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WESTSIDE JOURNAL



VOLUME XIV ISSUE 32

HOMETOWN PEOPLE...HOMETOWN NEWS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2018

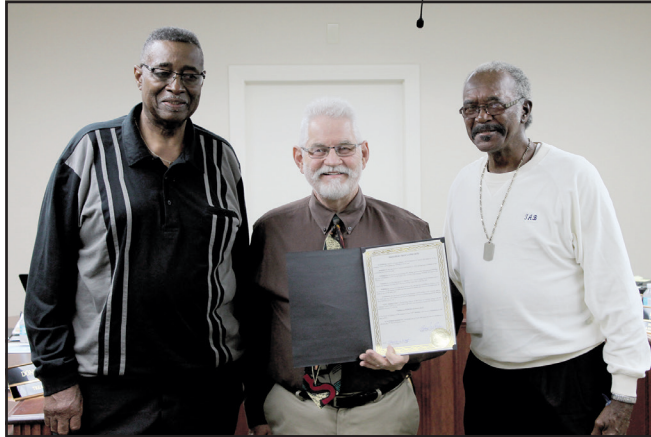
"IF YOU ABIDE IN ME AND MY WORDS ABIDE IN YOU,
YOU WILL ASK WHAT YOU DESIRE, AND IT SHALL BE GIVEN UNTO YOU." - JOHN 15:7

Callahan Clerk Discussions Continue

Dawn S. West

The Callahan Town Council met Monday night for their first meeting of February. The first order of business was a proclamation by Mayor Bobby Rau. The proclamation was in honor of Ms. Ophelia Morgan Judson, a Callahan resident who will celebrate her 104th birthday Thursday, February 8. The mayor proclaimed February 8, 2018 Ophelia Morgan Judson Day in honor of her birthday. Her son, Eddie, was present to accept the signed proclamation for his mother. Joining Eddie was Mr. Thomas Blue, a dear church friend. Eddie currently lives near Atlanta.

"I left from home early this morning to come back. When I made it to Tifton, Georgia, I took my shoes off and relaxed," said Eddie. "Knowing I was closer to being 'home' in Callahan soon.



Thank you for this. I love this town."

Another presentation was done by John Hendricks, representing the West Nassau Historical Society. "I am here to advise the council about the upcoming Railroad Day Festival. The Town of Callahan has always been a great supporter of the event and we hope you will continue to be," said Hendricks. "Previously, the town has donated \$1000 for the event. We thank you in advance for your support. The Railroad Day Festival will be held Saturday,

April 21 at the Callahan Depot."

Council President Ken Bass advised Hendricks that a resolution will be drawn up and read at the next meeting for the donation.

Wanda Nichols, representing Relay for Life of West Nassau County, was on hand requesting support and a donation. "I am the chair for this year's Relay for Life of West Nassau County. I took this job to turn our Relay around," said Nichols. "Many people ask, where does the money from Relay go? I know from experience where it goes. A few years ago, I was diagnosed with three kinds of leukemia. For many of my treatments I had to go to Gainesville and couldn't be more than one hour away from the hospital. I stayed in the Hope House, which is sponsored by the American Cancer Society and Winn Dixie. This is part of where the dollars go. We would like the support of the Town of Callahan again this year. The Relay will be held April 6-7 at the NE FL Fairgrounds."

Councilman Marty Fontes

responded, "We have always donated \$500 to the Relay. At least for the last four (4) years we have."

Tim Norman, representing Mittauer & Associates Engineering Firm, was on hand to award the contract for the CDBG Grant the town received. "Construction costs have gone up incredibly since this grant was applied for," said Norman. "We had 10 bids with the lowest bid, \$642,145.50 from Worth Construction Development. The total amount of the grant was \$586,000 leaving a shortfall of \$56,145.50. If the council so chooses to accept the balance of the shortfall, we (Mittauer) will notify the bid winner."

This grant was to extend water and sewer lines. Councilman Fontes made a motion to accept the bid and the council will use money from the general fund to complete the bid. The council approved.

Town Clerk Stephanie Knagge advised the council that she had gotten some reports from the Florida League of Cities concerning how many

See 'Callahan Clerk' on page 2

Code Discussions in Hilliard

Dawn S. West

The Hilliard Town Council met Thursday night for their first regular meeting of February. The first agenda item was a request from landowner Mr. Wayne Bishop to subdivide property he purchased in August. The property is located at the corner of CR 108 and Eastwood Road. Bishop wants to divide the property into four (4) lots to build homes on. Bishop stated that he had been before the Land & Zoning Board and now is requesting approval from the council. He was told that he would have to follow the rules for the subdivision code and felt like he had done all the correct things. A lengthy discussion followed with many of the councilmen's perception of the code one way, the mayor another and Bishop yet another. The conversation went back and forth for quite some time.

"It seems like we're trying to keep

people from building houses in Hilliard over 1/10 of an acre," said Councilman Kenny Sims, who was also trying to make sense of it all.

"I think we need to clean up and clarify the intent in the code," added Council President John Beasley. "It shouldn't be this difficult."

"I don't think this is a very good development practice," said Mayor Cris McConnell. "This is like a jigsaw puzzle. We are trying to have uniformity within the town limits."

After much more discussion, Councilman Beasley made a motion: "I make a motion that we (council) will accept the four (lots) after an engineer has platted the property out with the lots and you (Bishop) bring it back before the council," said Beasley. The motion

was seconded by Councilman Lee Pickett.

The next agenda item was from Mr. Ryan Hern requesting a septic tank exception. Hern is considering purchasing property from RA Sikes on Bay Road to build a home but will need a septic tank on the property. He wanted

the council's approval for the exception before he buys the land. The council approved the exception.

Ordinance 2017-05 was approved for six (6) months which concerns a Medical Marijuana Moratorium within the Town of Hilliard. The current ordinance was for one year and is to expire in March. The council chose to extend it for six months and revisit.

