



☞ FREE - TAKE ONE!

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[www.WaldoHistoricalSociety.YolaSite.com](http://www.WaldoHistoricalSociety.YolaSite.com)

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## Christmas Dinner

Please join us at Waldo First Baptist Church on Christmas Day for a free Christmas dinner hosted by Friends of Waldo. We will begin the meal at 12:30 p.m. and eat until the food is gone!

If you are alone or do not have family nearby, come be with us. Do not eat alone.

If you are a family with kids bring everybody. There will be plenty for all. We hope to see you at the meal.

## City of Waldo News

By Lauren Flannery  
Gainesville Sun

Despite recent setbacks, Waldo's longtime mayor stays positive.

Waldo Mayor Louie Davis reads excerpts from an article in Trend Magazine about country music singer/song writer Mel Tillis while checking his mail at Waldo City Hall last Tuesday. At back is Davis' wife, Diana.

The Waldo that Mayor Louie Davis once knew has changed considerably in recent years.

Downtown buildings that once held grocery stores and

antique shops are now largely closed and shuttered. The recreation center where Davis met the woman (Diana) who would become his wife was long ago paved over for basketball courts -- and the trains that come through town no longer stop at the train station.

And Waldo's quiet existence began to unravel in 2013 when a traffic ticket scandal in the town that AAA once branded a speed trap led to the dissolution of the town's small police force.

Suddenly, a town hall that typically handled utility bill complaints and missing pet calls from the 1,000 or so residents was in the spotlight after a Sun investigation sparked by five Waldo police officers accusing the police chief of enforcing a ticket quota.

Then, earlier this year, another bombshell dropped when the School Board of Alachua County voted to close Waldo's lone educational institution: The Waldo Community School.

For Davis, who turns 70 next month and has served 30 years as mayor, it has been painful to see his town dragged down low.

"I did a lot of praying," he said. "Just on how to handle the situation and how to do the right thing."

At the School Board meetings where the Waldo school fate was being decided, Davis spoke on behalf of residents who

would have to bus their children long distances. He was among the residents out front of the school holding signs and wearing T-shirts with slogans opposing the closing.

"The school was the heart of the town. It brings a lot of



people together," he said. "We battled (the board) long and hard, but they had their mind made up before we even started fighting."

City Manager Kim Worley said that during that battle, and the one to save the police department, Davis has tried to keep the town moving forward.

The city recently improved its sewer system and Davis hopes it can attract more businesses -- maybe a bank and medical center. With enough growth, Waldo may justify reopening its school and a beloved piece of the community can be reborn.

"I would love to see how to go back to how it was, but time doesn't permit that," Davis said. "Now I always try to look ahead to make Waldo as self-sufficient as possible."

Davis' roots with Waldo run deep.

He was born in Bradford County and his family arrived in Waldo around 1950. Five generations of his family, starting with his father and extending to his great-grandchildren, have attended the Waldo school.

Davis has spent most of his life serving the town. Besides his three decades as mayor, he also has served four years as a council member, and 11 years as the city's fire chief. He said he treats life as a public official the same as he did when he worked at Atkin's Candy Store as a teen.

"It's all customer service," he said. "The citizens are our customers, and we are here to serve them."

Davis also worked as a facilities manager at the University of Florida, a job he got after spending two years in Korea after being drafted in 1965.

Being mayor pays only \$250 monthly, so he now works at his son-in-law's metal business maintaining equipment and inventory levels.

In the town hall building, Davis doesn't even have his own office; he sits at a desk inside the city manager's office.

The close-knit community puts Davis in contact with residents and their grievances even while he's outside town hall.

Some people, he said, will go to his house to tell him about everything from phone bill fees to a car being stuck up the road. Once, a woman ran to his house to report an abusive incident with her husband. Davis let her inside and phoned police while the husband stood in his yard.

For Davis, it's all just part of the job.

"In a small town, everyone knows where you live," he said. "You're all neighbors and you have a personal connection with them."

Davis' two daughters, Pammy and Lori Ann, live near town, and the family's camping trips to the mountains have now grown to include Davis' six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. The Davis family is so well known to the city that while his grandchildren were in grade school, other children began imitating them in calling Davis and his wife, Diana, "Poppy" and "Mimi."

