Family News

December 14th, 2021

Welcome to the 29th year of our family newsletter. Let's begin with a first in our clan (our first grandchild to graduate). Yep, Taylor graduated from Freeport High School on May 20th 2021, complete with beautiful fireworks in the sky behind her as she walked off the stage.





Last February I went camping with Marc, Leo, and their roommate Taylor at a campsite near the river. Even though we had rain one day, we made the best of it by spending the time telling stories under a covered pavilion. We were able to hike a few miles on the FL Trail and enjoyed some kayaking time.



Marc and Leo have gone to the Smoky Mountains twice this year. In October they went as far north as the Shenandoah Valley where they did a ten mile hike to a summit with a view that looked like the top of the world. Marc and Leo enjoy hiking on the FL trail and Marc got his Eglin permit this year and he and I did a fun hike to Little Alaqua Creek at the end of summer.



Justinn and Cory are doing well. Justinn still teaches the second grade (teachers do not get nearly enough credit for ALL that they do) and Cory changed jobs and is now in the cyber security field. He has his associates degree and is close to receiving his bachelors!



Perry and Sammy are staying very busy raising four teenagers. Sometimes their lives go at a non-stop pace. This past September Sammy adopted Taylor and Caitlynn!! Perry had already adopted Kacey and Ryan, so now they are officially … one family with no more of the yours and mine hassles. Congratulations!!



TJ and Angela are doing well and continue to live on the south side of town. They often see deer in the woods behind their house and recently they had to call a beekeeper to come remove a swarm of bees. For our family campout this year they rented a camper and retired their older pop up camper. This was their dog Ammestist's last year camping with us. They have had Ammy over 14 years. She passed away 10/19/21. Kathy and I often watched her when TJ and Angela were out of town.. Ammy will be missed.

Taylor graduated high school and at the beginning of the summer began working at McDonalds. Now that she is an adult we put her name in our family Christmas drawing. Now she can spend some of that hard earned money on one of the other adults in the family.



Kacey turned 16 last January and immediately took her driver's test and got her license. She has been a big help to mom and dad now that she can drive and run errands for them. She is a junior in high school and over the summer worked two jobs. Her boyfriend, Robby also began a new job working for the same company that Perry works for. The two of them teamed up to coordinate the fireworks at Taylor's graduation. Kacey called Robby who was in the woods behind the stage at the football field and she told him when to shoot the fireworks when Taylor and all of her many friends received their diplomas. It was a spectacular firework show!! Great job Kacey and Robby!

Caitlynn is now a sophomore in high school and continues to grow and grow. I don't want to stand back to back with her for fear that she might be taller than me. She got her learner's permit and is starting to drive. She also worked two jobs over the summer. And she is still pretty good at our family corn hole games when we are camping. Right is a photo from the adoption at the courthouse.





Angel graduated 8th grade at the Seaside Academy last May. She is now in high school at Freeport with her cousins and likes it a lot. Angel got her learner's permit and is now driving. She too is growing fast and helps mom and dad a lot with her sister Cadie.

Ryan is also now in high school (which means Perry and Sammy had one graduate and the rest of their three kids are in high school now). He is active with sports and fishing. He is becoming a fine young man and I am very proud of him (and so are mom and dad).



Abigail turned eleven in October and continues to be full of energy and intelligence. She got a new drum set for her birthday. She loves skateboarding, surfing, and swimming and hanging out with her best friend Ava. She recently made a motorized bank that sucks in $20 bills from an old toy car motor. So if you give her $20 for her to demonstrate, you may not get it back.

