



# The Waldo Phoenix



☞ FREE - TAKE ONE!

Volume Eight - Issue 1, March, 2017

A 501(c)3 Non Profit Organization

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

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## Spaghetti Dinner

Friday, March 17  
4:00 p.m.

One final reminder to all who want to experience a delicious spaghetti dinner at the Waldo Baptist Church Family Life Center.

Not only will we be filling your tummies with great food, but two of Waldo's stars will be on hand with their recently published books for your reading pleasure.

If you haven't gotten your advance tickets yet, be sure to call Penny Dodd at 468-1910 or Linda Vlacos at 376-1203. You'll save \$1.00 on each dinner when you get them in advance. Only \$6.00. Where else can you get a full serving of spaghetti, garden salad, garlic toast, dessert and a drink for \$6.00? NOWHERE that's where.

We are also adding a raffle to this year's dinner, with great prizes, including gift certificates to Applebee's in Gainesville and Cedar River in Starke, a pedicure from Swan's Nails in Gainesville, a one hour massage in Gainesville (or at your home - your choice). There will also be one of each of

our Waldo star's books to choose from. Raffle tickets are only \$1.00 each or 6 tickets for \$5.00. Call Penny Dodd at 468-1910 or Linda Vlacos at 376-1203 for raffle tickets.

### WALDO LIBRARY NEWS

352.468.3298

Open Monday through Thursday  
from 12:30 until 7:00 p.m.

Closed on Friday and Saturday

Open Sunday from 1:00 p.m.  
until 5:00 p.m.

All bookdrops will be open 24/7 for  
your convenience.



Photo from February "Create a Valentine's Day Candle & Gift Card" program, on Sunday, 2/12/17

Two upcoming programs at your library for March:

**What:** Searching for Scholarships Workshop

**Where:** Yerkes Center (historic church next door to library)

**When:** Sunday, 3/5, 2 pm

**Details:** Need money for college? Local teen Charly walks us through how to look for scholarships!

~~~~~  
**What:** Movie Matinee – Finding Dory

**Where:** The Yerkes Center

**When:** Sunday, 3/12, 2 - 3:35 pm

**Details:** Come enjoy it with us! All ages welcome.



Yum, yum!!  
Pork Dinner  
Coming Up!  
Order up!

By Mary Baxla

The Waldo Masonic Lodge NO. 10 will be having a Boston Butt pulled pork dinner on Saturday, March 25, from 12 noon until 4:00pm. Tickets, (\$7.00 advance or \$8.00 at the door), are available from any Lodge 10 member or by contacting Jack Ganstine at 352.473.7755. Dinner, take out or eat in, includes pulled pork on a bun, baked beans and cole slaw.

Lodge 10 Masonic Lodge is part of the international order of Free and Accepted Masons, (F&AM). This is a non-profit organization whose charitable commitments include staffing of a local child ID program, assistance for Waldo elementary school children living in Waldo, as well as annual continuing support of Shriners' Hospital for children. For those who don't yet know, Waldo Masonic Lodge No. 10 is located behind the Waldo library parking lot.

**YOU'RE INVITED!**  
**NEXT W.H.S. MEETING:**  
**April 27, 2017**  
**Waldo Community Center**  
**6 p.m.**  
**Refreshments and Coffee**

## Swill Diving Mary Sue Holton

**M**y grandfather, William Alfred "Pa" Strickland, had a big, beautiful farm around the bend at the bottom of Cracker Hill. He was just over a creek and across the field from us, so we were lucky enough to spend a good bit of time with them before they moved to "town" (Gainesville). Pa Strickland was a gifted gardener, and always had a yard bursting with vibrant, beautiful flowers, and a garden filled with luscious vegetables. But it was something at the back of his property which fascinated me. I wish I could define the reason I was drawn to this particular feature of the farm, but for the life of me, I can't.



Situated at the very back of his field, far away from the house was a big, stinky, mud bog of a hog pen and it was often my pleasure to ride with Pa to deliver a load of "swill". For those of you who never shared such an experience, "swill" is a term used for slop. A 50 gallon drum of restaurant leftovers which my grandfather would pick up at the end of his work day, on a "swill run." It served as a great way for restaurants to dispose of food waste, and it was "hog heaven" for Pa's overburdened brood of sows.

Nothing pleased me more than climbing up in the back of that old work truck, to stand beside the drum of stinking swill while Pa drove back to the pen. Once there, he would hand me a 5 gallon bucket and a 2 gallon bucket. I would stand on the larger one and use the smaller one to dip into the drum.

Bucket by bucket, we would transfer the swill from the drum to a smaller vat. The reason for this very careful transfer was quite simple. We were looking for "treasures". We would find plates and saucers, cups and glasses, spoons, forks and knives. Sometimes we'd find salt and pepper shakers. You can't imagine how many things wound up in that big barrel of scraps. And for a very simple little country girl who didn't have much, finding each piece was like opening a box of cracker jacks and digging out the "prize".

Once we had effectively removed all of the "good stuff", we would pour buckets of swill over the fence into the feeding troughs. I can't begin to tell you how **putrid** the mix of swill and pig infested mud smells. It is AWFUL. But it wasn't bad enough to deter my fascination with the ritual of digging for treasures.

Pa had boxes and boxes of the dishes stacked in one of the barns close to his house. I have no idea what he ever did with any of them. He paid me a nickel to wash



the swill from them and stack them in boxes. It was like doubling my pleasure. Getting "paid" to do something I would've done for nothing!!

Okay, so I'm not exactly proud to admit this peculiar fetish I had for swill diving. But it has become one of those cherished memories which define my past, and I certainly wouldn't give that up on the pretense of being snooty. We were just plain ole country folks, and it didn't take

much to stimulate our stagnant sense of adventure.

I don't think "swill runs" exist these days. I suppose they present a health hazard or carry some high risk of "epidemic" disaster. At least according to the Department of Safety. It's surprising how we all managed to survive childhood, given our exposure to the many things that have since been deemed detrimental to the environment and/or human contact.

Perhaps it was more dangerous than we thought. But I occasionally revisit, with a smile on my face, the times when I would reach my arms over the side of that 55 gallon drum, burying my arms up and over my elbows in swill, hoping to pull out a "treasure". I don't recall ever thinking it was a "dirty job". In fact, it wasn't a "job" at all. It was a treat.

The one thing that as an adult I have wondered about is. Why on earth didn't I pay closer attention when we were gathered around Pa Strickland's dining table for supper???? Would I have recognized the bowl from which I dipped piping hot chicken-n-dumplings, as one of our "treasures"?? I simply don't remember. Perhaps at some level I actually did find the idea of eating off those hidden swill finds a bit off putting, and I just didn't **want** to know if that's what was going on.

I suppose it really doesn't matter. If we did, in fact, eat from dishes that had been rescued from a vat of swill, we somehow survived it, **and** wound up with a great story to tell. After all, how many people these days who can claim firsthand experience in swill diving??

## A Little Bird Told Me by Lucy Roe Cook

**S**t. Patrick's Day, is nearly here. It's always a fun day but even more so this year. The Waldo Historical Society's spaghetti dinner coincides with St. Pat's day this month on the 17th. It will be great spaghetti



and green too. No, the spaghetti won't be green; only the decorations. Those historical society ladies are always on the go. They just recently attended a spaghetti dinner in Hawthorne, which was a fund raiser sponsored by the Shell Elementary crossing guards. It was so much fun!