Town Clerk Lisa Purvis updated the council concerning getting a price on

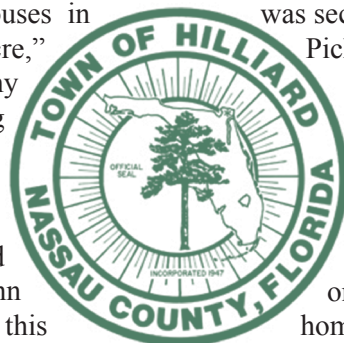
having a Capacity Fee Analysis report done. After discussing the report with the towns engineering firm Mittauer & Associates, the analysis would be around \$7,500.

"I think we need to talk about this and with Tim (engineer) before we make this decision," said Councilman Sims. "That's seems like a lot of money." The council agreed to hold off until they learn more about the analysis.

The council approved Resolution 2018-03 which concerned amending Resolution 2017-10 to set forth the rules and regulations, programs and fees and facilities and properties for the Town of Hilliard Parks & Recreation Department.

Parks & Recreation Department Director Kyle Malucci advised the council about a rental agreement with the West Nassau High School Swim

See 'Hilliard Code' on page 2



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A Word From the Publisher

It's a little hard to believe that we are well into February. It seems we just celebrated Christmas with our Westside Seniors and Friday I will join them for their Valentine's party! There is something about our senior adults...I just love them! To see their smiles and genuine joy to celebrate brings me joy. I think that is yet another trait passed down from my father. Daddy, although he is 85, has ministered to senior adults for some time. In fact, he teaches Sunday school to an older men's class, most are in their 80's and up. Do you know he averages 20 men each Sunday? He calls them during the week and finds out why they weren't at Sunday school and even goes to visit them. Last Sunday, he had 26! What a ministry he has with his men. He checks on them each week and makes sure all is well. Now you can't tell me that God is not working through my dad! God's amazing but so is my Daddy!

Last week, we published a story about a local family in close danger of losing their home due to a small but powerful clause in a contract. I personally want to thank the many people who have come by our office and donated money to this family. Many were anonymous donations and replied they didn't even know the family but remarked 'bad things happen to good people' and we want to help. Let me tell you, my heart has been humbled by the gracious love and compassion of our people. Once again, thank you so much for responding and the family is also very grateful and overwhelmed. I will be following the story up as the process continues.

In the world we live in today, it

has become a 'me' world. Yes, I have problems and difficulties but as I've said before, "...when I feel like I've really got issues, it's at that time that the Lord places someone or some situation in my path to straighten me out." I am so blessed and thankful to be a child of the Lord. Recently, a sweet friend (elderly) dropped by our office to visit. He went on and on about how he loves the stories in the Bible. "I believe in God and I trust Him every day but I'm not a Christian." I quickly asked him, "Why do you say you're not a Christian?" He said, "Because I don't live right. I mess up sometimes." I quickly reminded him that there was only one perfect person and that was Jesus. As I was reminded in church Sunday by Brother Todd, once we are saved and have asked Jesus in our heart, He is with us always...even when we 'mess' up. Do I mess up? Yes, pretty much every day! But thank you Jesus for His grace and mercy, He picks me up, brushes me off and we begin again.

I've already received my Valentine's Day gift. Last Wednesday, Roger and I drove over to Fernandina Beach and watched the super moon rise. I absolutely LOVE the beach and the peace I receive from it and my sweet husband knows that. As we watched the beautiful moon, we were once again amazed at God's majesty. What a beautiful world He has created for us to enjoy. We stood on the beach for about 30 minutes just mesmerized. I'm pretty simple when it comes to celebrating. It was a perfect night. I'm thankful for my husband and the love we share. I'm so thankful for a loving and faithful God that provides such beauty each and every day for us to enjoy!

Have a blessed week!

Dawn S. West

Callahan Clerk

Town Clerks are elected; and also a list of salaries from several of the municipalities.

"The only reason I brought this up is because the position of Clerk needs to be continued. This is a difficult job with a lot of responsibilities attached to it," said Knagge. "This is why we need someone that knows, at least, something about the position if I'm not reelected or not here."

"I had a talk with Mrs. Knagge and I see where she's coming from. She has brought the town back into the 21st century and we don't want to get

Continued from page 1

behind," said Fontes. "Maybe we could hire a former clerk or deputy clerk from around here to work part time? It's something to think about."

"How about if I work with you (Knagge) and talk with some of the other employees and see if everyone can share some of the responsibility?" asked Mayor Rau. "Let's try this first."

Knagge agreed to meet with the Mayor and see what happens.

The next meeting of the council will be Tuesday, February 20 at 7 p.m. due to the Presidents' Day holiday on Monday.

Hilliard Code

Team. "The swim team would like to use the pool again this year. They are requesting August, September and October, 3 days a week, approximately 2 hours each day, for training," said Malucci. "Last year we charged \$350 per month. That would still be a fair price to cover our cost for chemicals, electrical and a lifeguard."

The council approved the request.

Malucci advised the council that he has two people interested in the instructor position for the Silver Sneakers program. He hopes to have an instructor hired very soon.

Several ladies from the Silver Sneakers program were in the meeting to request the position be filled soon. "I have been in the program for 4 years. My health needs the program as soon as possible," said Ms. Patricia Bobbitt.

"We always have a great time in

Continued from page 1

the Silver Sneakers Program. We took trips together, we had fun and even got shapely!" said Doris Ann Chaires. "We really need it back soon!"

In closing comments, Hilliard resident LeAnn Wollitz advised the council that about a month ago the council had discussed taking the padlocks off of the gym. "I was just wandering if that has happened or where is the project now?"

"We have already been in contact with the people to change the locking system on the gym," said Public Works Director David Thompson. "We are waiting to hear back from them."

