

DECEMBER 2023 EDITION OF THE OKALOOSA ISLAND
LEASEHOLDERS NEWSLETTER, THE OIL LANTERN

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OKALOOSA ISLAND LEASEHOLDERS
ASSOCIATION

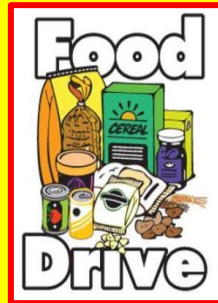
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

There will be no membership meeting in December. The next membership meeting will be held on **January 8, 2024**.

IN THIS NEWSLETTER

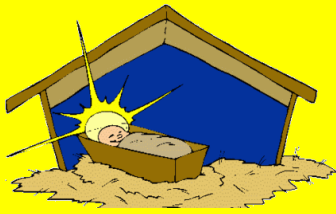
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- Okaloosa Island Welcomes New Okaloosa Island Firefighter, **Cory Moore**
- Trivia Crawlers
- Photo Show – Santa Rosa Blvd 2023 Christmas Decorations

**ISLAND FOOD
DRIVE FOR
2023 STARTS
DECEMBER 4
AND RUNS TO
DECEMBER 20.**



**DROP YOUR DONATIONS
OFF AT THE FRONT LOBBY OF
THE OKALOOSA ISLAND FIRE
DEPARTMENT – 104 SANTA
ROSA BLVD.**

**THIS YEAR'S GOAL:
700 LBS!**



MERRY CHRISTMAS

THE OIL LANTERN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE OKALOOSA ISLAND
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December 2023



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REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT – Brian Harrington



The decorations along Santa Rosa Boulevard look outstanding and I'd like to offer my sincerest thanks to Nancy Hunt and her tireless crew whose efforts have once again transformed our island into a holiday paradise.

The lane reductions associated with Okaloosa County's Santa Rosa Blvd improvement plan continue to be in the forefront of OILA's concerns. I've formally asked the commander of Eglin AFB for the Department of Defense's position on the potential lane reduction as this issue affects the military range complex located at the west end of the island. As you may recall, it was Eglin AFB that ultimately halted the Florida Department of Transportation's plan to build a bridge from Wright Parkway to Okaloosa Island in 2014.

Improving Okaloosa Island's aging infrastructure is long overdue. At last month's Board of County Commissioners meeting, the director of Okaloosa County's water and sewer department put forth a proposal to replace all of the water mains on the island. Although this proposal didn't make it to the floor during the November meeting, I am hopeful to see this project addressed in early 2024 as it clearly benefits all islanders.

At the end of last month, we mailed out over 3,000 postcards to Okaloosa Island property owners in an effort to inform them about OILA and encourage them to join. So far, the results have been overwhelmingly positive. In the first five days since the postcards were received, we added 18 new members and our website traffic has increased by 1,200%. I recently took a phone call from one of the Island's condominium HOA vice presidents who had never heard of OILA. However, thanks to the postcard he is now encouraging others to join. I appreciate the efforts of everyone who collaborated on this project.

Our website continues to develop—stay tuned as we're nearly ready to go live with members' portal. Once in the portal, you'll have the ability to indicate your top priorities for OILA and address issues that concern all of the membership. We also intend to upload volumes of OILA's historical documents and make this database searchable. I'd like to thank Jay Waschak for the many hours he's spent improving the website which is the public face of OILA.

As we're not holding a December members' meeting—on behalf of the Board of Directors we hope that you are able to spend the holidays with loved ones & that the New Year finds you in good company and good health. We're looking forward to making Okaloosa Island the best it can be in 2024.

"For uncounted millions, Christmas expresses the deepest hopes for a world of peace where love rather than mistrust will flourish between neighbors,"

—John F. Kennedy, December 1961

OILA—We're stronger together.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY - DECEMBER



December 3, 1967 - The first successful heart transplant was performed by Dr. Christiaan Barnard at Cape Town, South African, on Louis Washkansky, who lived for 18 days.

December 5, 1933 - The 18th Amendment (Prohibition Amendment) to the U.S. Constitution was repealed. For nearly 14 years, since January 29, 1920, it had outlawed the manufacture, transportation, and sale of alcoholic beverages in the U.S.

December 10, 1989 - The first non-Communist government since 1948 assumed power in Czechoslovakia.

