

Update on West Side Roads

Crawford Road Paving – (Design & Right of Way Acquisition); Budget: \$6,292,170; Estimated Completion Date: TBD

Status: In September, 2013 the Commission approved for this project to be included on the Capital Improvement Plan. A design kickoff meeting was held May 8, 2014 and the preliminary design and concept report was submitted in the first week of July, 2014. We are also working with the County Attorney regarding draft Right of Way acquisition agreements and presented the first (of two) with Rayonier/Terrapointe to the Commission on July 27, 2015. We presented a similar agreement regarding WestRock for Commission consideration which was approved at the August 19, 2015 meeting. At the March 16, 2016 meeting the Commission directed staff and our consultant to proceed with designing and constructing the 40 mph alternative out of Norfolk Southern right of way. The Consultant has revised the design schedule at this time and we have authorized them to begin the associated design and surveying. Plans were submitted on May 17, 2016 (90%) for review by staff. On May 25, 2016 Norfolk Southern Railroad informed us that they would not allow us to construct the roadway without going through their processes. They requested and were sent the 90% plans so that they can review them and send us a "Preliminary Engineering" agreement for execution by the Commission. This agreement was executed by the Commission at the July 20, 2016 meeting. The railroad has requested an additional \$4,000 to locate a fiber optic cable in their right of way and the County Manager has approved that amendment to our agreement with Norfolk Southern. The railroad has also provided direction as of March, 24 2017 that we are to supply: ROW plans, an offer, Appraisal, Plats and Legal Descriptions and other items for acquisition of the 10+- Temporary Construction Easement (TCE). We were

aware that the TCE was required since we entered into the agreement with the railroad but these requirements were not expected. The time to complete these items (appraisal and legal descriptions) and the "minimum" six (6) month review time will impact the project schedule negatively by approximately 9 months.

The final agreement for land donation from Rayonier/Terrapointe was approved at the October 10, 2016 Commission meeting and a routine amendment to that agreement will be presented to the Commission on April 10, 2017. We are currently working on a similar final agreement with WestRock and have received legal sketches and descriptions and begun to acquire appraisals for property acquisition. The donation agreement with Raydient for right of way was approved by the BOCC on January 8, 2018.

CR 115 Widening and Resurfacing from Henry Smith Road to Bypass Road; Budget: \$8,000,000; Estimated Completion Date: Winter 2019

Status: At the County Commission Meeting of July 6, 2016, the Board directed staff to work with FDOT for the widening and resurfacing of CR 115 from Bypass Road to Henry Smith Road. We have also coordinated with FDOT to get the resurfacing project's funding applied to the widening project so that we can begin design utilizing those funds. We received a supplemental agreement that added \$3,640,000 to the project and presented that to the Commission in December, 2016. We also expect another supplemental agreement to be issued in the amount of \$3,500,000 in late summer of 2018 when that funding becomes available. The responses from firms interested in performing this were due on November 16, 2016 and have been reviewed by staff which met on January 13, 2017 to rank the letters of interest and then solicit full proposals. We have selected four (4) of the ten (10) firms to submit full proposals which were due on February 28, 2017. The Commission approved the rankings at the May 17, 2017 Commission meeting. The design contract and supplemental funding agreement were approved at the August 28, 2017 Commission meeting. A project kickoff meeting was held on October 11, 2017.

Thomas Creek Road Resurfacing - (Design); Budget: \$924,000; Estimated Completion Date: Spring 2018

Status: On March 16, 2016 the Commission approved a Small County Road Assistance Program (SCRAP) agreement for FDOT to fund the construction of this project (\$924,000) and for this project to be included on the Capital Improvement Plan with a budget of \$1,178,000 which will fund the CEI services and a 15% contingency.

Callahan Garden Club Celebrates 77 Years



The Callahan Garden Club celebrated 77 years of serving the community during their February meeting. Board member Barbara Wheeler spoke of how the Club has become a family, as well as reading relic newspaper articles on the history of the club. Wheeler reported that in 1944 The Callahan Garden Club donated a total \$9.03 to the troops in World War II.

The Callahan Garden Club also welcomed Master Gardener Candace Bridgewater to their meeting. Bridgewater shared her expertise on Bluebirds. Her presentation was extremely educational and informed the club members that not that long ago

Bluebirds were an endangered species.

The Garden Club is always open for new members. Each month a different educational program is presented. The club meets the first Wednesday of each month at their clubhouse on Fourth Avenue in Callahan. For further information, call 904-583-2123.



Notice of Animal Control Meeting

Thursday, February 15 at 6 p.m.

Callahan Multi-Purpose Building • 543350 US Highway 1

The Nassau County Board of County Commissioners has received citizens' requests to consider changes to the Animal Control Ordinance (Ordinance No. 200458, 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 meeting agenda may be found at www.nassaucountyfl.com. The Public is invited to be present and be heard.

The project will resurface Thomas Creek Road from US301/SR200 to the Duval County line (4.5 miles). Staff has completed the plans and technical specifications for this project. We have now finalized the bid documents and received concurrence from FDOT to bid the project. The bid was awarded to Pars Construction at the January 8, 2018 Board meeting. Notice to Proceed for CEI services was issued in January 2018, and a pre-construction meeting is scheduled for February 13.

Andrews Road Resurfacing – (Design); Budget: \$896,000; Estimated Completion Date: Spring 2018

Status: On March 16, 2016 the Commission approved a Small County Road Assistance Program (SCRAP) agreement for FDOT to fund the construction of this project (\$704,000) and for this project to be included on the Capital Improvement Plan with a budget of \$1,178,000 which will fund the CEI services and a 15% contingency. The project will resurface Andrews Road from CR121 to US1. (3.5 miles) The design for

this project is now underway. We have completed the plans and specifications and received from FDOT concurrence to bid. A construction contract was executed with Pars Construction in November 2017. A Notice to Proceed was issued for CEI services in January 2018. A pre-construction meeting is being scheduled.

Dyal Road Paving (Right of Way); Estimated Cost: \$632,000; Estimated Completion Date: TBD

Status: Based on Commission direction we have estimated the cost of paving approximately .5 miles of Dyal Road that was left unpaved when the remainder of the road was paved many years ago. We have completed a Right of Way map and had title searches done for all of the properties in the area of the project. It appears that this portion of the roadway was not paved due to the 40' Right of Way that the county has for the majority of the project's limits. There are 11 landowners that would have to convey 10' of their property to the County to create a 60' Right of Way. The Commission approved funding for the right of way process for FY 17/18.

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POSTAL PATRON

Barnabas Garden Helps Feed Neighbors

Tucked away in Fernandina Beach, the Barnabas Center Community Garden is an ongoing project that supports the Barnabas Food Program's objective of providing more fresh and healthier food distribution to Nassau County neighbors in need. The first vegetable plantings were established in November 2017. New plantings are installed seasonally by nine dedicated volunteers



Shown are volunteers Melinda Tosoni and Jan Meier, tending to the community garden.

who manage the planting, watering, weeding and maintenance of the garden.

The fall harvest of kale and collards was distributed to qualified individuals and families through the Barnabas Food Pantry. Currently growing and awaiting the winter harvest are kale, collards, broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, and Brussels sprouts. Soon thereafter, volunteers will be planting turnips, kale, collards, onions, lettuce, and mustards for an early spring harvest.

To donate funds to the Barnabas Food Program that will support the purchase of supplies, plants and seeds,

please send donations with instructions to apply it to the garden project to: Barnabas Center, 1303 Jasmine Street, Suite 101, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034.

If you, or someone you know is in need of food, please contact Barnabas at (904) 261-7000 to request information on eligibility guidelines. The Barnabas Food Pantry, located at 1301 Jasmine Street, is open Mondays 1-4 p.m., Tuesdays-Thursdays 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., and Fridays 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. To learn more about Barnabas Center and its services in Nassau County, visit www.BarnabasNassau.org.