"The padlocks are taken off the doors when anyone is inside and the doors are left open at that time," added Parks & Recreation Director Kyle Malucci.

The next council meeting will be Thursday, February 15 at 7 p.m.

In the Kitchen... Amazing Jalapeño Cheese Dip

- 1 (4 oz.) can diced jalapeño peppers
- 1 cup shredded Parmesan cheese
- 1/2 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1 (4 oz.) can chopped green chilies
- 1 round loaf sourdough bread

Preheat an oven to 350°. Combine jalapeño peppers, Parmesan cheese, Cheddar cheese, mayonnaise and green chilies in a bowl. Cut the top off of the sourdough bread and hollow out the center to create a bowl. Fill the bread bowl with the jalapeno mixture. Bake in the preheated oven for 30 minutes.

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Fish Talk

Vertical Jigging for Trout

Chris Cockerham, Reel Habit

Gator trout, most popularly known as speckled trout, are typically fish that are larger than 4 to 5 lbs. These fish are smart and highly sought after even by the most avid anglers. The best times to target these fish are going to be early morning and late in the evening right? Well, that's usually not the case during the winter, it's very common to snag a few studs during the middle of the day. Because trout are deeper, light doesn't affect them like it does in our summer months.

While out this weekend, I noticed bait sticking to the bottom of our creeks. They were not very active and just flowing with the tide. We started out jigging in 4' to 6' of water and proceeded to vertical jig our way to deeper water with more current. It wasn't long before we found the correct depth trout were hanging out in. There was only one problem, we were getting short strikes. We quickly decided it's time to make a few changes.

With these colder temperatures, I switched to a 1/4 oz. jig head and a 3" plastic. Why a 3" plastic you might ask? Well, this weekend for example, I fished 4" and 5" baits for about an hour. We missed more fish than we hooked up with. I noticed that we were snagging fish and not hooking them in the mouth. Making an adjustment from those larger baits to the short DOA paddle tail made all the difference in the world. So by slowing our retrieval down, keeping the baits near the bottom and decreasing the size of our baits, we increased our catch. Our hook up ratio drastically improved and we ended up putting a limit of trout in the well in a little over an hour and a half. One of those trout happened to be a 24" stud that we released.

As with any sport fish, there's always a bunch of chatter as to what the best artificial baits may be. The bottom line is this, adjust accordingly. What you threw last weekend may not be the correct presentation for today. Hard baits aren't always productive so switch it up.

If I could add any tips to help you become more successful, I'd say this. Lighten up on your leader line, 10 lb. test mono or even smaller diameters may increase your hook ups. Slow your retrieval down as much as possible. That will keep your baits in the strike zone. Lastly, lean into the strikes and don't set the hook as if it were bass fishing. With that said, I hope that you all have a successful weekend on the water.

Be safe out there!

JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

"So let us begin tonight by recognizing that the state of our Union is strong because our people are strong," stated President Trump last week. President Trump delivered a refreshing speech, a speech that I have longed to hear for several years. "We have more than 2.4 million new jobs, including 200,000 new jobs in manufacturing alone. Unemployment claims have hit a 45-year low. African-American unemployment stands at the lowest rate ever recorded and Hispanic American unemployment has also reached the lowest levels in history," Trump proudly said. "Small business confidence is at an all-time high. The stock market has smashed one record after another, gaining \$8 trillion in value. The largest tax cuts and reforms in America's history were passed. These cuts will provide tremendous relief for the middle class all across our nation."

President Trump stated, "This is our new American moment. There has never been a better time to start living the American Dream."

However, sadly to say, there are many that do not want us to live the American Dream. The Democrats displayed their true colors at the "State of the Union" address. They proved that they not only hold great contempt for President Trump, they went further than that. They proved that they hold great contempt for America! They do not want to see Americans flourish. They want to hold everyone's future in their hands. Why would they not stand and applaud when Trump announced the unemployment rate for African-Americans is at the lowest rate ever recorded? Why are they so upset that unemployment is at a 45-year low? To me, they proved beyond a shadow of doubt that they are anti-American, anti-capitalists, and anti-freedom. They officially became the Socialist Democrat Party Tuesday night.

If their base of supporters begin to find work, start earning their own money, start realizing the American Dream, then they are going to realize that the Democratic party have been holding them back with their false narrative and the freebies that diminished their ability to prosper. The entire Democratic platform is to enact socialism upon America. They want to dictate who gets what and how much each one should get. For years they have been dangling the carrot in front of people, giving them just enough so they will keep following that carrot. The Democratic Party is no longer the Democrat Party of John F. Kennedy. He would be ashamed of what they have become. It is time for all Democrats to take a long hard look at what their party now represents and see if it actually represents what our founding fathers envisioned for America. I am not saying that the Republican establishment is perfect; there are many serving under the name Republican that is just as much anti-America as the Democrat platform. Marco Rubio, our own Congressman (Republican) from Florida is a major player of the swamp. I hope everyone noticed that he refused to stand or even applaud President Trump over the topic of Immigration reform.

So our state in this Union is strong, the same surely cannot be said for the Obama riddled FBI, DOJ, DNC and the Clintons. With the release of the FISA document last week, proof is now unfolding of the corruptness and collusion within the Democrat politics in Washington. It is going to be interesting to see this unfold. I firmly believe that there are several individuals that should end up behind bars. Who knows, maybe even slick Willie and Hillary might finally be brought down. Here's to wishful thinking!

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

Letters to the Editor



Thank You

Dear Editor,

First of all, I am going through cancer treatments. Some days are good and some not so good. A couple of weeks ago, I went grocery shopping in Winn Dixie with my daughter. We were leaving the store and got to our vehicle. While my daughter was putting the groceries in the car, my knees buckled and I started falling. My daughter tried to help but was at a weird angle. A lady in the parking lot saw me start to fall and came running over to

our vehicle to help. She practically lifted me up into the vehicle. I thanked her but was very frazzled after the whole incident.

