

WESTSIDE JOURNAL

Watch those rising temperatures!



VOLUME XIV ISSUE 49

HOMETOWN PEOPLE...HOMETOWN NEWS

THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 2018

“HAVE I NOT COMMANDED YOU? BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS. DO NOT BE AFRAID; DO NOT BE DISCOURAGED, FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD WILL BE WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO.” - JOSHUA 1:9

Give a Life...Save a Life

Dawn S. West

My goodness, how faithful is our God! These past few weeks, God has truly revealed himself so many times in so many lives. I know He is always working but His presence has surely been felt recently as He has moved in my life and in the lives of people right here in our community. This is a story of selfless giving and returning all the glory to God.

The story began several years ago when two men, Jim Mangold and John Rodgers met each other at a church clean-up day. Both the men and their families are members of the First United Methodist Church Callahan. They knew of each other but had never really talked. On this day, the men talked about their families and shared stories and from that point became great friends. One day, John noticed a sign on the back of Jim's truck that read, "Need a kidney. Please help. Call 845-7424." John did some investigating and found out that Jim has had serious kidney issues since 1998 and is currently on dialysis.

John just couldn't get his friend off of his mind. "I'm a healthy man. I've never had any health problems and don't take any medications, for that I am blessed," thought John. "Maybe I could help Jim by donating one of my kidneys to him!"

After discussing the possibility of donating a kidney with his wife and family, they all agreed that it would be a wonderful gift to give someone else a better quality of life. With that being said, John told Jim he would donate his kidney to him! This was three years ago. John never gave up. He continued to beg Jim to let him be the donor but Jim was hesitant. As Jim's health continued to decline, John continued to offer. One day, Jim approached John with news. Jim transferred his health care from UF Health Gainesville to the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville. The men knew already that they didn't have the same blood type, which was a problem. God provided the answer. "Mayo has a share



program. This is where the donor can be matched up with someone else, which means you would give your kidney to someone else with your blood type," said Jim. "I would also be matched up with someone else and still get a kidney. I hate to ask you to give someone else your kidney."

John's response, "I don't care who gets my kidney as long as you also get one."

John began a series of complete medical testing and work-up to make sure he was physically ready. After three days of testing, Mayo called John one evening and canceled the remaining appointments telling him they had found a spot on one of his kidneys. John and his wife, Dawn, went in to talk with the doctor. "The spot on your kidney is a cancerous tumor and we need to remove

it soon," said the doctor.

"Wow! Those words hit strong," said John. "I know that cancer is in my body but not in my soul! I continue to thank God for His direction in my life. Had I not followed my heart to be a donor, I may have never found this cancer. I know God has me in the palm of His hand. I'm so thankful!"

As it turns out Jim has saved John's life by agreeing to have him donate his kidney. Jim also has another donor. God is good all the time!

As John prepares for surgery on June 25 his church family has rallied around him with his friend Jim spearheading the campaign. John has a fulltime job and has been at his company for many years. He doesn't have health coverage because of the expense. He will be out of work for 6-8 weeks after the surgery. John is a hometown Callahan man who is a 1981 graduate of West Nassau.

The Methodist Church will be having a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser for John next Friday, June 15 from 6-8 p.m. at the church. You can eat-in or take out. Pre-order tickets may be purchased at the church or at the Westside Journal office or by calling Jim Mangold at



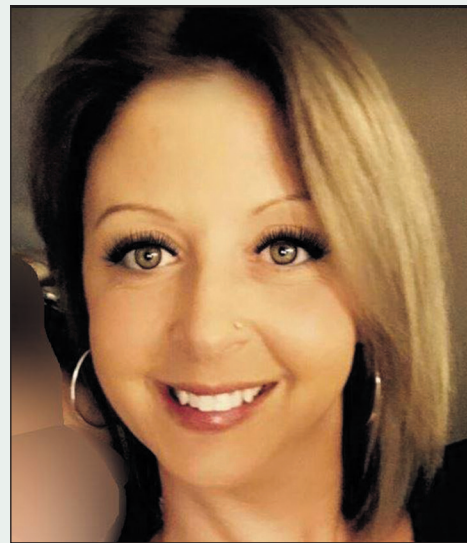
879-7424. An account has also been set up at Wells Fargo bank in John Rodgers name to help with medical expenses for John and his family. We, at the Westside Journal office, will also be accepting donations (cash, checks, gift cards, gas cards) if that would be more convenient. This is a story of John's desire to follow his heart and trusting God. Now it's our turn to follow our hearts and trust God.

I'll close with John's favorite verse: "I will be strong and courageous, I will not be terrified or discouraged, for the Lord my God is with me wherever I go." Joshua 1:9

Cummings Investigation Continues

Friday, June 1, Nassau County Sheriff Bill Leeper held another press conference with updates on the investigation of the disappearance of Joleen Cummings.

Following is a portion of the press conference: As we continue our investigation into the disappearance of Joleen Cummings, we have uncovered a lot of evidence and information that have lead investigators in many different directions, as well as the mysterious past of Kimberly Kessler (if that is her real name) also known as Jennifer Marie Sybert and the numerous names she has used in several different states. We have discovered that our suspect, Kessler, has gone by at least 18 different names and lived in at least 33 cities in 14 different states since 1996. She has held jobs as a truck driver, in restaurants, at temporary



employment agencies and as a hairdresser. Names She Has Used: 1. Kimberly L. Kessler; 2. Christina Melissa Brook

(also spelled middle name Malissa); 3. Christina Young; 4. Pamela Kleiber; 5. Melissa McKernan; 6. Melissa Losy; 7. Jennifer Marie Sybert; 8. Mia Stone; 9. Jenn Lee Sybert Allen; 10. Jennifer Seibring; 11. Jennifer Marie Allen; 12. Marie Sybert Stone; 13. Christa Brooks; 14. Pam Cleaver; 15. Pamela Kleiber; 16. Pamela Jean Kleiber; 17. Jenn Siever Allen; 18. Jennifer S. Seibring.

