



FREE - TAKE ONE!

Volume Six - Issue 4, June, 2015

A 501(c)3 Non Profit Organization

Published by Waldo Historical Society, Inc.

www.WaldoHistoricalSociety.YolaSite.com

Like us on Facebook

School Board Votes to Close Waldo Community School!

SchoolBoardGate by Bobby Ray Cook

Our concept of government is beautiful. Abraham Lincoln said it best when he referred to it as government of the people, by the people and for the people. It is a concept



Bobby Cook

where every voice can be heard and respected.

The state of Florida, much to its credit, has carried this concept a step further by introducing "Government in the Sunshine." Administered correctly, this gives citizens a fighting chance to know what is going on and to have opportunity to participate timely in the decision process.

It is an ugly thing when the government goes awry. A perfect example of this can be found in the recent actions of the Alachua County school board. They announced last December their intent to close the elementary school in Waldo. The final decision to close the school was made this week, a mere six months after notification. During that six months, citizens were ignored. They became intimately aware of obfuscation and deception. It was

as though the citizens did not exist. Concerns for their children's safety were not addressed. The school board was reminded repeatedly that Florida law requires a five year notice of their intent to close a school. The school board made no effort to challenge or deny this requirement of law. They made no reply at all. They simply ignored citizen input and the law itself. The school board answered no questions. They hid behind the superintendent.

The superintendent's response was superficial. He answered no questions of substance. He hid behind his staff who had only a few facts and could not speak for the superintendent or the school board.

The school board also ignored the intent of the law. Why would the state law require a five year notification?

Perhaps it was because legislators realized the importance of a school to a community.



Perhaps it was to prevent the school board from making rash impulsive decisions that would have long lasting and possible devastating results in the community.

Perhaps it was to provide stability to our school system, thus

avoiding school closures due to current political pressures.

Perhaps it was to protect small rural communities from being gobbled up by the larger communities. Perhaps it was to prevent the west side of Alachua County from stealing the resources of the east side, simply due to the current political climate.

We cannot know the exact intent of the law but we do know that the law requires a five year notice.

Perhaps the legislators knew that small communities need time to respond. It takes time to identify problems and it takes time to solve those problems. It takes time to notify and motivate the public. It takes time to raise funds for attorneys. It takes time to formulate strategies.

We live in a time of almost instantaneous news. Stories about lawlessness are commonplace. A teenager shoots at the police. Hit and run accidents are common. Someone snatches a purse from a victim and runs. A convenience store is robbed. From these crimes, one persistent question arises. Where are our children learning such disrespect for the law? I believe they are learning by example.

Our school board is teaching our children by example that the law is unimportant. It's

okay to break the law if it doesn't suit your needs. It's okay to lie, if you have a good reason. Our school board is deliberately breaking a law designed to protect citizens. Our school board is showing no more respect for the law than a teenager who shoots at a police officer. Our school board should be openly condemned for setting such a horrible example for our community, particularly for our children.



It's like cutting down a 150 year old tree. If the law says you can't cut it down, do it anyway and the quicker the better. Once it's cut down, it can't be replaced. It is far easier to get forgiveness than permission. Cutting it down quickly denies the opposition the opportunity to respond.

That's what the school board is doing. They are cutting down a 150 year old school and ripping the heart out of our community as quickly as possible because it's politically expedient. And the law be damned.

The school board was asked to explain their strategy. What were their long range goals? Such questions were ignored. Citizens were kept in the dark. All along, explanations were wholly inadequate, but the night they voted they mentioned long range goals but provided no details other than the superintendent's desire for a quality education for every child in the county.

I'm not an attorney, so I won't pretend to understand the legal requirements for "Government in the Sunshine." However, I do have a measure of

common sense and I can assure you that the action of this school board is not government in the sunshine. From their action it is obvious that there are back door deals going on and the public has been excluded from the decision making process.

A few years ago, I was involved in a lawsuit and was forced to seek legal counsel. I was in the right. I had an easy defense. I was sure I would prevail, but then my attorney set me straight. He advised me that being right was good but that being right was not enough. If you're right, you can get justice in the courts, but justice costs money. It soon became clear that being right was secondary. His primary question was not who is right, but rather, "How much justice can you afford?" This entire episode reminds me of a Denzel Washington movie, Unstoppable. Two men risked everything to stop a high speed runaway train that weighed millions of pounds. It was carrying a deadly cargo into the heart of a city where it was sure to derail. The situation was hopeless. No one believed it could be stopped but the faith of two men prevailed and the city was saved. It's a great movie showing great personal sacrifice and the struggle to win at all costs.