Letters to the Editor



In Response

Dear Editor,

As much as I would like to let this slide, I simply can't because I do not like people making assumptions about me and my neighbors. You do know what they say about making assumptions, right? I'll decline Ms. Ayers invitation to visit the shelter, because that is already where my pets came from. I also have a horse rescued from a PMU farm in Canada and I volunteer locally with a breed specific rescue. I'm even a follower of a local animal group of which Ms. Ayers is President. Little did I know that my likes and shares of FAN: Friends of Animals Nassau, were supporting this proposed ordinance, but of course, that is rectified easily enough...

I found it interesting that I said nothing about tethering, yet that is what she clearly read. Her response, being so far off base from what I originally stated, is nothing short of an emotional tantrum. And emotion has no place in policy. There are a great many things that I do not like and make me uncomfortable, but I do not expect the rules of society and/or history to be re-written so I can go to bed with a warm and fuzzy feeling every night. I am the first person to intervene when an animal is mistreated, but this ordinance is absurd. Where is the empirical evidence, Ms. Ayers, that a horse should be treated like a dog? And how exactly will putting an end to tethering fix our shelter problem? If anything I see a windfall of animal surrenders should this pass.

Ms. Ayers' group clearly has no interest in the facts, rather are more concerned that some new-comer is surprised people in Nassau County still hunt and have farms. But let us really examine the facts that she so conveniently overlooked. Yulee actually leads Nassau County in terms of strays and animal surrenders. (<http://nassaucountyfl.com/645/Shelter-Reporting>) And while I am sure she would argue using the same logic that precludes Nassau County from being rural, I'll agree we no doubt have more strays overall on the west side because we are larger and are composed of six towns while the Eastside has only three. I guess in addition to not believing in biology, they aren't big supporters of math either.

With that I should probably apologize to the more genteel factor among us, but I just could not abide by her elitist tone. Ms. Ayers made crystal clear what she and her comrades think of the west side - that's classism plain

and simple. She knows nothing of us! The west side is rural by all practical standards including our own county 2030 Land Use Map. Of course when you lump us in with the unfettered, cookie-cutter growth of Yulee it skews the numbers considerably, but again that's math for ya! I'd argue as one of the fastest growing counties in Florida, Ms. Ayers may be the only one who believes we have a perception problem, not the new comers who are coming in droves. It may even be our rural landscape that attracts many of them from Jacksonville and beyond, but she could never admit that because it does not support her agenda.

I can personally count on my fingers the number of dogs I have seen tethered in the 15 years I have lived here. If tethering were the only change to the Ordinance, I would not be writing this, but there are far more changes than tethering proposed. There really are so many more worthy causes to focus their energies on versus than telling me how to run a farm, of which this select few have no experience or expertise. I will place my trust in our elected officials as surely they can differentiate between a farm animal and domestic pet, and even recognize that acclimation and thermoregulation are biological, and as unpopular as that may be in our current society, biology is real.

A simple solution, which would appease many and remove much of the ambiguity from the ordinance, would be to change the county's definition of "animals" to distinguish between a farm animal and a cat or dog as the Animal Welfare Act does, simplifying the tethering restrictions, and removing the strict transport restrictions would be also be a good start.

In closing, I encourage all level-headed pet and farm owners to join the upcoming community meetings as I am confident the fact finding committee would like to hear from you.

February 15 at 6pm & March 13 at 1 p.m.

Callahan Multi-purpose Building

March 6 at 1 p.m.

Commission Chambers, Yulee

March 13 at 1 p.m.

Callahan Multi-purpose Building

Again, I will kindly, decline Ms. Ayers invitation to visit the shelter. I would however, encourage her to visit the west side were she will find a lot of folks caring for their animals and minding their own business!

Marci McCosh

In the Kitchen...

- 1 (18.25 ounce) package yellow cake mix
- 1/2 cup butter, melted
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Preheat oven to 350°. Mix cake mix, melted butter or margarine, 1 teaspoon vanilla, and 2 eggs with a spoon. Pat into a 9 X 13 inch pan. Mix cream cheese, 2 eggs, and 1 teaspoon vanilla with an electric mixer. Slowly beat in confectioner's sugar. Pour over cake layer. Bake for 40 to 45 minutes. Cool.

Goopy Butter Cake

- 1 (8 oz.) package cream cheese
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 4 cups confectioners' sugar

VETERANS ASSISTANCE

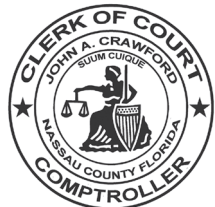
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The Westside Journal is published every Thursday by Westside Journal, LLC, owned by Roger and Dawn West. Printed by Florida Sun Printing in Callahan, Florida. Mailed free of charge to all residents in postal zip codes 32011, 32046 and 32009.

Advertisement Deadline: Monday at 5 p.m.

Classified Deadline: Tuesday at 12 p.m.

WESTSIDE JOURNAL STAFF

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College and Career Fair Tuesday!

Tuesday, February 20 • 6-8 p.m.
85375 Miner Rd., Yulee

Nassau County Public Schools are pleased to present a countywide College and Career Fair at Yulee High School, 85375 Miner Road, Yulee. Middle and high school, parents, family and friends are invited to explore the College and Career Fair! Representatives from area colleges, universities, military and financial aid offices will be available to speak with you about exciting options!

Clothing Giveaway & Yard Sale

Joel Pace's music students will hold an open house, yard sale and clothing giveaway on Saturday, February 17 from 1-4 p.m. Clothing is free to anyone and yard sale proceeds benefit the student's ministries in our community! Come by and say hello and visit the studio! For more information visit: Facebook.com/joelpacepiano.



4-H'er of the Month



Madison Maynard



Madison Maynard is a member of the Sunshine Crew 4-H club. She has been active in showing dairy cattle for the past 4 years at several different local fairs. Madison displays the 4-H logo at all the fairs she attends and is instrumental in promoting Agricultural Education to all the patrons. She owns three dairy animals: two Jerseys and one registered Holstein. She has purchased two of these animals with her own premium monies that she has earned.

Madison is also a member of the Callahan Middle School girls soccer team, is active in her church, and helps her parents with her three younger siblings. She prides herself on giving 100% to any project she has undertaken. Madison was nominated by her club leader, Paulette Kirkland, who says, "I am proud to have Madison in our club and am looking forward to watching her grow through this program."

Great job, Madison, and thanks for being an outstanding 4-H member!

Property Tax Discount Ends February 28th Penalties Begin on April 1st

Savvy Nassau County taxpayers have saved more than \$4.7 million this year by taking advantage of the discount for early payment. And there is still time to pay with a discount! Payments made by February 28th earn a 1% discount. The 2017 property taxes are due by March 31st for the gross tax amount. Some refer to March payments as a 0% discount period.

"I want to remind property owners to pay now, if possible, to take advantage of the February discount or to pay by March 31st at the latest," said Tax Collector John M. Drew. "Saving money is important to everyone. If you can pay before April 1st you can avoid the 3% penalty that is applied to the unpaid tax bills."

Tax payments may be paid online at www.nassautaxes.com using an E-check (free of charge) or by credit/debit card (convenience fees are charged by the credit card processor, not by the Tax Collector).

Tax payments may be mailed to: John M. Drew CFC, Tax Collector, 86130 License Road, Suite 3, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034.

To pay in person, visit one of our Tax Collector locations:

Callahan (A1A next to Callahan Public Library)
Hilliard, 15885 CR 108 (Southeastern Bank Building)

If taxes remain unpaid, the consequences can be expensive. Unpaid taxes will be advertised in the newspaper for three weeks as delinquent. For real property, a tax certificate will be sold at the Tax Certificate Sale on May 23rd. For tangible personal property, a Tax Warrant is issued which can result in the seizure and sale of the tangible personal property at public auction.

If you are having trouble paying your property taxes, please contact our office. We are here to serve you! Hopefully we can make a complicated process not seem so overwhelming.

EVENTS AROUND TOWN

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, General Joseph Finegan Camp 745, will meet Mon., Feb. 19 at the Pig Barbeque in Callahan at 7 p.m. This month's speaker is Kentucky Colonel Peter Mullen, who will present the first Christmas celebration in Florida.

