters. This is a great opportunity to get some free legal help.

On Thursday, April 16th, we will have Humana here at 10 a.m. for a program to answer questions concerning health insurance.

Thursday, April 23rd, a spokesperson from Social Services will describe some of the services available to seniors that you may not know about. These include help with household expenses, utilities, eye glasses and help for your pet.

We also have Bingo on Monday morning from 9 to 11 and Dominos on Wednesdays from 9 - 12. Come out and join the fun and stay for a meal.



OBITUARIES

HODGE, ELLEN IRENE WORLEY, 99



Ellen Irene Worley Hodge was called to her heavenly home, Saturday, February 21, 2015 at 99 years young.

She was born April 26, 1915 in Dozier, Alabama to General Forest and Ellen Cora Driggers Williams.

Spending her youth on a cotton farm in Alabama with 3 sisters and 6 brothers, her childhood stories could keep your attention for hours. She later moved with her husband Olin and

6 month old daughter to the Gainesville-Waldo area in 1934. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and friend.

She was preceded in death by her mother, father, sisters and brothers as well as her husbands, Olin Worley and Preston Hodge, son, Dan Worley of St. Augustine and great grandson, Logan Renegar.

Irene is survived by four daughters, Joyce Matthews (Howard) of Waldo, June Cribbs (Harvey) of Chiefland, Elouise Harris (E.F.) of Waldo, Pennie Lefkowitz (Steve) of High Springs, 14 grandchildren, 24 great grandchildren and 29 great-great grandchildren.

She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Waldo and loved her Sunday school class where she was often referred to as 'Sunshine' by her many friends because of her smile.

Her love of children led her to work in the childcare field very early and she would go on to eventually own and operate the Mother Goose Childcare Center in Gainesville until she retired in 1981.

She loved to fish, garden and play games like poquino (PO-KE-NO), scrabble and dominoes, but didn't believe in letting even the youngest opponent win because even then she was helping them try harder, become better and maybe 'eventually' beat her.

If you knew her, you loved her and if you loved her, you were blessed. The legacy she leaves is one of respect, love and adoration and she will be always in the hearts of those she loved.



**MORRIS,
BONNIE
FAYE, 82**

Bonnie Faye Morris, 82, went to her Heavenly home,

Thursday, February 26th, 2015 at E.T. York Haven Hospice.

She was born December 24, 1932 in Enterprise, Alabama. She is preceded in death by her beloved husband of 62 years, R. Cecil Morris, her parents and all her siblings. She leaves her daughter, Deborah St Peter (Bob), her son R. Steve Morris (Belinda), grandchildren Brian Morris, Kelley Morris, and Kimberly DeMoss (Jimmy), Christopher Tenney (Taylor), great grandchildren, Nathan Morris, Elizabeth Grubbs, and Gabriel Melgoza.

Faye was a member of Parkview Baptist Church, Gainesville Order of Eastern Star #44, Past Matron, Grand Instructor, and Grand Representative of Scotland in Florida. Khem Temple #85, Daughters of the Nile, Gainesville Chapter, Plural Member of OES Waldo Chapter #120. United Daughters of the Confederacy, Past President.

Faye was a retired bookkeeper, served many years as a Sunday school teacher at Lake Forest Baptist Church, Gator Fan 'She LOVED her Tebow', loving wife, mother, and grandmother. She enjoyed gardening, and family genealogy.



**WEISNER,
SR.
WILLIAM
ARTHUR**

William Arthur Weisner, Sr., passed away

peacefully on March 7, 2015 in Gainesville, FL. He was born in Waldo, FL on December 6, 1929 to parents Arthur and Minnie Weisner.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers and four sisters. He is survived by his loving wife of 64 years, Eva Lou Sullivan Weisner, son William Arthur Weisner, Jr. of Hawthorne, FL, and many loving nieces and nephews.

He served on the Waldo City Council and was an honorary Master Mason with Waldo Lodge # 10 in Waldo, FL.