Waldo is faced with such a struggle but it's not a train that threatens us. It's irresponsible government. The school board is breaking the law and we are in the right. We have a good case but with no Denzel Washington in sight we still face the primary question, "How much justice can we afford?"

CONDEMNED

© Can Stock Photo

Our school board deserves to be condemned. They are insensitive; they are not truthful; they have no honor; they have no respect for the law; and they are setting a horrible example for our children. Shame on our school board.

But . . . no matter what we think or say, the same question remains: How much justice can we afford?

A LITTLE BIRD TOLD ME **by Lucy Roe Cook**

This is a difficult month to write with so much sadness in the air about the school. Such a good fight was fought but the school board had already decided and did not give any consideration to the children and the parents. Waldo is heartbroken. God will work it out.

Mr. Quitman Hall is in need of prayer as is his family. He is recuperating at Windsor Manor at Starke. Room 108 I am sure he would like to hear from friends.

A very dear friend of the WHS visited in April. His name is Don Kunz. He is a valued board member I am told. It was wonderful to see him. Don lives in Seattle, WA and joins us at our April meeting.



Brief History of Waldo Lodge No. 10 F. & A.M.

First, What is Masonry? By decree of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida proclaims and publish that Freemasonry is a non-sectarian religious organization, an educational organization and a charitable organization founded upon, possessed of and adhering to all those principles, precepts, tenets and beliefs that characterize and distinguish such organizations.



Waldo Lodge No. 10 Free and Accepted Masons was granted its charter by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida on January 9, 1866. It is one of the oldest Masonic Lodges in Florida. The first Worshipful master of Waldo Lodge was General Elias Earle, for whom the community of Earleton was named. In addition to being one of the early Most Worshipful Grand Masters of Florida, General Wasalso Adjutant to the then Governor of Florida.

From its inception, Waldo Lodge had difficulties locating a meeting place. In fact, in 1876, its members decided to turn their charter in, thus ceasing to exist as a Mason Lodge, primarily because they had such difficulties finding a place to hold their meetings. However, their fortunes changed and subsequently they were able to find places to hold their meetings in the Williams Brothers Mercantile Store, soon thereafter in the upper story of the old Scales Store building and eventually in the upper story of the Bank of

Waldo (later Schenck's Hardware store).

In 1966, Waldo Lodge No. 10 celebrated its 100th year of progress by laying the cornerstone and meeting in the new



Masonic Temple on Seydel Street. The plans for the construction of this building had begun in 1955 when the Masons and the Eastern Star still held their meetings in the upper rooms of the vacant bank building. The building project was paid for with donations and primarily from money raised by having fish fries.

Through the years, Waldo Lodge No. 10 has counted among its members many community and religious leaders and business men. Some of the names of the more prominent members that you might recognize are, Desha, Seigler, Schenck, Miley, Drew, Kennard, and others too many to mention.

Today, one hundred twenty nine years after being chartered, Waldo Lodge No. 10 is very active and an integral part of the Waldo community.

Just last year, we held an open house/family night supper and program opened to the public with about 50 people participating. We also had an awards night supper and program opened to the public with about 60 people in attendance. We also sponsored a "Child I.D. Program" at the Waldo Flea Market last summer. Most recently, we visited the Waldo community School "Book Give-Away Program." We enjoyed bonding with the students by reading with them and helping

them pick a book that was suitable to their interests and reading level. Every student was given a book for their own personal library.

One of the primary objectives of any Masonic Lodge is to raise money in order that we might make contributions to charitable organizations. Other than the ones previously mentioned, in the past, we have supported Little League teams, "Adopt-a-Teacher" or "Adopt-a-School", in which we make a monetary donation to a particular program in a school or to the school, etc.

We look forward to a bright future and have every expectation that our endeavors will be of benefit to our community in particular, and to mankind in general.



