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VOLUME XIV ISSUE 30

HOMETOWN PEOPLE...HOMETOWN NEWS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2018

"FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU," DECLARES THE LORD, "PLANS TO PROSPER YOU AND NOT TO HARM YOU, PLANS TO GIVE YOU HOPE AND A FUTURE." - JEREMIAH 29:11

Nassau County Loses Arbitration Tribunal

Roger R. West

An Arbitration hearing conducted on October 3, 2017 between the International Association of Fire Fighters, Local 3101 and Nassau County has determined Nassau County violated the contract and past practices when they terminated NCFR Lieutenant Curtiss Bollinger.

Bollinger was seriously injured in an off-the-

job motorcycle hit and run accident December 23, 2016. Following surgery on December 25, 2016, he was placed on medical restrictions that limited him from performing his duties as a firefighter. Nassau County placed Bollinger on FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act). His FMLA leave ran out on March 17, 2017.

On March 24, the County received a medical report stating Bollinger's restrictions remained as far as his firefighting; however he was approved for administrative work. The county sent another medical request following Bollinger's April 20 medical appointment. It noted that Bollinger could still not perform the essential functions of a firefighter but was available for light duty. It noted that Bollinger was scheduled for surgery to remove some of the hardware from the first surgery and "will" be able to return to full duty by September 30, 2017 or sooner. On April 28, the County informed Bollinger that they were extending his FMLA leave. On May 12, the County informed Bollinger that effective May 22 they would "move forward with filling his position." Hearing no response, the County terminated Bollinger on May 22. Local 3101 grieved the county's decision on May 17; however the County denied the grievance through the final step on June 18.

The Union's position was that there maintained binding past practice established which allows injured Fire-Rescue employees to request and be placed on light duty, also past practice had been



established that allowed ill or injured employees to remain on the payroll at least until all accumulated leave is exhausted. The County maintained it exercised its rights under the Management Rights clause of the contract to terminate Bollinger and fill his position. The County denied any binding past practices existed that would

prevent his termination.

The Union showed evidence of seven Fire-Rescue employees that had been incapacitated for lengthy periods of time. Of the seven, four were from non-job related illnesses for periods of 8, 10, 12, and 16 months. Two employees were onthe-job injuries. They used a combination of light duty and accumulated leave for 7 and 23 months, respectively. The last case was an employee who needed to take care of a family member. Over a period of 21 months, he was allowed to use accumulated leave and work part-time when he could.

In the end, the Arbitrator determined that past practice has been established that an injured or ill Fire-Rescue employee may choose to be employed until all accumulated leave is exhausted. Furthermore, Lieutenant Bollinger was to be reinstated and compensated all straight time wages he would have earned from the termination date until his reinstatement date. He will receive the seniority credit, retirement and all leave he would have accumulated since May 23, 2017.

This decision was given to the County on December 21, 2017. The County finally reinstated Lieutenant Bollinger and his first day back to duty was January 21, 2018. Lt. Bollinger texted Sunday, "It is awesome to be back. One of the best days of my life! Back to doing what I love, serving the county."

This decision by the County not only caused hardship on Bollinger, but also cost the taxpayers thousands of dollars.

Residents Outraged Over Animal Control Ordinance

Sabrina Robertson,

County Manager's Office

In the spring of 2017, a group of concerned citizens contacted the County requesting the Board of County Commissioners to pass an Ordinance prohibiting unattended tethering of animals. Tethering is a term that is used when someone uses a rope, chain, strap or cord to keep an animal within a certain radius. The Board subsequently held a public hearing on May 22, 2017,

to consider an amendment to Ordinance No. 2004-58, known as the Animal Control Ordinance. Animal Services Director, Tim Maguire, made a presentation to the Board which included statistics about tethering and the process for complaints.

The Board voted to amend the Ordinance to state that owners may leave a dog tethered outdoors on their property for a reasonable period of time not to exceed 12 hours in a 24 hour period and that a dog may never be left tethered or unattended on vacant or abandoned property. The Board directed Nassau County Animal Services to begin a campaign to educate the public about alternatives to tethering and to notify residents of the new 12 hour rule.

The Board requested that Animal Services begin tracking tethering complaints they receive and to provide them with an update every 3 months. Updates were provided at the August 23 and November 27, 2017 meetings. At the November 27th meeting, the Board created a fact finding committee consisting of County Manager Shanea Jones, County Attorney Mike Mullin, and Animal Services Director Tim Maguire. They were directed to hold a series of meetings in the county to provide information to the public on tethering and to hear the opinions of the general public. The committee will gather the information they receive and report back to the Board of County Commissioners at

a future date.

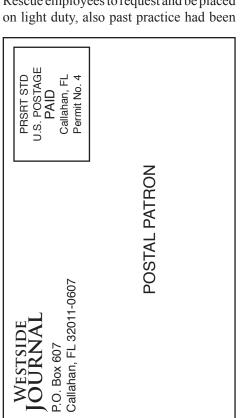
The Fact Finding Committee held their first meeting on Thursday, January 18 at the multi-purpose building in Callahan. A hand full of people was in attendance. Four people spoke in favor of the proposed revisions including a ban against unattended tethering of dogs and language that would prohibit animals from being transported outside of the cab of a vehicle in temperatures below 45 degrees or over 85 degrees. Two



other individuals spoke and expressed concerns over the temperature range for transporting animals.

As previously indicated, the County Commissioners established the Fact Finding Committee to hold a series of meetings with the general public and to bring back their findings. Since Friday, many citizens have contacted the County or used social media to share their thoughts regarding the proposed changes. Please note that the Fact Finding Meetings are the appropriate forum for citizens to express their concerns as all the information and thoughts shared at the meetings will be provided to the County Commission at a later time. Should the Board choose to make revisions to the Ordinance a public hearing will be advertised and held in according with Florida Statutes.

The second meeting of the Fact Finding Committee has been scheduled for Thursday, February 8 at 6 p.m. at the County Commissioner Chambers, 96135 Nassau Place, Yulee.





MA Word From the Publisher

I know I've heard a lot of grumbling about our long winter, I've done a little myself! One thing I really have enjoyed is sleeping. These cool (cold) nights it feels so good to climb in the bed under those covers. The only problem is... it makes it really hard to get up in the morning! I have certainly been testing the snooze button on my alarm clock. One morning, I found out that it finally quits going off after an hour. Now that was pushing it to the limit! I haven't done that but once!

Thinking of these cool mornings makes me think of my younger days. When we (my family of seven) moved to Callahan we rented houses. My parents found a 2-story house in Callahan that was going on the market. They talked and prayed about the purchase and found the means to buy it. For me, it was my childhood home. I can remember standing in the yard and looking at how big and beautiful it was to me. Our entire family worked diligently to 'kind of' restore the house before we moved in. I can remember working long nights and weekends pulling up layers and layers of carpet, newspapers and vinyl to finally find hardwood floors underneath. For me, as the youngest of the family, it seemed like a long time to get the thing ready to move into but to the rest of my family it was an eternity! The house had four bedrooms and a bathroom upstairs and a room made into a bedroom, a bathroom and of course the living room, den and kitchen all downstairs.