The Bryceville Community Club will meet Tuesday, Feb. 20 at 11 a.m. at the Bryceville Community Center on Motes Road. The guest speaker will be Lauren Goode from Micah's Place. Members are asked to bring a covered dish.

The Westside Democratic Club will meet at 7 p.m. Tues., Feb. 20 at the Mickler St. County building in Callahan. Guest speaker is FDP District Director Lisa Peth, dinner and a meeting will follow.

West Nassau Single Senior Citizens will meet Wed., Feb. 21 at 1 p.m. at The Pig in Callahan. Come and meet new friends. For more information call Marlene at 879-9845.

Circle of Hope, a support group for women diagnosed with cancer, will meet the 4th Thursday of each month (Feb. 22) from 6:30-8 p.m. at the Pinky Promise (Harper Rose Cottage), across from Callahan Elementary, 449595 US Highway 301, Callahan. To RSVP, call (904) 626-2855.

YOGA at the Callahan Garden Club! Every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m., cost \$10 per class. For more information call (904) 707-0865 or 879-7256.

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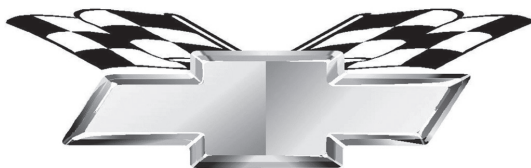
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Remembering "Thank You"

Pastor Ted Heglund, First Alliance Church, Hilliard



There were some special and important words that my parents insisted I use. They were "please" and "thank you." These words have not changed in their meaning or significances. I began thinking about how do I talk to God about things in my life? All of us are really great about praying and asking for our needs and also for our wants. Yet, how often do we really stop and say "Thank You" to God for both the good and bad events that take place in our lives?

Many times in the Bible we are told to give thanks, "Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!" Psalm 107:1 (ESV)

Am I thankful for a basic commodity such as water? I guess because of a water problem at the church I pastor, First Alliance Church of Hilliard, water was the first one to come to my thoughts. There is nothing like a nice cool drink of water. Water is essential to life and without it you and I would die. We turn on the tap and expect water to flow out to meet our daily needs.

We learned to appreciate water when we lived in the village areas in Indonesia. We were thankful when the rains came and filled our water tank and we did not have to carry water from the river. At other times we have been thankful to get our pump working again and since in Hilliard for those that have quickly restored city water when it has gone out. It is no fun to be without water. When was the last time you thanked the Lord for water and even thanked the workers who maintain our water systems?

We are to be thankful for answered prayer – about a water problem! For many, many years we have fought with flooding in the basement of the church (that's right a basement in Florida!). When it flooded it would affect the Sunday school classrooms, the activities of the Hilliard Playgroup, and other church functions. Recently, Mr. James Gardner of First Coast Tree Surgeons graciously volunteered to put in a deep underground drainage system around the church's foundation. We are thankful there is no more water coming into the basement! An answer to prayer!

Water is essential and can be both life-giving and be a problem. So are many other things of life. Water is but one of the many things we often take for granted. What else is in your life for which you have not taken time to give thanks to the Lord or to someone? The Bible reminds us: "...always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Ephesians 5:20 (NIV); "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! [Jesus]" 2 Corinthians 9:15 (NIV).

I would like to challenge you to write down people and things for which you can be thankful – Jesus, children, parents, home, job, church, water, electricity, the Bible, food, health, etc. Now, pray a prayer of thanks. The challenge is to pray without asking for anything, for you or someone else, not even a blessing. Just thank the Lord for His many blessings He has given to you. You might find that you are so accustomed to asking that you will find it hard to pray a prayer of only thanks.

"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful." Colossians 3:15 (NIV).

CES 2nd Graders Visit Brandies ACE Hardware



Thank you to Stephanie and the Brandies Ace Hardware staff who went above and beyond for Mrs. Weather's 2nd grade class as well as all the other classes who visited. Thanks also to NCSO for assuring the children made it there and back safely.



Five Generations!

This photo was taken recently at the Crane's retirement cottage near Yulee. Shown are great-great-grandparents Bob and Ruth Crane; great-grandfather Jeff Crane; grandmother Heather Crane; father Jackson Young holding his daughter Lelah Marie Young. Ironically, little Lelah has posed for three of these photos now. Five generations occur three times for this little girl!



CHURCH NEWS

First Baptist Church of Boulougne will have Living Song in their morning worship service Sunday, Feb. 18 at 10:45 a.m. We are located at 28226 Church Drive, Hilliard.

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Hilliard's Higginbotham Honored

Last Tuesday night, members of the Planning & Zoning Board, council members and Mayor honored Mr. Glenn Higginbotham on his retirement as Hilliard Land Use Administrator. Glenn's final official day was actually December 31, 2017. He had served the Town of Hilliard in that position for 14 years. There was a nice reception with wonderful food. The reception was held prior to the regular Planning & Zoning meeting, so all members could attend.

Glenn and his family were seated up front. Glenn introduced his attending family, his wife Louise; sons Leland Kirk 'Scooter' Higginbotham and Dean Eric 'Buckshot' and Ann Higginbotham.

After eating, Hilliard Mayor Cris McConnell read a brief history about Glenn: Glenn was born and raised in Hilliard. At the age of 15 he joined the Hilliard Volunteer Fire Department as a Junior Member. At 17, he joined the US Navy served his time and later joined



the US Air Force. After retirement, he rejoined the HVFD. In 2001, Glenn was appointed to the Zoning Board and later to the Land Use Administrator.

"I appreciate all you've done and your dedication to the Town of Hilliard," said Mayor McConnell.

"I just retired from this position. I'm not through with the town!" said Glenn. "This is my town and I long to see it prosper."

County Spelling BEE Held

The Nassau County Spelling BEE was held January 18 at the District Office. One student from each school in the county was represented at the event. The winner was Theodore Gurt, 6th grade, representing Yulee Middle School.

The Runner-up was Ella Weepie, 8th grade, representing Fernandina Middle School. Local students competing were:

Joseph Smith, 5th grade, representing Bryceville Elementary School; Liam Green, 5th grade, representing Callahan Intermediate School; Triston Patterson, 8th grade, representing Callahan Middle School; Katharine Wallace, 5th grade, representing Hilliard Elementary School; and Avery Johnson, 8th grade, representing Hilliard Middle School.



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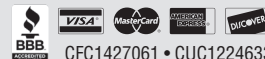


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BELIEVE IT OR NOT DEPARTMENT

Written by Pamela J. Soule, Enrolled Agent

1. Congress passed Public Law 115-123 on February 9, 2018 and "brought back" some earlier-expired tax deductions retroactively to January 1, 2017, including:
 - Mortgage insurance premium deduction
 - Cancellation of debt exclusion for home acquisition debt up to \$2 million
 - Higher education tuition deduction (when the tuition credits don't otherwise work)
 - More funds for disaster relief for California, and hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria
 - And a few far-less-common deductions and/or tax credits (Ask your tax pro if you have questions on energy credits, builder's credits, electric vehicles, fuel cell vehicles. The rest are far less common)

What does this all mean? Answer: It means that potentially millions of American taxpayers that file more-complex and long form returns will now have to amend their already-filed tax returns or lose hundreds or even thousands of dollars in otherwise-refundable monies due them.
2. According to the IRS itself, personal identity theft on tax returns has continued to be reduced by 40% in 2016 and another 40% again for 2017. Reasons include:
 - Tightened up identity protection means like the 16 numbers and letters now showing up on line 9 of many W-2 forms from many large employers plus
 - Issuance of hundreds of thousands of PIN numbers from IRS given to taxpayers that have learned that their non-public information has already caused Identity theft issues for those unfortunates
 - More-frequent-and-numerous law enforcement actions

