

WESTSIDE JOURNAL



VOLUME XV ISSUE 1

HOMETOWN PEOPLE...HOMETOWN NEWS

THURSDAY, JULY 5, 2018

“BEHOLD, I STAND AT THE DOOR AND KNOCK. IF ANYONE HEARS MY VOICE AND OPENS THE DOOR, I WILL COME IN TO HIM AND DINE WITH HIM, AND HE WITH ME.” - REVELATION 3:20

Westside Journal Begins 15th Year of Publication

Dawn S. West

When Jessie reminded me that this week (July 5) we would begin our 15th year publishing, I could hardly believe it. My how time has flown by! It doesn't seem like it was that long ago that I was approached with the idea of starting a free newspaper on the west side of Nassau County. We had a printer, designer, editor and sales person. We will direct mail the paper to everyone in Callahan, Bryceville and Hilliard via the US Postal Service. The idea was a good one but...one we also had to work hard to achieve. You see, on paper the concept sounded good, but in all actuality not really probable. There was no other paper around that did this. First we believed the idea and then it was my job to sell it!

The first year was tough. Our owner at that time felt there wasn't any profit with the paper so he decided to stop publishing the paper. We had numerous phone calls from our readers and advertisers alike asking, "Why?" We were down for one month. After some negotiating, we stepped out in faith and moved into our own office. It was then that I finally grasped what I was supposed to be doing and the correct

way to do it. Trust me, my faith was tested more than once. It was then that the market crashed. "Oh my, I thought. Now what Lord?" I prayed. We strived each week to make the paper better. Then our editor, best friend and practically, child decided to leave. I was grief stricken and so scared! I spent many days talking to the Lord. Roger calmed my fears and reinforced that I could continue on. "Everything will be okay," said Roger. "If not, you've done your best and that's enough for me."

Not long after, Jessie (special friend, confidant, etc.) answered the call for a graphic designer! Thank you, Jesus! We hit it off so well and still do. She brings that special flair to our publication and she's a pretty good writer when I can get her to! Now she has been along the ride for nearly 12 years! I guess for about the last six years it's just been Jessie and I, along with Jenny (my daughter) working part-time when needed.

The Westside Journal has certainly

become a familiar name around. There is no way we could do what we do without God's guidance through each and every issue, for it is His paper not mine. I certainly don't know what I'm doing!

We could never do what we do without first and foremost our advertisers. Many have been with us since day one. I can remember knocking on those doors to try to sell a product they had never seen. Many signed up with no questions asked. Talk about stepping out in faith. We appreciate every advertiser from the smallest to the largest and pray that the paper has worked for you. We are thankful for your faith in us to do what we said we were going to do. We appreciate the post office employees that handle our papers every week. I know Thursdays can sometimes be difficult but we do appreciate your service. Last but not least, we appreciate our columnists. Our pastors who write

for us each week (Pastor Tim, Pastor Arlie, Pastor Ted, Pastor Benjie and Pastor Steve), thank you for your faithfulness to us and for your words of encouragement to us and our readers. My sweet Roger (Just My Opinion)! I've always said what an opinion he has. Roger has such a passion for our country and I'm thankful he encourages us each week. Thank you, Chris (Fish Talk), for your column. It makes me want to go fishing every time I read it! And to the countless people who submit articles, we appreciate you.

To our readers, thank you for your faithfulness. I know it's been a long road and you've stayed with us. It's so uplifting to see so many of you at the office, in the store or restaurant or just around town, and to hear the sweet words you say. I know everyone doesn't like the paper and that's okay. But I am thankful for those who do and don't mind telling me so!

We covet your prayers, comments and suggestions as we strive on. This has truly been an amazing journey, one that I had not planned. As God continues to take the reins, we look forward to many more years together. Thank you again for your support!



First Issue 2004

Nassau Deputy Fired and Arrested on Perjury Charges

Kyle Tholl was hired as a Nassau County Deputy on December 8, 2014 and he was fired on December 20, 2017. Previously he was a law enforcement officer in Texas.