The home had a gas heater upstairs in the hall, which all of the bedrooms circled. Downstairs was another large gas heater in the living room and a small heater in the kitchen. There was no central heat and air, obviously. There was a fireplace in the living room that hadn't been used in years, so we didn't dare try to restore that! When it was cold, I can remember going to bed with

pajamas and socks on. When you went to bed you really didn't get up until it was time. We had so many blankets on top of us, we could hardly move, but it was amazing sleep! On school mornings, Daddy would come upstairs, light the heater, wake all of us up and close our doors. Of course, our rooms were really cold then! But when you came out into the hall and went in the bathroom...toasty warm! We were only allowed a certain amount of time to get up, get ready and get downstairs for breakfast because Daddy would come back up and turn the heater off! Trust me I was not caught getting dressed without the heater too many times. I guess that's when I learned how to get dressed so fast! Of course, I'm pretty simple. Get dressed, brush my hair, I'm good.

I'm so thankful for those days in that old house. Several years ago, Miranda Lambert sang a song called The House That Built Me. Every time I hear that song, I get emotional because I can relate. We built so many memories there that I will never forget. There were many joyful times and some trying times, all precious memories. Memories that take me back to a young little girl who I was learning about the world in such a wonderful way.

It brings me back to have blessed I am to have my loving parents that always (and still do) tried (and did) to do the best they could for us (their children). They have always shown such amazing love to us their children. The sacrifices they have made for me are overwhelming. That's why it's such a joy to be able to do for them now.

Thank you Jesus, for the life you have given me starting with my parents. Thank you for the cold weather to bring those precious memories back to my

Have a blessed week!

1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract

1 teaspoon baking powder

1 cup all-purpose flour

1/4 teaspoon salt

Dawn S. West

Letters to the Editor

Callahan Council

Dear Editor,

After reading the article in the Westside Journal concerning the Callahan clerk wanting to hire someone to learn the job for continuity purposes, I would suggest to the Council that some time and effort be devoted to what we called in the Army the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). Basically the institutional knowledge for taking care of the town's affairs should be documented and a copy kept off site for business continuation purposes. This also begs to question if the town has a business continuation plan in the event of some unknown event shutting down Town Hall operations.

> Tom Taylor Former County Resident

Animal Ordinance

Dear Editor,

I have been rubber-necking on the "Tethering Ordinance' with only mild interest believing it did not apply to me. When I finally read the verbiage I found that it has very little to do with tethering and a whole lot to do with every other animal owner in Nassau County. My primary problem with the revision to Ordinance 2004-58, Section 6-54 is that it refers to animals as a whole without bothering to recognize that different species have different needs. The county definition states simply, that an animal is "every nonhuman species of animal, both domestic and wild." As a hobbie-farm owner that creates a big problem for me!

A major sticking point for us all should be the temperature requirements for owners to provide "proper air maintained at a temperature within the animal's acclimation/ thermoneutral zone (45 to 85 degrees)..." This temperature designation was removed from federal regulation because the United States Department of Agriculture recognized that different species have different needs (www. nal.usda.gov/awic/final-rules-animal-welfare-9-cfr-parts-1-2-and-3). In fact, a temperature of 45-85 degrees is actually the required temperature for inside of an animal research facility and/or for professional transport of more than 4 hours; yet our county commission is seriously considering mandating this for all animals in Nassau County all the time. The ordinance goes on to say that if the temperature are above or below these -which is perpetually all the time in Florida, animals must be moved inside.

The fact is 45-85 degrees is where animals -like humans - are most naturally comfortable. But guess what, many humans do not even have that standard of living. Dogs pant, horses sweat, cats seek shade and shelter and chicken fluff their feathers because they are naturally able to adapt widely variable temperature seasonally. The federal government speaks specifically to animals being acclimated to their specific environment (www.law.cornell. edu/cfr/text/9/part-3/subpart-A) a fact that our local government is overlooking. Even among dogs, their cold/heat tolerance varies greatly from breed to breed let alone specie to specie (www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/VA/ VA-16-W.pdf).

Next, should the temperature become -45/+85 a four-sided shelter is required. Again, this is a vast generalization in the terms of animal needs. Anyone with any knowledge of animal husbandry knows it is a bad idea to seal an animal up especially in our humid climate. A sealed barn or kennel is a breeding ground of infectious disease, and ventilation is needed by way of a large open door or side. Furthermore, closing an animal up prevents it from self-regulating its internal temperature and they can easily get too warm even in cold weather. You have all heard people say things like, "The cold doesn't bother me, I'm used to it." Well, the same applies here.

Lastly, the requirement that animals be removed from "severe weather" is loosely written and likely impossible to enforce. We live in Florida and I am sure you know that if you don't like the weather, just wait 5 minutes. By their very nature of being in Florida weather can change suddenly and should this occur I could be fined for having any animal outside. Again, we see the total lack of recognition that different animals have different needs. Confining horses during a hurricane is generally warned against. The University of Louisiana Extension Office writes, "If you plan to weather the storm at home (this is not usually recommended), there are some general guidelines to follow: The choice of keeping your horse in a barn or an open field is up to you. Use common sense.... Farms subject to storm surge or flash flooding should turn their horses out so horses are not trapped." (www.lsu.edu/vetmed/vet news/ tips_for_horse owners.php)

Thankfully, the county has appointed a fact finding committee and I do hope that they look for facts from reputable sources. I love my animals and I spend a lot of time and money on their care. I realize this amendment is probably directed toward people other than myself, but it is not evident in the way it's written. I would recommend everyone take a closer look at this and contact our County Commissioners as my concerns only brush the surface of this all-inclusive amendment. Just to name a few: Section (h) requires animals be transported in temperature controlled confines; Section (h)b. dictates where/how your animal can ride in the car; Section (j) requires 100sf of fenced enclosure for dogs under 20 lbs. and 200sf for dogs over 20 lbs.

There may be people somewhere who can abide by this; however, I cannot fathom that Nassau County residents are in favor of anything remotely like what I am reading here. We cannot let a select few dictate our way of life. It is obvious that those who drafted these rules gave zero consideration to farmers, horse people, 4-H members, or hunters – essentially anyone of the west side of the county - and worse has very little understanding of animals at all. I urge you to read this document and take action.

Amendments available are https://fl-nassaucounty2.civicplus.com/ DocumentCenter/View/14933.

Marci McCosh

In the Kitchen... Chewy Peanut Butter Brownies

- 1/2 cup peanut butter
- 1/3 cup margarine, softened
- 2/3 cup white sugar
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar

Preheat oven to 350°. Grease a 9x9 inch baking pan. In a medium bowl, cream together peanut butter and margarine. Gradually blend in the brown sugar, white sugar, eggs, and vanilla; mix until fluffy. Combine flour, baking powder, and salt; stir into the peanut butter mixture until well blended. Bake for 30 to 35 minutes in preheated oven, or until the top springs back when touched. Cool, and cut into 16 squares

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The Westside Journal is published every Thursday by Westside Journal, LLC, owned by Roger and Dawn West. Printed by Florida Sun Printing in Callahan, Florida. Mailed free of charge to all residents in postal zip codes 32011, 32046 and 32009.

Advertisement Deadline: Monday at 5 p.m. Classified Deadline: Tuesday at 12 p.m. WESTSIDE JOURNAL STAFF

Dawn West Publisher Roger WestOwner/Reporter Jessie Pickett.....Graphic Designer

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Fish Talk

Support Local Business!

Chris Cockerham, Reel Habit

Well, if the weather permits, we should have at least one day to fish this weekend. Saturday is calling for a high in the upper 60's and it looks like Fernandina will have a high tide around 5 a.m. Sunday is calling for a 70% chance of rain and the negative Nancy in me is thinking the wind will probably blow every day until then. Looking on the bright side though, it's warmer than it was two weeks ago, phew!