Penny Dodd is such a great asset to Waldo. Not only is she the editor of the Phoenix, she seems to be the coordinator in chief who makes all the parts work smoothly. In other words, she is the glue that holds it all together. We can't get her to slow down. Someone recently remarked that she is far too busy; so busy that she could be charged with resisting a rest. Ha!

Quitman Hall is getting good at celebrating his birthday, because he's had so much practice. He will celebrate the big 90 this month. Congratulations to Quitman.

Also, Helen and Ernest Dority had a dual celebration this month. They celebrated her recent 80th birthday and their recent 60th wedding anniversary. Now that's a celebration to remember! Also, it was recently pointed out to me that Ernest is the only man in Waldo who caught a wild hog with his bare hands and has kept it as a

pet for years. Congratulations to Helen and Ernest.

The spring equinox occurs this month on March 21, the first day of Spring. The length of the days has been gradually getting longer since December. On the first day of spring, the length of the day will be equal to the length of the night. Our days will get longer and longer until the first day of summer which will be the longest day of the year. God certainly knew what he was doing when he set it all up. Also, you can admire the handiwork of God every evening just after sundown in the western sky. The evening star is a beautiful and inspiring sight.

## Moments by Ben Campen



**T**he second weekend in August 2004, I was on vacation in Saint Augustine, FL when Hurricane Charley blasted its way through southwest Florida. I was on the beach in an area of Florida that the hurricane did not affect and was oblivious to the destruction that was less than 200 miles away.

But, when I read the morning paper, I was shocked to see the extensive damage along the southwest coastline. While reading of the accounts and seeing the photos of what the hurricane had done, it hit me in a moment: here I was, relaxing and enjoying the beach, while there were many people in my own state who were suffering. In that moment, I wanted, and deep down inside of me, needed to help those who had

been affected by this devastating hurricane.

As a Rotarian, I knew that the most effective way to be of assistance was by contacting the leaders of Rotary clubs in that area. Eventually, I spoke to the Rotary District Governor for SW Florida. I told him that I wanted to help and asked him for his guidance as to how I could be most effective. He suggested that I focus on the Arcadia area. This inland community had suffered severe damage and was not getting the attention that the coastline communities were receiving. He gave me the contact information for the President of the Rotary Club of Arcadia, Susan Rachles, and I called her. She was most appreciative and gave me some ideas of how I could help.

A couple of days later, my son, Ben, Jr., and I were on our way in our motor home hauling a pickup truck, chain saws, gas, oil and various tools. Upon arriving in Arcadia, we met with Susan and she took us into the heart of the devastation. We saw roofs totally blown off many homes and businesses, power lines were down, and some structures were totally destroyed. The trees were literally lifted from the ground and now lay on their sides exposing their roots. And the power company wasn't sure how long it would take to get the power back on to this area of Florida.

As we were driving down the littered streets, we came upon a woman who was in the front yard of her severely damaged home, and we stopped to talk with her. She and her family had lost everything and she was there trying to find some remnants of their former lives. I reached into

my pocket and got out some cash, some of which had been given me by fellow Rotarians and friends in Gainesville, and handed it to her. She broke down, and through her tears thanked me profusely. I didn't give her a large amount of money, but she said that this gesture let her know that someone cared about her in that difficult moment.

Over the next few days Ben Jr. and I found more of these moments. We spent time cutting up trees and limbs at the homes of the elderly and disabled. In doing so, we met some amazing people and got to hear their stories over lemonade or a glass of tea. In those moments, they felt someone was there for them - and they slept a little better that night.

A particularly touching moment came from a young 4-H member whose chicken coops were partially destroyed. Being a true 4-H member, he had the foresight to take his chickens into his home during the hurricane. As we looked at the coops, it was evident that the chickens would not have survived the storm. And now, they needed repairing. Being able to help this young man was especially rewarding as I was once a member of 4-H. It was a beautiful moment - I felt I was giving back for the time others spent with me while I was in 4-H, and the young man felt that someone cared about him and his aspirations.

Ben Jr. and I also found moments together as father and son that were also very special. As we worked, we were in concert with each other. He would hand me the tool I needed without asking; I would pull a branch out of the way when he was finished cutting it - there is just something

about those moments of synergy with someone you love that touches your heart!

When it was time to leave, I told Susan that I would bring a group of fellow Rotarians to Arcadia in a few days and prepare hot meals for people in the community. And when we came back, we had several more moments that touched our hearts. Watching the 1000+ people enjoy a hot meal and then gratefully take food and water home with them was an experience that I will never forget. A child's smile when they saw we'd brought cookies; a mother's look of relief that she had plenty of food and water for her family; and the laughter and camaraderie of a community coming together - those are the moments I'll remember for the rest of my life.