NCSO received a complaint from the State Attorney's Office and began an internal investigation as to the facts of their allegations of being untruthful. Once determined he was not being truthful in some of his reports, he was immediately terminated and a criminal investigation began. The Nassau County Sheriff's Office has a zero tolerance for

its employees violating the public's trust. Once aware of the situation, NCSO took immediate action investigating the allegation. "We take our obligation to protect citizens seriously and any abuse of power will be met with swift consequences," said Sheriff Leeper.

It was determined by our investigators and the State Attorney's Office there were four separate traffic stops, which he stated in his arrest reports and affidavits that he field tested drugs for accuracy, when in fact he didn't. The cases were on

October 30, 2017 and November 5th, 6th, and 14th, 2017. Reviewing in-car camera video and other evidence, showed that he failed to field test drugs on four separate occasions (traffic stops) when he stated in his reports that he did.

Deputies receive training during their 18-week field training program on narcotics identification and the use of field test kits. All narcotics are submitted to FDLE for testing. They are an independent state agency with the lab expertise in testing the accuracy of drugs.

NCSO immediately instituted a policy where all field testing of drugs must be captured on the officer's car video camera, or if none, then the

officer must have another officer as a witness. The results of the drug field kit tests are presumptive establishing probable cause for arrest, but the actual drugs are sent to FDLE for verification for any prosecution.

In all of these cases, there was a reason to arrest the individual, either because of a suspended driver license or having a concealed weapon without a license regardless of drug possession.

"Why he would throw away his career for no reason, by not field testing drugs that were found, I'm not sure, but certainly we will not tolerate anyone not being truthful," continued Leeper. "Once a law enforcement officer's credibility is

See 'Nassau Deputy' on page 2

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Letters to the Editor



Illegal Immigrants

Dear Editor,

In the news today we all are aware of the illegal children that are being detained in our country. They are being housed, fed, and given medical treatment all for free. While here in America there are people that can't afford their medicine, co-payments for doctor appointments, housing, and the list goes on. In order to get any help such as Medicaid we have to meet several guidelines such as income limits. I am a senior citizen who had partial Medicaid that took care of my part b premium and allowed me to have lower co-pays at the Doctors. My social security went up \$25 putting me \$8 over the income limit so I lost everything. My next month check is going to be \$400 less because they took out 3 months of back premiums. I have heard of other people in the same situation.

There is a woman who is blind and has no legs who lost everything because she was \$2 over the limit. So my question is, what guidelines do illegal immigrants have that come in our country every day? Just because

they have children they automatically qualify. I don't want anyone to think that I want to see any children suffer but I wish we would take care of the people that worked and contributed to our country their entire lives. I worked in the restaurant business most of my life and there were many workers from Mexico. I will never forget what one of them told me, "Our company gave us health insurance." I asked her if she bought it and she said, "Why? The government pays for everything, even diapers." She has worked there over 5 years with papers that she purchased when she first came in the country. The company knew that this was going on but said as long as they had documentation they were legal.

I am sure that this is still going on and I don't know about you but I am so sick of seeing our tax money supporting illegal immigrants. It is no wonder they want to come to America - we give them everything. Maybe if we treated them like our own senior citizens they would stop coming here.

Diane Jennings

Nassau Deputy

Continued from page 1

compromised, their testimony in a court of law can't be relied upon, thus they can no longer work in law enforcement. As sheriff, I expect our employees to be held to a high standard of honesty, integrity and professionalism and if those are compromised in any way, I have an obligation to our citizens, the public, and our agency to make sure our integrity is safeguarded. The oath

we take are words that sets us apart from all other professions. It takes a special person to live up to them, but unfortunately, some fall short."

Holl turned himself in at the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office on a warrant in May. He was arrested and charged with perjury and filing a false police report.

Genealogy Tidbits

Claude Arpen

As you drive east on A1A toward Fernandina Beach you pass through the community of O'Neill. Henry and Margaret O'Neill came to Florida from South Carolina after the American Revolution. Henry was a Major in the Loyalist Militia of South Carolina. In 1782, O'Neill came to the British Colony of East Florida, hoping to get a land grant. However, Florida was returned to Spain after the treaty of Paris in 1783. Henry decided to remain in Spanish Florida. The Spanish governor of East Florida appointed O'Neill 'Magistrate of Northeast Florida.' O'Neill was killed in 1788 chasing an outlaw on Cumberland Island, Georgia.