Jumping right in, the sheepshead bite has been spotty at times and on fire the next. Obviously our weather pattern has been the huge factor for that. With that said, St. Simon's Island probably has the most consistent bite going on right now. Some absolute quality fish have been posted up over the weekend. I'm expecting to see our region follow suit here at the end of the month. Most of our local Sheepshead are coming off of clams and mussels but fiddlers always hold true. Next the trout bite is picking up in the river. The spike in air temps and the few days of sunshine have helped out tremendously. Most of the quality fish are being caught on diving baits that are slow rolled over ledges and deep oyster bars. Balsa rigs with live shrimp are producing best so make sure to grab bait before you head out.

Next, red fish have been as thick as fleas in the deep pockets of our back creeks. Most have been lower slot fish but there are several upper slots mixed in. I'm catching them on Down South Lures, "Chicken of the C" and Unfair Lures, Rip-n-slash 70. If I could reiterate anything, it'd be slow your presentation down and add procure to your artificial baits. Trust me, it works. These fish are hungry so if you're not getting bit move around a little. Slow moving current behind structure is key.

Lastly, something a little different! I'd like to recognize one of our local businesses, Hooks & Horns. Steve Kight, the owner, has done an excellent job serving the community with the latest and greatest items from woods to water. You can find a variety of apparel and gear from local companies to brand names. If Steve doesn't have it, he can get it. Let's face it, traffic in town is horrible and there's nothing I despise more. So support local! Swing by and give Steve a shout and let him "Hook" you up. I can assure you that you won't regret it. The address to Hooks & Horns is: 45258 Third Ave., it's right beside VyStar in Callahan. You can't miss it! As a local business owner myself, I can assure you, we truly thank you!

Be safe out there!

PLANT CLINIC

On Monday, February 5 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Rebecca Jordi, Extension Director/Horticulture Agent will conduct a Plant Clinic. All residents are invited to bring plant samples showing landscape problems to the Yulee Extension office on Pages Dairy Road. Problems will be identified and solutions offered for correction. There is no fee for this service. For information call 904-530-6353.

ST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

America's greatest threat is not ISIS, or Russia, or North Korea it is the Democrat Party. If ever you had any doubts, they should be gone as of now. Just think about this, not the first Democrat voted to lower your taxes this year, none! Do you really think they are on your side? Now they are jeopardizing our national security, our border protection with their lack of action to keep the nation functioning fiscally. Their reason for shutting down the Federal Government is the most ludicrous reason of treasonous proportion. They are making our military personnel go without pay, they are closing Federal Parks that are meant for Americans to enjoy, reducing the availability of border agents, suspending the CHIP (children's health insurance program), furloughing thousands and thousands of Federal employees and they do it for what they deem is a noble cause. That noble cause that disrupts so many American citizens' lives is so they can protect ILLEGAL aliens! There is no other country in this world that would place harm upon their citizens in order to protect illegal residents.

The Democrats and a few RINO's are willing to place America at risk to protect the children of illegals but they have no problem with the killing of thousands of unborn children that occur every day in our country. That my friend makes no sense to me, of course there isn't much the Democratic Party

does that makes any sense to me.

Don't get me wrong, I do have compassion for any child that has to face consequences from actions of their parents. This also happens every day in America. However, if the parents broke the law by sneaking into this country, that does not give the child the right to be given open citizenship to our country. If a parent steals an X-Box from Wal-Mart, gives it to their child and then gets apprehended for the theft, does the government allow the child to keep the stolen goods? No.

My thoughts are the politicians are putting the cart before the horse on this whole illegal alien problem. What needs to be done first is to shut down the continuous flow of illegals into our country on a daily basis. If you have a hole in your boat and all you are doing is bailing water, you are eventually going to sink. If you begin repairing the hole to stop the flow of water and then bail the water out you have resolved the problem.

Now my big question is, do the Democrats really have heart felt compassion for the DACA children or do they see the potential of thousands and thousands of future Democrat votes? I feel it is much more the latter. There is nothing they will not do to gain back their power so as to complete their Progressive Socialist agenda.

As always...that's just my opinion!

Visit us anytime at:

www.mywestsidejournal.com

Thought of the week...

When we bend our knees to pray, God bends His ear to listen.



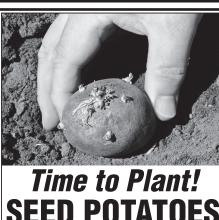
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How is Your Calorie Intake?

Pastor Benjie Loyd, River Road Baptist Church, Hilliard



I know that many of us have determined that this is going to be the year that we will lose weight. We will start paying attention to what we eat and we are going to count our calories so that we will be able to shed some pounds. If you have read my articles for anytime now, you are probably surprised to see me talking about something like weight loss. I am concerned about calories, but I am not speaking as a dietician, I am speaking as a pastor. Jesus said, "...man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes out of the mouth of God," (Matthew 4:4).

I find it interesting that Jesus quoted Deuteronomy 8:3 as He withstood Satan's temptations in the wilderness. Jesus consumed the Scriptures frequently. Jesus regularly feasted on the word and consumed the calories that He needed in order to stay faithful to God.

This leads me to my question for all of us to consider. If Jesus used the power of the Scriptures to stay spiritually fit, how much more should we? I have been preaching through II Timothy on Sunday mornings at River Road Baptist Church. In the last chapter of II Timothy, Paul makes some final requests. He has sent for Timothy so that he can see him one last time before he dies. He instructed Timothy that when he returned to him to bring him the parchments (II Tim.4:13). Paul is on death row. Paul has Luke as a companion in his hardship, but Paul wants the parchments. This request by the Apostle Paul boggles my mind. Luke and Paul wrote over 80% of the New Testament. These men had written so much of the Bible, but Paul still wanted the parchments as his final request on death row. The parchments were the Old Testament Scriptures and Paul desired the Scriptures to comfort him and encourage him in his great time of need.

When I went to Africa, I was able to consume Pepsi products and instead of putting calories on the cans, they listed energy because calories are energy. Calories are fuel for our body and if you do not have a healthy calorie intake your body will not function right. When we fail to daily feast on the word of God, our spiritual lives will be devoid of energy and we will be lethargic.

It is my prayer that the example and teaching of Jesus and Paul will encourage us all to have the proper intake of the word of God. We need to eat!

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Hilliard Parks & Recreation's Annex Bldg. 37516 Oxford St. • Hilliard 904-845-2733



Callahan Garden Club News



herself, has over 300 varieties of African Violets, she has judged and participated in flower shows and is the former president of The Heart Jacksonville of African Violet Society. The Garden Club members were educated on the history, origin

The Callahan Garden Club met January 10 and welcomed a member of The Heart of Jacksonville African Violet Society. The members enjoyed the presentation with African Violet hobbyist Sharon Gartner. Gartner



and general care of African

As the Garden Club members got settled in for their meeting, they were surprised by a visitor, Mr. John Morgan. Mr. Morgan came from Dinsmore to donate one of his homemade wood working crafts. "I just wanted to give something back to my community," said Mr. Morgan.

The club was elated and shocked by the generosity of the gentleman. He definitely made their day!

CHURCH NEWS

Greater Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church, 45031 Historical Lane, Callahan, Mission Ministry is sponsoring their Annual Prayer Breakfast this Sat., Jan. 27 at 9 a.m. in the Educational Building. Donations \$10. Let's start the year off with the 'Power of Prayer.