I just wanted to take this time to thank that sweet lady for dropping what she was doing to help me out in my time of need. I didn't know what we were going to do. Thanks to the lady, I didn't have to worry about it too long. It goes to prove we have some wonderful people in our community.

Thank you again,
Kathy Collins

Valentine's Day

is Wednesday, February 14th!

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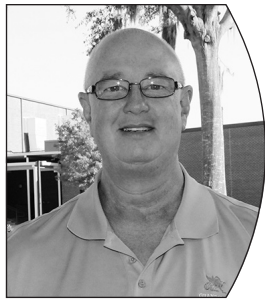
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Pastor Arlie Johns, Hilliard First Assembly of God

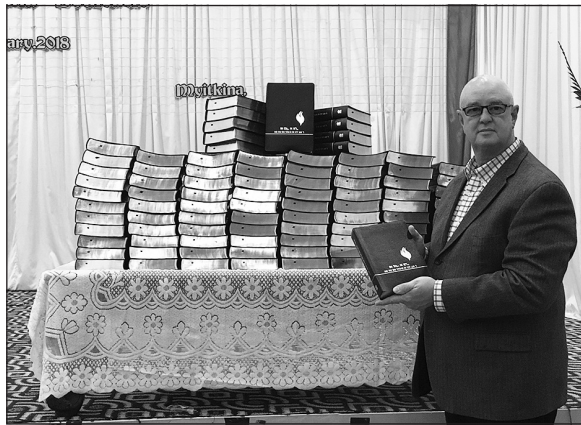


For a few years now, our church has been involved with Life Publishers in raising funds to publish "Fire Bibles." We have sold barbeque dinners at the traffic light in Hilliard and at the Little League field. For the past two years, we have held a Fire Bible Golf Tournament. With the support of our community we have raised in excess of \$30,000 to help publish Fire Bibles. The "Fire Bible" is a Study Bible that has been translated into many different foreign languages to help pastors

in foreign countries study God's word. Many of these Pastor's will never have the opportunity to attend a Bible College, that's why these Bibles are so important. The study notes in these Bibles will help the pastors to properly teach God's word without straying into false doctrine.

A couple weeks ago, I was given the privilege to travel as a part of the team that went to Myanmar (former Burma) and dedicated the newest edition of the Fire Bible. This edition was translated for the Li Su Tribe. The national language in the country is Burmese, but most of the people from the Li Su Tribe can't read or speak Burmese. So, with the assistance of Life Publishers and other organizations like our church we were able to help print a study Bible in the Li Su language so that they could have God's word in their own language.

On the night of the Li Su Fire Bible Dedication, several hundred pastors traveled from the northern part of Myanmar to the city of Myitkina. The room was charged with excitement as the pastors waited for all the guest speakers to finish with their greetings. These pastors had come to receive their very own copy of the



Living Word of God, written in their own native language. As the final prayer was given and the Bibles were formally dedicated, the pastors jumped up in line as their General Superintendent began to distribute the Bibles to each of them with his blessings. This was truly God's love in action! The smiles on their faces were so big it brought tears to my eyes. The pastors who received these Bibles on that night were so excited to have their very own bible. By the next morning, we had already received reports that several Bibles had been taken over the border into China where the Li Su Tribe originally came from. Let me just say that God's Word is marching forward. I want to thank each and every one of you who helped in



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper... All Invited!

Bethany Episcopal Church in Hilliard (located on CR108 across the street from Town Hall) cordially invites you and your family to a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 13 from 5-7 p.m. in the Church Fellowship Hall. This is FREE and open to the public (although any donations are appreciated and happily accepted).



Shrove Tuesday is the day in February (or March) immediately before Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, which is traditionally celebrated by feasting on PANCAKES (and fixin's)! It is also the last day of eating richer, fatter foods before the ritual fasting period of Lent.

Ash Wednesday marks the first day of Lent, a time of reflection and penitence leading up to Easter Sunday. This year the Lenten Season begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14. Lent is the period of 40 days which comes before Easter in the Christian calendar. Easter Sunday this year falls on April 1. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Lent is a season of reflection and preparation before the celebration of Easter. During Lent we are asked to devote ourselves to seeking the Lord in prayer, to service by giving alms and to sacrifice by self-

control through fasting. By observing these 40 days of Lent, Christians replicate Jesus Christ's sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for 40 days.

At the Ash Wednesday service, the pastor dispenses ashes (usually made from burning the palm fronds from the previous year's Palm Sunday service) by making the sign of the cross on the bowed foreheads before them. As the ashes are "imposed," the pastor reminds each person of Genesis 3:19, "for you are dust, and to dust you shall return." This is a reminder that our lives are short and we must live them to the fullest.

The Ash Wednesday service will be Wednesday, February 14 at 7:30 p.m. at Bethany Episcopal Church in Hilliard. Everyone is invited and is welcome to attend!

making this New Fire Bible Translation possible through your gifts and support.

Life Publishers are constantly getting request from countries all around the world to translate the Fire Bible in many different languages. Our goal is to continue helping Life Publishers with their Translation of the Fire Bible. So, if you see our men's group selling barbeque dinners at the traffic light in

Hilliard, you can know that you are helping to purchase a Bible for a pastor from another tribe.

This year, on September 21 we will be holding our 3rd Annual Fire Bible Golf Tournament. Come out and enjoy the fun as we raise money to publish more Bibles. This is truly God's love in action!

CHURCH NEWS

Lannie Road Baptist Church will host their monthly Gospel Sing Friday, Feb. 9 at 7:30 p.m. with guest singer Mike Upright and host group The Gospel Sounds. The church is located at 5998 Lannie Rd., Jacksonville. Refreshments will follow the sing.