(Statistically speaking, one person in four in the USA has lost money because their identities have been stolen over the past five years... police officers too commonly face this issue locally in our experience.)
3. Scammers and tricksters in the tax preparation industry are at it again this tax season... whether online or out of seasonal or temporary brick and mortar tax preparation firms far too many are making offers to taxpayers that come "back-loaded" with costly financial consequences that are not fully explained to taxpayers. Taxpayers are warned to read and should fully understand the fine print on offers of "free money" and "interest free" refund loans-credit cards-debit cards again this tax season... watch out for "backloads" on these scams... they can be very, very expensive for consumers that are not so sharp to learn.
4. If you have already filed your tax return for 2017, if warranted you should contact your local tax pro to learn if you should amend tax returns filed before mid-February this year. Amending of a tax return can get complex ... but they can also mean more money in your pocket if the effort is truly worth the cost of doing so.
5. Remember that filing an extension of time to file a federal tax return does not extend the time for you to pay the taxes you actually owe on or about *Thursday March 15, 2018 for most business income tax returns *Tuesday April 17, 2018 for most individual tax returns. Expensive late filing and late payment penalties remain in full force and effect by the IRS.
6. If you don't have any type of complex tax return and have already filed it for a refund, expect the IRS to take 8-21 days before your money arrives.
7. Those who file for Earned Income Credit (EITC), Child Tax Credit (CTC), and refundable Advanced Child Tax Credit (ACTC) and higher education tuition credits will begin seeing their money on or about Tuesday February 27, 2018 at the earliest.

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 (We are now scheduling for March and April 2018, and our fees are based on a COD basis)

New Beginnings and Milestones

Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Cline Celebrate 60th Anniversary

Bobby and Evelyn Cline of Jacksonville celebrated their 60th Anniversary on February 1. They were married in Folkston, Georgia on February 1, 1958. Bobby retired from his last employment at Enterprise in 2005. Evelyn retired from St. John Duplex Products (currently known as Work Flow One) in 2009 after 30 years. They are both members of Wayside Assembly of God. He is an avid NASCAR race fan and although he's not able to attend the races, if there's a race on TV, you'll find him glued to his recliner. Evelyn shares his enthusiasm but maybe not quite as much! Serving God and being with their family is the joy of their lives!



They have two children Richard Cline and Sharon Mathews, both of Jacksonville; three grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Betty L. Bahl Celebrates 90th Birthday



Mrs. Betty L. Bahl celebrated her 90th birthday on January 21. She celebrated with a family dinner given by her children Barbara, Michael (Joanne), Alicia (Danny), Anita, and Vernon (Marsha).

She loves spending time with her family. Besides her five children, she has eight grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

She also enjoys singing and teaching the adult ladies' Sunday school class at Hilliard First Assembly of God where she has been a faithful member for 27 years.

She is thankful to the Lord for her good health, especially being healed from cancer. She is truly an example of God's love and a blessing to so many!

Congratulations

PVT. ZACHARY MCNEESE

Congratulations to Pvt. Zachary McNeese on his graduation from boot camp (top 10% of his class) for the US Army in Ft. Sill, Oklahoma on January 26. Zachary is currently in AIT school at Ft. Sill where he is studying for his career as a Fire Control Specialist. Zachary is a 2017 graduate of West Nassau High School.

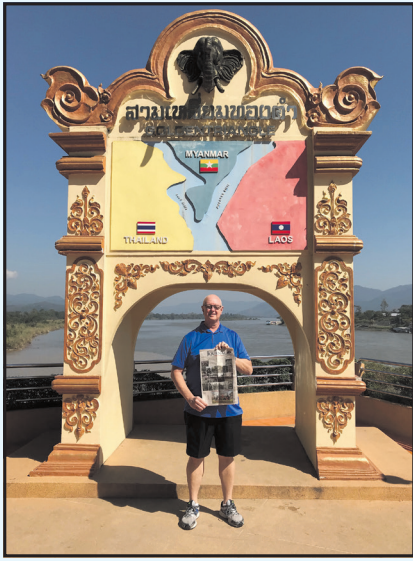
His parents are Matt and Shannon McNeese. His sister Mallory (Devin), niece Anniston, sister Molly and Kaleigh (girlfriend) are proud of him. He is the grandson of Don and Winkie McNeese, Patricia Butler and Eddie and Jeannie Stewart.

His family is very proud of him and his willingness to serve his country!



Westside Journal Visits Myanmar!

Pastor Arlie Johns recently went on a mission trip to Myanmar in Southeast Asia. While on the trip, he attended a Fire Bible dedication. Hilliard First Assembly of God, where Pastor Arlie serves, has done several fundraisers and golf tournaments to raise money for the publication of the Fire Bibles. The Fire Bibles are a study Bible that has been translated into many different foreign languages to help pastors in foreign countries study God's word. We are honored that he took a copy of the Westside Journal with him on the trip!



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Mumford Top Player



The West Nassau High School Football banquet was held on January 24. Senior Levi Mumford plays linebacker for the Warriors. He was awarded Defensive MVP of the Year.

Levi was selected to play in the FL vs. GA War of the Border Game, held at Charlton County High School on February 10. Florida won the game 28-21. Levi was awarded Defensive MVP of the game.



Strange Happenings on the West Side



Once again, a tanker truck fell prey to the small entrance and into the parking lot near The Pig Restaurant Monday.

Another strange incident happened Monday morning when NCSO was called to recover a stolen ambulance from Camden County that had apparently been driven into the St. Marys River in Kings Ferry.



CMS County Champs!



The Callahan Middle School Basketball B team recently won the County Championship! Congratulations!



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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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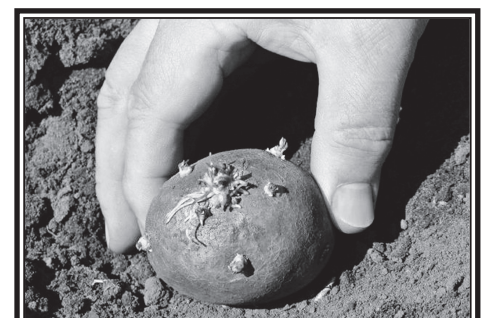
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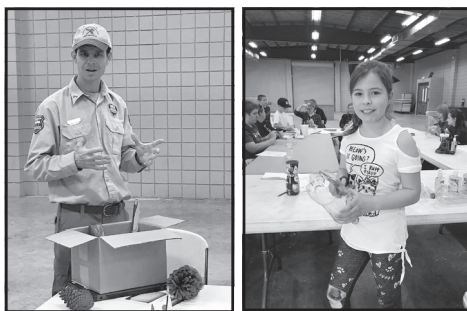
Allie Claire Mizell, 4-H Reporter

The Next Generation 4-H Club had a special guest speaker at the Monday, February 5 meeting. Nassau County Forester Dave Holley talked about pesky bark beetles. Did you know that Southern Pine Beetles kill pine trees right here in Nassau County? Mr. Holley said that bark beetles really like stressed trees that have been struck by lightning or trees that have been in a drought. He brought in bark that pine beetles had been eating on for everyone to look at. There were lots of squiggly lines where beetles had gone through the bark. Mr. Holley also brought in a beetle, and a big pine cone that everyone got to pass around and look at.

Club members brought empty 2-liter bottles to the meeting and we made

bark beetle traps as part of a citizen science project. Everyone took home a trap. Each club member will hang their trap in a tree and fill it with a 1/2 cup of hand sanitizer, three afternoons in a row. Each day, the kids will scoop the beetles out of their traps and into freezer bags, which they will freeze. After collecting a total of three samples, kids will fill out a data sheet and mail everything to Backyard Bark Beetles at the University of Florida. The beetles will then be identified by an expert and kids can check out the beetle map online to see what they caught. Beetle Maps can be found at www.backyardbarkbeetles.org

The Next Generation 4-H Club will meet again in March.



African American Read-In

On Thursday, February 22 from 6-7:30 p.m., the Hilliard Library will host the 29th Annual National African American Read-In. Bring a poem, story or writing, by an African American author to share, or simply join us to listen and celebrate African American heritage, literature and culture. Each reader is scheduled for 2-3 minutes. We will also have a special performance by the West Nassau Mass Choir.