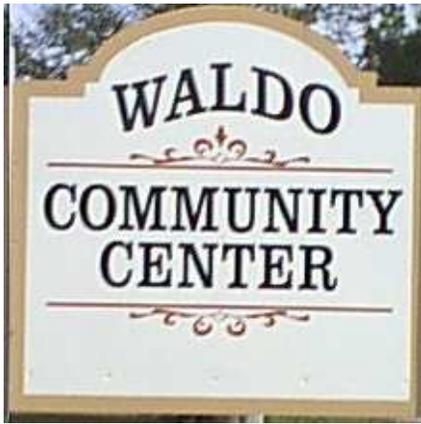
Waldo Lodge No. 10, F. & A.M. is going to have a fun/fund raiser on Saturday, June 20th, from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The fun/fund raiser will be a Barbecued Chicken Supper complete with Home Made Beans, Slaw, Dinner rolls, Tea, Coffee, Soda and Dessert.

The donation for this fabulous supper will be only \$7.00 per person.

Children under 7 years of age will also receive a "Door Prize."

Money raised will be used for our lodge mostly to make donations to charitable organizations with the residue being used for our building fund.

Come join us Masons, with your family and friends for a fabulous evening of great food and fun!



Community Center News by Thelma Bay

We are having some really great times at the Center. Bingo on Monday mornings from 9 to 12, Dominos on Wednesdays from 9 to 12 until June 3rd.

Summertime brings our kids for Lisa Hill's Kids Camp but there's plenty of room for our Seniors too. During the Kids Camp, we will not be having Bingo or Dominos, but will begin again the middle of August.

If you are 60 or older, there is a free noon meal available. I will fill out some paperwork with your help and you're good to go. You do not need to give any financial information.

In the Fall, we have many interesting programs lined up, everything from exercise classes to free legal information to social services that you may qualify for.

Come by the Community Center and check us out. You'll be glad you did!



OBITUARIES

ROBERT CLAY DAVIS (1994 - 2015)



Robert Clay 'Robbie' or 'RD' Davis, age 21, of Keystone Heights died April 21, 2015

in a motor vehicle accident.

He was born January 27, 1994 in Gainesville, and is the son of Eddie Davis of Keystone Heights and Shana Davis-Sapp & Bruce Sapp of Starke. He graduated from Keystone Heights High School in 2013 and was currently employed by McKendree's Plumbing & Heating, Inc. of Jacksonville. R.D. loved his family first, always....but also his girlfriend, Madison Tomlinson, his CCB boys and his baseball brothers. He enjoyed spending his time in the outdoors, whether it be baseball, fishing or in a 4x4 in the mud. In the short span of 21 years, Robbie touched so many hearts and minds. His selfless way of making sure everyone had what they needed way before his own needs and is shown by all the friendships and relationships he's made. There was not one wasted minute in Robbie's life, he took every day and made the most out of it....always putting a positive spin on life. Robbie had a smile that lit up a room or a crowd ~He was the sunshine that lit up his family and friends no matter how cloudy the day...he is still our sunshine!

He is preceded in death by his maternal great grandparents, Leamon Williamson and Gladys

Hersey Williamson of Keystone Heights and his paternal great grandparents, O.W. and Mary Lee Davis of Gainesville and Robert H. and Sally Yon McCollum of Gainesville. Robbie is survived by his father, Robert E. Davis and his mother, Shana Davis-Sapp and step father, Bruce Sapp, his older brother Christopher Johnson and younger brother Garrett Davis; step sister's Kaycee and Erika Sapp and step brother's, Dustin Packham and Nolan Sapp all of Keystone Heights. Also left behind is his maternal grandmother, VonCille Bruce of Keystone Heights and grandfather, Gene King of Henderson, NC; paternal grandparents, Clay and Sara Jane Davis of Waldo; aunts and uncles, Randy and Shannon Blankenship, Tom and Mary Easom, Clint and Stacey King, Brian and Mandy Stafford and Jason Bell, along with his cousins, Heather, TJ, Caleb, Catie and Brody. He also leaves behind far too many friends and 'best buds' to mention by name.

The memorial service will be held at Trinity Baptist Church of Keystone Heights, Saturday, April 25, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. Following services, the family will receive family and friends at Community Church of Keystone Heights in the Fellowship Hall. His burial will be at a later date.

Arrangements are under the care of JONES-GALLAGHER FUNERAL HOME, 340 E. WALKER DR. KEYSTONE HEIGHTS, FL 32656. 352-473-3176.

PATRICIA ANN CRESS



Patricia Ann Cress age 73 of Waldo passed away on May 6, 2015 at Shands at UF

in Gainesville.