A thoughtful man who chooses his words carefully, it's easy to underestimate the amount of influence that Davis has had on the city. Although the mayor attends Waldo's council meetings, the position is not a voting one, but Davis uses his position as figurehead to remain accessible to town residents.

"I'm proud of the fact that I represent the citizens and try to be an advocate for them, even if it's against the city," he said.

Worley said Davis isn't a man to make snap decisions, and that after council meetings, she, Davis and his wife will sometimes go to Wendy's to get a Frosty and talk about the meeting.

To improve the town's standing, Davis worked to represent Waldo to the state. He has served in the Alachua County, Florida and Northeast League of Cities and recently won the E. Harris Drew Municipal Official Lifetime Achievement Award, the Florida League of Cities most prestigious award, for a lifetime of public service.

"We get lost in the shuffle when you're a small town, so

being on those boards is important," Worley said.

Matt Surrency, the mayor of Hawthorne, said that Davis often is a father figure for other elected officials in the Florida League of Cities. He described Davis as a "hands-on" mayor who goes above and beyond the call of duty.

Recalling Davis' efforts to save the school, Surrency said, "That's normally not your role as mayor; he was just doing it because it meant so much to his community."

Although he has run unopposed for mayor in the last several elections, Davis said he will probably retire in a few years.

When asked what advice he would give himself if he had to do it again, Davis said, "Keep a journal. I think it would make a best seller."

## A LITTLE BIRD TOLD ME by Lucy Roe Cook

This Little Bird watched as many happy Seniors entered the doors of the

Waldo Baptist Church on Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup> to attend the annual Thanksgiving

dinner. The dinner was very good. The meals were served at the tables by the youth of the church. The youth also did a wonderful portrayal of the life of Christ, well done.

Others of the youth formed a band and we had beautiful music as we ate, well done.

There was a drawing for gifts and Reverend Jim DuBois did a stand up comedy about "The



Cousins." Rev. Jim asked, "How much would you have if all you had was what you were grateful for yesterday?"

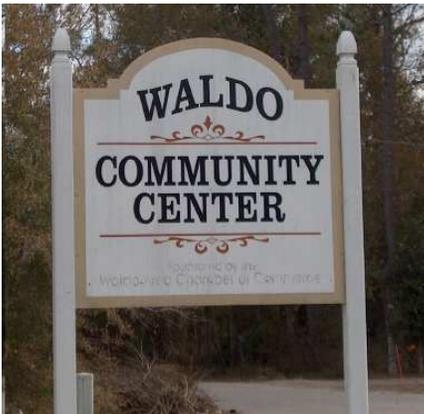
Thank you to all who worked so hard to give we the seniors a wonderful Thanksgiving with friends and family. Thank you.

The League of Cities meeting was held on Monday, November 16, at the Waldo Baptist Church. The WHS was thankful to have been invited to attend. Our Kim Worley did a wonderful job of hosting.

Christmas is nearing and joy fills the air. Don't forget the Annual "Christmas at the Caboose" event on December 17 at 6:00 p.m.

We wish the joy of Christmas could be in all hearts everywhere. Let freedom ring throughout our land. Merry Christmas to you all.

## Community Center News by Thelma Bay



All of us at the Community Center hope that each of you enjoyed your Thanksgiving holiday with family and friends. Time goes by so fast, we need to enjoy those moments together.

Every Monday from 9 to 11:00 a.m., we play Bingo. Playing

is free, just bring 3 or 4 small prizes to share.

We also have information programs at least once a month. In the month of December, on Thursday, 12/17, Ms. Thelma Crump will be speaking about a program called Lifeline, which brings information about scams, energy savings, available help for Seniors and much more. The program starts at 9:30 a.m.

Please come if you can.

Hopefully, all of you will have a wonderful holiday season and we wish you the very best in the New Year.

## One Boy's a Boy... Ben Campen



When I was a teenager, I walked down the road to a neighbor, Farmer Wasdin, who had a fair sized farming operation. It was during bean harvesting season and he had hired a number of people to pick beans, 'grade' them, pack them in hampers, and then load them on a big truck for market. I asked Farmer Wasdin if I could get a job after school helping to pack the hampers and load them on the truck.



