

Mark Your Calendars!

# JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

**Holidays**  
1st - New Year's Day  
17th - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

### Submit your event for the community calendar!



Want to see your event listed in The Herald's Community Calendar? Send information regarding your event to the Herald Editor at [editor@prioritynews.net](mailto:editor@prioritynews.net)

Placement cannot be guaranteed. To ensure placement of event, or to place an event that charges an entrance/participation fee, contact the advertisement department at [advertising@prioritynews.net](mailto:advertising@prioritynews.net) or call (850) 539-6586

Special event advertising rates available to non-profit agencies and religious institutions!

## Elephant Aid International announces essay contest for grades 3-8

By Ashley Hunter  
[editor@prioritynews.net](mailto:editor@prioritynews.net)

Elephant Aid International, an education and advocacy organization that focuses on improving the lives of elephants around the world, has announced its first-ever essay contest for students.

Elephant Aid International is headquartered in Attapulgus, Georgia - only a short 20 minute drive north of Quincy.

The goal of this essay contest is to introduce students to Bo - the first elephant to arrive at the organization's Elephant Refuge North America (also located in Attapulgus) and the retirement lifestyle that Bo will lead at the refuge.

A former circus elephant, Bo will be residing on over 700 acres of untouched land, where he will be able to live 'like an elephant' without human interaction and limited human involvement.

The students who participate in Elephant Aid International's essay contest will learn more about elephants and their habitats, as well as qualify for a chance to win prizes and become an Elephant Ambassador with the organization.

The essay contest will be divided into two age categories: Grades 3-5 will participate in the Level One contest, and grades 6-8 will participate in the Level Two contest.

Level One essay writers will be tasked with viewing videos and reading about Bo, before writing an essay on the following topic: "Pretend you are Bo, the elephant. You have just arrived at Elephant Refuge North America. Describe your first day. Be sure to use emotions, descriptions and facts."

The Level One essay should be no more than 200 words.

Level Two essay writers will be tasked with viewing videos and reading about Bo, before writing an essay on the following topic: "Explain the advantages Bo will have living at Elephant Refuge North America. Be sure to use facts that explain how the environment is a positive habitat for an elephant like Bo."

The Level Two essay should be no more than 300 words.

All information for the essay - such as videos and reading materials - can be found on Elephant Aid International's website.

Each essay should be written in the student's own words, although parents and teachers are allowed to assist with editing of the essay.

First place winners in both categories will receive \$35 (Bo will soon be 35-years-old), as well as a winner's certificate, a special t-shirt, a virtual visit with Bo, and an elephant ambassadorship.

Second place winners in both categories will receive a winner's certificate, a special t-shirt, and an elephant ambassadorship.

Judging will be done by a panel of elephant-enthusiast judges, and judging will be based on content, accuracy, creativity, passion, and adherence to the topic.

All submissions must be sent in no later than midnight on January 22, 2022 (Bo's birthday!) and should include the essay and required form.

For more information about the essay, how to submit your essay, more detailed rules, and information for teachers and parents, visit [elephantaidinternational.org/essay-contest-2021](http://elephantaidinternational.org/essay-contest-2021)



Bo the elephant

### Revival at Trust God Ministries

- Thursday, January 6 - Friday, January 7
- 7:30 p.m.
- 14602 Main Street, Gretna

be distributing food to the community. There are no income requirements. Food distributions are held by Community Cares every Saturday and Wednesday.

### Blood Drive at St. Paul Episcopal

- Sunday, January 9
- 11:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- 10 West King Street, Quincy

The congregation at Saint Paul Episcopal Church of Quincy will be hosting a blood drive. In 2021, the church and its supporters donated 11 gallons to OneBlood - and they are hoping to beat that record in 2022. The site will collect whole blood and double red cell blood.

### Food giveaway in Havana

- Wednesday, January 12
- 9 a.m.
- 118 Southwest Third Street, Havana

Community Cares Outreach in Havana will be distributing food to the community. There are no income requirements. Food distributions are held by Community Cares every Saturday and Wednesday.

### Eluster Richardson: Three Decades gallery opening

- Friday, January 14
- 13 North Madison Street, Quincy

The Gadsden Arts Center & Museum will be opening its

most-recent gallery, from January 14 through March 19. The Eluster Richardson gallery will showcase the paintings and sculptures of Tallahassee-native Richardson, who began painting when he was in 3rd grade and continued painting upon retiring from an engineering career. Richardson's art showcases the tradition of families and a taste of history; his pieces have been displayed across the south and at the Smithsonian.

### Arbor Day fun at Bear Creek

- Saturday, January 15
- 9 a.m. - noon
- 8125 Pat Thomas Parkway, Quincy

The Florida Forest Service will be celebrating Florida Arbor Day at the Bear Creek Educational Forest. The event will include a tree quiz, with participants identifying trees along the one-mile "Talking Trees" Loop Trail. Prizes will be given to first, second, and third place winners.

### Car Show in Downtown Havana

- Saturday, January 15
- 4 - 6 p.m.
- Downtown Havana

Havana Main Street will be continuing their monthly car shows into the 2022 year! This will be the first car show of the new year, and downtown Havana will be lined with antique models, sporty motorcycles, and more. If you stop in to look at the cars, be sure to grab dinner at one of Havana's local eateries or shop at the local business.

### Celebrate with the Magi

- Saturday, January 8
- 3 - 5 p.m.
- 213 Northeast 1st Street, Havana

The First Presbyterian Church of Havana will be presenting a free holiday program, complete with music, a special message, crafts, games, and photo opportunities, as the church is 'visited' by the Magi. There will be a time for participants to share their own holiday traditions, and learn about the way that the magi (Wise Men in the Christmas story) is celebrated in Spanish-speaking cultures. For more information, visit [havanapres.church/magi](http://havanapres.church/magi)

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Community Cares Outreach in Havana will

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returned to the Havana Police Department, and filled the Christmas bags "even fuller" for the children.

Smith estimates that, with the toy donations, each child received about \$250 worth of toys.

"There were so many who went above and beyond to contribute this year," said Smith. Havana is a giving community. Anything we've ever asked this community for, they've always come forward and supported any endeavor that we may have - the toys for the kids is no

different." "The kids are truly appreciative," Smith adds. "It helps us, in this day and age, build relationships and improve on those relationships - and it helps ensure that no child gets left without a toy on Christmas morning."

## Outdoorsmen: send us your photos!

The Havana Herald & Chattahoochee News-Herald wants to help you show off the experiences you are having in the great outdoors this hunting season.

Have a photo of you and your season haul that you want to share? Send a photo and brief photo description to: [editor@prioritynews.com](mailto:editor@prioritynews.com) - be sure to include the names of any person pictured in the photo.

Great way to show off trophy bucks or a young hunter's first catch!



## Gadsden County Volunteers Needed!

JOIN US FOR A VIRTUAL  
**Big Bend Hospice Volunteer Training**  
Volunteering can help strengthen your social connections, enhance your civic engagement, and provide mental health benefits!



Training Sessions are available on Saturday  
**January 22, March 26 & May 21**  
**9:00 AM - 4:00 PM via Zoom**

To learn more, call (850) 878-5310 or visit  
[WWW.BIGBENDHOSPICE.ORG/VOLUNTEERS](http://WWW.BIGBENDHOSPICE.ORG/VOLUNTEERS)

**Big Bend Hospice** 216 North Adams Street, Quincy, Florida  
your hometown hospice, licensed since 1983 [WWW.BIGBENDHOSPICE.ORG](http://WWW.BIGBENDHOSPICE.ORG)

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