

A Word From the Publisher

This past week, we celebrated the birth of our country, July 4th! Hopefully, everyone received their Westside Journal on Wednesday prior to the holiday, as that's the way we planned it to be. So far, the only person I've heard from that didn't get their paper until Monday was my son, of all people and he lives in Callahan! I'm just saying! Holidays are wonderful but sometimes difficult in the business world. When you have a change from your normal routine, it can cause some serious issues! Thankfully, we survived and are back on schedule this week!

Roger and I received a gift Tuesday from a dear friend, two slabs of ribs! He dropped them off with Roger and said, "Cook these Thursday and I'll see you then." Lucky for us, Roger has a new smoker and has been enjoying learning how to cook all kinds of meat in it! Thursday, as I made a last dash to Winn Dixie I got a call from my brother Dub. So sweet! He and Carol were sitting on the balcony of a friends condo in Destin...bless him! We had a great talk and exchanged pictures: his picture of the beautiful Gulf of Mexico; and mine of a churn of homemade ice cream (he loves it)! I couldn't resist. We had a great visit and I'm thankful they were enjoying their time at the beach.

Shortly after, Mom and Dad came over to celebrate with us. We enjoyed eating ribs, homemade cole slaw and baked beans finished off with Mom's amazing chocolate cake with ice cream. Quite delicious! We took some time to reminisce of past July 4ths at our house. Some were pretty noisy with little ones running around. When our grandson Hunter was just a little thing, he cried and our dog

Ally barked during the fireworks. Talk about loud! I did miss seeing the children but we still had a great time together. Of course, the skies got dark and here came the rain. We were happy to see it as our pond had really gotten low. While sitting in the cool house I remembered we had a movie that we wanted Mom and Dad to see, the War Room.

Don't know if you have seen it but if you haven't it's the best movie ever. We were all mesmerized listening and watching. About an hour in to it, the power went off. Ugh! Made me crazy. We talked a while and waited until finally it came back on. The movie is about making a room in your home where you go to war with the devil. It is a place away from distractions that you can dive into God's word and weed the devil out with prayer. Whether I was aware or not, the devil is alive and well. There is not one moment that he gives up or relaxes. He finds pleasure in messing with my mind and trying to take over my life. The devil wants to take away all the joy in my life.

Life is a hard road and the older you get it doesn't get any easier. While watching the movie it opened my eyes to 'things' in my life that have taken over. The Lord should be number one in our lives. I know many times I push Him to third or fourth. We wouldn't even be on this earth without the Lord...He created us! We owe everything we are and have to Him. I'm thankful for a God of grace and mercy. What an awesome God we serve... daily. Thank you Jesus! I pray that you have Jesus as your Savior!

Have a blessed week!

Dawn S. West