O'Neill's widow, Margaret received a land grant from the Spanish government in 1792 for her husband's service. The grant covers all land east of Lanceford Creek along Barnwell Road and west of the creek that includes Black Rock. Margaret passed away in 1802 and is buried in Bosque Bello Cemetery in Fernandina Beach.

Henry and Margaret had 11 children but only three: Eber, Margaret and William married and had families. William married Jane King of Camden County, Georgia. Margaret married James King, Jane's brother. Eber married Mary Andrews. Some of the pioneer families from Henry and Margaret are Higginbotham, Wingate, Sheffield, Blount, Bachlott and Bedell.

Our program on Monday, July 9 will be presented by Ben Willingham, Preserving Hemming Plaza.

To learn more, come and 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 welcomed!

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Fish Talk

Fireworks on the Water!

Chris Cockerham, Reel Habit

No, I'm not talking about those bright lights on the 4th of July. I'm referring to the high flying action of one of the most sought after sport fish found along Florida's coast. If you've ever seen one bursting out of the water after setting a hook, then you know exactly what I'm talking about. There are many names for tarpon such as big scales, poon, sabalo or one of the most common Silver Kings. Right now, tarpon can be found all over the region. They have acquainted pretty much all of our inlets from St. Mary's south. They are feeding heavily on pogie pods and ambushing large mullet running along the rocks.

If you're game, you can also join in on the action! Just float a live mullet along the river channel under the Nassau Sounds Bridge or you can run the beach and find them targeting the bait pods just outside our jetties. I typically use 60 to 80 pound flourocarbon and a popping cork rigged with an 8/0 or 9/0 hook. Then I add a live pogie or just free line a large mullet behind the boat. I've had the best luck when I clip the tail off a large roe mullet. Cutting the tail off keeps the fish up close to the surface and it also gives the bait that injured action. Make sure your drag is set correctly and hang on!

Moving on to flounder or maybe we should stick to tarpon (ha ha). All kidding aside, we really have seen a few nice fish caught inshore. Mud minnows have given the best results and artificial baits are a really close second. For the most part, many of our fish are coming from the jetties around Mayport. Further south, the docks around the Matanzas Inlet have been very consistent as well. A few of our friends have brought in some really nice stringers from down that way. If I was going to put money on any given place it'd definitely be St. Augustine though. They've seen rain but they aren't experiencing the amount of fresh water river run off that we have just to the north. Fish the top of the outgoing tide and the incoming when the "water clears." As far as I'm concerned, that will yield your best results.

My flounder hot spots for the weekend will include: the Mayport Jetties, the docks and structure along the St. Johns Inlet and the docks around Matanzas Inlet. Focus on the edge of the river drop off and keep an eye out for bait. Fan cast the area and fish thorough. Once you find the depth these fish are holding, keep pitching that same depth while looking for their pattern. Stay focused and be consistent!

With that said, I hope you all had a great 4th of July! May you all have a good weekend and be safe out there on the water!

Citizens Advisory Team July Meetings:

Callahan CAT • Monday, July 9 at 6 p.m. • Callahan County Building
 Hilliard CAT • Tuesday, July 10 at 6 p.m. • The Meeting Place in Hilliard

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JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

One does not have to look very far to observe how the liberal agenda is being displayed in our country. Actually you don't have to look any further than the boundaries of our on county. Last Thursday, June 26, the Fernandina Beach City Commission held a special meeting at 5 p.m. to enact a beach ordinance. The meeting started with the pledge of allegiance to the American flag but no prayer as I am accustomed to.

After the passing of the beach use ordinance, Mayor Johnny Miller brought up the next item on the agenda that he had placed himself. He explained that the city had overlooked that the month of June was LGBT month and that he would like to fly the LGBT flag on the left side of the flag pole in front of city hall for the remainder of the month. He stated he wanted to bring it before the commission for a consensus prior to raising the flag. The Vice Mayor did voice concern that other groups may request the same treatment in the future and the mayor asserted that in the future this will be done by proclamation. With no other objections voiced the mayor invited everyone at the meeting to join him out front to witness the raising of the LGBT rainbow flag. Now believe it or not I have an opinion on this. However, I will keep it to myself for now. This issue goes further than my personal opinion.