Places Kimberly Kessler has lived: Butler, PA; Boca Raton, FL; Phoenix, AZ; Mission, KS; Virginia Beach, VA; Overland Park, KS; Portsmouth, VA; Nashville, TN; Wilmington, NC; Leesburg, FL; Tampa, FL; Jacksonville, FL; Tallahassee FL; Arden, NC; Lakeland, FL; Baytown, TX; Dublin, OH; Rochester, MN; St. Louis, MO; Smithfield, NC; See 'Cummings Investigation' on page 2

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Cummings Investigation *Continued from page 1*

Minneapolis, MN; St Augustine, FL; Asheville, NC; Fernandina Beach, FL; Clearwater Beach, FL; St. Petersburg, FL; Little Rock, AR; Oviedo, FL; Waco, TX; Aurora, CO; Pittsburgh, PA; and she also spent some time in Vermont.

She has had Driver Licenses in at least five different states under different names in Pennsylvania, Kansas, Tennessee, Florida and Virginia. As you can see this is very strange. NCSO is not quite sure why all of the disguises or if she has been involved in the disappearance of anyone else before, but it seems she has definitely been running from something.

As we continue to gather more and more evidence and facts, we have learned that this case is very unusual and one that I'm not sure we have ever seen in Nassau County before. All of this evidence that we have will be coming out in due time as we move forward and when any additional charges are filed, but at this time we are not ready to release them so we won't jeopardize any part of the case. Someone out there may know some of these details and if they do we want to know who they are. I will say this, when we do provide all the details, I believe our community will be shocked.

NCSO Investigators have been working long hours with little sleep around the clock on this investigation. In addition to developing a solid criminal case against our suspect, we continue to be focused on trying to find Joleen's body. Investigators have reviewed hundreds of hours of video surveillance from businesses and have been searching through phone records to find any clues as to where Joleen might be.

We have actively searched close to 40

areas within Nassau County so far where we know our suspect had been, as well as tips we have received by our investigators and through First Coast Crime Stoppers. None of these tips have been beneficial to our investigation as of yet in finding Joleen, but we continue to hope that there is someone out there who knows something and will come forward with some helpful information. In these searches we have utilized vehicles, ATV's, boats, been on foot, with canines, horses, and helicopters and airplanes. We know our suspect was in Nassau County, Duval County and St. Johns County at various times after May 12th, the last day Joleen was seen. So Joleen could be almost anywhere.

If anyone has rented a storage unit to our suspect within the past year or two please let us know. If anyone has known her to drive any other types of vehicles other than the black 2016 Kia Soul, please let us know. You can contact investigators directly at 904-548-4005 or call First Coast Crime Stoppers.

I know there are people out there who would like to volunteer or do something to help search for Joleen. All I can say is if we do discover a very large area where we have a strong possibility where Joleen may be and we do not have enough help to search, we certainly would reach out for volunteers, but we are not to that point just yet. Those who want to help are welcomed to look around their area, keep the information out in the public and assist the family in any way they can.

We ask that you please continue to keep Joleen and her family in your prayers in hopes that she is able to be located soon in order to bring closure for her family.

Van Delinder Launches Candidacy for Ocean, Highway and Port Authority

John Van Delinder recently launched his candidacy for District 5 Ocean, Highway and Port Authority. A Callahan resident since 1994, he has been on the Nassau County Use and Variance Board for 10 years.



important to feel the pulse of the community to effectively hold this office. His goals would include encouraging the improvement of infrastructure and providing a better competitive advantage for the Port to pursue opportunities.

A pastor for over 35 years, John has been the Executive Director of the Sunshine State Association of Christian Schools for the last 10 years. In this position, he often communicates and meets with federal and state officials, as well as being an advisor to 25 schools around the state of Florida.

In September of 2015, Governor Scott appointed Van Delinder to the statewide Drug Policy Advisory Council. He has just been reappointed to DPAC for a second term. As a council member he is one of two faith-based representatives in the state. "Dr. V", as some of his friends refer to him, also has a Florida real estate license and has worked in commercial real estate.

Over the last year, Van Delinder has attended Ocean, Highway and Port Authority meetings and discussed the Port with many Nassau County residents and business leaders. He believes it is

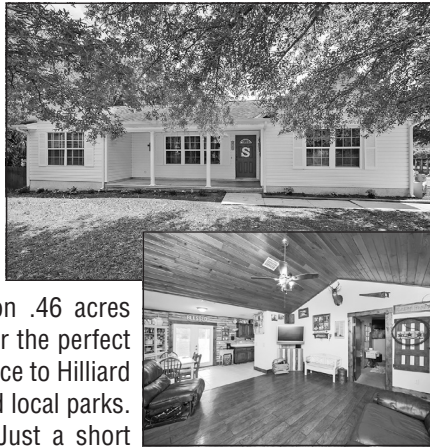
Why would he be an effective board member? Van Delinder believes his business experience in various sectors, his contacts with elected officials, and most of all, his sincere interest and open ear to the community's concerns are strengths of his candidacy. "I have enjoyed serving Nassau County in my current positions and would consider it an honor to continue to serve Nassau County as part of the Ocean, Highway and Port Authority."