Fortunately, he needed another farm hand and hired me on the spot. I felt so emboldened by his quick response that I asked him if he would also hire my brothers, Jim and John.

Just as quickly, he said; "Campen Ben (which he like to call

us Campen boys...Campen first, then our given name), one boy's a boy, two boys a half a boy, three boys ain't no boy at all."

I looked at him somewhat dumbfounded. As a teenager, it wasn't the straight-on yes or no answer I was expecting! But as I got older, the lesson became more and more clear.

As a businessman, the truism of those words "one boy's a boy, two boys a half a boy, three boys ain't no boy at all" became more real to me as I hired and assigned various numbers of employees to accomplish specific jobs. This phrase became my internal "law of diminishing returns."

When I feel I need to hire more employees, I ask myself these questions:

1. Do I really have enough work to justify another employee or can current employees absorb that work?
2. Would promoting someone internally and giving them more duties be a better option?
3. Am I set up to manage more employees?
4. Am I willing to take a "hit" in the short-term (or maybe the long-term) on my profits?
5. Do I really want to bring in an unknown element that may upset the "apple-cart"?

My basic philosophy is to run "lean and mean." It is easier to get things done and keeps my current employees engaged at a high level. And - I imagine you can relate to this as we've all more than likely seen it - a position will expand into the time allotted. So if you have 20 hours of work to be done, a well-meaning employee can expand that into a 40 hour work week with what I call,

"make-work." (Make-work- activity that serves mainly to keep someone busy and is of little value in itself.) And that "make-work" eventually makes me do work that I don't need to be doing and slows everyone down!

When you run lean and mean, you cut away all the "make-work" and get down to doing what really needs to get done. And, I really believe your employees would much rather work hard at meaningful tasks than slog away at meaningless "make-work."

Even with individual projects, I like a small team that can get the job done efficiently and effectively. Every extra person you bring in will add more time and more work to the process.

Think about this: everyone wants his or her mark on a project. They want to participate and they want to look good through their participation. If you put too many people on a project, you risk your employees "stepping on each other" in negative ways. Too many employees involved on a project can easily turn into "one boy's a boy, two boys a half a boy, three boys ain't no boy at all."

Let's always remember, more doesn't necessarily mean better. It could actually mean less. Farmer Wasdin was no doubt thinking the same thing when he hired one Campen instead of three Campens to work in the bean barn.

## Nightmare on Hendersonville Road!

By Rodney Estes

We have quite a few teenagers living in our neighborhood. Three of the kids have discovered I'm a sucker for giving out money to help



them. Carson, a 16 year old boy, lives directly behind us. His two best friends (twins), Matthew and Michael, live in house 103, down from Sarah. All three boys are very bright, courteous, and hard workers. They are saving money for their first car which they hope to get soon. They've worked several jobs for me, cleaning the yard, cutting hedges, etc. This week I decided I would have them clean Sarah's car. Sarah never has time to clean out her car and I thought this would help her, especially since the new baby, LB3, will be here next Friday.

The boys did an excellent job cleaning the inside of the car, vacuuming, washing the windows, cleaning and polishing the interior. I was very impressed and rewarded them for their hard work. However, here is where the nightmare begins. I decided I would take the car to the local car wash, one of those long buildings that pushes

you car through. I pull up to two lanes that have one of those boxes with an arm



that blocks you entering until you deposit your money or credit card.

The left lane had a car getting ready to enter while the right had an old black pickup truck having troubles. It has a rebel flag, a rifle rack in the back, and enough dirt on it to require the amount of water to float Noah's Arc to get it clean. The driver, who made Gomer Pyle look like Brad Pitt, leaned out of the truck to spit a wad of tobacco the size of a grapefruit! He starts to back up, so I back up too, to let him move to the left lane. I had this sickening feeling that I had experienced something similar to this before. He enters without any problems. So it was my turn. I had multiple choices from "Just a Wash Today" to the "Ultimate Wash with Tri-Color Foam." I can't figure out how the color of soap makes it better. I wanted to make Sarah happy, so I chose the "Ultimate Wash." I pulled around the back and waited my turn. This cute high school girl guides me into the slots for my wheels. She stands next to this flashing sign, with her arms pointed at a list of things I'm suppose to be doing, like she's Vanna White of the Wheel of Fortune.