Although we made a big effort in response to a dire situation, I found great joy in those little moments of sharing with those who were in need.

There may be times in our life that we can do big things to help others, however, there are always plenty of times we can do little things for others that will mean so much. Stepping aside so a burdened mother can go through the grocery check-out line first; holding a door open; listening to an elderly person's or a youngster's story; giving words of encouragement - these little moments of kindness mean so much. They can change another person's bad day into a good day. I encourage you to find those little moments (or big ones) that you can help someone else by doing random acts of kindness. In doing, it will mean so much to them and to you, too!

## WINNING THE LOTTERY Teddy McMahon Pruett



Okay, okay, I said I was going to take a break from FB and I have, although I occasionally take a quick peek. But there's something on my mind, and you know when that happens everyone is forced to know about it. I want to talk about everyone's dream of winning the lottery.

A lot of my friends detest Pat Robertson, and that's fine - go right ahead, but I watch the 700 club pretty often. I like it - so sue me. Anyway, yesterday there was a guest who is a member of Iraq's parliament (I think that's what it was anyway) and her sister is a doctor. They were telling of ISIS invading the towns where their Yazidi tribe lives. The men were murdered, the young boys taken to be brainwashed and turned into ISIS fighters.

The women were kidnapped and raped and sold. One woman watched her nine year old daughter bleed to death after being raped by ISIS. Some of the girls were forced into marriage, and after refusing sex with their "husbands" were put into a cage and set on fire. One girl was traded for a cigarette.

Yesterday I was downstairs and heard the faintest, almost

imperceptible sound, like a little whine. I finally found a mouse, caught in a glue trap, at the entry to the crawl space. It was dying, and the sounds it made ripped my heart out – I would have given anything to be able to save it. Sometime during the night, in that state of half-wake half sleep, the sounds of that mouse suffering morphed in my head to the sounds those women and girls must have made as they suffered. I have been miserable with grief from it and it will not leave me alone.

And here we are, bitching and whining about every little thing that causes discomfort in our lives. Here we are, in the midst of this insane political season, niggling at one another, having our feelings hurt, bashing one another and trying to change opinions that cannot be changed. Here we are, forced to choose between two despicable human beings as President. Hay – this is my post, I can call it as I see it. America is turned upside down, values are shot, and we can't wait for a person – any person – to say something, to do something, to wear something so that we can pounce upon it, to complain about it, to – For God's sake – be “offended” by it. What a bunch of crap. How easy it is to become negative or complacent, when we should be shouting to the rooftops how joyful we are, how thankful we are to be who and where we are at this very moment.

The kitchen in my house is miniscule compared to my last one, and it is driving me crazy – but hey – guess what? I **have** a kitchen! I'm not squatting in the damned desert, holding my children against my body, wondering if they will get to eat

today or tomorrow or the next day, wondering if we will starve or simply be murdered. As infuriating as America is, it is still the greatest place to be. Period. We have all won the greatest lottery on earth – and the prize was being born in America. Take a few minutes out of your busy day and look at that winning ticket – and thank God for it. I know I do.

### Search for Superintendent of Schools

As you may know, the Alachua County School Board is seeking a Superintendent. The position start date is July 1, 2017. The School Board is prepared to offer a three-year contract with a salary range of \$160,000 - \$185,000, plus competitive benefits.

Candidates must complete the district's online Superintendent Application by 11:59 p.m. on March 10, 2017. The application can be found at [www.sbac.edu](http://www.sbac.edu).

Questions regarding this position should be directed to Andrea D. Messina, Executive Director, Florida School Boards Association, (580) 566-1860, [messina@fsba.org](mailto:messina@fsba.org)

On March 7, 2017, a Board Workshop will address Phase 3 items and Finalists Interview Schedule as needed (4:00 p.m.)

Informational brochures are available at Waldo City Hall.



### SHELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS Coming Events

3/28-29 3<sup>rd</sup> grade FSA testing-Reading and language arts.



### RANDOM FACTS

While brisk walking helps reduce body fat, lower blood pressure, and increase high-density lipoprotein, the United States walks the least of any industrialized nation. The average Australian takes 9,695 steps per day (just a few short of the ideal 10,000), and the average American just 5,117.

Given that the world is about 25,000 miles in circumference and that the average walking rate is 3 miles per hour, it would take a person walking nonstop approximately 347 days to walk around the world.

A person burns essentially the same amount of calories whether they run or walk a mile. Running just gets a person to a destination faster.

It would take, on average, 1 hour and 43 minutes of walking to burn off a 540-calorie Big Mac.

To burn off one plain M&M candy, a person would need to walk the entire length of a football field.