John's wife of 46 years, Jan Van Delinder, is a teacher at Yulee High School. They have two adult sons, one in the pastorate and one in law enforcement, and four grandchildren. His leisure activities include traveling, fishing, boating, and woodworking. He is a member of First Avenue Baptist Church in Hilliard where he is actively involved. To learn more about John's candidacy, visit: VOTEVAN.US.

Visit us anytime at: www.mywestsidejournal.com

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In the Kitchen...

- 1 (15.25 oz.) can whole kernel corn, drained
- 1 (15.25 oz.) can white corn, drained
- 2 tomatoes, chopped
- 1/2 (15 oz.) can sweet peas, drained
- 1 cucumber, diced

Summer Corn Salad


- 1 purple onion, diced
- 3 tablespoons pimentos
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- salt and pepper to taste

In a large bowl, mix the corn, white corn, tomatoes, sweet peas, cucumber, onion, and pimentos. Fold in the mayonnaise. Season with salt and pepper. Cover, and chill at least 1 hour in the refrigerator.

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Genealogy Tidbits

Claude Arpen

The West Nassau Genealogical Society took a field trip to the Bryan-Lang Historical Archives, Historical & Genealogical Research Center in Woodbine, Georgia. I was surprised to find new information on some of my ancestors since my last visit.

Also, in the last two years on Ancestry.com, I have found two pictures of ancestors that I did not have before, one of a great-great-grandmother and one of my maternal great-grandparents standing in front of their log cabin down in central Florida.

I also found two documents that indicated where two of my ancestors came from, one a will and the other a city directory.

There is new material frequently being added to genealogy websites and libraries, so if you hit a road block revisit previous sources for new information.

Our program this month will be presented by Kristina Bowen titled, "Future Plans for Nassau County Development."

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 1 north of the fairgrounds. Visitors are always welcome.

FSCJ to Host Free Community Wellness Fair

Saturday, June 9 • 9 a.m. • Family Fun Walk

9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. - Health Screenings, Vendor Tables and Activities

12:30-1 p.m. Scholarship and FSCJ Community Wellness Award Presentation

FSCJ North Campus, 4501 Capper Rd., Jacksonville

Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ) will host a Community Wellness Fair featuring free school and athletic physicals, blood glucose testing, physical therapy assessments, manicures, massages and dental screenings.

The event will kick off with a Family Fun Walk at 9 a.m. Other activities for the entire family are also planned such as an obstacle course for kids, dunking booth, basketball contest, baseball and softball pitching lessons.

New this year, FSCJ will recognize the winners of the Community Wellness Awards: First Coast News Anchor Jeannie Blaylock for Women's Health Impact and former NFL Player and Motivational Speaker Donovan Darius for Youth and Family Impact. This event is free and open for all ages.

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JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

The sky is falling, the sky is falling... If you pay attention to the left winged liberals and the main stream media this is just what you would think. It is so pitiful that the left wants President Trump to fail so much that they don't care about the health of our country, just as long as Trump fails. When President Trump announced new tariffs against Canada and Mexico on steel and aluminum the stocks dipped, liberals and the news media flipped out. President Trump simply replied, "Fair Trade." When President Trump called the members of the MS-13 gang 'animals,' Nancy Pelosi was offended. She immediately stood up for the gang members and stated that they were human beings not animals. On that, all I can say is wow! She needs to be evaluated for mental stability. MS-13 gang members are responsible for many, many crimes including decapitation of their murdered victims. Yes they are animals! And just like the rabid animals they are, they need to be caged and never roam the streets of America again. There were others that took offense to the President's 'animal' remarks. These people took offense because they say their animals would

never stoop so low as the MS-13 gang members do. That's probably true.

When all is said and done, President Trump has accomplished more positive things for America in just 16 months than any other President in recent history. He is very close to dismantling all of Obama's illegal regulations and caveats, even though he has had to have to fight the liberal court system on many of his changes, it is coming to fruition. He is the great negotiator. His methods may seem bold and not the bow down and apologize for America fiasco of the Obama regime, hence that's why he is successful. Don't panic when he calls for tariffs against our neighbors, their attention must first be gotten and then that's when you negotiate.

Don't believe that? Look at 'Rocket Man' (Kim Jong Un), since President Trump called him out; look what has been happening. There is a very good chance that President Trump will be face to face with the North Korean leader this month. So what has President Trump been doing? President Trump is doing just what I hired him to do!

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

EVENTS AROUND TOWN

Beginning Spanish Classes will be offered at the Hilliard Library starting on June 14th and continuing weekly for 10 weeks from 6-8 p.m. The classes are free. Call 904-530-6500, option 4, for more information.

Parents of Addicted Loved Ones (PAL) meets every Wednesday at 6-7:30 p.m. at the Hilliard Library Conference Room. Providing free hope through education and support to parents of addicted loved ones. Visit: www.palgroup.org to learn more.

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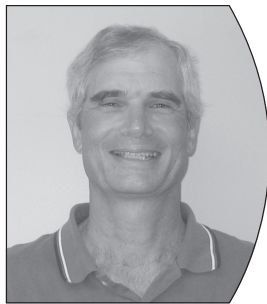
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Rooted Together

Pastor Tim Carpenter, Friendship Alliance Church, Callahan



We have some giant pecan trees on our church property. They are about almost 3 feet in diameter. They stand over 70' tall. They have huge branches, the biggest under 2 feet in diameter. They have withstood many storms. But they stand alone and will fall alone.