- 1. Put your car in neutral.**
- 2. Take your foot off the brake.**
- 3. Turn off your wipers.**
- 4. Blah, blah, blah, I'm thinking to myself, I'm not stupid!**

Suddenly, the car jerks forward. I almost forgot! I have Alexander and Noah strapped in their car seats in the back seat. Alexander has just gotten over his fear of going through car washes. The first thing we came too was a sprinkler that gets your car wet before the soap arrives. There's a problem. Sarah has one of those

The traditional three colors of Christmas are green, red, and gold. Green has long been a symbol of life and rebirth; red symbolizes the blood of Christ, and gold represents light as well as wealth and royalty

fancy cars with lots of buttons and a window on the top of her car, part of a sunroof. Water begins to drip on my head so I figure the boys must not have closed it properly. I look up to find the button that closes it, but there's about five or six buttons to choose from. I hit the first one that I see, and suddenly the window on the roof automatically opens!!

Oh, noooooo!!! Red, green, and blue soapy foam begins to be sprayed all over me and the front seat. I try to wipe the foam off my face so I can see, but too late. I hear and see what looks like a giant centipede from the dinosaur days with long hairy legs spinning on top of the hood headed my way. I'm frantically trying to find the damn button to close the window when I hear Alexander in total fright, screaming in the back seat.

"Poppy! Poppy! The washing machine is coming inside the car!!"

By now, I'm being pounded with these hairy legs on my head while Noah, who I've decided should have been named Lucifer, is laughing hysterically in the back seat. He thinks its funny that I have my arms flailing above my head trying to keep the hairy legs from taking my scalp off and find the damn button to close the window. I thought about putting it in gear and flooring it out of danger, but that damn red-neck moron in the truck was blocking my escape. Finally, we pass the hairy legs, but what comes next is even worse! There's a fire hose swinging back and forth, left to right, with the force that would knock down a brick wall. The scenes of the cops using water canons to knock down the civil

rights demonstrators in the 1960's comes to mind. I now have a lot of respect for what they went through. No time to close the window and in it comes with such force! You can imagine what it looked like inside, between the tri-color foamy soap and a tank full of water! I thought to myself, "Thank GOD, it's finally over." But, I forgot I bought the "Ultimate Wash" which meant waxing was next. It wasn't as bad as the fire hoses, but it was greasy. Just as I found the right button to close the window, these giant dryers kick in and just about blow the boys out of their seats. By this time, I'm sure my head is completely bald.

I race home soaking wet, embarrassed beyond belief, and praying the flood of the century hasn't done too much damage to the inside of the car. After going through a dozen towels, the car is dryish and I can finally relax. BTW, whatever you do, DON'T tell my son-in-law, Chris, about this. He's kind of OCD when it comes to his cars.

## Veterans Day Celebration

The W3Cs, the Waldo Historical Society, Mayor Louie Davis, City Manager Kim Worley, M.C. Mr. Joe Lipsey, wish to thank everyone who attended the November 11 Veterans Day Celebration at the Waldo Community Center to honor



A Dozen Good Men - the Veterans We're Thankful For

our veterans and Bobby Cook for the signs, Margaret Cannon, CJ for cooking and Thelma Bay.

The Speakers were superb, telling of their experiences in the Military with great stories and humor. Johnathan Stewart, US Marine Corps related a wonderful story of how (and why) he joined the Marines. The food was delicious, and everyone had a great time.



Johnathan Stewart  
US Marine Corp.

The first person to decorate a Christmas tree was reportedly the Protestant reformer Martin Luther (1483-1546). According to legend, he was so moved by the beauty of the stars shining between the branches of a fir tree, he brought home an evergreen tree and decorated it with candles to share the image with his children.