Seeing a golden opportunity, I called Mayor Miller's office Friday morning. Of course, I was sent to an answering machine, so I left a message. Being very cordial, I requested the opportunity to utilize the City's flag pole for just one day next year. I explained that since

they (city) were now allowing flags to be flown for nationally recognized causes, I would like to have them fly the Christian Flag next year on the National Day of Prayer and that I would personally supply the flag.

Later in the day I received a phone call from the City of Fernandina Beach Attorney. She stated, "The City was not taking requests from any group or individual to utilize the City's flagpole. This occurrence was initiated by the Mayor alone and he utilized 'government decision' in doing so. This does not give credence for groups or individuals the right to utilize the flagpole for their causes." She did finally state in our lengthy conversation that the decision to fly the flag was treading on a thin line. Where I emphasized to her that I felt it was a VERY thin line.

So I said all of that to say this, Isn't it strange how in America that the progressive left is allowed to do whatever they want and we the people are supposed to openly accept anything they do and say. However, we the people that remain faithful to the founding doctrine of our wonderful country are condemned for wanting to state and protect the very philosophy that made this country the best place on God's green earth. I have a feeling that Fernandina Beach is no longer governed by native Fernandinians. It has become another victim to the liberal left that is attempting to destroy our country's moral fiber. The very fiber that holds our country together, and when that fiber is completely broken our country will fail.

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

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At the Coming of Our Lord Jesus

Pastor Tim Carpenter, Friendship Alliance Church, Callahan



I have seen all kinds of effort put into getting ready for everything from a much-anticipated date to a football game to a wedding. People go all out when an event really matters to them. The hype increases with the value of the event. I saw one bride spend 20 minutes getting her hair just right for the wedding when at first she said she was going to have it plain. So what was the problem? That 20 minutes was after the wedding was to have started!

In the late 1960's the second coming of Christ was a red hot subject. Many well intended Bible teachers were excited that the founding of the nation of Israel was clocking in a generation. They were sure that the U.N., the European Common Market, the Soviet Union, and Israel now acquired Jerusalem into its territory. Many said Jesus would be back within 20 years at the most. Every Christian was excited about that!

But that was then. Fifty years later and I seldom hear a Christian talk about the coming of the King. All the scintillating speculative teachings and books have been written, read, re-written and reread. The television prophets have been wrong several times and their credibility has been shot. The wait is long the preparations have faded into dust.

But it is still the biggest fact of history. Jesus is coming with His saints. We do not know when. He could come tomorrow or He could come in 10 years or 50 years. But come He will.

How ready are you? The good news is that you need not be prepared with doctrinal facts. But you will need to yield to God's work to make you blameless in holiness. You do need to be growing in love with God the Father and those in your circle of responsibility. Are you loving those God has brought to you as Jesus loves them?

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

Hampton Scholarships to be Given Sunday

The R. Niel Hampton, Jr. Memorial Scholarships will be awarded this Sunday, July 7 at River Road Baptist Church in the morning service at 10:30 a.m. The Annual R. Niel Hampton, Jr. Memorial Golf Tournament was held in April, provides some of the funding for the scholarships. Scholarships are awarded to students who are going into some type of ministry (pastor, music ministry, youth, etc.) or that are attending a Christian college. Students

apply for the scholarships. Each year, the scholarships for that particular year are given out at the church, which is a sponsor of the Foundation.

Everyone is invited to attend including the many people who have donated to the foundation throughout the year or during the tournament. People may also donate to the foundation as a memorial to someone who has passed away. What better way to remember someone than in a scholarship fund.

Pinky Promise Receives Donation



Hagan Ace Hardware in Hilliard recently held a 'round up' event with proceeds going to the Pinky Promise Foundation in Callahan. Pinky Promise founder Sybil Purvis was presented with a check for \$1200 from the round up. Thank you, Hagan Ace Hardware, for your support! The next round up at Hagan Ace will be August 31 - September 8 during the Labor Day holiday.

Shown with Sybil is Nickie McClain, the cashier that raised the most money in the round up and Hagan Ace employee Garrick Crosby.