Lifeline Concerts presents The Kingdom Heirs (from Dollywood), The Harper Brothers & The Rainey's; 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 (904) 472-7865.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County, Florida has received citizens' requests to consider changes to the Animal Control Ordinance (Ordinance No. 2004-58, as amended). The requested changes would prohibit unattended tethering and transportation of unsecured animals in the bed of pick-up trucks. The Board designated a Fact Finding Committee to conduct meetings and receive public comment. The Fact Finding Committee will conduct meetings on the following dates:

- February 8, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Board of County Commission Chambers, 96135 Nassau Place, Yulee, Florida 32097
- February 15, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at the Callahan Multi-Use Facility, 543350 US Highway 1, Callahan, Florida 32011
- March 6, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. in the Board of County Commission Chambers, 96135 Nassau Place, Yulee, Florida 32097
- March 13, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. at the Callahan Multi-Use Facility, 543350 US Highway 1, Callahan, Florida 32011

The meeting agenda may be found at www.nassaucountyfl.com.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO BE PRESENT AND BE HEARD

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Petree Celebrates First Year on NCSB

Dawn S. West

Nassau County School Board Member District 5 Jonathan Petree recently celebrated his first year on the school board. Petree was sworn into office in November 2016. He ran for the seat held by Kathy Burns and won. Burns resigned her position to run for Superintendent leaving the seat vacant. Petree is fulfilling the remaining two (2) years left on the seat and is running for the position again in the 2018 election.



next part is that it didn't cost the NCSB anything."

Petree has set his goal on getting more Resource Officers at the schools. Last year, he made a personal trip to Washington, D.C. and met with Congressman John Rutherford concerning this issue. Rutherford totally agreed that in the world today, it would be great to have resource officers at every school.

As Petree has toured all of the schools in Nassau County his new passion has become promoting more vocational classes for our students. "Believe it or not, we already have 13 vocational programs going on in our west side schools ranging from Administrative Office Specialist to Building Construction; from HVAC/Electricity to Nursing Assistants," continued Petree. "Not every student is built for college. Learning a trade is lifetime. Many of these vocational classes are at the local high schools and some are taught at the Bean Center at FSCJ. All are free to high school students."

Petree continues to strive to serve the residents and students of Nassau County. While still being a husband and father of four and having a fulltime job, he still has found time to judge a science fair at CMS, be a judge for FBLA Districts, read in Bryceville for Literacy Week and still handle his school board obligations with a smile on his face. We appreciate your hard work for our students and teachers!

I had a few minutes to sit down with Jonathan and talk about his first year in office. "It's been a great opportunity. I just hit the floor running and look for opportunities to get involved," said Petree. "I enjoy the other members of the board. Even though we are all different, we all work together well and come to a great consensus."

During his first year he has been faithful about being available. "I return 100% of all my calls. Sometimes I have to leave a message, but I do so," added Petree. "I don't always have the answer but I sure try to find out what the caller needs."

Petree is proud of some accomplishments so far in his term. First of all, in December 2016, retirement and healthcare for educators was discussed. Petree fought hard to protect the teachers retirements in the Florida Retirement System versus changing over to a 401K program. He continues to search for ways to lower the healthcare expenses.

Petree was instrumental and consistent on safety at our schools. Callahan Intermediate School has had a problem for years with dropping off and picking up children from schools. Sometimes the line is so long that is actually stops on CR 108. Petree worked diligently with the Board of County Commissioners and the Road Department to get flashing lights during the school zone placed on CR 108. "The best part about it all is making our students safer," said Petree. "The

CMS 2018 National Geographic Bee Winners

Congratulations to eighth grader Cooper Crews, winner of the Callahan Middle School National Geographic Bee Competition. Cooper competed against nine other students and exhibited a remarkable knowledge of U.S. and world geography. If he scores in the top 100 on the online National Geographic

Bee test, Cooper will qualify to compete in the State Bee competition held on April 6 at Jacksonville University.

Congratulations to second place winner Sydney English and to third place winner Faith Fisher. All of the Bee competitors did a terrific job!



Shown (l to r) are: 1st Place Cooper Crews; 2nd Place Sydney English; and 3rd Place Faith Fisher

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New Beginnings and Milestones

Ophelia Morgan Judson Celebrates 104th Birthday

Ms. Ophelia Morgan Judson celebrated her 104th birthday February 8. Ms. Ophelia was born February 8, 1914 right here in Callahan. She was born and raised out near the fairgrounds area. She recalls at a young age, her family attended a Methodist Church but later joined Greater Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, where she still is a member and tithes regularly. She still recalls waking up early in the morning on Sundays, getting dressed and walking to church. She beat everyone else there but waited patiently until the services began.



She can remember as a young child helping her father, as he was a custodian at the school. She received her certificate and worked as a Certified Nursing Assistant working at the Eartha White Nursing Home in Jacksonville for about 10 years. She later took care of her father in his elderly years and also a brother. Her life has been taking care of and serving others' needs. She is humbled but proud to say she was never fired from a job and always worked hard at everything she did. She still has a much younger sister that lives in Philadelphia. She enjoys having company and spending time with those she loves. She attributes her life and good health to the Lord.

"I've always been truthful and hard working in everything I've done," said Ms. Ophelia. "It's the only way to be. The Lord has truly blessed my life."



Mayor Bobby Rau of the Town of Callahan read a proclamation at Monday night's meeting to proclaim Thursday, February 8 Ophelia Morgan Judson Day in the Town of Callahan. The signed proclamation was presented to her son Eddie, who was present at the meeting.

Berta Lou Sikes to Celebrate 90th Birthday

Berta Lou Sikes will celebrate her 90th birthday on February 12. Ms. Berta Lou was born February 12, 1928 in St. Augustine. She enjoys working in her yard, going to church, spending time with friends and family. She is a great cook and loves to cook for her family! She enjoys spending time outside with her great-grandchildren and riding them around in the golf cart!