On the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, grow a forest of giant Sequoia. They are almost 3 times the size of our church's pecan trees. They stand over 250' tall, with a diameter at the base of 30 plus feet. Their largest branches can be over 5 feet in diameter. They are monstrous!

But these Sequoias have no taproots like the pecan. Their roots spread over the granite surface of the Sierras. Each tree's roots will cover an acre of ground. But they still grow close to each other so their roots entwine, providing an amazing support system that one pecan tree could never match!

The Christian who spends time alone with the Lord every day in God's Word to hear directly from the Lord with no intervening voice will grow strong and bear great fruit for Jesus. (Psalm 1) That same Christian will also discover that their roots in Christ will entwine with the roots of other like hearted Christians that will support and supply every need each other have. They will be able to withstand the tests of life together because they are rooted together in Christ. Are you rooted together with your spiritual family?

After all, life is all about God and He is about relationships!

Book Club at the Callahan Library

On-the-edge-of-your-seat suspense is the inspiration for the Callahan Library's Book Club meeting for June! Read a suspense-filled thriller and converse about these clever concoctions with other readers on Thursday, June 14 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Refreshments provided. The Callahan Library is located at 450077 SR 200, Suite #15, Callahan, 904-530-6500 (#3), www.nassaureads.com.



Don't Miss VBS this Week!

Ephesus Baptist Church
Game On • June 10 - 13 from 6 - 8:30 p.m.
Pre-K - Youth • 845-3426

River Road Baptist Church
Game On • June 10 - 15 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Ages 4 - 5th Grade • 879-1007

Lighthouse Baptist Church
Game On • June 11 - 15 from 6 - 9 p.m.
Ages 4 - 5th Grade • 266-9777

First Baptist Church Callahan
Ultimate Adventure • June 11 - 15 from 6 - 8 p.m.
K - 5th Grade • 879-2172

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VBS • June 11 - 13 from 6 - 8 p.m.
Fun Day Saturday, June 16 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
All Ages • 845-4906

Attend the church of your choice this Sunday.

Everyone is welcome to join us for our 3rd Anniversary Celebration



Saturday, June 9th
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Guest Speaker: Dr. Jerald Thomas
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GEARING UP FOR LIFE'S BIG GAME

He Changed My Mind Ministries Celebrates 3 Years

Dawn S. West

Getting to know people is one of the greatest parts about my job! I have met so many amazing people through these 13 years. Pastor Walter Cooper is one of those people. He is a hometown man who graduated from West Nassau in 1988. He served our country in the US Army for 3 1/2 years. Now he not only founded and pastors He Changed My Mind Ministries but also has his own fulltime business. God placed the idea to start a ministry back in 2007. "I ran from the idea first but God softened my heart to obey," said Pastor Cooper. "If you change your mind, your situation will change."

The church, like all churches, is a work in progress and continues to grow. The mission of the church ministry is to be an impact on our community in any way they can. The church is also called, The Change Center, to let God change you through us! "As a pastor, we don't discriminate. I preach Christ's and God's word," continued Pastor Cooper. "I am only God's messenger and I try to lead by example by what God has placed in my heart."

Pastor Cooper has three children, Whitney and her husband Tirell Kilber, Erin Cooper and Jacob Cooper. All of



his children are also involved in his ministry. The entry of the church is welcoming with photos honoring Pastor Cooper's parents, Walter Cooper, Sr. and Edith Cooper Jones. His mother served as a minister for over 40 years, so it truly comes naturally for him. The church is open to any and everybody. One of the ministries they offer is a Thursday noon prayer time. The church is open to anyone who wishes to come and have prayer during the lunch hour every Thursday. Sunday school is held at 9:30 a.m. and morning worship begins at 10:30 a.m.; Wednesday Bible Study at 6:30 p.m. and of course Thursday noon day prayer. The church is located at 45035 New Ogilvie Road in Callahan, beside Brandies Ace Hardware.

He Changes My Mind Ministries will celebrate their 3rd Anniversary this Saturday, June 9 at 5 p.m. at 'The Change Center' at 45035 New Ogilvie Road in Callahan. Dr. Jerald Thomas, Senior Pastor of Elmgrove Baptist Church will be the guest speaker. Everyone is invited to attend!



Local Virtual School Student Graduates at Top of Class

Florida Virtual School (FLVS®), a statewide public school district in Florida, is proud to recognize Kiley Robertson of Callahan, for finishing in the top five of the FLVS Full Time Class of 2018. There are 686 students in this year's graduating class.



Over the summer, Robertson plans to work at the Jacksonville Zoo, and then attend the University of North Florida in the fall to study biomedical sciences or ecology and evolutionary biology. After an internship at the zoo, she hopes to attend the University of Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine and become an exotic animal veterinarian.

This year's graduation ceremony took place at the University of Central Florida. Kiley is shown with her father Scott Robertson.

"Many people think that because it is an online school that teachers play little part in it, but this is far from true," said Robertson. "I had several teachers that changed the course of my education entirely, and made all the difference in my life."

Baby Donations needed!



The Nest, A Women's Center is in dire need of several baby items. The Nest Women's Center is place where women can come and receive Pregnancy Testing, Ultrasound, Counseling and join a Parent Education Program (PEP) along with many other services. They also provide counseling for young mothers and provide some baby items. The Nest has two locations: Jacksonville, 8264 Old Plank Road; and in Yulee at 850966 US Highway 17. Appointments can be made by calling 904-619-4914.