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Jackson Trail, Hilliard - This 4/2 has been renovated with new kitchen cabinets, new paint and new laminate floors thruout. Outside there is new skirting, a 4 ton ac unit 1 year old and a concrete pad in the back yard that could be used for a formal carport, garage or a patio. #80778 **\$140,000**

Ford Rd., Callahan - This 4/2 on 3.5 acres features a fireplace in the living room, separate dining room and 4 bedrooms! Kitchen has pantry with storage and inside utility room opens to garage. Attached 2-car garage and detached workshop at the back of the property. #80555 **\$275,000**

45105 Dutton Way, Callahan - Like new 3/2 in Amhurst Oaks built in 2015. Maple cabinets and stainless appliances in kitchen with breakfast nook. Dishwasher and stove have never been used. Nicely landscaped front yard. Kitchen opens to family room and formal dining room could easily be converted to office or play area. #80547 **\$180,000**

1025 Morning Stroll Lane - Beautiful and move in ready all brick, well maintained W. Jax home on a sprawling half acre lot! Corian Counters, tiled backsplash, stainless steel Whirlpool appliances and beautifully tiled floor. Spacious and inviting, this 4/3 home has a HUGE master bath, central vac system, and three car garage. #80502 **\$379,000**

37099 West 3rd St., Hilliard - Custom 4/2.5 home built in 2011 by owner has laminate flooring, high tray ceilings, wood burning fireplace, spacious rooms. 4th bedroom is upstairs and can be used for a bonus room or playroom. Pride of ownership is evident. Lots of closet space & cabinets. #80261 **\$305,000**

5252 River Road, Hilliard - This 4/2 DWMH is in a rural setting but with easy access to shopping and schools. New carpet, laminate flooring in the eat-in kitchen and vaulted ceilings. The 1-acre lot has several flowering trees and shrubs with grape vines. Two large carports, a chicken pen & a front porch. #80260 **\$155,000**

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Did We Make the Grade?

Dr. Kathy K. Burns

The answer is YES! School grades were recently released! The Nassau County School District is once again "A Rated!" West Nassau High School and Yulee High School are back on the A list this year. I am excited for our students, our teachers, and our staff. The future is bright for Nassau County and our students. These results show students are excelling in the classroom and preparing for an ever-changing world. Join us in celebrating our success as we continue to improve and pursue excellence.

These are some specific areas to celebrate for our schools, students, staff, and learning communities:

2016-2018 Florida Standards Assessment Data

	2016	2017	2018	State Rank
FSA/ELA (3rd-5th)	69%	72%	72%	2nd
FSA/Math (3rd-5th)	78%	79%	81%	1st
FCAT/Science	70%	72%	72%	2nd

2017-18 Elementary Highlights:

Grade 3			
ELA-	Hilliard - 83%	Wildlight - 83%	Callahan - 84%
Math-	Hilliard - 89%	Callahan - 85%	

Grade 4			
Math-	Hilliard - 91%	Bryceville - 84%	Callahan - 84%
	Emma Love - 81%	Yulee - 80%	

Grade 5			
ELA-	Callahan - 85%		
Math-	Callahan - 95%	Hilliard - 87%	Bryceville - 86%
Science-	Callahan - 85%	Hilliard - 80%	

Secondary Highlights:

Grade 6	ELA - 64%	2nd in the State
	Math - 64%	9th in the State
Grade 7	ELA - 57%	5th in the State
	Math - 70%	7th in the State
Grade 8	ELA - 68%	8th in the State
	Math - 60%	12th in the State
Grade 9	ELA - 66%	3rd in the State
Grade 10	ELA - 64%	5th in the State

Hilliard Middle Senior High	6th Grade ELA 73%
Hilliard Middle Senior High	6th Grade Math 88%
Fernandina Beach Middle	6th Grade ELA 70%
Hilliard Middle Senior High	8th Grade ELA 73%
Fernandina Beach Middle	8th Grade ELA 71%
Fernandina Beach High	9th Grade ELA 74%
English Language Learners (ELL Population)	
Results for 2016-17	13% scored proficient
Results for 2017-18	31% scored proficient
State average for 2017-18	23% scored proficient

The Nassau County School District's graduation rate is 91%.