Lifeline Concerts presents The Kingdom Heirs (from Dollywood), The Harper Brothers & The Raineys; Sat., Feb. 10 at 6 p.m. at Parkwood Baptist Church, 7900 Lonestar Rd., Jacksonville: \$10.10 admission at the door. For more information call Steven Gunter at

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HMS Spelling Bee Winners

Congratulations to Hilliard Middle school Spelling Bee winners: 1st Place winner Avery Johnson (r) and 2nd Place winner Tony McCoy (1).

That is Coming!

It time again for the classes from West Nassau and Hilliard High School who graduated in the 1970's to come together for an evening of fun and fellowship! All classes from the 1970's are invited Friday, March 16 at Plantation Oaks Farm in Callahan from 4 to 10 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. The cost is \$30 per person. Please indicate your year of graduation on your payment. Check, cash or money orders accepted. Monies can be mailed to: David Thompson, 45220 Stratton Rd., Callahan, FL, 32011; or brought to the Westside Journal office, 450034 SR 200, Callahan. DEADLINE for payment is Thursday, March 1.

Former teachers from that time (1970-1979) are also invited to the

event and can do so at no cost. Music will be provided by DJ and WN grad Wayne Rowe.

"We are asking classmates who attend to bring a non-perishable food item. We are working with local churches to distribute the food collected to give to families in need," said event organizer and '74 WN Grad David Thompson. "In addition, we would like to be able to distribute smoked hams with the food. Over 40 families were helped from the last reunion. We made a difference for so many people from the last reunion, we hope to help more!"

Don't miss out on seeing old friends and classmates and having a great evening of fellowship together!

4-H'er of the Month

Bailey Woodle





Bailey is a member of County Council and the Hilliard Back 40 4-H Club. He just completed months of hard work to graduate with the first ever 4-H Youth Emergency Team (YET). Bailey is always willing to help out at 4-H events, coming early to set up and staying late to clean up. He is quick to share his input to solve problems. Recently, he filled in to help lead officer training when another 4-H member couldn't make it. Bailey has participated in many service projects and fundraisers and shows hogs every year at the Northeast Florida Fair.

Great job, Bailey, and thank you for being an outstanding 4-H member!

Relay Kick-Off a Success!

Last Saturday, the 2018 Relay For Life of West Nassau County held a Kick-Off Celebration and crockpot pot luck. The event was a great success with all proceeds going to Relay For Life of West Nassau. There were approximately 14 crock pots with all kinds of foods including deer chili, corned beef and cabbage, pizza in a crockpot, and much more! There was also a lava cake and apple pie that were made in crockpots.

A 'Big Thank You' to John Hendricks and the West Nassau Historical Society for the of the Callahan Train Depot! Thank you also to everyone who came out! We could not have made this event so successful without the community's participation.

This was just the Kick-Off so be watching for many other events leading

pageant for Miss Relay For Life of West Nassau is one of the new events added to this year's relay.

The Relay will be held Friday and Saturday, April

6 - 7 at the Fairgrounds beginning at 6

p.m. Teams can register online on the American Cancer Society website www.relayforlife.org/ westnassaucountyfl.

If you would like more information on the Relay For Life of West Nassau or to submit your survivor story, email wandanich@ juno.com or call (904) 294-

Check out our Facebook page at Relay for Life of West Nassau County.

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Whole Boneless Pork Loins \$249 lb.	Pick 5 for \$1999 Pick 5 Specially Marked Items

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New Beginnings and Milestones

Mr. and Mrs. Billy Bethea Celebrate 60th Anniversary

Billy and Thelma Bethea of Callahan celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on January 4. They were married at Buford Grove Baptist Church on January 4, 1958.

Billy retired from the Florida Department of Transportation in the 1990s, after a successful career. Thelma has worked for



Mr. William Cook at Callahan Timber Company for more than 45 years. The Betheas have made their home in Callahan since they married in 1958.

They have one son, Stan and Nancy Bethea of Callahan; and one granddaughter Hayden!



Unity Virginia Hope Harris



Bobby and Kara Harris of Hilliard are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Unity Virginia Hope Harris. Unity was born January 17 at Baptist Nassau Hospital in Fernandina Beach. She weighed 5 pounds 1 ounce and measured 18 inches.

Paternal grandparents are Bobby and Ann Harris. Maternal grandparents are Christina and Matthew

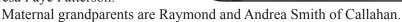
Proud great-grandparents are Charlotte and Lloyd

Unity was welcomed home by her big sister Leela!

Patersyn Kay Whitson

Gregory and Ashton Whitson are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Patersyn Kay Whitson. Patersyn was born September 29 at 9:31 a.m. at Overland Park Regional Medical Center in Kansas City, Kansas. She weighed 8 pounds 6 ounces and measured 19.5 inches.

Paternal grandparents Clayton and Vicki Whitson of Green Cove Springs and the late Teresa Faye Patterson.



Proud great-grandparents are Lee and Kay Garver of Jacksonville; and William and Linda Patterson of Yulee.

Fessie Ronald Higginbotham



Donald and Kendra Higginbotham of Callahan are proud to announce the birth of their son Jessie Ronald Higginbotham. Jessie was born December 24 at 11:10 a.m. at Baptist South in Jacksonville. He weighed 8 pounds 3 ounces and measured 20 inches.

Paternal grandparents are Donald and Robbie Higginbotham of Callahan. Maternal grandparents are Kenny

and Brenda Norton of Callahan.

Jessie was welcomed home by his big sisters Harper and Raelyn!

CALLAHAN SPEEDWAY Across from the Northeast Florida Fairgrounds • US 1

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RETIRED FLAG REMINDER

With spring approaching, be sure to check your American Flag and replace it with a new one if needed! Retired flags may be brought to the Westside Journal office for proper disposal.

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Bryceville Sports Association SPRING BASEBALL SIGN-UPS

Thursday, January 25 • 6 - 8 p.m. Saturday, January 27 • 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Monday, January 29 • 6 - 8 p.m.

Tuesday, January 30 • 6 - 8 p.m. Thursday, February 1 • 6 - 8 p.m.

Saturday, February 3 • 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

7280 Motes Road • Bryceville 904-322-3613 Boys & Girls ages 4-12

T-Ball - \$75 • Baseball - \$95 Sibling Discount - \$5

Must bring a copy of child's birth certificate to sign up. Find us on Facebook or Email: bsabaseball@yahoo.com







Beast Feast Friday at FBCC

This Friday, January 26, First Baptist Church Callahan will host their Annual Beast Feast. The event is held as a time to bring together fellow hunters, fishermen and outdoors people of all kind! Everyone comes together to enjoy dinner with all kinds of meats, fellowship with friends, chances to win prizes and an awesome guest speaker. This year's speaker is Andy Peterson.

The event is \$10 per person (which can be paid at the door). The event starts with dinner at 6 p.m. and the program begins at 7 p.m.

Following is a little information about the speaker Andy Peterson: Growing up in Minnesota, Andy Peterson's early years were characterized by a rebellious lifestyle that began with his parent's divorce when he was in kindergarten. While he had loving parents and step-parents, he felt misunderstood and persecuted. He became a loner, constantly questioning authority, testing boundaries and participating in risky behaviors to get attention and be popular.

When Andy was in 7th grade his father received Christ as his Savior and though it didn't immediately change Andy's life, it would ultimately make all the difference.