She has joined her beloved family in heaven, her father, Liston Shepherd, mother, Louise Bost, husband, Gerald Wayne Cress Sr., son, Joel David Cress and brother Liston James Shepherd Jr. She is survived by her two children, Robin A. Hunt and Gerald W. Cress Jr. both of Waldo; sisters, Marie Basinger, Waldo and Barbara (Bill) Laney of NC, brothers, Terry (Von) Shepherd of Virginia, Scotty (Isabell) Shepherd of Texas; sister and brother-in-law, Ann and Ronald Erwin, NC, 2 nieces, 5 nephews, 5 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

A Private Memorial Service will be held at a later date.

Arrangements are under the care of Moring Funeral Home, Melrose, FL.

Funeral Home
Moring Funeral Home
310 State Road 26 Melrose,
FL 32666(352) 475-2201



Lawrence Grant, Jr.



Lawrence Grant, Jr.

Lawrence Grant, Jr.

STARKE— Lawrence Grant, Jr. died on April 20, 2015 at his residence. He was a retired truck driver. He was educated in the Alachua County School System.

He is survived by: daughter, Biancia Grant; son, Corey Grant, both of Tampa; sister, Virginia Grant Alien of Starke; and brother, Homer Mosely of Gainesville.

Funeral service will be held 5:00 pm on Saturday, May 2 at J. Hadley Funeral Home Chapel, Rev. Lorenzo Edwards, Pastor. Visitation will be held on Friday from 3-6:00 pm on Friday. Professional services are entrusted to J. Hadley Funeral Home of Starke.



BRYANT, III, OWEN 'JAY' JENNINGS

Waldo - Owen 'Jay' Jennings Bryant III was born on May 26, 1958 in Gainesville, FL. He died May 18, 2015.

Jay resided most of his life in Waldo, FL. He was a very skilled heavy equipment operator for 30 yrs. and worked in and around the Gainesville area. Jay enjoyed spending time with his grandkids and loved to go fishing.

He is survived by his mother Dorteia Bryant, son Christopher Bryant, daughter Elisha Bryant, and four grandchildren Katelyne Bryant, Hailey Richey, Harley Bryant, and Bryson Richey.

Services will be held at the Milam Funeral Home Chapel on Friday, May 22, 2015 at 9AM.

Arrangements are under the care of MILAM FUNERAL AND CREMATION SERVICES, 311 S. Main Street, Gainesville, FL 32601. 352-376-536.

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

Dear Gabby



Advice to the LoveWorn

Dear Gabby, I have a dear friend who has a habit that not only causes harm to herself, but also offense to others. The habit? Alas, it is a common one: smoking.

She steps outside often to have a cigarette, but when she comes back inside, the lingering smell is still overpowering. I've tried to talk to her about quitting for the sake of her health, with little success.

How can I broach the issue of the smell to her in a way that will help her realize her bad habit also has negative effects on her friends?

Sincerely, Hoping for Fresh Air in Waldo.

Dear "hoping for fresh air in Waldo",

Unfortunately most smokers cannot smell the lingering odor of smoking. When they eventually quit smoking, usually after a serious medical problem caused from smoking, they usually comment on how their sense of smell and taste came back. Most smokers realize it is affecting their health and cannot quit or will not quit smoking.

I do not think anything you say will change her mind about smoking. Most smokers know all the negative aspects of smoking and the effects it has on others around them. I do not think there is anything you can say without hurting her feelings and making

her feel bad about herself. There is a lot of help out there these days for smokers to quit. She has to be ready to quit and it is totally up to her.

The only solution I can come up with is to encourage her to chew nicotine gum when she is with you instead of smoking. It seems to work for a lot of people and maybe she will like it enough to get her off of cigarettes for good.

I am sure if she reads this letter, you will not have to say anything. She and maybe other smokers will think about the consequences of smoking on their friends and family.

Regards, Gabby

Printer Ink Cartridges

Thank you to all who continue to donate their empty printer ink cartridges to our collection boxes at the Waldo Library and Waldo City Hall. Your



cartridges help us cover the cost of our office supplies (ink, paper, etc.).

THRIFTY TIPS

- * Never throw a squeezed lemon away without first using it to rub over yours hands and elbows. It softens, cleans and bleaches them.
- * Rinse fingernails and hands daily in a lemon rinse.
- * Rub lemon juice on the skin to banish blackheads and acne.
- * Mix lemon juice with salt and use to rub off dead skins cells on the thighs and elbows.