Note: There are several components used to calculate school grades. These include: English/Language; Arts Achievement; English Language Arts learning gains of the lowest 25%; Mathematics Achievement; Science/Social Studies Achievement; College/Career Acceleration; Graduate Rates

School Grades:

Fernandina Beach Middle School	A
Emma Love Hardee Elementary School	A
Yulee Elementary	B
Callahan Middle	B
Hilliard Middle-Senior	A
Bryceville Elementary	A
West Nassau High School	A (up from a B)
Yulee Middle School	B
Yulee High School	A (up from a B)
Hilliard Elementary School	A
Callahan Intermediate	A
Fernandina Beach High	A

Meet your New County Extension Agent!

Hello everyone! I am Justina Dacey, your new Natural Resources and Agriculture Extension Agent. I earned my Bachelor's Degree in Biology from Florida State University concentrating on Marine Resource Ecology. I graduated in 2015 with a Masters in Marine Science from Jacksonville University, where I studied groundwater and surface water contributions from springs along the St. Johns River.

Previously, I worked as the Community Engagement Coordinator for St. Johns Riverkeeper educating North Florida citizens about issues related to our rivers, lakes and water conservation. In addition, I am a Florida Master Naturalist Instructor. I look forward to helping you in resolving any issues you may encounter related to natural resources or agriculture.

I'll be hosting my first workshop



on Pond Management Thursday, July 24 at the UF/IFAS Nassau County Callahan Office from 6:30-8:30 p.m. If interested in attending, please register at: www.facebook.com/events/807826829414144/.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with your questions about anything related to: Master Naturalist certification course; Florida natural ecosystems and wildlife; Aquatic and marine systems; Invasive species management in wildlife areas; and Homesteading.

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Family Splash Day - Saturday, July 21 - 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
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New Beginnings and Milestones

Mr. and Mrs. David Buchanan Celebrate 50th Anniversary



David and Ann Buchanan of Hilliard celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 29. The couple was married on June 29, 1968. Both David and Ann are retired from the Nassau County School Board. David is the former Mayor of Hilliard after serving for nearly 20 years. They attend Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church in Hilliard.

In retirement, Ann enjoys cooking for her family and they enjoy many family meals together. David has really enjoyed learning and playing golf in his spare time. They celebrated their special milestone with a family dinner with their entire family.

The Buchanans have three children, Marella Hunter of Hilliard, Hucks Buchanan of Birmingham, Alabama and Ben Buchanan of Hilliard. They also have nine grandchildren.



Westside Journal Visits Hawaii

Ken and Robin Johnson, of Bryceville, recently enjoyed a family trip to Hawaii. Everyone in the family came up with something they wanted to do while there. They tried out ziplining and loved it, toured the Dole Pineapple Plantation and enjoyed an authentic luau!

They took along a copy of the Westside Journal to North Shore Pipeline Beach!



Tyler, Baleigh, Taylor and Austin enjoyed swimming in the Pipeline.

It was the best family vacation ever to the most beautiful place!

Congratulations

SPECIALIST COREY M. TURNER

Specialist Corey M. Turner, of Tampa, and 2006 West Nassau High School graduate and a 2011 graduate from UNF, graduated from the U.S. Army's Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia June 22. He is currently serving with the 2nd Brigade, 1-37 Armored Regiment, 1st Armored Division, Fort Bliss, Texas. He will be joined by his wife Mrs. Bridgette Martinez Turner, a 2010 WNHS graduate and son Ayden.

Corey is the son of Lieutenant Colonel (U.S. Army Retired) Randy L. Turner of Bryceville; and Ms. Tammy J. Turner of Yulee.



PRIVATE ANDREW N. TURNER

Private Andrew N. Turner, of Yulee, a 2015 WNHS graduate and volunteer fireman with the Callahan Fire Department, graduated from the U.S. Army's Engineer School's Basic Training at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri April 20. He also graduated from the U.S. Army's Airborne School at Ft. Benning, Georgia, on May 18. He is currently serving with the 4th Brigade (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, in Anchorage, Alaska.

Andrew is the son of Lieutenant Colonel (U.S. Army Retired) Randy L. Turner of Bryceville and Ms. Tammy J. Turner of Yulee.