After moving from Waldo to his ranch in Hawthorne, FL, he spent his time raising cattle, horses, and Buckin Bulls. He was a lover of the outdoors and was a true Cowboy at heart, and lived life his way.

**COPELAND-DAMPIER,
DIANA LYNN**

Diana Lynn Copeland-Dampier passed away Saturday, February 28th, 2015 surrounded by loved ones at E.T. York Hospice Care Center in Gainesville following a heroic battle with cancer.

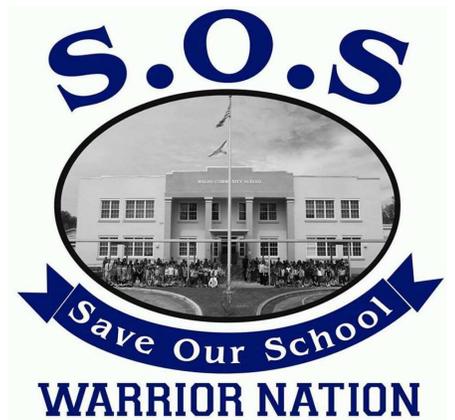
'Nana' as she was lovingly referred to was born June 1st, 1957 in Morgantown, West Virginia to Bill and Sondra Copeland.

She is survived by her husband and soul mate, Nick Dampier; her parents; her son, Bobby Pons; two sisters, Debbie

Morris and Donna Simpson; and granddaughter, Lauren Pons.

Diana and Nick were residents of Waldo, FL. She was an employee of the Biomedical Department at the University of Florida. She worked to deliver the best support possible for coworkers and students. Diana was also a member of Lighthouse Global ministries of Waldo.

With her time off, Nana was an avid gardener. She loved caring for her beautiful yard and enjoyed watching birds, butterflies, squirrels, and anything involving the outdoors. She was an animal lover with a great compassion for all of God's creatures.



Don't miss the School Board meetings in April.

School Board members will be answering our questions and listening to our concerns. We need to pack the Board Room once again. There are talks that we may be able to have this workshop in a bigger venue and they are trying to work out the logistics of this.

April 1st is the zoning workshop with the school board so that we have the chance to interact with the board members and hopefully getting our questions answered.

April 7th is a School Board Meeting and will be the first

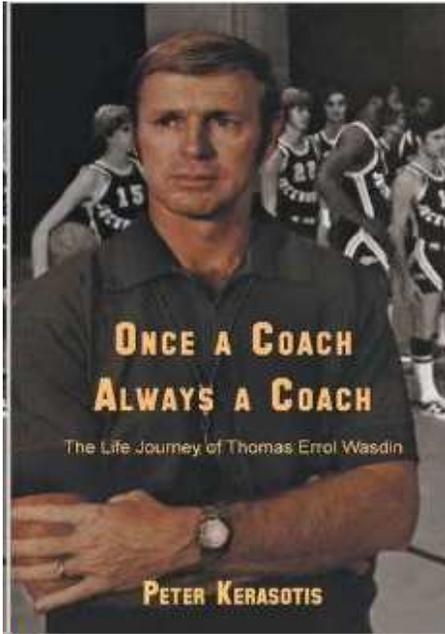
reading of the proposed new zoning.

May 5th is the public hearing regarding the new zoning and then the second reading and final adoption (vote) is on May 19th! All at 6pm.

If you were lucky enough to get an S.O.S. t-shirt at the March 17 meeting, be sure to wear it at all the meetings. Be sure to attend.

A New Book About A Waldo Native By Fred Donaldson

Once a Coach Always a Coach - The Life Journey of Thomas Errol Wasdin by Peter Kerasotis



A book out last year about Thomas Wasdin who was one of my classmates and best buddy at Waldo High School. He and I grew up together but I was a "townie" living in Waldo and he on 301 near the present flea market. He was a very gifted athlete and played 6 man football for the Waldo Blue Devils as quarterback and even better at basketball on the concrete court that is still being used today. His father was against

him wasting his time playing sports but his Uncle who he live with encouraged him. I was a so so player at 112 lbs and spent a lot of time on the bench but did manage to score a few touchdowns and basketball goals. We played other small schools such as Melrose, Cedar Key, Reddick, Hawthorne and as far away as Jennings under Coach Hugh Noe. Tom led us to win the 6 man football conference in the state and was usually the high scorer in our basketball games.