December 21, 1846 - Anesthesia was used for the first time in Britain during an operation at University College Hospital in London performed by Robert Liston who amputated the leg of a servant.

December 24, 1914 - The first-ever German air raid against Britain took place when a German monoplane dropped a single bomb on Dover, England, during World War I.

December 31, 1781 - The first bank in the U.S., the Bank of North America, received its charter from the Confederation Congress. It opened on January 7, 1782, in Philadelphia.

November 2023 Rainfall **4.4** Inches



Nov 11...**1.3** inches Nov 21...**1.0** inches
 Nov 14...**0.8** inches Nov 26...**0.8** inches
 Nov 15...**0.5** inches

November Avg Rainfall...**4.1** inches
 Variance to Average.....**+ 0.3** inches

Avg Rainfall for Dec.....**4.8** inches
 Dec Record High.....**84° F** (1968)
 Dec Record Low..... **8° F** (1962)
 Dec Avg Water Temperature ..**64° F**

Avg Rainfall for January.....**5.0** inches
 January Record High.....**80° F** (1957)
 January Record Low**4° F** (1985)
 Jan Avg Water Temperature....**64° F**

YTD Variance **- 18.4** inches
 Year to Date Rainfall.....**43.3** inches
 Avg Annual Rainfall**65.1** inches



ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2023: The OILA Architectural Review Committee (ARC) received and reviewed the following during June and July 2023 and upon review and adherence to the OILA Covenants, has approved the following project(s):

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lot(s)</u>	<u>Block</u>	<u>Owner/POC/Address</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>In-Compliance & Approved</u>
1 Nov			D. Davison Island Resort	Concrete/Tile Repair/Replace/Seal	YES
3 Nov			B. Summers Fairfield Inn & Suites	Sign Rebranding	YES

Special Notes: The OILA ARC instructions for your project are located on the OILA website:

<http://www.OILAweb.com/ArchitectureReview.html>

Please read and follow the instructions for submission of an OILA ARC application:

3. OILA ARC review package:
 - 3.1. Completed OILA ARC application,
 - 3.2. Survey plat of the property,
 - 3.3. Overlaid illustration of the project on a copy of the survey plat.
 - 3.4. Other supporting documents* (drawings, plans, specifications, etc.) (*If these are large files, they can be submitted separately). (Combine the files into one file for submission to the ARC, either in MS Word or Adobe PDF format.)

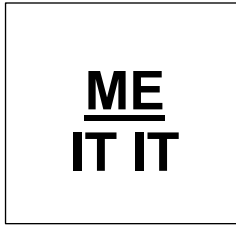
4. Email the completed ARC application file to the OILA ARC for review at OILAARC@yahoo.com.

The ARC applications will be reviewed in the order they are received and the review will be completed within 2 weeks of a completed application. **(Note: The ARC no longer holds meetings in-person/zoom meetings the 1st and 3rd Thursday's of the month).**

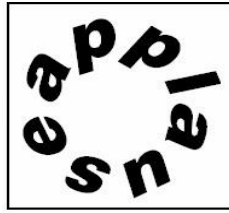
WUZZLE PUZZLES - What is a Wuzzle Puzzle? It is a puzzle consisting of combinations of words, letters, figures, or symbols positioned to create disguised words, phrases, names, places, etc. Are you ready to take the challenge and figure out the “disguised” meaning of these wuzzles? Good luck. The answers are available on page 6 of this newsletter.



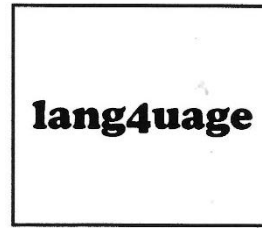
Wuzzle No. 1



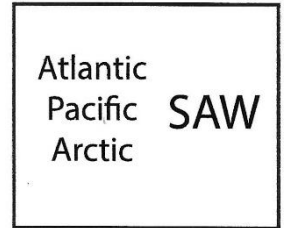
Wuzzle No. 2



Wuzzle No. 3



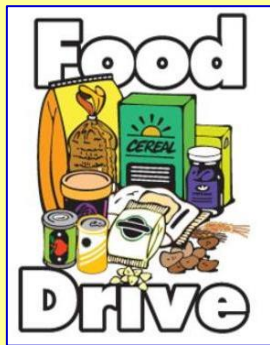
Wuzzle No. 4



Wuzzle No. 5

ISLAND PANTRY FOOD DRIVE FOR 2023 - DECEMBER 4 TO DECEMBER 20

STARTING MONDAY, DEC 4 THE OKALOOSA ISLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT WILL BE ACCEPTING DONATIONS. JUST DROP YOUR DONATION OFF IN THE FRONT ENTRANCE LOBBY!



