Family News

December 14, 2017

It is time for 2017 to wind down which means it is time for our annual Family Newsletter. I often begin these newsletters by sharing some of the places Kathy and I have traveled during the year. Well, this year marks the first year in many, many years where I spent every night of the year at our property. Notice I said *I* spent every night at home and not Kathy. That is because Kathy celebrated her 60th birthday by going on a cruise to the Bahamas with her sister Lori. They had a wonderful time. Still it was very unusual for us to not take our normal 2 or 3 trips this year.



Even though I did not travel, each of our kids did. TJ and Angela spent some time in New Orleans, Perry and Sammy and the kids had a great time in Atlanta, Justinn and Cory and the kids found a beautiful cabin in the mountains of Tennessee, and Marc and Leo went to Universal.

For our anniversary this year, Kathy and I decided to go to Lowes. Yes, that's right - one of the reasons we did not do any traveling was because we decided to spend our anniversary at Lowes. She bought me a new refrigerator and I bought her a new stove for our anniversary this year. Afterwards we saw a movie, went to a photo booth, and played goofy golf.





In May of this year all of my siblings, our kids (well most of our kids), most of my nieces and nephews from my side of our family, and dozens of others surprised my mom to celebrate her 80th birthday. We did a 50's sock hop theme and most people dressed in 50's clothes. We had a DJ playing Elvis tunes, a hula hoop contest, and lots of food. There may even be a video of me dancing with my mom, who can still "cut a rug" on the dance floor.



It was a wonderful time marking a big milestone in life for one of the most amazing women ever. I have nothing but wonderful memories of my mom. In nearly every memory I have (including photos and videos) she is smiling and laughing. The only thing that surpasses her good nature and humor is her kind heart. There is no doubt - if the world had more people like my mom, the world would be a much better place.

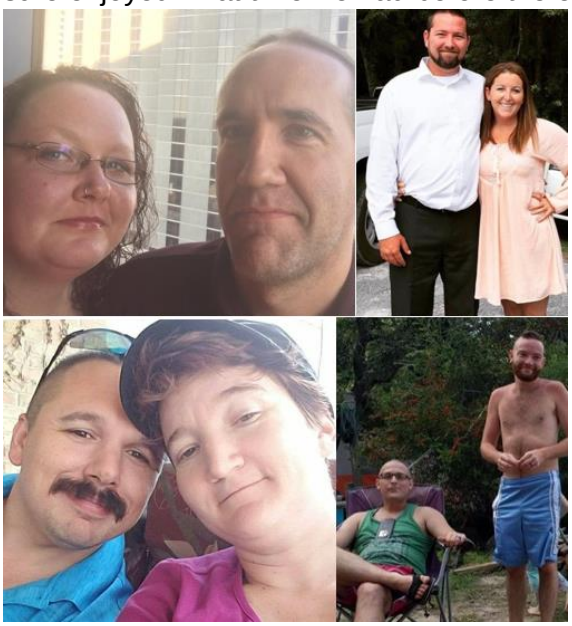
We have lived on Lake Juniper since 1985. This year marks the first time Kathy has ventured out into the main 665 acre lake in a kayak. She has paddled in the smaller 12 acre section in our backyard before, but it took a visit from my cousin and his wife to get her out in a kayak on the main lake.



We were very sad to hear Kathy's brother David lost his battle with cancer in July at the age of 55. Rest in peace David. You are missed by many.



Our annual Family Campout on the beach at St Andrews State Park was cut short this year due to Hurricane Irma. We were kicked out of the park two days early because of the storm, but we sure enjoyed what time we had before the evacuation. And for the record - I should mention - Cory and I remain undefeated in corn hole for the second year in a row.



TJ went back on road again this year. That means we get to watch Ammie whenever Angela has to travel. She has been a wonderful house guest. One of the many things Perry and his clan did in Atlanta was to go to a Braves baseball game. We now have a video of the kids on the big screen and some may have been … dancing. Justinn made us VERY proud this month when she graduated from college and was pinned as a teacher. There will be some lucky kids in 2018 with a wonderful new teacher! Marc and Leo moved into a new house earlier this year. They now have much more room and Leo is within easy walking/biking distance to go to work.



The grand kids just keep growing. They seem to be growing at a faster pace than our kids did. Taylor went to her first Homecoming dance at the high school this year (see photo on page 1). Kacey made the volleyball team and was in a beauty pageant (see photo on last page). Caitlynn made the cheerleading team. Angel started a new school at the Seaside Academy this year. Ryan continues to excel at baseball and fishing. Abigail still has more energy than the Tazmanian Devil. And Captain James T. Kurtz, well let's just say he has his own way of doing things and likes to be the Captain.



Ages:
Taylor - 15
Kacey - 12
Caitlynn - 11
Angel - 11
Ryan - 10
Abigail - 7
Captain - 2

Favorite Quote:
"*Be yourself; everyone else is already taken.*"
Oscar Wilde



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Merry Christmas!