He and I entered UF in 1953 and he majored in education and started teaching Phsy Ed at Jacksonville then down at Cocoa Beach High School where he became interested in real estate and made some investments. His teams won championships at Cocoa and was offered a job as assistant coach at Jacksonville University (JU) under Coach Williams in 1968. From there on it was a Cinderella story as he was instrumental in recruiting Artis Gilmore a 7' 2" player and other gifted athletes. Tom and Coach Williams put JU on the basketball map by winning most of their games and going to the championship game at the final four in 1970 but losing the last game.

Thomas still lives in Cocoa where he and his wife Susie manage their condo and real estate business.

A good read for those interested in kids growing up in Waldo in the 1940s and 50s and Tom Wasdin's ups and downs in his career as a championship coach and beyond.

It can be purchased from Amazon .com.

New Flag to Waldo Community School By Fred Donaldson

On Tuesday March 17th Bob Gasche, Steve Dodd and I met at the school and gave the 5th grade class and Safety Patrol a talk on the history of the American flag and how it is to be honored.

Bob is a WW2 veteran and was wounded in the battle for Iwo Jima. Steve is a veteran of the Vietnam War and was twice wounded. Both were awarded Purple Heart medals and Steve the Bronze Star for valor.

I grew up in Waldo during WW2 and later was a member of the Florida National Guard and Army Reserve. The class was very attentive and asked many questions at the end of the talk.

After the talk, the class gathered around the flag pole and two members of the Safety Patrol lowered the old tattered and faded American flag. A new flag was presented by our group to the Waldo school and was raised while the class members stood at attention and looked on.

The old school flag was presented to Bob Gasche for proper disposal by the VFW in Gainesville.

Spaghetti Dinner for Safety Patrols

Friday night, April 17th from 4:30 to 7:30 at the Family Life Building.

Spaghetti, green beans, bread, tea and dessert for \$5.00. Plenty of DOOR PRIZES!!

Letter to the Editor



To the Editor of the Waldo Phoenix: As a subscriber of your unique paper, I must write to tell you how I was very impressed with the most recent issue, Volume Five, Issue 12, February 2015.

An important new topic appeared: Obituaries! It shows the growth of "The Phoenix" acknowledging the passing of these everyday important Waldo folks.

Although sad to those who knew and loved them, it was comforting to know that their passing was noted by your paper.

This writer truly believes in the "hereafter" and although they will be missed by us Earthlings, they are in a far better place!

Keep up the good work!

Most sincerely,

S. K. - Clinton, Ct.

NEW CITY HALL HOURS Effective June 1, 2015:

7:30am to 6:30pm Monday thru Thursday, Closed Friday.
Closed for lunch 12:00n-1:00pm

After Hours Water or Sewer Emergency 352-258-3110 or 352-258-6921

Save All Schools by Jimmy Thomas

I just can't get this mess out of my mind, In the interest of education in Alachua County, ask all individuals employed or otherwise receiving income or payment from the Alachua County school Board to voluntarily enact a 2% reduction of all expenditures by the school Board.

Save all schools, not just Waldo Community School. Spend like it was your own. Save all schools and provide the resources necessary to provide quality education. Make everything performance based!! Eliminate unnecessary positions within the School Board Office. When you dig as deep as you think you can, dig a little deeper!! Dig until it hurts!!! Just make the digging equal, across the board. Don't miss anybody or anything, 2% across the board.

I believe I read a comment about having one too many mechanics in the bus garage, eliminate it for now. Eliminate all the "nonessential" positions. Consider outsourcing the bus garage, the printing, etc.

I question if the Board can hire someone, purchase the equipment required, etc. for as little as a company established to perform the same tasks. Look at each budget item and consider the possibility of outsourcing.