BRING DONATIONS OF NON-PERISHABLE* FOODS, TOILETRY ITEMS TO THE OKALOOSA ISLAND FIRE STATION DROP OFF SITE, 104 SANTA ROSA BLVD

*** IN ADDITION TO CANNED FOOD, NON-PERISHABLES INCLUDE CEREAL, OATMEAL, GRITS, ETC**



LAST YEAR THE ISLAND DONATED 643 POUNDS OF FOOD TO THE FORT WALTON BEACH SHARING AND CARING FOOD BANK - A RECORD AMOUNT.

THIS YEAR'S GOAL IS 700 POUNDS!

SPECIAL NOTE: FOR THE DURATION OF THE DRIVE, THE DOORS TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT ENTRANCE LOBBY WILL BE OPEN 24 HOURS A DAY!

Believe It or Not - These Laws Were Actually on the Books!

- Mannequin can only be dressed behind closed shades in Atlanta, GA.
- Shooting rabbits from motorboats is illegal in Kansas.
- Oxford & Cleveland, Ohio, made it illegal for women to wear leather shoes at voting polls.
- Hunting is illegal in Virginia on Sundays, That is, except for racoons – you can hunt them until 2 a.m.
- Giving booze to fish is illegal in Oklahoma.
- In Texas keep your hands to yourself when it comes to livestock. It's illegal to milk someone else's cow.
- Elevators must be odor-free in Abilene, Texas.
- In French Lick Springs, Indiana, there was a law that required black cats to wear bells around their necks on Friday the 13th.
- In Florida, snoozing under the hair dryer is illegal.
- Providence, Rhode Island, doesn't allow stores to sell toothpaste on Sunday.
- In Marion, Ohio, it is illegal to eat a doughnut and walk backwards on a city street.



HELP SAVE AND BRING THE MONARCH BUTTERFLY BACK TO FLORIDA AND OKALOOSA ISLAND

Editor's Note: During 2023 an attempt was made to create a positive, reproductive, nursery environment for the Monarch butterfly on Okaloosa Island. This effort was centered on planting and growing milkweed. Milkweed is the sole host plant of the monarch butterfly. Monarchs lay eggs specifically on milkweed, the eggs hatch into caterpillars and the caterpillars eat the foliage. Seeds, and in some cases seedlings, of the milkweed plant were provided to Island residents. A special planting of milkweed seedlings was completed in the Women Veterans Monument Park on Okaloosa Island.

This same effort will also be made in the year 2024. To assist in the effort to help the Monarch butterfly recover following is an article provided by OILA member, Ed Henderson, which details how you can help by reporting any Monarch butterfly sightings you might see this winter (December 1, 2023 thru March 1, 2024). The Monarch butterfly has been in decline for the last 20 years and it is important for scientists to know their population numbers. As noted in the article, you can report any sightings on the data portal at JourneyNorth.org/sightings. More detailed information is provided in the following article.

Scientists Need Help Reporting Monarch Butterfly Sightings in the South This Winter

– by Meghan Overdeep

Accurate data on their migration and winter behavior is crucial to their conservation.

Scientists are on the hunt for monarch butterflies hunkering down for the winter in the South, and they need help.

Monarchs typically migrate to Mexico for the winter months, but, according to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), as their populations have declined over the last two decades, more have been observed wintering and even breeding in the Southern U.S.



DNR wildlife biologist Anna Yellin told WABE that because monarch butterflies are currently being considered for listing under the endangered species act, it's essential for the scientists and officials making that decision to understand their population and changing behavior. Accurate data on their migration and overwintering behavior is crucial to the conservation of this iconic insect.

So, for the second winter in a row, the partnership of universities, agencies, and other organizations known as Monarchs Overwintering in Southeastern States is requesting the public's involvement.

From December 1 through March 1, the public is encouraged to report monarch sightings in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas using the partnership's online data portal at JourneyNorth.org/sightings.