## Waldo Fire Station #23 by Camara Casson



At the end of 2016, Waldo broke ground on the Alachua County Fire Station No. 23. After the closure of our only local school, Waldo Community School, and the dispersion of our police department, many citizens find the new construction refreshing and a hopeful sign signifying the city's growth. The fire station also elicits feelings of protection and safety as the proximity to firefighters and medical personnel will be of the utmost importance in times of crisis or when faced with an emergency. Plus, the addition of the fire station is hoped to be, by numerous citizens, a possible reason for many families to move back to town despite the educational desert in which we live. The new fire station and the possible return of families could also, possibly, open the door for businesses to settle in town.

However, not all the response to the new fire station was positive. Local environmentalists are upset over the amount of wooded area lost to the new development. The lush trees and grasses were home to numerous species of birds, squirrels, insects, and other wildlife that used to call that section of forest home. Also, despite the benefits to be gained by the construction, commuters and locals are often bothered by the constant road blockage due to materials and work trucks. With construction scheduled to be

completed at the end of this year, residents are waiting to see if the new fire station will indeed pay off and outweigh its costs.

### To All Who Answered The Last Call

The Firefighters once answered the tapping bell. They left their homes to fight that hell. That will ever demand that firefighters must not tire. It's the demon-destructive, flaming, fire. No longer now will they hear this bell We left behind, take these means to tell Their stories, hoping that all might see Our Firefighters as a real people, for such they be. The Maltese Cross was worn on each breast. It's now "neath the earth where they lie at rest. Their labors over, their actions so brave. Entitle them all to an honored grave. They can never be dead, these comrades of ours Who lie so still 'neath their earth and flowers. They're resting quietly, free from all harm. Awaiting their own God for their next alarm.



## New W.H.S. Membership Levels

Since our inception in July, 2005, there has been just one level of Waldo Historical Society membership.

It was called "Membership". For \$10.00/year, one can enjoy full membership in one of the exceptional organizations in Waldo, with all of its perks.

Effective March 1, 2017, you will now have a choice of three new categories for membership:

★\$10.00 Regular Member - to support the necessary operating expenses needed to run the organization.

★\$20.00 Caboose Member - to support the Waldo Historical Railroad Museum in addition to regular membership.

★\$50.00 Engineer Member to aid in the preservation and safe-keeping of our archival items in addition to regular membership.

★\$100.00 Lifetime Member - to help bring us closer to our goal of acquiring a museum in which to house our many collections.

Each new member of the three new membership levels will receive a W.H.S membership pin. Thank you for supporting us.

The W.H.S. is still working and praying that someone could help us in acquiring a museum for the history of our great City of Waldo.

# 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            |
| Sheriff's Dept. Non-Emergencies | 955-1818       |
| Power Outages                   | 1-800-468-8243 |
| Waldo Library                   | 468-3298       |
| Waldo Community Center          | 468-2336       |
| Waldo Fire Department           | 468-1301       |
| Waldo Post Office               | 468-1970       |
| Waldo Historical Society        | 468-3503       |
| Waldo Phoenix                   | 468-1910       |
| Windstream Phone repair         | 1-800-347-1991 |



## March Birthdays

|                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 2 Michelle Gay       | 4 Jake Holcomb        |
| 4 Emily Holcomb      | 5 Lena Gay            |
| 6 Peggy Dowling      | 7 Penny Dodd          |
| 7 Kimberly Grady     | 7 Melvin Hill         |
| 9 Omie Burnham       | 9 Will Price          |
| 9 Ted Schweitzer     | 9 Ashley Edge         |
| 11 Dawn Scott        | 12 Kierra Cecillo     |
| 12 Dawn Summers      | 12 Alan McCallister   |
| 12 Logan Minnix      | 13 Barbara Rainer Lee |
| 14 Quitman Hall      | 14 Ed Juszak          |
| 17 Charles Hall      | 17 Karen Keirnan      |
| 18 Gwendolyn Price   | 19 Ranch Dortch       |
| 20 Tony Green        | 20 Amir Jackson       |
| 20 Christian Mauldin | 21 Steve Howard       |
| 24 Ernest Dority     | 25 Austin Holton      |
| 27 Julio Guitierrez  | 30 Chad Cawley        |
| 31 Jason Tidwell     |                       |

## NOTICE!

The Waldo Phoenix is growing. We need writers, reporters, advertising people. Get involved - help us make this the best newspaper for Waldo. If you know what's going on in Waldo, we'd love to have you share it with us and our readers. Deadline for submissions is the 21<sup>st</sup> of the month preceding publication.

**Subscriptions available for \$12.00 annually**

**Phone: 352-468-1910**  
**email: [historicwaldo@gmail.com](mailto:historicwaldo@gmail.com)**

## Philadelphia Missionary Baptist Church Services

Rev. James W. Ramsey - Pastor  
2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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 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**

## Waldo Self Storage

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

| Size          | 3 Months | 6 Months | 12 Months |
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| Quarter Page  | \$120.00 | \$180.00 | \$240.00  |
| Half Page     | \$240.00 | \$360.00 | \$480.00  |
| Full Page     | \$480.00 | \$720.00 | \$960.00  |

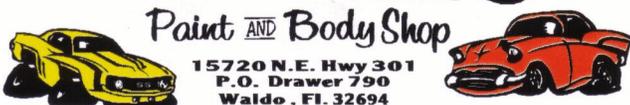
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 Call 352-468-1910 - Advertising Editor

**email: HistoricWaldo@gmail.com**

The Waldo Phoenix is published monthly by the Waldo Historical Society, a non-profit organization whose mission is to preserve and promote the history of the City of Waldo, Florida. The Waldo Historical Society has no paid officers and no employees. All donations are tax-exempt under section 501© 3 of the Internal Revenue Service and 100% are used to support our mission.

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