THE GREAT OUTDOORS



Jackson Bennett, 5, of Callahan, recently killed his first deer while hunting with his Dad before school.

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555018 US Hwy. 1, Hilliard - Property consists of 4 individual parcels. Parcel A vacant land, parcel B Crystal Springs Package Store, parcel C 4BR/2BA home, and parcel D 2BR/2BA single wide mobile home currently rented. MLS #79241, \$459,000.

45566 Pickett Street - Open Floor Plan 3/2 with 1490sf nestled on one acre in Callahan. 2-car garage with additional work space. Over-sized windows provide LOTS of natural light. Stainless appliances, wood plank flooring, and plenty of cabinet space. Must See! MLS #78507 \$199,000.

282657 Lake Hampton Rd., Hilliard - Beautiful 3BR/2BA home with 10+ acres fenced, large barn with stalls, pole barn, tack bldg, pond up front with a front porch where you can sit out in the morning or evening and enjoy the solitude of the country life. Only about 2 miles from the St. Marys river. This is an "AS IS" sale. MLS #78809, \$350,000.

44007 Squirrel Way, Callahan - Like new, this 2016, 3BR/2BA mobile home is absolutely beautiful inside. Large open living area and kitchen, large master bath w/double sinks and shower, large second bath with tub and shower. Fenced back yard for dog and lots of room behind home so kids can play. MLS #79367, \$120,000.

31475 CR 121 - 3/2 MH with 1 acre near Hilliard. Split floorplan, great room fireplace, updated kitchen cabinets, soaking tub, walk-in closets; newer roof, large covered front porch, covered back porch, partially fenced yard with both drive-in and walk-through gates; detached metal building with workshop and covered carport. MLS #78504 \$68,000.

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OBITUARIES

SHIRLEY WOODS CAMPBELL



Shirley Woods Campbell, 73, of Hilliard, passed away January 29. Shirley was born November 26, 1944 to Raiford and Marie Woods. She lived in Nassau County all her life. She passed away after a lengthy illness in Jacksonville.

Shirley worked as cashier for TA Travel Plaza. She loved going on cruises and spending time with family and friends. She never met a stranger. Mom loved life and always tried to help anyone who needed help. She attended Mercy Hill Baptist Church in Yulee.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 44 years, Eugene Sherman Campbell; her parents Raiford and Marie Woods; brothers Willie 'Bill' Woods, Raiford 'Ray' Woods, Aubrey 'Lee' Woods; and a sister Dorothy (Dot) Woods.

She is survived by her children Carlton Ezzell of Ohio, Jeremiah (Kelly) Campbell of Yulee, Stephanie (Michael) Campbell-Higbee of Yulee and Sabrina Campbell of Hilliard; grandchildren Kyle (Sara) Richert, Leah Ezzell, Lynzie Bour and Lyza Richert; step-grandchildren Dakota Stone and Colton Stone; great-grandchildren, a brother, Franklin (Janet) Woods; several nieces, nephews and a very special buddy, Bear, her beloved companion.

A Celebration of Life service will be held Saturday, February 17 from 12-4 p.m. at the Moose Lodge in Yulee. All friends and family are invited to attend.

JOSEPH GREGORY CRANDELL



Joseph Gregory Crandell, 64, fought his last fight January 31 in Ocala. He was a son of Callahan, born on December 8, 1953 to Alberta Cato who

traded her life for his. He was adopted and reared by his aunt, Sarah J. Crandell. He was a product of public education in Callahan. While in school he played football and prided himself on his muscular physique. At the age of 17, he joined the US Navy where he earned his GED and traveled the world including Germany, the Philippines and Vietnam. He earned three medals for his service including the Bronze Medal of Courage. He returned to Callahan and worked at the Terminal Bag for 13 years, but is best known for serving at Conner's Amoco. He married Mae Frances Walls and they raised three children together. He battled a progressive disease for many years, however his heart gave out.

He is preceded in death by his mother Alberta Cato, father Roosevelt Nelson, Sr., aunt/adopted mother Sarah Jane Crandell; a sister Patricia "Tootsie" Crandell; nephew Buster Crandell; and half-brother Roosevelt Nelson, Jr.

He is survived by his former wife Mae Frances Crandell; daughter Nicole Magan (Patrick) Sasnett; sons Gregory Joseph and Ulysses Julius Crandell; grandchildren

Chloe and Clarisse Sasnett, Kennedy, Champion, Gregory, Gavin and Kaleb Crandell, Brianna and Julius Xavier Walls; his half siblings, Willie James Nelson, Sr., Willeva (Oliver) Strickland, Deloris Jones, Ruby (Carl) Atwater, Theresa (Sammy) Brown, Jr., Paul (Michelle) Nelson and Marie (Terry) Jacobs, Sr.

The family will receive friends Saturday, February 17 at 2:30 p.m. prior to the funeral service at 3:30 p.m. at Bethel AME Church in Callahan on Page Street.

STEVEN LEE CROSBY



Steven Lee Crosby, 60, of Hilliard, passed away February 6 at his home in Kings Ferry. He was born December 11, 1957 in Jacksonville to the late Onnie Lee Crosby and Lydia Lenora Crosby. Steve spent the majority of his career in the concrete industry where he gained many of his closest friends. Steve loved his family, he enjoyed riding his grandchildren around on the golf cart, spending time with family and friends, hunting, fishing, golfing and spending time at his home in the mountains of North Carolina.

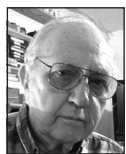
Steve is survived by his fiancé Jennifer Pensa; three children Carmen Sarratt of Jacksonville, Emily (Jason) Oliver and Ashley Crosby, all of Hilliard; grandchildren Alexis Arnold, Dawson Sarratt, Hadley Oliver and Clayton Crosby; his brother Rick (Yvonne) Crosby; the mother of his children Glenda Crosby; along with many other loving family members.

The family will receive friends Friday, February 16 from 5-7 p.m. at Arlington Park Funeral Home Chapel, 6920 Lone Star Road, Jacksonville. A celebration of life service will be held Saturday, February 17 at 11 a.m. also at the funeral home with Pastor Ted Heglund officiating.

Condolences may be expressed at www.arlingtonparkfuneralhome.com.

Arrangements by Arlington Park Funeral Home, Jacksonville, (904) 724-6384.

HAROLD REED DELASSUS, SR.



Harold Reed DeLassus, Sr., 82, of Folkston, passed away January 18 at his residence. He was born October 27, 1935 in Friars Point, Mississippi to

the late Linnie Miles DeLassus and Willie May Roan DeLassus. He retired as a Tow Boat Captain in the Mississippi, its tributaries and the Gulf of Mexico. He was a veteran of the United States Air Force.

Along with his parents, he was preceded by his sons David and Danny DeLassus; an

infant son; seven siblings; and a grandchild, James Edward DeLassus.

He is survived by his wife Faye DeLassus; children Wanda (Donny) Sparkman, Anthony (Inelle) DeLassus of Callahan, Rita DeLassus, Harold DeLassus, Jr., Melissa DeLassus and Lin (Carmela) DeLassus of Callahan; 22 grandchildren; and 34 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, January 23 in the Shepard Roberson Funeral Home Chapel. Burial followed in Homeland Cemetery with Military Honors.

Condolences may be expressed at www.shepardfh.com.

Arrangements by Shepard Roberson Funeral Home in Folkston.

FLORENCE VONCILLE GEE

Florence Voncille Gee, 63, of Callahan, passed away February 2. The Folkston, Georgia native was born on May 23, 1954 to William and Bessie Peacock.