Andy was very athletic and enjoyed the outdoors where he felt free from the rules of his family and other authorities. A year after high school, he planned and took a trip from Minnesota throughout most of the western states and major national parks on his own. It was a life-changing experience that led to his moving to Colorado. There, he attended college to become a park ranger and



after a short time was hired as a ranger at Chatfield State Park, Colorado. It was during this time that he suffered an attack from a mountain lion while hiking in Roxborough State Park.

During the attack, as his life flashed before him, he realized that the life he had lived up to that point was marked with a selfish lack of concern for how his actions affected others. It was not the legacy he wanted to leave behind. Though severely injured, he cried out to the Lord for another chance and with His help was able to escape the lion and run down the mountain for help. Several people he had passed on his way up the mountain were able to assist and call for rescue.

Later, as he lay in the hospital with over 70 staples in his scalp and 100 stitches in other areas, his father introduced him to Jesus and Andy prayed the salvation prayer.

It took another year for Andy to totally embrace his salvation and determine to live for the Lord, but since that time he has used his experience to witness to others about how God saved him, first from the lion and then for eternity. Visit Andy's website: www. lionkingministries.com and also check out his book, Saved Twice.

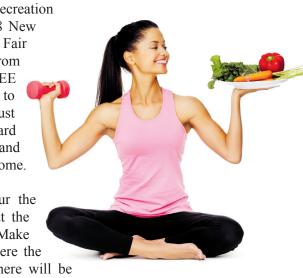
Health & Fitness Fair Saturday

The Hilliard Parks & Recreation Center will hold their 2018 New Year's Health & Fitness Fair this Saturday, January 27 from 8 a.m. - noon. This is FREE Community event open to anyone and everyone! Just because the event is in Hilliard doesn't mean Callahan and Bryceville people can't come. It's open to everyone.

It's a great time to tour the 24 Hour Fitness Facility at the recreation department. Make sure to visit the Annex where the vendors will be set up. There will be something to peak everyone's interest! There

will be vendors of all kinds including: Team Beachbody, Child Obesity 180, Council on Aging, Juice Plus, Life Care Center, MCCI and many more. "We are expecting over 30 vendors. It will truly be a learning event for everyone," said Hilliard Parks & Recreation Director Kyle Malucci. "We will also be hosting a blood drive in partnership with One Blood."

Make sure to come out and see and participate in some of the fitness, nutrition, wellbeing, healthy living and insurance resources available for both children and adults to improve your health. It's a kick-off to better health all over our community! Don't forget...the event is FREE!





100 lb Super Deal!

10 lb Spare Ribs **20 lb Leg Quarters** 10 lb Smoked Sausage **10 lb Fryer Drumsticks** 10 lb Pork Chops **10 lb Ground Beef 10 lb Beef Patties** 10 lb French Fries

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The Excitement is Building at Haley Caroline & Co. New Owners **New Name Coming** GRAND RE-OPENING: Keep an eye on Facebook Saturday, February 3 for exciting details! 450022 SR 200 • Callahan (Across from Dollar General) • 904-910-0695



Callahan Lions Club **Turkey Shoot Every Saturday** at 7 p.m.

Callahan Lions Club Building (First Building North of Fairgrounds on US 1)



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JACKSON LAWN CARE & LANDSCAPING SERVICES. FREE Estimates! Mowing, edging, weed eating, blowing, pressure washing, landscaping, tractor work. Call (904) 434-5769. tfn

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C & C LAND PROS, is offering Tree & Debris Removal with their new dump trailer. They also offer extreme bush hogging and stump grinding. Call (904) 401-3096 or (904) 517-9052. tfn

AVAILABLE SERVICES: Bookkeeping using QuickBooks Pro; Business Incorporating; Business/ Individual Tax Work; Casualty Loss Tax Return Claims; Florida Commissioned Notary Public; Wealth Retention Consulting; 36-plus years' Experience in Business. Contact Country Law & Tax Service in Callahan at (904) 628-0635 or e-mail Tom@ TomBlairEA.com. tfn

ELDERLY HOME CARE! Are you needing elderly care at home? Local CNA seeking new clients on part-time basis. Caring, loving, compassionate care. ADL's, companionship, errands, meal prep, etc. Experience & references available. Call Carolyn at (904) 626-5175. tfn

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& operated. FREE estimates! Call 945-5404. tfn

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AMAZING PET CARE: Pet sitting and dog walking services provided at your home. Call (904) 627-6294 or email 1AmazingPetCare@gmail.com or Facebook.com/AmazingPetCare. 12518

STORM DAMAGE CLEAN UP, Debris removal, tree removal, demo. Call Frank at 759-3900. tfn

NOTARY! ALL DOCUMENTS INCLUDING: Wills, Deeds, Trusts, Titles, Medical Documents, School Forms, Power of Attorney, etc. Call Joyce at 879-5488, will travel, located on Lem Turner Rd. 012518

SOPHIA'S PARTY BOUNCERS: Local bounce houses starting at \$99; Water Slides starting at

\$150 (local). Also available: [Party packages, balloons, snow cone and cotton candy machine rentals! Call 507-



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Classified Deadline is Tuesdays at Noon 879-4180 • news@westsidejournal.net

EMPLOYMENT

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES now available at LIFE CARE CENTER OF HILLIARD- Now Hiring FL Licensed CNAs-Great starting pay rate! We offer a team-oriented environment along with a great benefit package. Please apply in person at 3756 West 3rd Street, Hilliard, (904)845-3988 or fax resume to (904) 845-4456. tfn

Life Care Center of Hilliard now hiring RNs and LPNs, must have FL License. Please apply in person to: 3756 West 3rd Street, Hilliard or fax resume to 904-845-9487, or email to: Loren_Reddish@lcca. com<mailto:Loren_Reddish@lcca.com. tfn

LICENSED JOURNEYMAN PLUMBER NEEDED in Fernandina Beach. Please apply in person to 831 South 8th Street, Fernandina Beach, FL, 012518

LICENSED JOURNEYMAN ELECTRICIAN NEEDED in Fernandina Beach. Please apply in person at 831 South 8th Street, Fernandina Beach, FL. 012518

BROCK LANDSCAPING & IRRIGATION is seeking laborers for Jacksonville, Hilliard and Kingsland locations, pay depending on experience, background check, drug test, own transportation, EOE. Call (904) 507-3299 or email cbrocklandscape@windstream.

CLASS A CDL DRIVER needed, home nightly, \$700-\$1000 per week, Call (904) 955-4889, tfn

CUSTODIAL WORKER: Nassau County has an opening for a Custodial Worker at \$11.38 hourly plus benefits. Applications will be accepted thru February 2, 2018. Additional information and application can be obtained in the Human Resources Department located at 96135 Nassau Place, Suite 5, Yulee, Florida 32097, Telephone (904) 530-6075 or Fax (904) 321-5797, or at www.nassaucountyfl.com. Equal Opportunity Employer. Drug Free Workplace. This position is eligible for Veterans' Preference in accordance with applicable laws. 12518

SEEKING FULLTIME WORKER (over 18) for company located in Callahan. Must have valid and clean license, dependable transportation, reliable means of contact & not afraid of heights. Random drug tests will apply. Please call (904) 766-7772 if interested.