The items currently needed are listed below. If you can donate any of the items from the list you may bring the items to the Westside Journal office, 450034 SR 200, Callahan. Items needed are: Diapers size 3 and 4; Pacifiers; Bottles; and any kind of Formula.

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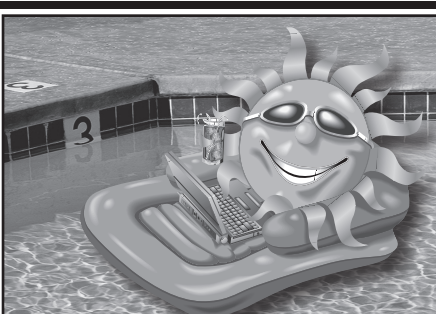
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New Beginnings and Milestones

Judy Lovvorn Celebrates 98th Birthday



Ms. Judy Lovvorn, a resident of the Life Care Center of Hilliard, will celebrate her 98th birthday June 8. If you see this beautiful lady, please wish her a very Happy Birthday! She is the youngest of eight girls and one boy born to Cleo and William Hopper in Washington, Georgia. She and her husband, Tex, bought 80 acres in Callahan and pursued their dream of having a farm. She worked as a secretary/bookkeeper at Callahan Elementary School until she retired. Her passion has always been reading, sewing and quilting.

She has two daughters Carolyn of Salt Lake City, Utah and Margie (Harold) Haynes of Callahan. She also has six grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and 7 1/2 great-great-grandchildren.

great-grandchildren and 7 1/2 great-great-grandchildren.

Ruby Howard Celebrates 86th Birthday

Ms. Ruby Howard, of Callahan, celebrated her 86th birthday June 5. Miss Ruby, who can be seen many days walking through the streets of Callahan, is a very energetic woman. Ruby walks with a pedometer that counts each of her steps daily. She enjoys working with her outdoor plants and going to Woodbine, Georgia on Saturday nights to the Woodbine Opry!

She celebrated her birthday on Saturday by parachuting out of an airplane, in a tandem jump, in Fernandina Beach. The funny thing is, this wasn't her first time. She also jumped out of a plane on her 83rd birthday. This time she



made a pack with the pilot that she wanted to do this every year from now on, on or near her birthday as a gift to herself! She loves it!

Ms. Ruby has four children Robert Howard and Janet Johnson, both of Callahan, and Fred and Ronald Howard (both deceased). She also has numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.



Mrs. Lila Thomas Celebrates 75th Birthday



Mrs. Lila Thomas, of Callahan, celebrated her 75th birthday June 5. Mrs. Lila was born in Ohio but has lived in Callahan almost her entire life. She is a familiar face in Callahan Barbecue, which she and her family love! Every time you see Lila, she is always smiling! She has a smile that lights up a room and is the most caring and thoughtful person around. Her new craft is doing the adult coloring pages. She has done numerous pages and calendars (lucky for me, I have one)! She does an amazing job and loves to give them away. She and her sweet husband, Hardy, have been married over 50 years and act like they just got married. If you want to see a picture of love, look at those two! They are faithful members of North Jacksonville Baptist Church, where she teaches a Sunday school class. Lila celebrated her special milestone with a family dinner!

They have two children Lonnie and Sheri Thomas, and Josie Douglas, all of Callahan. They also have five grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Congratulations sweet Lila... We love you!



Mr. & Mrs. Robert Thomas

Robert Thomas and Kayla Bailey were married Saturday, June 2 in Hilliard. Congratulations to you both!

We love y'all very much!
Mama and Daddy

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Callahan Honors WN Lady Warriors



Dawn S. West

The town council of Callahan met Monday night for their first meeting of June. The first order of business was a proclamation by Mayor Bobby Rau to the West Nassau High School Varsity Softball Team. As Mayor Rau read the proclamation, the entire Lady Warriors team crowded around him, proclaiming the month of June as WNHS Varsity Lady Warrior Softball Month in the Town of Callahan. These girls finished 2nd in the State play-offs in Division 5A, where there are 32 total teams. Each of the players was given a lapel pin and a writing pen with the Town of Callahan logo.

Mr. Keith Coltrane, of Callahan, approached the podium concerning a project he is trying to get going. The project is a 30-minute documentary about Mental Depiction. Keith has received a letter of intent from the Breville Media Group for a reality-based TV show or documentary. Mental Depiction will follow true stories of people suffering with mental illness

in society today. Keith, who suffers from mental illness, is very passionate about getting his project off the ground and running. "I really want to get this going, however, I need sponsors," said Keith. "I have brought a copy of my acceptance letter along with a sponsor packet for you all to look over. I hope you (council) will help me in this project."

Council President Ken Bass applauded Keith for his courage and desire to complete this task. "I will take the packet and give it to a friend that might help," said Bass.

Mr. Milton Locklear, representing the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization, was on hand to go over a few road projects on the TPO's five year plan. They are: Dyal Road, Road Reconstruction on a ¼ mile gap, 2019-20, Cost less than \$500,000; Pratt Siding Road from US 1 to Old Dixie Highway, 2019, Road Reconstruction Resurfacing, 1.53 miles, Cost \$1,000,000; US 301 (SR 200) from Overpass to Stratton Road, 2018-



As many of you know, we (Westside Journal) accept discarded American flags, so that they may be properly disposed of. Many of you have asked me if the general public could attend such a ceremony. I checked with Mike Mekara of the Blank Check Society (BCS), and he told me sure. Together, the BCS, Veterans of the Foreign Wars, the American Legion and Callahan Speedway (David Hicken) to hold an official US Flag Retirement Ceremony next Thursday, June 14 at 6 p.m. at the Callahan Speedway. The speedway is located directly across from the Callahan fairgrounds. Everyone is invited to bring your old, tethered US Flags. The event is free and open to the public.