Survivors include her husband Billy Gee; children Danny Gee, Cathy (Joe) Craine, Annalisa (Adron) Payne, Renee Marr, David Braden and Samantha (Julius) Wilson; her grandchildren Tabitha Gee, Justin Gee, Courtney Kessler, Remington Craine, Kayla Lowder, Stephaine Thomas, Tracie Thomas, Douglas Popp, Donovan Popp, Raeann Neal, Dawson, Alex, and Eyan Braden; great-grandchildren Alaia Wilson, Makhai Wilson, Tyler, Nash, and Oscar Gee, Payton, Matthew, Maddison and Mason Lowder, Jackson and Raelyn Spencer and Maybree, Maddox and Landry Popp; her siblings Stanley Peacock, Mark Adams, Myree Maddox and Cynthia Roundtree; and numerous nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her siblings Leonard Peacock, Charles Peacock, Melba Simonton, Carlos and Randall Peacock.

Funeral services were held Saturday, February 10 in the Chapel of Callahan Funeral Home. Interment followed in Jones Cemetery. Visitation was held prior to service.

Condolences may be expressed at www.callahanfh.com.

Arrangements by Callahan Funeral Home, Inc., 879-2336.

ROSALÉE CARROLL HICKOX



RosaLee Carroll Hickox, 81, passed away Thursday, February 1 in Mountain Lakes Medical Center in Clayton, Georgia. She was born in Hilliard on April 29, 1936. She was the daughter of the late Sampson Carroll and Minerva Crews Carroll.

She was retired from the banking industry and attended the Wolfork Baptist Church in Rabun Gap Community. RosaLee was preceded in death by her husband Cecil Bernard Hickox, Sr.; her parents Sampson and Minerva Carroll; one son Cecil B. Hickox, Jr.; two brothers Wilson Carroll and Cecil Carroll; and one grandchild Brandie Hickox.

She is survived by a daughter Rosalyn (Gary) Greer of Clayton; a brother Leon Carroll of Hilliard; seven grandchildren, Rachel (Chris) Norfleet, Rebekah (Brian) Knight, Cecil Hickox, III, Joshua Hickox, Sampson (Leah) Hickox, Sarah Beth Hickox and Ana Fields; several great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and loving friends.

A graveside service officiated by Rev. Gary Greer will be held Saturday, February 17 at 10 a.m. at Pineview Cemetery, 128 Milton Street in Folkston, Georgia.

Hunter Funeral Home, Clayton was in charge of arrangements.

An online obituary and register is available at www.hunterfuneralhomega.com.

SANDRA MARTIN MEYER



Sandra Martin Meyer, 69, passed away at her residence February 6 in Homeland, Georgia. She was born September 2, 1948 in Jacksonville, to the late Thomas C. Martin and Betty Lou Butler Martin. She was a licensed cosmetologist and salon owner from 1965-1985 and then excelled in being the owner of NFCC Cosmetology School from 1986-1994 in Jacksonville.

In 2004, she decided to move to Homeland, Georgia. She made this her home and was very blessed to have incredible neighbors and dear friendships. Sandy also found another true passion - wood turning and was quite talented. She was a very proud member of the Jacksonville Wood Turners Club and the Georgia Wood Turners Guild. She was a member of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Folkston. Sandy was also known for her contagious beautiful smile! She loved her family, friends, mother nature and her hobbies. She will be greatly missed. Along with her parents; she was preceded in death by her husband, Theodore C. Meyer, Sr.

She is survived by her children Tania M. Jones, Dawn M. (Kevin) Burnette and Theodore C. (Dana) Meyer, Jr.; two brothers Jimmy (Wanda Jean) Martin and John (Coleta) Martin; three grandchildren Walker Burnette, Aaron Burnette and Brittany Edwards; along with many other nieces and nephews.

Memorialization was by cremation. Interment will take place at a later date at Riverside Memorial Park Cemetery, Jacksonville.

Condolences may be expressed at www.shepardfh.com.

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OBITUARIES

CLARENCE E. MILLARD, JR.



Clarence (JR) Ervin Millard, Jr., 32, passed away suddenly February 9 from a heart condition. He was born May 24, 1985 in Jacksonville. JR grew up in Macclenny. He moved to Callahan 11 years ago and called it home. He enjoyed his family, fishing and riding his Harley. He also enjoyed the smell of asphalt work...he called it money! He loved Tattooing Ink and was good at it! He is preceded in death by his father Clarence E. Millard, Sr.; and a brother Kevin Drew.

He is survived by a daughter Skye Bradley Millard; a fiancé Alexandra Stark; his parents Susan and Dwight Dampier of Callahan; a sister Shannen Millard of Macclenny; two brothers Josh Dampier, Timothy Bayless, both of Callahan; grandparents Mary and Thad Dampier; three nieces Sierra and Alauna Crawford and Nadiya Spangler; and many aunts, uncles, numerous cousins and friends.

A memorial service and visitation will be held Friday, February 16 at 7 p.m. at the Callahan Funeral Home Chapel on Brandies Avenue.

Callahan Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements, 879-2336.

Condolences may be expressed at www.callahanfh.com.

ANGELO SALVATORE PAGANO



Angelo Salvatore Pagano, of the Windsor Ortega Community, Jacksonville, and formerly of Alachua, Florida, was called to his final resting place on February 8, at the age of 96. He was born March 17, 1921 in Manayunk, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, son of Carmine Pagano and Pasqualina "Jessie" Lancetta, immigrants from Montemarano, Italy.

He grew up in Winslow, New Jersey, and graduated from Hammonton High School in 1940. His childhood was punctuated by the Great Depression, and from an early age, he worked as a farm laborer in the summers to help support his family. He proudly served his country during World War II as a Surgical and Pharmacy Technician in the US Army 265th Medical Detachment, stationed in Paris, France.

After the war, he attended Mississippi State College (now University), graduating in 1952 with a degree in Organic Chemistry. He began working for the Rohm and Haas Corporation at Redstone Arsenal, in Huntsville, AL, in Dr. William D. Emmons' research group, developing propellants for the early Redstone Rocket program, a forerunner of the NASA space program. He retired from Rohm and Haas in 1986, having worked at the Spring House, PA research laboratories for many years. He was author or co-author of numerous technical articles and procedures in chemistry journals, and a patent holder. He would remain interested in science, especially astronomy, his whole life.

In 1950, he married Maude Mae Weir of Carthage, MS. They were blessed with 65 years together, raising four children, and enjoying traveling, disco and country and western dancing, golfing, gardening and yard work together. In addition, Angelo was an avid downhill skier and could be found on the slopes of Heavenly Valley at Lake Tahoe, CA and Breckenridge, CO into his 80's. He could still be seen biking around his neighborhood at 94. The family lived in Mississippi, Alabama and South Jersey before settling for about 25 years in and around Doylestown, PA. In the 1970's, they began a multi-year "weekend project" of building a vacation home in The Hideout in Lake Ariel, PA. They retired to Florida, where they lived in Bradenton, Land o' Lakes, and Alachua. In 1998, he traveled to Italy in search of his roots, and was warmly welcomed by many newly discovered

cousins. He had a lifelong interest in trains, stemming from his father's work for the Pennsylvania Railroad and he enjoyed trips to the Folkston Train Funnel in Georgia.

Angelo was preceded in death by his parents; wife Maude; infant son Lawrence; and all his dear brothers and sisters Madeline, Marie, Frank, Benny, and Gino.

He is survived by his children Carman (Susan), Susan Lorraine (Dave), Barbara Lynn (Frank) and Roland (Kara); grandchildren Christopher, Jennifer, Amy, Cheryl, Patrick and Joseph; and great-grandchildren Kimberlee, RJ, Dylan, Tyler and Cera Lynn.

Visitation will be held Tuesday, February 20 at 11 a.m. prior to the funeral service at 12 p.m. at Giddens-Reed Funeral Home, Baldwin. Interment will be at Jacksonville National Cemetery at 1:30 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Angelo may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 225 N. Michigan Ave., Fl. 17, Chicago, IL 60601.

Arrangements by Giddens-Reed Funeral Home, Baldwin, (904) 266-2337.

Condolences may be expressed at: www.giddensreedfh.com.