THE YMCA IS HIRING in Bryceville, Florida. Open positions for Site Director and Group Leader for our Youth Development Before and After School Program. These are part-time positions located at Bryceville Elementary School. A key part of the role

is planning, implementing and evaluating high quality, flexible and innovative programs for children Kindergarten through 5th grade. the Apply online at Firstcoastymca. org. 12518

NEEDED IMMEDIATELY: Carpenter and Field Fence Workers, above average pay, fulltime and weather permitting, overtime, Callahan area. Apply at: 542190 US Highway 1, Callahan (Subway Plaza). 20118

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BEAUTIFUL CORNER LOT nestled among oaks and pines near the St. Marys River, 3.2 acres cleared and ready for use, boat ramp 1 block away, 476465 Middle Road, Hilliard. Asking price, \$85,000; call (904) 451-6227 or (904) 781-4092. 12518

FOR SALE: 3BR/2BA, Homes of Merit, Folkston, 1 1/4 acres, waterfront, fenced backyard, kitchen/dining combo, 1 car attached garage, new appliances, new roof, new AC, excellent condition, covered back porch, asking \$135,000. Call (904) 545-0357, by appointment only! 12518

HOUSE FOR SALE, 3BR/1.5BA, 1,746sf, new CH/A, new metal roof, hard wood floors, back porch & fenced in backyard, spacious living room, eat-in

kitchen, large bedrooms, on half acre, \$189,000. By appointment only. Call 904-521-0866 or 904-314-2544.

FOR RENT

2 MOBILE HOMES FOR RENT in Callahan off of Keene Cemetery Rd., Claxton Circle: 3/2 with CH/A, no pets, will be available February 1. Call (904) 403-5773, 12518

CANTEBURY OF HILLIARD is an Equal Housing Opportunity with Rental Assistance for Elderly (62 years of age or older), Disabled and Handicapped (regardless of age), with or without children. Accessible units available. Eligible applicants should apply at 37119 Cantebury Drive, or Phone (904) 845-4496 TDD 1-800-374-4463. This institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer. 12518

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DIRT CHEAP! Fill dirt, sand, top soil, rock and hard pan, 18-yard bed, land clearing. Call Dirt Pro at 755-1341. tfn

USED WASHERS & DRYERS with 30 day warranty for sale. Will buy & pick-up used washers, dryers & electric stoves. Call (904) 554-4238. tfn

PIANO FOR SALE, \$250; ELECTRIC PIANO for sale, \$500. Call 845-7221 or 813-3156. tfn

ELVIS memorabilia 50th Anniversary Gold Album, 6 cassettes, 2002 year end box calendar, photos and collectible guitar with stand; DALE EARNHARDT playing cards in aluminum case (2 sets), collectible Earnhardt tag; desktop COMPUTER, \$50. Call (904) 705-6002. 12518

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WE BUY JUNK CARS AND UNWANTED APPLIANCES! We also do tractor work! Call Laid Back Scrap Removal at 507-9580 or 879-1595. 012518

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LOOKING TO BUY a 40-50 acre tract in the Callahan, Bryceville or Hilliard areas. Call Wade at (904) 545-

YARD SALES

3 FAMILY SALE, SATURDAY ONLY! 8 a.m. until? 45758 Pickett St., Callahan. Too much to list!

THEE SOUTHERN YANKEE, located at the corner of Mickler Street and US 301, Callahan, is having a RED Line sale! Anything with the RED Line is 50% OFF! Lots of new merchandise to see! Hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

LIVESTOCK

LOOKING FOR UNWANTED HORSES, cows and goats. FREE pickup! Call (904) 222-5054. 012518

AUTO

2005 CHEVROLET TAHOE SUV, white, 7 leather seats, AC, nearly new rubber, 186K miles but has an excellent maintenance record, oil change every 3,000 miles, garaged, one owner since 2007, good brakes, disc player, large console, cup holders, Kelly Book recommends \$8K plus, asking \$5500, prefer cash, money order or bank certified check. Call 879-4465.

> Classified Deadline is Tuesdays at Noon. Call 879-4180

Crash Course on Florida Gardening

Learn about trees, plants and gardening in Florida during a "Crash Course in North Florida Gardening" two-day seminar for newcomers to Florida on Saturday, February 10 from 8 a.m. – noon and Saturday February, 17 from 8 a.m. - noon. Nassau Extension Director/Horticulture Agent IV Rebecca Jordi will conduct the seminars, covering topics on proper landscape practices and plants for the Northeast Florida area. Different information will be presented each day. Pre-registration deadline is Friday, February 2 at 5 p.m. Fees are: \$50/ person; \$75/couple by February 2. After February 2: \$75/person; \$100/couple.

Registration can be dropped off at either the Callahan or Yulee Extension office. Both offices have a letter drop off in the door to make it convenient any time of day. Notebooks, refreshments and plenty of garden material will be given away to participants. Classes will contain information on Florida friendly plants, annuals, perennials, attracting wildlife, trees, shrubs, lawn grass, palms and citrus. Appropriate watering and fertilization methods will be discussed as well as proper pruning and plant selection.

The sessions will be held at the Yulee County Building, 86026 Pages Dairy

Road (take US 17 north, pass over the railroad tracks, turn left on Pages Dairy Road. The building is attached to the fire station).

Mail checks to: Crash Course/Nassau County Extension, 543350 US Highway 1, Callahan, FL 32011.

Register by calling Rebecca Jordi at (904) 530-6351 or (904)530-6353, fax (904) 548-1465, or email rljordi@ufl.edu.





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NCSO receives \$1.044 Million from Homeland Security



On Wednesday, January 17, United States Attorney Maria Chapa Lopez, along with U.S. Immigration and Homeland Security Investigations Special Agent in Charge James Spero, distributed more than \$1.7 million in civilly forfeited funds to three law enforcement agencies at the Jacksonville Office of Homeland Security Investigations. These awards are the result of a federal civil forfeiture of more than \$4.5 million in funds obtained fraudulently through the hacking of bitcoin accounts. The funds were distributed to the Nassau County Sheriff's Office (\$1,044,550.05); the Florida National Guard (\$627,487.74); and the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office

In November 2013, Homeland

Security Investigations Special Agents learned of the theft of approximately 5,400 bitcoins from Sheep Marketplace, an illicit marketplace online that has since been shut down. Sheep Marketplace was predominately used for the illicit sale of narcotics. Jacksonville residents Sean Mackert and Nathan Gibson determined that the Sheep Marketplace had a single online "wallet" that contained the bitcoins earned by

individuals using the marketplace. They devised a scheme that tricked Sheep Marketplace's "wallet" into transferring the bitcoins of others into "wallets" they controlled. During the investigation, investigators determined that Mackert and Gibson had routed the bitcoins through multiple online "wallets," then wired them to a licensed money service business. At their direction, the money service business exchanged the bitcoins for United States currency, then wired the funds to bank accounts in Jacksonville that were controlled by Mackert and Gipson. Mackert and Gipson both have plead guilty to conspiracy to commit wire fraud and are awaiting sentencing. Each faces up to 20 years in federal prison.

During the criminal investigation,

POLICE REPORTS

Names, Addresses and all information appearing in the Police Reports are taken from the Sheriff's Department files and do not necessarily indicate guilt, only that arrests were made or charges were filed.