She attends a number of primitive Baptist churches including Nathalene Primitive Baptist Church and Bethlehem Baptist Church of Hilliard.

She has two children Roy and Lilah Sikes of Hilliard and Annette (the late Bill) Lawson. She also has two grandchildren RA and Jessica Sikes and Natasha and Gary Raulerson, and two great-grandsons Brent Sikes and Colton Raulerson.

BBO at the Ballpark

The 9th Annual Alumni Baseball game will be held Saturday, February 10. The game is being held as a fundraiser for the Hilliard High School baseball team.

A barbeque cook-off will be held at the park with some great food. Rib and chicken dinners will be available from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m.

There will be: Rib dinners: \$12; Chicken dinners, \$10.

A slab of ribs can be ordered (pre-pay only) by booster members or coaches.

The Hilliard Middle-Senior High School Alumni Game will begin at 4 p.m. Come and cheer on these players! Admission to the game is free! The event will be held at the baseball field located behind Hilliard Elementary School, 27568 Ohio Street.

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HMS Lady Flashes Undefeated!



The Hilliard Middle School girls basketball team played Yulee Middle School for the Middle School B Team girls basketball championship. The Hilliard Lady Flashes won by a score of 22-13. Hilliard Middle finished the season with an 11-0 record! Their team motto was "One Team-One Goal" and these 10 ladies displayed great sportsmanship, hustle and heart all season!

The Hilliard Lady Flashes are: Gannon Kassab, Charlie McCullough, Logan Reliford, Anna Buchanan, Delaney Vennard, Laura Vroman, Molly Sutton, Tyra Lee, Abby Jarrett and Sydney Pike. Their coaches are Halee Tallman and Ken Seeley. Congratulations!

Four Kids for this Nanny!



Connie Hobbs of Hilliard knew her nanny goat was due to have her kids anytime. She went out one afternoon to feed her cows and checked on the nanny. At that time, she had delivered two kids and was preparing to deliver another. Connie didn't disturb her and left her while she fed the cows.



When she returned the nanny had delivered not one, but two more kids for a total of four! "I've had nannies that have had triplets before," said Connie. "But I've never seen four! It was a shock but pretty cool!"

All the kids are healthy but there is one runt! The nanny is doing much better after carrying around that heavy bunch of kids!

WN Cheerleaders Win State!



The West Nassau High School Cheerleaders competed in the FHSAA State Cheerleading Championship held Sunday for 2A teams and Monday for 1A teams in Gainesville at the University of Florida's Stephen O'Connell Center. The girls were able to bypass the semifinals and go straight to finals Monday afternoon after winning FHSAA Region 1 Regionals at Oakleaf High School on January 19 with a score of 80.7.

The team took the State Championship Monday with a final score of 90.2. It was the highest score of the entire competition! "We were the highest scoring team by 5 points, of all the schools competing," said Cheer Coach Samantha Beazley. "The girls were thrilled with those statistics!" The King's Academy from West Palm Beach placed 2nd with a score of 75.3.

This Friday, February 9, the cheerleaders and coaches will head to Orlando to the ESPN Wild World of Sports for National Competition. "We hope to reclaim our title after finishing second in 2017," added Beazley.

The 2018 Cheerleading squad includes: Marysue Anderson, Chelsea Alexander, Hannah Bennett, Jonvonte Jones, Bella Regulacion, Hannah Regulacion, Logan Stiles, Haley Horton, Haley Love, Storm Rhoden, Lexi Batrous, Haley Condurelis, Haleigh Fouraker, Raeli Rhoden, Jasmine Singletary, Presley Ellis, Autumn Wiggins and Coach Samantha Beazley. Good Luck Ladies! Go Warriors!



Westside Journal Visits Grand Cayman!

Susan Howard and Linda Morris recently took a relaxing trip to Georgetown, Grand Cayman Islands! The ladies had a wonderful time! We're so glad they made sure to take along a copy of the Westside Journal on their fun trip!

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MAINTENANCE HELPER: Nassau County has an opening for a Maintenance Helper in the Road & Bridge Department at \$11.38 hourly plus benefits. Applications will be accepted thru February 14, 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. 20818

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Vehicles Stolen from Dealership

Wednesday, January 31, just before midnight several individuals attempted to break in to Keffer Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep Dealership by breaking a glass door, but were unsuccessful. The suspects then went across the street to the Ron Anderson Chevrolet-Buick-GMC Dealership and broke into a door by the service area.



The suspects took keys and stole four vehicles from the service area and left. All four vehicles were recovered on Thursday morning, February 1. One was found abandoned by the Catholic Church in Yulee and three were found abandoned in

Jacksonville. Nassau County Sheriff's Office Detectives are looking for four black males and one white male in connection with the thefts. The suspects also abandoned a stolen vehicle at Ron Anderson Dealership that was stolen on the west side of Jacksonville, which was used for transportation to Nassau County.

Anyone who may have information about these thefts should contact Detective Hyers at 904-548-4036 or you can remain anonymous and call First Coast Crime Stoppers at 866-845-8477.

70's Reunion is Coming!

The graduating classes from West Nassau and Hilliard High School who graduated in the 70's (1970-1979) plan to get together for an evening of fun and fellowship!

The reunion will be held Friday, March 16 at Plantation Oaks Farm in Callahan from 4-10 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 can also be brought to the Westside Journal office, 450034 SR 200, Callahan. DEADLINE for payment is Thursday, March 1, 2018.

Former teachers (Coach Stearn has already RSVP'd) from that time are also invited at no cost. Music will be provided by DJ and WN grad Wayne Rowe. Classmates are asked to bring a non-perishable food item to the event for local families in need!