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Spotlight on Nassau Gardens

Marva and James Mitchell both grew up in Callahan and enjoy living there. They have been married 56 years and moved into this lovely home, also in Callahan, over 50 years ago. A cedar tree planted itself there, but they have planted everything else in their yard. The century plant, (Agave Americana 'Marginata'), is monocarpic, meaning it will bloom once in its lifetime. The name "century plant" comes from the fact that the slow-growing plant takes years – but not 100 – to flower. The Century plant is a hardy survivor, tolerating heat, drought and salty seaside conditions. It grows best in full sun but can adapt to shade. After 10 years or more (though not a century), a lofty flower spike is produced, sometimes reaching a height of 20 feet or more, with terminal panicles of pale yellow to white blooms. The plant dies after blooming. The Mitchells' century plant has not bloomed in at least 30 years. The upward-facing yellow flowers grow in clusters at the end of the horizontal branches near the top of the tall stalk that may be even 25 feet tall. James and Marva are enjoying its beauty! This plant has many baby plants around the bottom and there are also other smaller century plants on their property. Marva



and James also enjoy many other lovely plants that they have planted in their yard, including a large Japanese plum, a grape vine, lemons, oranges, pears, pecan and more. Also growing are many vegetables such as squash, okra, peas, corn and greens such as mustards and collards. They also enjoy nine hens that lay eggs on a regular basis. What a special couple with so many

beautiful plants that they enjoy together!
 "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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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), Dustin M. Bishop (North Carolina), Chad E. Black (South Carolina), Kevin & Brooke Blanton (Georgia), Spc. Caleb Bohannon (South Korea), 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 (South Korea), 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), Johanna Diaz (Nevada), Clif Dixon (Iraq), Robert Dodson (Arkansas), Devin Michael Dowling (Hawaii), Christopher Downs (Arizona), William Clay Dryden (Germany), James Dale Evans (Baghdad), David Farhat (Kuwait), Christen Fernandez, Clinton Fouraker (Virginia), Jeremy Francisco (Mayport), Jennifer D. Frederick (Colorado), Kevin J. Gahr (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), Brandon Graham (Georgia), Sgt. Daniel Graves, Jr. (North Carolina), Eric Greene (Georgia), Branden R. Griffis (Florida), 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 L. Johnson (Colorado), 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), Chase M. Lewis (North Carolina), Katelyn Lewis (Japan), 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. 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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!

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Now hiring **GREENHOUSE ASSOCIATES** at Traders Hill Farm. Please apply in person at 30771 Fog Horn Lane, Hilliard. 70518

DAYCARE DIRECTOR for New Daycare/Early Learning Center. Currently looking at space in the Hilliard/Callahan area. Candidate would possess credentials and experience to run the center's daily operations. Apply to: dbow541@windstream.net. Center is pending DCF and zoning approval. 70518

NORTH-CENTRAL FLORIDA OPERATING ENGINEERS. Apprenticeship Program accepting applications. Please email: amandajtc673@aol.com or call (904) 693-8094, Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. for more information. 71218

THE TOWN OF HILLIARD is currently seeking applications from qualified applicants for a Public Works position. Current Florida Driver License and High School Diploma/equivalent are required. Experience in water and sewer utility work and ability to operate heavy equipment is a plus. Job description includes landscaping, facility maintenance and ability to perform multiple tasks. If selected for the position you must actively seek multiple certifications in the Public Works field. The Town of Hilliard is an Equal Opportunity Employer and a Drug Free Workplace. Post-offer physical required. Applications may be picked up at Town Hall located at 15859 West County Road 108, Hilliard, Florida from 9am until 5pm Monday through Friday, or can be printed from our web page www.townofhilliard.com and will be accepted until the position is filled. 70518

FULLTIME MANUFACTURING POSITION: Hiring for 3 different shifts, 40 hours/week with OT available, must be safety oriented, team player, dependable and have good attention to detail, located near Jacksonville Airport. Interested applicants should visit www.indeed.com and then search JacksonFill to apply. 82318

Wanted **JOURNEYMAN ELECTRICIAN**. Please apply in person at Bell-Reeves Electric, Plumbing & AC, Inc., 831 S. 8th Street, Fernandina Beach. 72618