## OBITUARIES



### **Charles Franklin "Chuck L Bones" Slifer, Jr.**

**M**r. Charles F. Slifer, Jr., better known as "Chuck L Bones" passed away at his home in Waldo, Friday, October 23, 2015. He was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on July 12, 1937 to the late Charles Franklin and Carolyn Charolette (Strudwick), Sr.

Chuck proudly served in the United States Navy and was a member of the American Legion Post #16. He was also a gunsmith, owning and operating Chuck's Gun Shop for 40 years. He enjoyed riding Harley Davidson motorcycles and shooting all types of guns. He was an active member and past Master of the Masonic Lodge #10 in Waldo, along with being a life member of the NRA.

Chuck had also been involved with the Waldo Historical Society since 2005. He served as vice president of Hampton Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc. Since 2008.

He was known for his great personality. Survivors are his wife of 30 years, Kathy Slifer, two daughters, Kathleen Smalley of North Miami and Charleen Hegg of

Mauk, Georgia, along with their mother, Peggy.

Also left behind is his brother, Fred Slifer of Pennsylvania and several nieces and nephews. The family will be having a private memorial service at a later date.

### **H-E-L-P**

#### **By Millie Keirnan**

Help! Help! Could anyone volunteer to work with the WHS in the caboose to help with our many projects.

It would be nice for the Community to work together for history updates. If you would like to help, please call Millie Keirnan at 468-1378.



### **Attention Please!**

#### **By Linda Hall Vlacos**

**T**he Waldo Historical Society Railroad Museum will be opening soon. If anyone has any railroad memorabilia and would like to donate it so we can put it in the museum, please contact Penny Dodd at 352-468-1910. Thank you.

### **Dancers at the Community Center by Vera Mauldin**

**O**n October 24, 2015 at the Waldo community center, there was a group of 7 girls and 2 boys putting on a fantastic performance. It was Kelly Christie's Dance Academy from Lake Butler.

Dancing is not their only focus. They travel to various places with their dancing program,

doing missions, and sharing the gospel.

Among the places they have performed are Atlanta, Georgia, and Orlando. They were in the process of raising funds to travel to Costa Rica.

At the Community Center, they did Jazz style dancing portraying different characters.

Their first performance was portraying pirates followed by tap dancing in the early 40's with a swing medley. The third was a character routine from the Broadway show "Annie" called "Hard Knock Life", followed by one that represented America waiting for our soldiers to come home, one that Bette Midler did. Their final performances were "Moroccan Roll," a Middle Eastern style dancing and "Oceans."

This group of dancers do intense training. The purpose of this Academy is to teach quality technical training and share the gospel through their performance.

I learned about these dancers from a flyer from Ida Bivins whose granddaughter was one of the dancers. It was worth my time going to see these young children perform. I have attended a Broadway show and had the feeling of being back in New York as I watched these children. Their performance was that great.

A Yule log is an enormous log that is typically burned during the Twelve Days of Christmas (December 25-January 6). Some scholars suggest that the word yule means "revolution" or "wheel," which symbolizes the cyclical return of the sun. A burning log or its charred remains is said to offer health, fertility, and luck as well as the ability to ward off evil spirits.

# 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
Poison Control Center	1-800-222-1222
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
Windstream Phone repair	1-800-347-1991

## December Birthdays

3 P.J. Bedford	17 Margaret Cannon
4 Louie Davis	18 William Jackson
5 Leanna Fricks	20 Bernard Carter
6 Denise Burnham Baun	20 Alex Mauldin
7 Carson Piemons	23 Donna K. Smart
8 Mary Ann Rich	24 Mac Cawley
16 Eugene Wilson	26 Lisa Hill
17 Rayford English	30 Kimberly Harrison
17 Kevin Mauldin	



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## Philadelphia Missionary Baptist Church Services

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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 4<sup>th</sup> 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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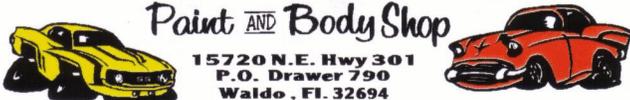
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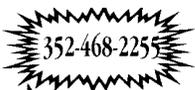
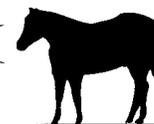
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