Jordi on First Coast News

This week, the First Coast News midday program featured UF/IFAS Nassau Extension Director and Horticulture Agent IV Becky Jordi.

In the five minute "First Coast Living" segment, Ms. Jordi talked about plant problems homeowners experience and used several sample plants illustrating disease or pest issues. "First Coast Living" host Curtis Dvorak learned that Nassau homeowners have the benefit of answers to their individual landscape plant questions at free "Plant Clinics" conducted at the Yulee Extension office on many Mondays. To see the full segment, visit our Facebook page at Nassau County Extension.



Genealogy Tidbits

Claude Arpen

It's that time again! The North Florida Genealogy Conference will be held Saturday, March 10. This is the largest event of its kind in Northeast Florida. Complete registration information and directions are located on the website. Just Google: North Florida Genealogy Conference.

Our program for the February 12 meeting will be presented by Mike Lawson, President of the West Nassau Genealogical Society. The program is entitled "Cemetery Visits: Helpful hints and methods on exploring cemeteries." His knowledge of local cemeteries can be very helpful as you research your ancestry.

To learn more, come join us at the West Nassau Genealogical Society meetings, the second Monday of each month at 10:30 a.m. at the Callahan Lions Club, located on US Highway 1 north of the fairgrounds. Visitors are always welcome!

Book Page Rosettes at the Callahan Library



A dozen Book Page Rosettes can be used in a dozen creative ways! Learn how to build beautiful paper roses from worn book pages at the Callahan Library's upcoming workshop to be held on Friday, February 9 from 10:30 a.m. - noon at the Callahan Library, 450077 SR 200, Suite #15, Callahan, 904-530-6500 (#3), www.nassaureads.com.

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BAILEY CRYTON BOYD



Funeral services for Bailey Cryton Boyd, 76, of Bryceville, will be held Saturday, February 10 at 11 a.m. at the First Baptist Church of Bryceville with Rev. Terry Yerby and Rev. James Conner officiating. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service. The interment will follow in Verdie Cemetery in Bryceville, where he will be laid to rest with his first wife, Jeanette Boyd, who passed away in 2015.

Mr. Boyd was born October 27, 1941 in Callahan, the son of Bailey Mancil Boyd and the former Nellie Blount. Mr. Boyd passed away on February 5 following a brief illness. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Bryceville.

He leaves behind two sons David Boyd and Richard Boyd, both of Yulee; a sister Mary (Bobby) Goolsby of Palm Beach; a brother Jimmy (Terri) Boyd of Callahan; six grandchildren RJ, Gabrielle, Taylor, Lisa, Adam and Clay; four great-grandchildren Aubree, Hayden, Haislynn and Brooklynn.

Those serving as pallbearers include: Clay Boyd, RJ Boyd, Adam Boyd, Rodney Harris, Glen Karst and Kenny McCollough. Honorary pallbearers include: Judge Johnny Crews and Louie Shortridge.

To sign the guest book, visit: www.prestwoodfuneralhome.com.

Arrangements entrusted to Prestwood Funeral Home, Baldwin, (904) 266-0072.

OBITUARIES

RAMONA HURLBERT DEEN



Ramona Hurlbert Deen, 85, of Callahan, went home to be with her Lord and Savior on February 4. She was born on March 25, 1932 in Hawkinsville, Georgia to Adam and Ruby Tanner. Ramona was an active member of the Callahan Church of Christ, a loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend. She adored her family and loved spending time with them! She had a special love for the mountains, her friends and her church family.

Ramona is survived by her children Charles Hurlbert, Cheryl Hurlbert, Joe Hurlbert, William (Lori) Hurlbert and Walter (Tonya) Hurlbert; grandchildren Teresa, Donnie, Melissa, Jamie, Justin, Amanda, Timmy, Savannah, Monica, Michael, Ridge, Brandon, Shuman, Jason, Caleb, Jessica and Liana; 21 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her son Ralph Hurlbert; and her mother Ruby Riggs.

A viewing will be held Friday, February 9 in the Nassau Funeral Home Chapel from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Services will begin at 1 p.m. with Pastor Bill Leonard officiating. Interment will follow in Jones Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Shuman Hurlbert, Jamie Hurlbert, Michael Hurlbert, Donnie Wilke, Justin Hurlbert, Timmy Hurlbert, Jason Hurlbert and Caleb Hurlbert.

Condolences may be expressed at www.nassaufh.com.

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

MARY H. RODDENBERRY



Mary Frances Harden Roddenberry, 83, of Folkston, passed away February 3 in Jacksonville. She was born July 24, 1934 in Folkston to the late Lewis Harden and Goldie Crews Harden. She retired as a Tax Preparer after over 40 years with H & R Block. She was a homemaker and loved to sew, knit, embroider, cook and garden. She enjoyed fishing and listening to Blue Grass music. Mrs. Roddenberry loved to take trips to the mountains. She was of the Baptist faith.

Along with her parents; she was preceded in death by her husband Jesse Roddenberry; a great-grandson Dylan Morris McCullough; a sister Ann Pearce; a brother-in-law Dan Pearce; and a sister-in-law Florie Harden.

She is survived by her children Michael (Dora) Roddenberry, Larry Roddenberry and Shelba Martin; six grandchildren Jessica (Joe) Cooney, Christina (Charles) Keene, Lorie (David) Lindsay, Cory (Victoria) Roddenberry, Brook Martin and Harley Hash; 11 great-grandchildren Adrian Cooney, Patrick Cooney, Dylan Keene, Jaxson Keene, Hope Lindsay, Jay Lindsay, Jordan Lindsay, David Lindsay, James Todd, Cayden Roddenberry and Lucas Roddenberry; two sisters Fredia (Phillip) Bluestein, Betty (Tex) Simmons; two brothers Dean (Liz) Harden and Emory Harden; and a number of nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, February 6 at Philadelphia Free Will Baptist Church with Rev. Ray McMillan officiating. Burial followed in Sardis Cemetery.