19, Resurfacing, .759 of a mile, Cost \$2,396,990; and a New Interchange at US 301 and Crawford Road, 2018-19, Cost \$507,104 for Right of Way only. The TPO Board will vote on these projects Thursday, June 14 at 10 a.m. at 980 North Jefferson Street, Jacksonville.

Mr. Melvin Moore, speaking on behalf of Pastor Malachi Clowers, advised the council about the upcoming 3rd Annual Back-to-School Fun Day that will be held Saturday, July 21 at Ewing Park. "Last year, we were a little late in asking for the town's support of our event," said Mr. Moore. "This year we are asking for \$800 from the town for support. We wanted to make

sure you had time to discuss what you might feel led to give. We appreciate any support we receive and thank you in advance."

"We will have this on the agenda for the next meeting," said Council President Bass. "We will have to have a resolution for the donation."

In other business, Resolution 2018-R08 was approved which concerns a program relating to the state revolving fund loan program. This authorizes the loan application to be completed, designating authorized representatives and providing assurances.

The next meeting of the council will be Monday, June 18 at 7 p.m.

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POLICE REPORTS

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

Monday, May 28

Jeremy Scott Thompson, 41, 151492 CR 108, Hilliard: Theft of Motor Vehicle; Possession of Methamphetamine

Tuesday, May 29

Skylore Lillian King, 42, 45232 Dixie Avenue, Callahan: Theft of Motor Vehicle; Theft over 300 under 5,000

Wednesday, May 30

Edna Charlene Meadows, 36, 452044 Old Dixie Highway, Callahan: Writ of Bodily Attachment Civil

Friday, June 1

Isaac Edell Lawton, 30, 3788 Webb Street, Hilliard: Possession less than 20 grams Marijuana; Possession of Drug Paraphernalia with Residue

Deputies Arrest Georgia Man

On Saturday, June 2, around 10:30 a.m., NCSO deputies were called to the Nassau Holiday Motel in Yulee in reference to a man wanting to kill himself with a pistol.



When deputies arrived at the motel a 26-year-old suspect fled in a white Ford Mustang south on US-17 toward Jacksonville. The vehicle

was stopped at Yellow Bluff Road and US-17. A .25 caliber handgun was found inside the vehicle, as well as a marijuana pipe that the suspect said he smokes marijuana for medical issues.

Through their investigation deputies learned that the suspect was in the motel room with a 17-year-old female victim, who he was having sex with. Prior to the chase the suspect and victim began

arguing. The suspect pushed the victim into the bathroom and put a gun to her head and told her to get on her knees that he was going to kill her and then kill himself. After about 10 minutes of being held against her will, the suspect left the bathroom and the victim texted 911 about her situation.

Arrested was Christopher Dwayne Nail, 26, from Waycross, Georgia. He was charged with False Imprisonment, Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon, Carrying a Concealed Weapon without a License, Unlawful Sex with Someone Under the age of 18 While Being over the Age of 24, Fleeing and Eluding a Law Enforcement Officer and Domestic Battery.

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STACY E. BLUME, SR.

Stacy E. Blume, Sr., passed away peacefully on May 29 at Baptist Medical Center. He is a longtime native of Callahan. Mr. Blume was retired from Bellsouth (ATT) after 40 years of service. Stacy was an avid hunter and fisherman. His passion was deer hunting. He also enjoyed gardening. Stacy was a Vietnam US Army Veteran. He was a man of integrity.

His family honored his life on Sunday, June 3 in the chapel of Callahan Funeral Home. A memorial service was held Monday, June 4 also in the Chapel.

Condolences may be expressed at www.callahanfh.com.

Arrangements were under the direction of Callahan Funeral Home, Inc.

KIMBERLY JUNE EMERSON

Kimberly June Emerson, 46, of Callahan, passed away on May 19. She was born on September 7, 1971 in Jacksonville to Ronald and Belva Emerson. Kim will be missed by all who knew and loved her!

She is survived by her son James Robert (Leyna) Povanda; grandchildren Asher Kain Brennan, Elizabeth Ann-Zakaria Levering and one on the way; sister Dawn Renee (James) Harms; niece Cheyenne Harms; and nephew James Harms, III. She was preceded in death by her parents Ronald and Belva Emerson; and a sister Brandy Howard.

Condolences may be expressed at www.nassaufh.com.

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

Obituaries are published free of charge. They may be emailed to news@westsidejournal.net.

OBITUARIES

MARK ALAN GRAVES



Mark Alan 'Pa' Graves, 66, went home to be with his Lord Sunday, June 3.

Mark is survived by his wife of 44 years, Donna Graves; his mother Nell Graves; three daughters Stephanie (Matt) Poteet, Nicole Graves and Tricia Graves; one son Wesley Graves; two grandchildren Corbin and Libby; sister Lisa Graves; three brothers Ken (Denie), Danny (Marianne) and Jeff (Debra) Graves; and many other loving family and friends.

A celebration of Mark's life will be held Thursday, June 7 at 11 a.m. in the chapel of Corey-Kerlin Funeral Home, 1426 Rowe Ave., Jacksonville, with 'Gator' Collins officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials in his memory be made to Sonshine Christian Academy, 45082 Frank Brookins Dr., Callahan, FL 32011.