Alachua County's Division of Social Services

can often help Alachua County residents with . . .

Eye exams and glasses

Daily RTS bus passes

Primary health care

Medication and medical supplies



A Past Due rent, mortgage or utility payment

Indigent burial or cremation

Solid waste assessment waivers



Urgent special needs

Animal control waiver



Security/utility deposits (SHIP)

For more information, contact: Alachua County Social Services, (352) 264-6750.

RANDOM FACTS

Modern English borrows from a lot of different languages, and sometimes those foreign words lose some of their original meaning in translation.

Food and dining, for example, borrows heavily from French, and some of the words don't mean to us what they mean over there.

In French cuisine, an "entree" is a dish served before the main course, in other words, an appetizer.

In French, "le plat principal" is the main (or principal) course.

Bonus Fact:

In French: "un aperitif" is a pre-dinner cocktail.

"un digestif" is your after-dinner drink.

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

June Birthdays

1 Diana Davis	2 Johnny Hill
4 Earl Green	5 Josie M. Rich
5 Aaron Martin	5 Ruth Dees
6 Ray Charles Jackson III	7 Kristen Jacobs
9 Debbie Boal	12 Louise P. Wilson
12 Roger O'Neal	13 Missy Vanderheyden
13 Pamy Burnsed	16 Dylan Ankney
17 Andy Burkhalter	20 Lorraine Munk
21 Mark Nugent	21 Josie Hill
21 Jace Howard	24 Garrett Van Allen
25 Richard Armitage	25 Bobby D. Hill
26 Emma Green	26 Clarence Bostick
26 Delores K. Wilson	26 Crystal Gilliam
27 Jesslyn Lewis	28 Jason Dowling



Subway of Waldo

Present this coupon for \$1 off a FOOTLONG™
OR \$.50 off a 6" SUB!

Located on NE HWY 301 next to Dollar General
Call 352-468-1163 or fax 352-468-1153

Have Brush Will Travel



Gifford's Painting

Residential & Commercial

Power Washing

Free Estimates

Scott Grady

352-494-7501

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

Waldo Self Storage

352-468-1042

17842 N.E. Hwy 301

P.O. Box 698

Waldo Florida 32694

Electronic Security Gate & Video Surveillance

Office Hours Mon - Sat 9 to 5 & Sun Closed

www.waldoselfstorage.com

**PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS. THEY SUPPORT US
AND HELP MAKE THIS NEWSPAPER POSSIBLE**

The Genuine. The Original.



Overhead Door Company of Gainesville
POST OFFICE BOX 568
GAINESVILLE, FL 32602
OFFICE: (352) 468-2733
FAX: (352) 468-1453

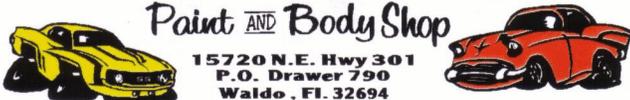


**Waldo Phoenix
Advertising Rate Sheet**
(effective date: March 1, 2010)

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

MINNIX'S Free Estimates



Harold Minnix Jr.
20 Years Experience
Auto Collision Repair
Custom Paint and Fabrication

15720 N.E. Hwy 301
P.O. Drawer 790
Waldo, FL 32694

Bus (352) 468-1234
Fax (352) 468-1234

Tom's Cypress, Inc.

Cypress, Epoxy Resin
& Clock Motors

15455 NE US Hwy. 301
P.O. Drawer L
Waldo, Florida 32694
Phone/Fax 352.468.2357
www.tomscypressinc.com

Clyde's Tire & Brake - Waldo
352-468-1140

~ June Special ~

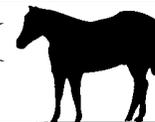
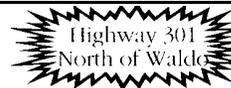
Buy 4 New Tires

Get a Free Wheel Alignment

- Or -

Free Oil Change (up to 5 qts.)

Does Not Include Synthetic Oil



352-468-2255

**WALDO
FARMERS &
FLEA MARKET**

Billing Address:
P.O. Box 142817
Gainesville, FL 32614
FAX: (352) 375-3198

17805 NE US Hwy 301
Waldo, FL 32694

Thank You for Supporting Your Waldo Historical Society