Condolences may be expressed at www.shepardfh.com.

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home in Folkston.

HARRIETT ELAINE ROSS


Harriett Elaine Ross, 85, went home to be with her Savior February 5. She was born in Southampton, New York on May 24, 1932. She moved to St. Marys, Georgia to be with her son Ernest, Jr. She eventually moved to Oklee, Minnesota to be with her daughter.

She is survived by her longtime friend and companion Matthew Genova; six children Douglas, Allen, Ernest, Jr., Deborah, Frances and Conrad; her grandchildren Cherokee, Edward, Douglas, Jr., Allen, Jr., Tabitha, Julie, Ernest, III, Jeremy, Matthew, Robert, Timothy, Patty, Sarah, Corey, Ari, Jared, Jason, Gavin, Conrad, Jr., Thomas and Lyndsey; and 45 great-grandchildren.

A private memorial service will be held Thursday, February 15.

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FSCJ Receives Grant for Firefighter Training



“These scholarship funds will provide a much-needed opportunity for our deserving students to continue their education and emergency training to quickly become skilled firemen and women,” said FSCJ President Dr. Cynthia Bioteau. “We are thankful for this partnership with AT&T as they support our mission to make training available and accessible to those who may otherwise not have the opportunity.”

Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ) has been awarded a \$25,000 Fire Cadet Academy Grant from the AT&T Foundation. The grant provides scholarships to 11 students from underserved populations who wish to obtain FSCJ’s Firefighter I/II Workforce Certificate through the Fire Academy of the South (FAS).

The certificate program consists of Fire Fighter I certification that was completed in December 2017 and Fire Fighter II certification that runs from January-May 2018. Students who successfully complete the program qualify to sit for the state minimum standards written, oral and practical examination as administered by the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training.

In addition to community fire departments, employment opportunities upon completion include inspectors, investigators, forest rangers and smoke jumpers, as well as federal and state installations such as airports and small, private firefighting companies.

“Florida’s fire service community is one of the best in the nation, and I fully support making access to training easier and more affordable for those who want to serve,” said CFO and State Fire Marshal Jimmy Patronis. “Partnerships and support like this help make Florida a better and safer place to live, work and raise a family.”

Students will be trained in FSCJ’s FAS state-of-the-art training facilities with modern equipment including a new maritime fire trainer and aircraft rescue and firefighting (ARFF) simulator.



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Written by Pamela J. Soule, Enrolled Agent

Get your share of more than \$1 trillion in 2017 federal tax deductions between now and Tuesday April 17, 2018... plus perhaps some of the billions of dollars in federal tax credits too!

1. Bring all **most-recent social security cards** or photo-copies of them for each and every person on your federal tax return to your tax appointment. Errors here delay your tax filing efforts by at least 45 days’ time!

2. Make certain you have **all your federal taxable and non-taxable income documents** to the first tax preparation appointment up to and including income sources like on this checklist:

- Alimony received, if any
- Casualty losses and insurance claims filed or collected due to Hurricane IRMA
- Child support and/or Disability, IRA distributions or pay-ins, 1099-R Pensions, Railroad Retirement, Social Security, Veteran’s disability, etc.
- Higher education expenses and tuition statements Form 1098-T paid for anyone that is on your tax return as primary taxpayer, spouse, children, and other dependents... get the form from the school(s) of higher education attended
- W-2 earnings statements of all your household members who had 2017 employers
- All available 1098 and 1099 forms from any and all 2017 income or expenditure sources
- K-1 forms from Limited Liability Companies - Partnership - S Corporations - Trusts, etc.
- And for an even-better checklist you can just stop by our Callahan office and get your own copy of our FREE 2017 Tax Organizer for Individuals and small businesses (including self-employment, farming, fishing, over-the-road truckers, public safety officers, real estate investors and landlords, etc.). As an alternative, you can otherwise simply e-mail Tom@TomBlairEA.com and we will email you a copy if you so desire.

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CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK!

HES Hosts Bingo for Books



Hilliard Elementary School recently hosted its annual Bingo for Books. Over 550 students, parents and staff enjoyed a pizza dinner and played bingo. Every student went home with at least three new books!



Building Trades Apprenticeship Career Day Saturday

For anyone (adults and students) interested in learning a trade, Saturday is a great day for you to learn more information about it! North Florida Building Trades Apprenticeship Career Day will be held this Saturday, February 10 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. at 489 Stevens Street in Jacksonville.



North Florida Building Trades Apprenticeship Programs have been training the future work force in the city of Jacksonville and surrounding counties since 1946. Our training programs continue to be 'Tuition Free' and offer a lifetime career in an every

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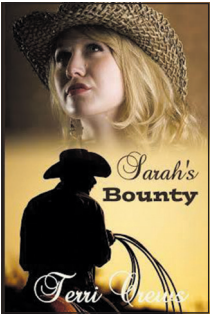
Apprenticeship opportunities will be available in the following trades: Carpentry; Electrical; HVAC; Iron Worker; Operating Engineers; Pipe Fitting; Pipe Welding; Plumbing; and Sheet Metal Workers. Benefits of apprenticeships are: Free Health Insurance; Pension/401 Retirement; Free Training; Competitive wages with guaranteed pay increase; and VA Registered Programs.

Make plans to attend this event! It could be the opportunity you've been searching for!

Local Author at Callahan Library Tuesday

If you like Western romances, then you won't want to miss the Callahan Library's presentation by Terri Crews of Hilliard. Talk with the local author about her inspirational titles in anticipation of Valentine's Day at the Callahan Library Tuesday, February 13, from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Signed copies of the author's books will be available for purchase. The Callahan Library is located at 450077 SR 200, Suite #15, Callahan, 904-530-6500 (#3), www.nassaureads.com.



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