LISA MICHELLE MILLER

Mrs. Lisa Michelle Miller, beloved wife of Benney Miller, passed away Monday May 28 at Orange Park Medical Center. The family received friends Thursday, May 31 at First Baptist Church of Baldwin. Funeral Services were held Friday, June 1 at the First Baptist Church of Baldwin with Rev. Chris Drum officiating. Burial followed in Manning Cemetery.

Mrs Miller was employed by Beaver Street Fisheries for many years.

Survivors include her husband Benney Miller of Jacksonville; daughters Whitney (Bradley) Jesonek and Misty (Justin) Highsmith, both of Jacksonville; son Jimmy (Stephanie) Miller of Jacksonville; grandchildren Gabe, Garrett, Kaiden, Ava;

mother Donna Bell and step-father Wilbur Bell of Jacksonville; sister Dina (Bart) Riddle of Jacksonville; and nephews Dylan and Dawson.

Prestwood Funeral Home of Baldwin is honored to be serving the Miller family.

ALBERT DOUGLAS OWENS



Albert Douglas Owens, 72, received his Angel Wings on May 31 at Community Hospice, surrounded by loved ones.

Albert was born on January 1, 1946 in Cullman, Alabama. He is preceded in death by his parents Ruth and Gus Flynt; a grandson Keven; and a brother Bobby.

He served his country in the US Army and was a Vietnam Veteran. He was a member of various Veterans organizations of which he held various positions that he was very proud of. His favorite things in life other than spending time with his family, was fishing and watching John Wayne movies.

He is survived by his devoted wife of 52 years, Evelyn 'Midgie' Owens; children Punkin (Vance), Donna and Cassie (Will); seven grandchildren Coty (Chris), Chris (Holly), Shawn, Corey, Brandon (Sabrina), Jordy and Ethan; 10 great-grandchildren Jordan, Evan, Shane, Katelyn, Wyatt, Ari, Marissa, Axel, Elijah and Noah; one great-great-granddaughter Hazel; sisters Freda Hall and Betty (Jack); brothers-in-law Buddy (Cleo) and Flake; and many nieces and nephews.

A funeral services was held Tuesday, June 5 in the chapel of Callahan Funeral Home. Visitation was held prior to service. Interment with Military Honors followed in

Jacksonville National Cemetery. Condolences may be expressed at www.callahanfh.com. Arrangements were under the direction of Callahan Funeral Home.

TALMADGE ABE PLAIR

Funeral Services for Mr. Talmadge Abe Plair, beloved husband of Clara Plair, were held Monday, June 4 in the chapel of Prestwood Funeral Home. The family received friends Sunday, June 3 at the funeral home. Burial followed in Sellers Cemetery.

Mr. Plair is survived by his wife Clara Plair of Hilliard; sons Talmadge Allen Plair, Bruce (Sassy) Siemer and William (Jenny) Siemer; daughters Doris Ann Plair and Donna Plair; 10 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. Mr. Plair was preceded in death by a son Terry Siemer.

Prestwood Funeral Home of Baldwin is honored to serve the Plair family.

GLEN H. ROWE, SR.



Glen H. Rowe, Sr., 75, of Hilliard, passed away June 5. He was born July 27, 1942 in Callahan to Andrew and Elizabeth Stokes Rowe. He will be dearly missed by friends and family alike. He is preceded in death by his parents; two sisters Edith Yarborough and Gladys Jones; and a step-son Junior Smith.

He is survived by his wife Sherrie Rowe; two sons Glen 'Peanut' Rowe, Jr. and Andrew Rowe; three grandsons; a granddaughter; two great-grandsons; and one great-granddaughter; and a sister Agnes (Robert Campbell).

The family will receive friends Friday, June 8 from 6-8 p.m. in the chapel of Callahan Funeral Home. A funeral service will be held Saturday, June 9 at 11 a.m. also

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OBITUARIES

at the funeral home. Interment will follow in Mill Creek Cemetery in Hilliard.

Condolences may be expressed at www.callahanfh.com.

Arrangements under the direction of Callahan Funeral Home, Inc.

JAMES ROGER TAYLOR

James Roger Taylor, 59, passed away June 1, in Jacksonville. He was born May 4, 1959 in Hendersonville, North Carolina.

He is survived by his wife Terri Lynn Lamb Taylor; three children Ashley (Weston) Gray, Richard Johnson and Liberty Johnson; grandchildren Onyx, Charles, Justice, Karley, Rodney and Jaden; two great-grandchildren; his parents Rev. Bob and Mary Taylor; brothers Kenny (Shirley) Taylor and John (Kim) Taylor; and a number of nieces and nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, June 5 in the Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home Chapel. The family received friends prior to the service. A graveside committal service will be held Thursday, June 7 at Shepherd Memorial Park Cemetery in Hendersonville, North Carolina.

Condolences may be expressed at www.shepardfh.com.

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home in Folkston.

WILLIAM P. THIERS, JR.



William P. Thiers, Jr., 75, of Callahan, passed away on May 29. He was born on November 20, 1942 in Rockland County, New York. He was a 1960 graduate of Harverstraw High School in New York. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

William is survived by his daughter Sharon; and son William, all of New York; sisters Suzanne Maxwell of Jacksonville and Dottie Cochran of Callahan; many nieces and nephews; Barbara Saturnus; and his beloved dog Dowie.

