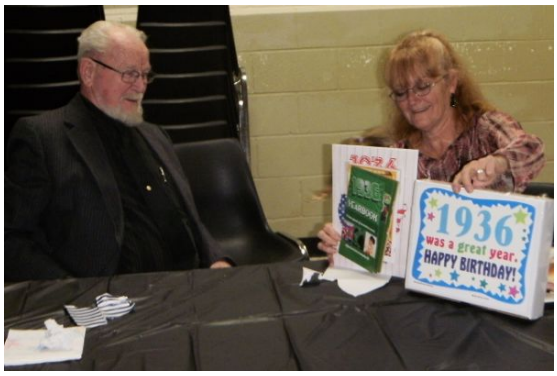
Family News

December 14, 2016

We began 2016 celebrating my dad's 80th birthday. What a great time! I think he was surprised when he walked into the Civic Center expecting to see a concert and instead saw dozens of family and friends. Here are some photos taken at his party:







Kathy and I traveled to New Orleans for a week in February, Myrtle Beach for a week in June, Athens for a week in September, and Orlando for Thanksgiving. Even though most were work related trips, I took a couple of extra days off on each trip to allow us to do some sightseeing.



In August our entire clan went camping at St. Andrews State Park in Panama City. We had a great time. Marc and TJ were brave enough to paddle the kayaks from our campsite all the way to the beach. That was quite a workout.

Corn hole was a big hit at our family campout again this year. In fact there may have been one team that went undefeated no matter how hard TJ, Perry, Marc,

and Leo tried to beat them. Yes, that would be the team of Cory and myself. We were 8 - 0, even though there were a couple of really close games. You did a great job Cory!! :)

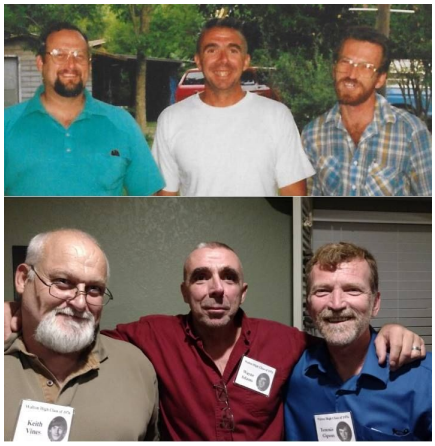










In October my high school class held our 40th class reunion at a local restaurant. Out of a class of 192 we had 88 people show up. Some of these folks are really getting old. Sure glad I am not one of them (wink). Here is a photo of me with two of my friends from that night along with a picture taken after our 20 year reunion. Guess we will have to do it again in another 20 years.

In October, I decided it was time for a new bike. For the past 12 years I have been riding single speed coaster bikes, but the new bike is a 21 speed. I hate to admit that I am getting older, but the three hills I climb on the way home were getting harder and harder. With the new 21 speed bike, it is SO easy. I probably should have done that months ago.

Kathy and I continue to kayak and she is still enjoying retirement. We now have 17 people in our clan. So, let's move on to the grandchildren. One of the biggest things from 2016 - Perry adopted Kacey and Ryan!! And now a little more:



Taylor keeps getting taller. She has beautiful red hair and blue eyes. She had to start wearing braces this year, but that just makes her smile brighter. She is also good at doing magic card tricks thanks to cousin Josh.

Kacey went to south FL back in the summer with her all star softball team. She is becoming a great pitcher and now that she is taller than Taylor she is taking up basketball. And she is wearing braces too.

Caitlynn has been asking me for 4 years to show her how to make a flute. I told her to wait she was 10. This year she made a bamboo flute and a pvc flute. And may I say - she has a great laugh? She is a fun person to have around.

Angel was an angel at a beauty pageant this year when she shared some of her flowers with a girl who had none. She did a great job at her dance recital this year and even helped Abigail's age group. She has been a great big sister to little brother Captain.

Ryan has become quite the athlete from basketball to soccer, he can do it all. In fact he was on an all star baseball team and they did so well they qualified to play at Disney Elite 32 in 2017. But then what do you expect when you have parents like Perry and Sammy giving him great support (Sammy was even his soccer coach this year). And … Ryan is wearing braces too.

Abigail was in her first dance recital last May. Talk about marching to the beat of a different drummer - while all the other kids turned left, she just had to be different and went right. She celebrated her birthday at Chuck E Cheese in October. All of her cousins were there along with several friends. Grandma and Grandpa could only last about an hour before we were wore out and had to leave.





Captain began walking when he was 15 months old (which ties me and Taylor for taking the longest to start walking). He is quickly learning to beware of Ms Abigail. Here he is saying a prayer when he saw her getting wound up. Even though his name is James T. Kurtz, he will not answer to James, only … Captain. :)

Favorite Quote:
"It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness."
Chinese Proverb

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Merry Christmas!