Outsourcing/contracting would require a position for purchasing and oversight of functions. if not done before, pinch a penny until it squeals!!!

A LITTLE BIRD TOLD ME by Lucy Roe Cook

The good guys - part 2
This little bird sees so very many good guys in Waldo. My list seems so inadequate. Have I missed anyone?



Probably. Do I mean to? Absolutely not. My feathers are molting and my mind is skipping a jump. But I am ever so proud to be a part of Waldo and the good guys.

Last month I listed many of Waldo's good guys. Here are some of the good gals.

Lisa Hill, who takes care of the children in summer camp and those gals who assist her. The gals of the churches. The gals who work for the City. The gals of the WHS and the W3Cs. Those gals of the Community Center. Those of the school. This little bird is proud to be a part of this community.

I understand that the Quitman Hall family is in need of prayer. It has been a very bad month for him, his wife, Allie, and grandson, Travis.

Let us remain united in times of stress as well as the good times and show that Waldo will stand strong against its foe. May God's blessings be with you.



Information Please!

Waldo Phone Numbers You Might Need (Cut Out and Place By Your Phone)

City Hall	468-1001
After Hours Water Emergency	258-3110
Police or Fire Emergencies	911
Police or Fire Non-Emergencies	955-1818
Power Outages	1-800-468-8243
Waldo Library	468-3298
Waldo Community Center	468-2336
Waldo Post Office	468-1970
Waldo Community School	468-1451
Waldo Phoenix	468-1910

April Birthdays

1 Hilda Ross	1 Lumanda Davis
4 Shirley Korik	5 Dolly Warner
5 Dusty Harrison	5 Lindy Crews
10 Christine Hill	11 Elmore Taylor
11 Heather Bedford	12 Ciara Minnix
16 Lillie M. Anderson	16 Melanie Aultman
17 Ardell Davidson	18 Robert Abbott
22 Jonna Jackson	22 Amanda Edge
22 Earth Day	23 Lawrence Grant
26 Mary Aikin	26 Bridgette Hill
26 Jim DuBois	

Philadelphia Missionary Baptist Church Services

Rev. James W. Ramsey - Pastor
2nd and 4th Sundays 11:00 am
Mid-week service
every Wednesday 6:00 pm
taught by Minister Bernard Carter
Awesome Sunday School
every Sunday 9:45 am
taught by Bro. Bobby Hill
or Minister Bernard Carter for adults
and Sis. Josie "Jackson"
& Sis. Monique Taylor for the children.
Men's Day service will be held
on the 4th Sunday in July at 11:00 am

Always remember that
Man is Mighty but God is Almighty

First Baptist Church, Waldo Hwy 24

352-468-1721

Sunday Schedule



9:15 - 9:45 Refreshments
9:45 Bible Study (all ages)

11:00 am & 6 pm Worship
11:00 am & 6 pm Children's Worship
6 pm Youth Praise and Worship

Wednesday Schedule

5:45 - 6:15 pm Dinner
6:30 pm Children's, Youth, Adult
Programs



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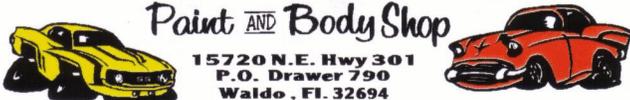
**Waldo Phoenix
Advertising Rate Sheet**

(effective date: March 1, 2010)

Size	3 Months	6 Months	12 Months
Business Card	\$60.00	\$90.00	\$120.00
Quarter Page	\$120.00	\$180.00	\$240.00
Half Page	\$240.00	\$360.00	\$480.00
Full Page	\$480.00	\$720.00	\$960.00

Your 8-1/2" x 11" or smaller flyers will be inserted @ \$25.00/250 per month. We will work with you to create your ad. We can add clip art, photos or your logo. Call 352-468-1910 - Advertising Editor
email: HistoricWaldo@gmail.com

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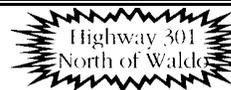
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Spy Ware

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