"Volunteers are vital to this effort," Susan Meyers, co-chair of Monarchs Across Georgia, said in a news release. "If you enjoy being outdoors and exploring your local ecosystem, this is an easy activity that can be done alone or with your family."

Last winter, volunteers from across the Southeast and Gulf states provided more than 5,800 observations of monarch butterflies.

"When we come together as a community as we have with this effort, we stand a better chance of protecting the monarch butterfly for future generations," Yellin said in a release.

To take part, start by creating a free account at JourneyNorth.org/reg. You can learn more about how to report monarch sightings at JourneyNorth.org/monarchs.

Happy reporting!



MEET NEW OKALOOSA ISLAND FIREFIGHTER CORY MOORE

Age: 29 years old, has two kids, both girls ages 3 and 9.

Years of service: Cory started as a firefighter at neighboring department and worked for 3 months before starting his career at the Okaloosa Island Fire Department.

Birth place: Carry Mills, Illinois

Achievements: Academic and Athletic scholarship to Greenville University and graduated *Summa Cum Laude* with a bachelors degree in business management. Attended Liberty University acquiring a masters degree in criminal justice.

General information: Cory grew up in south Illinois playing all sports. In high school he spent his days studying and training in football. Cory achieved an academic and athletic scholarship to Greenville university. Cory played college football for Greenville university as a running back. After college, Cory entered the Air Force as an officer and served 5 years as an acquisition officer. He helped develop leading edge war fighting capabilities for the United

States Air Force. Continuing a passion for public service. Cory went to NWFSC college's fire academy and EMT school. Shortly after graduating, he worked as a firefighter for a neighboring fire department, then started his service with the Okaloosa Fire Department. In his off time, Cory enjoys spending time with his family and friends, going to the gym, and playing pickle ball. Cory is fond of his sweets and ranch Dipping sauce.



OKALOOSA ISLAND WELCOMES CORY TO THE BEST FIREFIGHTING DEPARTMENT IN FLORIDA!

WUZZLE PUZZLE ANSWERS

Wuzzle No. 1



Hi Rise
A-part-ments

Wuzzle No. 2



It's Beneath Me

Wuzzle No. 3



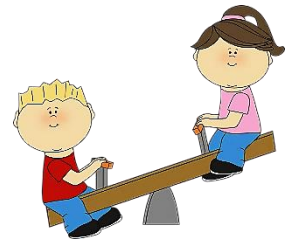
Round of
Applause

Wuzzle No. 4



Foreign Language
(in 5 languages)

Wuzzle No.5



Seesaw

TRIVIA CRAWLERS

- Every single U.S. President has worn glasses at least some of the time.
- The smallest will in history was written on the back of a postage stamp – complete with witness signatures.
- The largest shoe on record belongs to a Florida man who wears a size 42.
- In 1857, New Yorker Joseph C. Gayetty produced the first packaged bathroom tissue in the United States. It was call “The Therapeutic Paper” and contained aloe for added comfort. The company sold the paper in packs of 500 sheets at 50 cents per pack, and Gayetty’s name was printed on every sheet.
- The British royal family changed its name from “Sax-Coburg and Gotha” to “Windsor” during World War 1 because its original name sounded to German.
- As President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln’s annua salary was \$25,000.
- The early morning jolt of caffeine can be costly in Moscow. The price of an average cup of coffee is \$10.19 U.S., the highest in the world.

ISLANDERS DECORATE THE SANTA ROSA BLVD MEDIANS FOR CHRISTMAS 2023



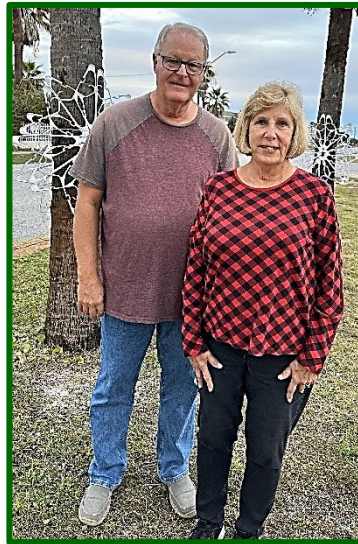
Nancy Hunt and Kathy Foster



**Alan & Carmen Parker
(Mr. & Mrs. Claus)**



**Sarbjina & Genevieve Waschak
(The Snowflake Girls)**



Bob & Michele Seitz



Michelle Campbell

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!