Tuesday, January 16

Caleb Dalton Chance McClinton, 25, 10250 Mulberry Landing Annex, Hilliard: Aggravated Battery on Pregnant Woman

Joseph Blaine Potter, 21, 29864 CR 121, Hilliard: Violation of Probation Carrying a Concealed Firearm

Wednesday, January 17

Angelique Christine Abraham, 31, 33003 Blossom Lane, Callahan: Violation of Probation Grand Theft

Regina Kay Williams, 43, 27453 New Front Street, Hilliard: Failure to Appear Driving While License Suspended/Revoked

Thursday, January 18

Michael Anthony Music, 25, 376763 Kings Ferry Road, Hilliard: Aggravated Assault with Deadly Weapon

Wesley Lee Peace, 20, 30386 Trophy Trail, Bryceville: Driving While License Suspended/Revoked

Homeland Security agents, with the assistance of the Nassau County Sheriff's Office, the Florida National Guard, the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, and the United States Attorney's Office, seized the funds along with two vehicles. The United States commenced a civil forfeiture action against the funds, alleging that they were proceeds of fraud. The district court of Florida ultimately ordered the forfeiture of the funds and the two vehicles. The Nassau County Sheriff's Office provided valuable investigative assistance to their Homeland Security partners by tracking the money trail and money laundering process.

"Taking the profit out of crime is important in disrupting and dismantling illegal enterprises, deterring crime and restoring property to victims," said Sheriff Bill Leeper. "It is also an effective way to have criminals help fund law enforcement efforts."

Through the Equitable Sharing Program, law enforcement agencies receive resources to supplement their law enforcement mission. Asset forfeiture and equitable sharing are valuable law enforcement tools that send a clear message that crime does not pay.

"The funds received will allow our agency to purchase or upgrade equipment necessary for our employees to do their job more efficiently and effectively and to keep our citizens as safe as possible," Leeper said. "Items like computers, software, weapons, vehicles, radios, etc., which always need upgrading from time to time."

Bitcoins are a digital currency created in 2008 specifically for peer-topeer online transactions and are virtual currencies or money that exists mainly as computer code. It is currency not backed by any government, untraceable and unrecoverable if lost or destroyed.

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ELEANOR F. BECK



Eleanor F. Beck, 77, passed away at home on January 16 after a long battle with cancer. She was born in Middletown, Missouri to Earl and Vera Park

and was the first of 11 children. She was married 40 years to Johnny Beck.

She was a nurse for over 35 years, retired for 20. She loved gardening and spending time with her family. She was a loving Mom and Mema. She spent Sunday's worshipping her Lord at First Baptist Church of Callahan. She is predeceased by her husband Johnny; her granddaughter Lindsay; her parents; and seven siblings.

She is survived by her two children, John Beck and Ellen (Barry) Cross; eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Visitation was held Friday, January 19 in Hardage-Giddens Chapel Hills Funeral Home, Jacksonville.

Funeral services were held Saturday, January 20 in the First Baptist Church of Callahan with Pastor Lynn Hyatt officiating. Burial followed at Hardage-Giddens Chapel Hills Funeral Home & Memory Gardens.

Arrangements were under the direction of Hardage-Giddens Chapel Hills Funeral Home & Memory Gardens, Jacksonville.

Willard Auburn Brown



Willard Auburn Brown, 104, passed away Monday, January 15 in Meadowview Assisted Living in Smithfield, North Carolina. Born August

29. 1913 in Johnston County he was a son of the late William Argo and Blanche Wall Brown. He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Christine Wilson Brown; son Willard A. Brown, Jr.; and many brothers and sisters.

Willard was a member of Carter's Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Selma. Pastor

BITUARIES

Brown was the Pastor at the First Baptist Church of Callahan from 1953 -1965.

Funeral services were held Monday. January 22 in Carter's Chapel Missionary Baptist Church with Rev. Tim Sitter officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery. The family received friends prior to the service.

Surviving are his son Tim (Anne) Brown of Durham; daughter Janet Brown (Joe) Dowis of Seneca, SC; daughter-in-law Eunice Holbert of Black Mountain; brother Herman Brown of Selma; sister Margaret Upchurch of Raleigh; grandchildren Alicia Dowis (Martin) Furness, Amy Dowis, Joe (Katie) Dowis, Christine Rousseau (Jean-Michel), Stephen Brown, Dakota Brown, Keely Brown, Christine (Nick) Parks, Hunter (Emilie) Simpson, Susannah Simpson, Valerie (Jeremy) Holbert and Dean Holbert; daughters-in-law Noel Grady-Smith and Jacqueline Evers; and nine great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be sent to Carter's Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, 3644 Old Beulah Rd, Selma, North Carolina 27576, or a charity of one's choice.

B. Dale Jones Nettles

Gladys Jones. She was employed by the

Nassau County Sheriff's Office for 32 years.

Her greatest passion and joy was her family.

(Justin) Bell; sons Stephen Nettles and Jesse

(Carrie) Silcox; granddaughter Leighlynn

She is survived by her daughter Beth

Barbara Dale Jones Nettles,

61, of Callahan, passed away

January 17. Dale was born

on November 20, 1956 in

Jacksonville to Bryce and

Nettles; grandson Malaki Silcox; siblings Elizabeth Sue (Eddie) Nelson, Robert (Robin) Jones. David Jones and Debbie Nelson; many nieces, nephews and other family and friends. She was preceded in death by her husband Shelton Nettles; and her parents Bryce and Gladys Jones.

A graveside service was held Saturday, January 20 at Mills Creek Cemetery in Hilliard with Pastor Eric Osborne officiating. Visitation was held prior to the

Condolences may be expressed at www. nassaufh.com.

Arrangements by Nassau Funeral Home, Callahan, 904-879-1770.

MICHAELA E. SMITH



Words from Michaela: It pains me to admit it but apparently I have passed away (January 17). Everyone told me it would happen someday

but that's simply not something I wanted to hear. Once again I didn't get my way! That's the story of my life.

And while on that subject (the story of

my life), on February 3, 1941 my parents L.A. and Michaela Lynch celebrated my birth and I was introduced to all as Michaela Elizabeth Lynch aka "Snookie." I was raised on a farm with my precious brother George Lynch. I married a wonderful man name Robert Smith and we had three children: my loving daughter Karen Smith Roman, along with two sons Michael and Jarrette Smith. I have several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. I was blessed with a countless number of close friends.

I enjoyed many activities that ranged from camping and fishing to riding trail 70's. I was an adventurous soul with a fun loving nature. I have traveled abroad by air and sea to visit other countries in Europe with England and Ireland being my favorites. I loved music of all types with Elvis being the best! I can honestly say I lived my life not as a journey to the grave safely in a pretty and well-preserved body but skidded in broadside, thoroughly used up, totally worn out and loudly yelling... Woo Hoo! What a ride!

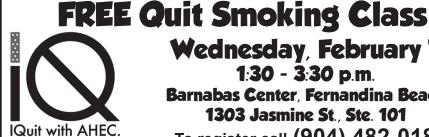
The family received friends Sunday, January 21. A graveside service was held Monday, January 22 in the Dinsmore Cemetery in Jacksonville.

Condolences may be expressed at www. nassaufh.com.

Arrangements by Nassau Funeral Home, Callahan, 879-1770.

Temple Family Thank You Words cannot express the gratitude we have for all the calls, cards, food and flowers we received during the passing of our mother, Juanita Temple. We wish to thank Nassau Funeral Home, First Baptist Church Callahan and Callahan

Flowers & More for the love and compassion that was shown to our family.



Baldwin

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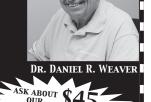
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Take Precautions This Flu Season

In Florida and throughout the U.S., flu activity is on the rise. In Nassau County, we are currently seeing moderate flu activity and influenza activity has been increasing over the past several weeks.