Condolences may be expressed at www.nassauffh.com.

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

MALINDA RHODEN WILSON

Malinda Rhoden Wilson, 80, of Bryceville, passed away peacefully Tuesday, June 5 at her home.

Malinda was survived by her loving husband of 60 years, Harold V. Wilson and was the caring mother of Sherry, Stan and Shana Wilson.

Arrangements by Guerry Funeral Home in Macclenny, (904) 259-2211.

FDOH Wants to Improve Your Health

The Partnership for Healthier Nassau wants to know "what matters to you" when you think of health. The Community Health Improvement Plan survey is in both English and Spanish and is for all persons who live in Nassau County. Your ideas will shape our local Health Improvement Plan for 2019-2021. The survey takes 6-8 minutes to complete and the findings will be shared with the community in September at a strategic planning meeting. By completing this survey, you will help us create a new plan to support your personal health.



English survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HealthyNassau18>

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Property Values Show Increase

The Nassau County Property Appraiser's Office released the 2018 estimated preliminary market values showing an increase once again for all taxing authorities. According to Property Appraiser Mike Hickox, the real estate market continued another year of property value increase for Nassau County, reflecting a solid year for the local real estate market. Hickox said, "The total market value for the County is now at a new record high and the taxable value is also at a new record for Nassau County. This reflects what we have seen as a sign that more people, business and construction is flowing into our County and the demand for real estate is still strong."

The increase is due to a significant amount of new construction completed last year, at its highest level in over a decade, adding over \$220 million to the countywide taxable value. The 2018 total market value for Nassau County is now a record \$12.5 billion, up over 7% from the previous year. The market value includes all property before any exemptions, classification reductions, or capped assessments.

Hickox presented the 2018 estimated values to the taxing authorities on May 29th, so they can begin their budget process using actual values in place of the less accurate State Revenue Estimating Conference figures. They will use the values to help determine their tax rate for the property owners in Nassau County later this summer. If taxing authorities do not roll-back their

millage rate from last year, property owners will be paying higher taxes.

Although taxable values have increased countywide, property owners are protected by the Save Our Homes (SOH) amendment which caps the amount the assessed value can increase. "Homestead properties can increase no more than 3%, or the consumer price index (CPI), whichever is lower," said Hickox. "Based on the CPI used for 2018, previously homesteaded properties will increase no more than 2.1% again this year." Non-homesteaded properties are capped at 10%.

In 2018, Nassau County's taxable value is estimated to be about \$8.4 billion, up over 8.25% compared to last year. The City of Fernandina is projected to see an increase of over 7.5%, bringing their taxable value to almost \$2.2 billion. The Town of Callahan is estimated to have an increase in their taxable value to over \$93 million, up by over 11.3% from last year. The Town of Hilliard is expected to see about a 6% increase in taxable value, bringing their taxable value to slightly over \$91 million.

The official preliminary tax roll is expected to be released to the taxing authorities and the Department of Revenue by July 1st. Property owners are encouraged to visit the property appraiser's website, www.nassauffpa.com, in mid-July to view their property values. For more information, please contact the Property Appraiser's Office at (904) 491-7300.

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Spotlight on Nassau Gardens

Sandra and Gary Jaques have lived in Bryceville for 45 years. When they arrived on their property it had very few plants with only a small cluster of trees in one corner - it was mostly an open field. But Sandra and Gary looked at this challenge as a blank canvas and they were excited to build their house, dig a recreation pond and plant dozens and dozens of trees and flowers. The one building on the site was an old barn which they used for their horses and storage of hay. While the barn would eventually be transformed into their current home, they lived in a trailer. Sandra is now a retired nurse and Gary has retired from Rayonier where he was a union



pipe fitter. They now have a real vegetable garden with a beautiful pond and a landscape full of native plants and trees. Many fun hours have been spent on the dock overlooking their pond. One special palm tree was planted across the pond which they brought from Amelia Island. The weather vane on the house was made by Gary who loves to tinker and design things. The white spirea bridal wreath shrub is strategically planted is between two large pines which make the scene look just like a picture frame. A large, white native azalea is very striking among a dozen of other native flame, pink and coral colored azaleas. The large, white flowers of the Cherokee rose vine show off every spring. Growing all along the banks of the pond are stunning native purple iris. One of the loveliest areas is the grassy section of the property located in the front yard that is full of azaleas and a dogwood tree. One other tree to

Successful Plant Sale!

The Master Gardener Spring Sale was busier than usual and produced the highest sales ever. All proceeds benefited Extension Horticulture programs and support the UF/IFAS Nassau Extension Demonstration Gardens. Two friends came to visit and buy at the sale. A local couple decided to make the sale a husband and wife outing - with success! County Extension Director Becky Jordi conducted a Plant Clinic so homeowners could get feedback on their plant issues and buy new plants.



catch one's eye is the native fringe tree often called "Old Man's Beard." They purposely planted a cold-hardy citrus called a Calamondin. This citrus is prized for its ornamental tree structure and the sour fruit is often used in ethnic

cooking. Peeking out of the flower beds is a special terrestrial orchid called the Nun's orchid but it will need to be protected if temperatures drop near freezing.

"Spotlight on Nassau Gardens," is a monthly recognition program of the UF/IFAS Nassau County Extension Service, featuring the beautiful gardens and plants grown by Nassau County residents. To be considered, send a digital photo with a description of your "Spotlight," along with your name, address, and phone number to beawalker105@gmail.com. For more information, call the Extension office at 904-530-6353."



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