JAMES MARKIS SHUMAN



James Markis Shuman, 96, of Folkston, Georgia passed away peacefully at his residence February 9. He was born October 25, 1921 in Hazlehurst, Georgia to the late Elzie Shuman and Mattie Hughes Shuman. He proudly served his country in the US Army during WWII. He fought in Germany during D-Day where he was wounded and received the Purple Heart. He served as Sunday School Director at Ephesus Baptist Church for several years. He was currently a member of First Baptist Church of Folkston. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge in Jacksonville and the Morocco Shrine Temple. He served on the Folkston Chamber of Commerce and was a past President of the Folkston Exchange Club.

Along with his parents, he was preceded in death by his daughter Sandra D. Shuman, a grandson Markis Edwin Rhoden and all of his siblings.

He is survived by his daughters Wanda Banks and Janice (Greg) Ross; three grandchildren Kathy Edwards (Jimmy) Minter, Sean Ian (Katherine) Ross and Elizabeth Lindsey Banks; six great-grandchildren; son-in-law Eddie Rhoden; like son David Davis; like-brother Wallace Smith.

The family received friends Tuesday, February 13 at Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home in Folkston. Funeral services were held Wednesday, February 14 at the First Baptist Church of Folkston with Dr. Randy Jacoby officiating. Burial followed at Haddock Cemetery in Hilliard.

Condolences may be expressed at www.shepardfh.com.

Arrangements were under the direction of Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, Folkston, 912-496-7388.

JOHN DAVID SMILEY



John David Smiley, 77, of Hilliard, went home to be with the Lord on February 12. He was born on December 24, 1940 in Jacksonville to Dwight and Irma Smiley. He proudly served his country in the US Navy, was a member of the First Baptist Church of Boulougne, past president of Gold Wing Motorcycle Club and owner of Capps Fabrication. His greatest love was spending

time with his family.

John is survived by his loving wife of 14 years, Kitty Smiley; Papaws boys Johnny Smiley and Landon Howard; daughters Kim (Chuck) Hewett, Dawn Beckham and Sabrina (George) Faircloth; sons Clint Hartley and Jack (Christy) Hartley; brother Harold (Sandra) Smiley; and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; a son David Smiley; and a granddaughter Amanda Hewett.

A celebration of John's life will be held Saturday, February 17 at the First Baptist Church of Boulougne at 3 p.m. with Pastor Greg Jones and Pastor Paul Lucas officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations in his memory be made to the American Heart Association.

Condolences may be expressed at www.nassauffh.com.

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

MARY L. SMITH



Mary L. Smith, 70, of Middleburg, passed away on Monday, February 12 after a lengthy illness. She was born at home on April 9, 1947 in Patterson, Missouri. She was a loving wife, sister, mother, aunt, grandmother and great-grandmother. She was a retired dietary manager in the health care field for over 40 years. She enjoyed the outdoors by hunting, 4-wheeling, motorcycle riding and fishing.

She is survived by her husband of 31 years, Steven Smith of Middleburg; her daughters Lori (Johnny) Godwin of Callahan, Robin (Rusty) O'Quinn of Hilliard and Judy Keathley (Danny) of Hilliard; sons Chris (Keri) Keathley of Callahan, Danny (Jill) Keathley of Jacksonville and Steven Smith, Jr. (Erin) of Jacksonville; 18 grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents Earl and Zella Martin; mother-in-law Lila Smith; two brothers; one brother-in-law; and four sisters.

The family will receive friends Friday, February 16 at 1 p.m. prior to the funeral service which will be held at 2 p.m. at Archer Funeral Home in Lake Butler. Burial will follow the service.

HELEN ELIZABETH THOMSON



Helen Elizabeth Thomson, 83, of Hilliard, went home to be with the Lord on February 6. She was born on October 7, 1934 in Jacksonville to Alan and Elizabeth Goodwill. Helen graduated from the University of Florida. Her career included working as an accountant for Thunderbird and Sea Turtle Inn in Jacksonville, St Regis in Jacksonville and Champion Paper Mill in Waycross.

Helen is survived by her children; Sharon Elizabeth Johnson Franklin, Robert Paul Johnson, Laurel Elaine Johnson Brailey, Dawn Leah Johnson Collins and John Michael Thomson, Timothy Scott Thomson, Kevin Patrick Thomson and Daniel John Thomson, 15 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents; Alan and Elizabeth Goodwill, daughter; Lynn Marie Johnson Shepherd and son; Alexander James Thomson.

The family will have a private memorial service at a later date.

Condolences may be expressed at www.nassauffh.com.

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

JOSEPH K. WHITWORTH



Joseph K. Whitworth, 80, of Kings Ferry, passed away on February 6. He retired as Senior Enlisted Advisor after 40 years of service in the Florida Air National Guard.

Joseph is survived by his loving wife Joyce Whitworth and sons Scott Knowles and Kevin Ball.

The family received friends prior to the funeral service held Tuesday, February 13 in the Nassau Funeral Home Chapel. Interment followed in the Jacksonville National Cemetery.

Condolences may be expressed at www.nassauffh.com.

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

Thought of the week...

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The 50th Anniversary of the 27th Marines

Editor's note: This wonderful article was shared with us by Col. Fred Kriete of Callahan. He asked us to share this with our readers. Col. Kriete did an awesome job with his story and the history. Thank you.

Col. Fred Kriete

In memory of my regiment: The 27th Marines in Vietnam, 50th Anniversary February 19, 1968 - September 3, 1968. The 27th Marine Regiment was formed on January 10, 1944 at Camp Pendleton, California as a part of the 5th Marine Division. In January, 1945, The 27th Marines received its first and only combat assignment of World War II, the Invasion of Iwo Jima.

The 27th stormed ashore at the designated area of Red Beach 1 and Red Beach 2 at 0900 February 19, 1945. Their assignment was to cut off and isolate Mount Suribachi from the rest of the island. On March 16, Iwo Jima was declared secured. The severity of the fighting left the 27th Marine Regiment with 4 Marines receiving the Medal of Honor, 566 killed, 1703 wounded. Returning to Camp Pendleton on December 20, 1945, the 27th Marines were deactivated on January 10, 1946.

On January 1, 1966, The 27th Marines was reactivated at Camp Pendleton. The regiment was used as a training unit to send replacements to other units in Vietnam. Due to the infamous 1968 TET offensive, the 27th was notified on February 12, 1968 it was once again going into harm's way. The regiment began to reform immediately. Hundreds of Marines had to be transferred out, due to being under age (17), time between combat tours and sole surviving son limitations. This, plus being a pool for normal overseas replacements, left the regiment vastly under strengthened. After taking every available infantry Marine assigned to the Fifth Marine Division, the corps had to take another 400 Marines from the rank of non-infantry related occupations, including cooks, mechanics, drivers, office personnel, engineers, supply people and you name it! A typical squad had maybe one Marine with combat experience.

President Johnson met the Regiment to see us off at El Toro Marine Air Base where we boarded C-141 transport planes and left for Vietnam. I was able to call home from Wake Island to let my mother know what happened and that I hoped to see her in 13 months. The 27th was the first Marine combat unit

to fly into a war zone and we landed at Danang Air Base Vietnam at 0900 hours, February 19, 1968. The same hour and date that The 27th hit the beach on Iwo Jima in World War II.

These men, without any training as a combat unit, began running combat patrols immediately upon their arrival in Vietnam. They learned quickly and would prove the old saying true: "Every Marine is A Basic Rifleman". The 27th performed with distinction on an operation call Allen Brook, where many were killed and wounded. There was 1-Posthumous Medal of Honor; 2-Navy Crosses; several Silver and Bronze Stars; and a multitude of Purple Hearts received.

The unit also received the American and South Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation. The 27th Marines Regiment remained in Vietnam for a total of 8 months.

The men that were on their first 13 month tour were transferred out to other Marine units in the country to finish their tour. The 27th also was the first to fly into a war zone and the first and only military unit of the Vietnam War to come home to a parade in their Honor. It was in San Diego, California.