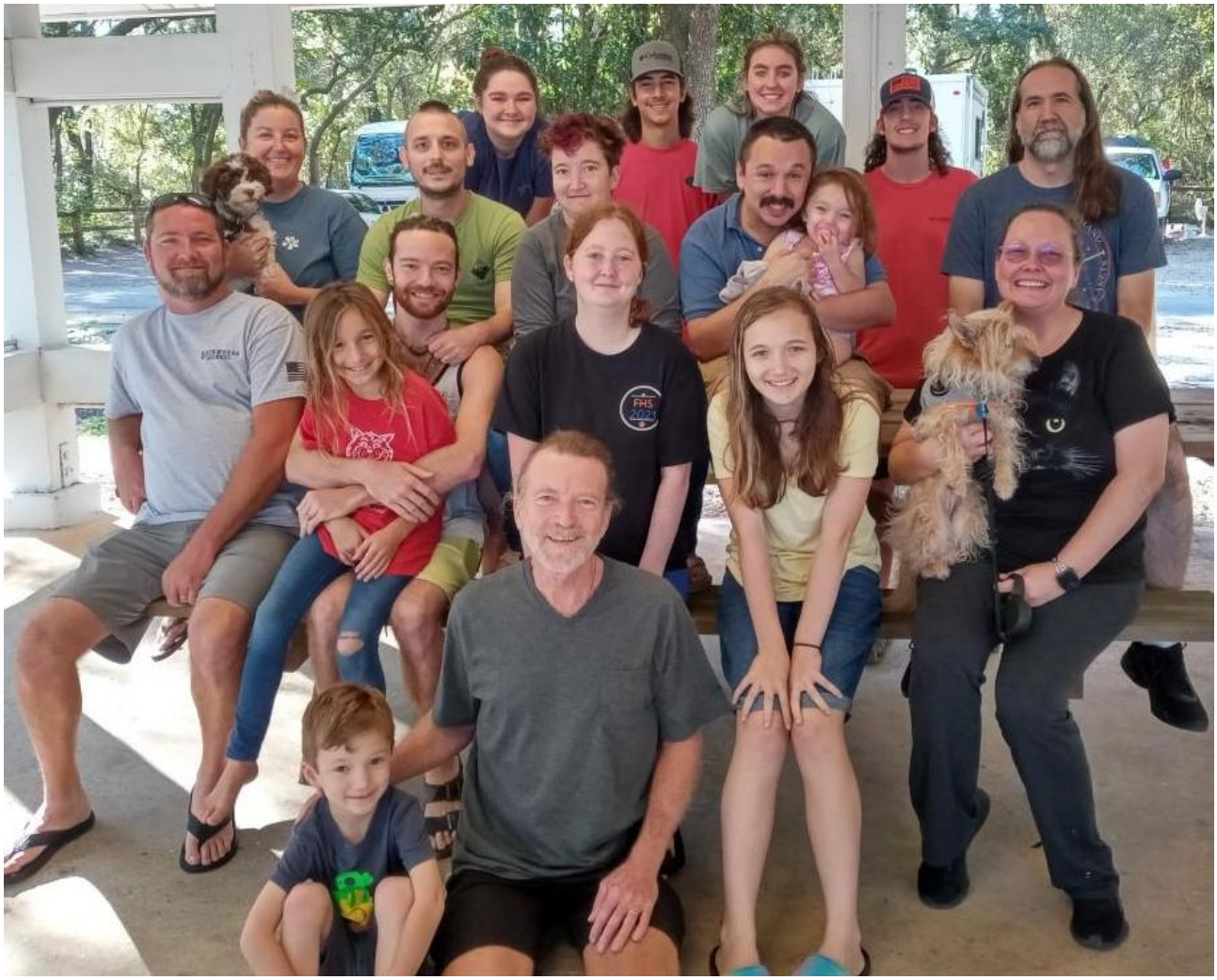


Captain James began 1st grade at Freeport Elementary (the same school as Abigail and where Justinn teaches). He loves his teacher this year. She has inspired him to do his homework after school this year instead of sleeping (which is what he preferred last year).

Acadia (better known as Cadie) just turned three this past November. Her mom takes lots of photos of her and she almost always has a different expression. I recently saw a video from her mom of Cadie playing with Abigail's drum set. I have to admit, she did pretty good. She really enjoyed going out on the kayak with Grandpa on our family camping trip this year.

I still ride my bike every day around the neighborhood. My dog, Max and I continue to hike on the FL Trail and kayak. Last May we hiked to the highest point on the FL trail (272' making it the lowest highest point of all eleven national trails LOL). We met two ladies there and I began hiking with one of them. Deb and I have now hiked all of the FL Trail in Walton County (over 60 miles) and plan to do even more miles in 2022.

This past spring my best friend **Sinder** and I split the cost on a condo at Treasure Island (part of St Petersburg, FL). We had a wonderful time. One day we traveled to Fort DeSoto. Another day we rented kayaks at Weeki Wachee springs. And another day we rented a speed boat and found some islands where we hung out with a family of dolphins. I have to admit it was kind of fun driving a boat that was a little faster than our kayaks. And we enjoyed lots of beach time and pool time, not to mention a delicious breakfast every morning!



Taken at our annual family camping trip at Fred Gannon State Park in October.

Merry Christmas!

To the right: TJ and Angela with their friend Denise Crosby (Bing's granddaughter)



Favorite Quote:

"*Our deeds determine us, as much as we determine our deeds.*"

George Elliot

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