According to Eugenia Ngo-Seidel, MD, MPH, DOH-Nassau Director, "Flu vaccination is the best way to protect yourself and those around you from the flu and from serious flu complications. In addition to getting the flu vaccine, stay home when you are sick and keep sick children home from school and daycare. Sick people should stay home until they have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of a fever-reducing medication."

DOH-Nassau is urging residents to get your flu vaccine now if you have not already. There are still weeks of flu activity to come. It is not too late to get your flu vaccine. The flu vaccine is safe, and recommended for everyone six months and older, including pregnant women.

Flu vaccines can vary in effectiveness from season to season, but they continue to be the best way to prevent influenza infection and serious influenza complications. To locate a flu shot near you, contact your health care provider or use DOH's flu shot locator:

www.flhealth.gov/findaflushot

If you become ill with flu-like symptoms, contact your health care provider as soon as possible. Your health care provider can prescribe antiviral treatment if appropriate. Treatment is most effective when started within 48 hours, so calling as soon as you become ill is important, especially if you or your loved one is at a higher risk for complications: children younger than 5, adults over the age of 65, pregnant women, and those with underlying medical conditions.

Stay home from work and keep children home from school or daycare when sick to help prevent spreading the flu to others. It is also essential to practice good hygiene by properly and frequently washing your hands. Make it a habit to clean and disinfect commonly used surfaces in your home, school or office. You can take additional steps to ward off the flu by coughing or sneezing into a tissue or your elbow and avoiding touching your face.

Visit FluFreeFlorida.com for more information on how you can be a part of #FluFreeFlorida. Visit www. floridahealth.gov/floridaflu for more information on influenza and influenzalike illness in Florida.

Hilliard Town News

Dawn S. West

The Hilliard Town Council met Thursday night for their final meeting of January. The first order of business was a presentation from Mr. Billy Estep, Nassau County Emergency Management Director. Mr. Estep briefed the council what emergency management is all about and what they do. "We have had a very busy year, so people really got to see the things we do first hand," said Estep. "Last year (2017) we dealt with the fires, hurricanes, flooding and then ice and freezes. We learned many things from each of the tragedies in our county."

Emergency Management is the department that prepares county, city officials and the public about being prepared for a disaster; evacuations, shelters, etc. The mission of NCEM is: To provide Nassau County residents the education and support necessary to reduce risks and protect both lives and property from natural and man-made hazards using a whole-community approach to disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation.

Estep went through the steps that he and his staff try to teach the public: Preparedness: obviously being prepared for the emergency, food, gas, medicine, batteries, an escape plan; Mitigation: Making changes to reduce vulnerabilities, taking steps to decrease losses, and lessen the risk of injury;

Prevention: Having trees and low limbs removed from around your home, replace lose shingles, etc.; Recovery: Helping our neighbors in the recovery effort, providing tarps, debris removal and pick-up, assisting in registering with FEMA. Mr. Estep ended his presentation with any citizen that has questions concerning Nassau County Emergency Management to contact their office at (904) 548-0900.

In other business, the council approved Ordinance 2017-18 at second and final reading which concerned amending Section 62-289 of the Town Code to clarify the Private Club permitted use within the General Commercial C-1 zoning district; and amending section 62-290 of the Town Code to add Private Clubs as a permitted principal use within the manufacturing M-1 zoning district.

Parks & Recreation Director Kyle Malucci requested placing TaNasia Pasters from temporary to regular part-time employment. The council approved the request.

Malucci also reminded the council about the upcoming New Year's Health & Fitness Fair Saturday, January 27 from 8 a.m. – noon at the Hilliard Parks & Recreation Annex Building (37516 Oxford Street). "I hope you (council) all will be able to come!" added Malucci.

The next council meeting will be Thursday, February 1 at 7 p.m.

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Hunters & Fishermen...Shop

Dawn S. West

Anyone who knows me knows I'm not much of a hunter or fishing person. I'm pretty high strung for either! But I know many people, especially in our area who are! If you, as an outdoorsman or woman haven't dropped in at Hooks & Horns you've missed a treat. I spent some time recently with Steve Kight the owner of Hooks & Horns. Steve is an avid hunter and fisherman. There are many deer on the walls of the store to prove it. He and his wife Stephanie



opened the store in August 2016. The store is located in Thompson Mall behind the The Sheik and beside VyStar. The location is perfect for fisherman heading out for a day of fishing with their boat in tow to pull right in the parking lot and pick up some live bait. He has all kinds: shiners, minnows, worms & crickets. When asked why did you want to open a store? Steve replied, "It's every man's dream to own your own hunting and fishing store isn't it? Well, it was certainly my lifelong dream!"

"It seems to me that people just don't



want to deal with people anymore. I see more people who shop online versus coming in the store," said Steve. "I love to talk to people about hunting and fishing. That's how you learn things and find out what other people do. The big box stores (Amazon, Walmart, etc.) are killing small businesses. I can have something people are looking for yet they would rather drive to Jacksonville to get it \$2 cheaper. I just don't understand. People have lost the trend of shopping local."

Steve also carries a big selection of ammunition however, if he doesn't

have what you need, he can order it and get it quickly. That goes with anything in the store. He carries archery and basic hunting needs, turkey supplies and tree stands. The list goes on and on: deer and hog attractants, feeders, corn and dog feed; gun supplies:

holsters, scope mounts, etc. He tries to be an accessory store and a one stop shop to carry as many things necessary for hunting and fishing!

On the fishing side, Steve is proud to partner with Chris Cockerham and stocks his Reel Habit Jigs! "People love these jigs and Chris is a great person," added Steve.

Steve noticed that he seemed to be selling a lot of crickets. He finally asked someone about

it. They replied, "It's for my lizard

(bearded dragon)."

"I never realized so many people had lizards around here," continued Steve. "After talking to people I found out they (lizards) also liked super worms and mill worms. So I stock those also. That brings me back to shopping local. You get to talk to people and have that personal informative service. I wish more people would realize that the internet and online shopping is

> causing long range damage to local small businesses everywhere."

If you're an avid hunter or fisherman or woman or just want to check out a cool store, stop by Hooks & Horns and visit with Steve.

Hooks & Horns hours are: Tuesday - Friday from 9 a.m. -5:30 p.m.; Saturday from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. The actual physical address is 45258 Third Avenue, Callahan (beside VyStar and behind The Sheik restaurant.

The phone number is (904) 879-3371.







Bryceville Ballpark Ready for Players



In January, Bryceville ballpark families were told that the four remaining board members of the Bryceville Sports Association were resigning. Unfortunately, no replacements had offered to take the position, so the ballpark was going to be turned over to the county. The parents and the Bryceville Community did not realize how badly officers and volunteers were needed for

the park. The former board has stepped up and are doing everything they can to help the new board transition. Now, Bryceville is preparing for a great season! Joe and Misti Tokarsky have agreed to take charge as President and Vice President of the BSA Board. They have worked hard to reach out to the community to fill the board member positions and get much needed volunteers to help. It is a lot

of work, but our children are worth it all. Bryceville baseball sign-ups will be happening throughout January and February 1 & 3 at the

ballpark. They are looking for the community to come together to help the ballpark thrive again!





Nassau County's New Year's Resolutions

- 1. Smart Growth
- 2. Private Capital Investment
- 3. A Broad & Diverse Tax Base
- 4. Key Investments in Infrastructure
- 5. Sound Decision Making by Elected Leaders



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