On February 13, 1968, I had just returned to Camp Pendleton from my father's funeral when a few days later, myself and three others with the 5th Service Battalion were woken up and told to grab our combat gear and report to the 27th Marines Headquarters to go to Vietnam. We were 2 mechanics and 2 drivers of the four. There was Bruce Sprinkle, a mechanic who served as a rifleman; Wayne Kurlin, a driver who served as a rifleman, killed in action on May 5, 1968; Robert Burke, a mechanic and an m60 machine gunner, killed in action on May 17, 1968 and was the youngest person in the Vietnam War to receive the Medal of Honor at 18 years 6 months old; and myself, a driver who served as a rifleman. The 27th returned to Camp Pendleton to once again be deactivated on November 26, 1969, which they remain to this day.



The men of Fox company (5th Division, 2nd Battallion, 27th Marines) returning from Iwo Jima.

Remember to Pray for Our Troops

The Westside Journal would like to pay tribute to all the brave servicemen and women. Please take time to remember each of these service members in your daily prayers.

Morgan Barchlett (Louisiana), Chris Barr (Texas), Jewel Rene Barron (Virginia), Morgan Barthlette (Afghanistan), Johnathon Bates (Florida), Timothy Beasley (Cuba), Cody Beaver (Washington), Danielle Beaver (Spain), Robert Beaver (Massachusetts), Jessica Bell (Hawaii), Robert A. Bickford (Georgia), Dustin M. Bishop (North Carolina), Chad E. Black (South Carolina), Kevin & Brooke Blanton (Georgia), Spc. Caleb Bohannon (Oklahoma), Israel Marcos Bonilla (Missouri), Derek Borden, Benjamin Black (Iraq), Hunter Brannon (Missouri), Conrad Braawn (Afghanistan), Ryan Brooks (New York), John Brookshire (North Carolina), Aaron Brown (Japan), Branden Brown (USS Nimitz), Anthony Broekema (Virginia), Brandon M. Burnette (Hawaii), Thomas W. Burnette (Alabama), Ahmad Butler (Japan), Brayden Lamar Carroll (North Carolina), Allen L. Carter (Alaska), Kyle F. Christmas (Washington), John Coltrane (NAS Jax), Scott Cooper, Dustin Corum (California), Charlie I. D. Cox (South Korea), Gavin Crews (South Carolina), Tison J. Crews (Georgia) Charles 'CJ' Cribbs, III (Washington, DC), Dennis L. Davis II (Alabama), Shannon Davis (Nevada), Clif Dixon (Iraq), Robert Dodson (Arkansas), Patrick Donaldson (Tennessee), Devin Michael Dowling (Hawaii), Christopher Downs (Arizona), James Dale Evans (Baghdad), David Farhat (Kuwait), Christen Fernandez, Clinton Fouraker (Virginia), Jeremy Francisco (Mayport), Jennifer D. Frederick (Colorado), Kevin J. Gahris (Oklahoma), Michael E. Garcia (Afghanistan), Marcus Gee (Iraq), Samantha Gee (Korea), Tabetha Gee (Korea), Chadrick Gibson (Iraq), Charles Gibson, Darrell Goodwyne, Jr. (Iraq), David F. Gorney III (Louisiana), Sgt. Daniel Graves, Jr. (North Carolina), Eric Greene (Georgia), Wendy Griffis (Afghanistan), Hunter C. Guzman (Georgia), Michael Hall, Michael Hallman (Key West), Ronnie Hammer (Virginia), Todd W. Hanner, Jr. (Texas), Andy Harper, Mark Harris (Virginia), Harley Henderson (Texas), Nathan Hess (Japan), Jeff Higgs (Spain), SPC Hodge (Iraq), Josh Hoyle (California), AT2 Brian Hughes (Bahrain), Bryan K. Jeffers II (Iraq), Wyoming Jefferies (Ohio), Jacob Jensen (Middle East), Cameron Johns (North Dakota), Aaron Johnson (Georgia), Carlus Johnson (Texas), Donald Johnson (North Carolina), Jamaal Jones (Hawaii), Bradley Justice, Brian J. Kerns (Virginia), Joseph A. Kidd, IV (Iraq), Kayla King (Germany), Scott Kirkland (California), Joshua Knight, PO3 Travis E. Kornacki (Cuba), Jordan Kriner (Italy), Tyler Landreville (Florida), John C. Larkin (Iraq), Jonathan Lee (Germany), Chase M. Lewis (North Carolina), Katelyn Lewis (Japan), Travis Lipe (Virginia), Jason Lovejoy (Colorado), Gatlin Mackie (Virginia), Kevin Marshall (Missouri), Canisha Martin (Georgia), Tony Martin (Georgia), Anthony Mastrogiovanni (Georgia), Stacey McDaniel (Virginia), Noah E. McKinnon (Iraq), Michael McQuaiz, Matthew McRae (North Carolina), Russell Mellroy (Afghanistan), Ivory Melton, Jr. (Kuwait), Brian Middleton (Afghanistan), Steven Miner (Germany), Britt Mizell (South Carolina), Dillon Mock (Florida), Joshua Monds (Virginia), Anthony Moore (Afghanistan), Anthony Moore (South Carolina), Roland Moore (Iraq), Chris Morehead (North Carolina), Sgt. Travis Morris, Climart 'CJ' Moses (Afghanistan), Michael Murphy (Iraq), Aaron Musgrove (Afghanistan), Stephen Myers (Korea), Jonathan Neeve (Texas), Brian Nelson (North Carolina), Gary Nelson (Kuwait), Michael Nelson (Florida), Michael Nettles (Iraq), Lee Nickola (Iraq), Ryan Norton (North Carolina), Jesse O'Berry (England), Daniel O'Dell, Shannon O'Dell, Steven A. Oxforth (Connecticut), Walter Oxforth (New Mexico), Chase Parden (Kansas), Michael Park (South Korea), Danielle Parker (North Carolina), Jeremy Pelkey (Afghanistan), Christopher Phelan (Virginia), Darren Phelan (Washington State), Linn Phillips, III (Italy), Kyle Pipkins (South Carolina), Austin Potochnik (Japan), Dusty Price (Iraq), Michael Price (Germany), Kenneth Pullum (Washington, DC), Kyle Pullum (Louisiana), Robert W. Pyles (Kuwait), Jeffery Rapadas (Kuwait), Kasie Richardson (North Carolina), Jeffrey Rigdon (Kentucky), Camilla Roberts (Alaska), David Roberts (Alaska), Stephen Roberts (Mayport), Michael Robinson (Alabama), Jason Rodgers (Texas), Douglas Raymond Roth, Marc Rowe (Georgia), Brian M. Sartain, Jr. (Pensacola), James Sanders (Germany), Tressie Scott (Afghanistan), James Scully (Germany), Donald Shaw (Iraq), Michael Shearer (Illinois), Jesse D. Silcox (Bahrain), Tayib A. Simmons (San Diego), Daniel Singley, Corey Slayton (California), Christopher E. Smith (Iraq), James A. Smith (North Carolina), Michael J. Smith (Alaska), David Stallings (Kuwait), Bill Starling (Iraq), Larry V. Starratt, III (Korea), Caleb & Jordan Stoner (North Carolina), James 'Mike' Stringer (Iraq), Joseph R. Taylor (Texas), Michael Thomas (North Carolina), Tim Thomas, Crystal Thompson (Iraq), Terry Thompson (Japan), Tiffany Thompson (Washington), Sarah Tindell (North Carolina), Adam Tyndall (Germany), William Varner (California), Shawn W. Vickers (California), Daniel Vroman (Missouri), Jonathan Vroman (Virginia), Brett Wade (Florida), Jeff Walters (Iraq), Shawn Ward (Texas), Brian Waring (Iraq), Daniel Waters, James D. Whitman, Earl Youman, Jr. (Virginia)

It is our honor to recognize our local Armed Service members. We would like to update our 'Pray for our Troops' list, adding those who have recently joined our Armed Services or removing those who no longer serve. Please read over the list. If you need to make a correction, addition or deletion, just give us a call, 879-4180. You may also email changes to news@westsidejournal.net. God Bless our Troops!