Wanted **PLUMBERS HELPER**. Please apply in person at Bell-Reeves Electric, Plumbing & AC, Inc., 831 S. 8th Street, Fernandina Beach. 72618

PARTS/SERVICE MANAGER needed for busy Kubota Dealer in Macclenny, experience a plus, needed ASAP. Please call (904) 259-4277, ask for Joey. 71218

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SEEKING FULLTIME WORKER (over 18) for company located in Callahan. Must have valid & clean license, dependable transportation, reliable means of contact and not afraid of heights. Random drug tests will apply. Please call (904) 766-7772 if interested. 70518

HELP WANTED: CHICK PROCESSORS! Cal-Maine Foods, Inc. in Callahan is taking applications for steady part-time employment. We are located in a hatchery that has been in Callahan for over 80 years. The position is working with day old baby chickens in an air conditioned environment. The work days are Monday and Thursday ONLY. The hours for this position range from 15 to 25 weekly. Applicants must be able to work closely with others with minimal talking. This is a production position with minimum production numbers required to maintain employment. No experience needed as training will be provided. Starting pay is \$11 per hour. For applications, please call 904-879-4710 and ask for Janet or Erica. 71218

DOMINO'S CALLAHAN is now hiring drivers, up to \$15/hour. Also, hiring CSRs. Apply in person to: 450092 SR 200, Callahan. 72618

PART TIME NANNY, Callahan; 16-20 hours total per week, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday; care for resident children only; must have clean, reliable transportation. Interview, background check and references required. Call 904-755-9940 before 8 p.m. 72618

LAWN TECHNICIAN/DRIVER, Immediate opening for experienced Lawn Technician with a Valid Driver's License. Call (904) 813-9727. 70518

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, June 25

Gary Allen Coachman, 27, 16801 Oak Hill Road, Hilliard: Sale of Controlled Substance; Use 2-way Communication Device

Tuesday, June 26

Johnathan Michael Howe, 27, 450662 SR 200, Callahan: Violation of Probation Domestic Battery

Master Gardener Applications Now Being Accepted

Applications for the UF/IFAS Nassau Master Gardener program are due by Friday, July 27 at 5 p.m. For an overview of the volunteer program, visit the Extension website at www.sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/nassau/. Search for the 2018 Master Gardner Application. Prior to submitting your application, please complete the Pre-test, and submit with your application. The Pre-test is at blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/nassauco/files/2017/07/MG_test_2018.docx. The application and pre-test must be submitted to the Extension office in Callahan, or Extension office in Yulee, or email to County Extension Director Rebecca Jordi, at rljordi@ufl.edu. For questions, call the Extension office at 904-530-6353.

Hunter Safety Class

Saturday, July 14th

8 a.m. - noon

Callahan Fire Station

and

1-4 p.m.

Hilliard North Florida Firearms and Tactical Center

Students must have completed online course at MyFWC.com.

There are 18 people signed up already. There is space for 50.



Summer Pond Workshop

Having summer pond problems? Attend an evening workshop covering general pond management Tuesday, July 24 at the UF/IFAS Extension Office in Callahan. Dr. Chuck Cichra, UF Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, will focus on decisions that the pond owner can make that directly relate to the success and productivity of the fish population in a pond. Stocking, harvesting, feeding, aeration and other topics will be covered.

Justina Dacey, UF/IFAS Extension will cover aquatic weed management. Topics discussed will involve weed identification and control options. If you have problem weeds bring samples for free identification.

This workshop will be held at the UF/IFAS Extension Office, 543350 US Highway 1, Callahan (at the fairgrounds) at 6:30 p.m. Snacks and refreshments will be provided. There will also be pond related supply giveaways. Registration is \$10 for early bird registration until July 14; after the cost will be \$15 per person. Please register at: <https://www.facebook.com/events/807826829414144/>.

School District Hires School Safety Specialist

In the aftermath of the Parkland tragedy, the Florida Legislature enacted legislation that requires each school district in Florida to designate a School Safety Specialist to oversee all school safety and security personnel, policies and procedures within the school district. Additionally, the School Safety Specialist is responsible for serving as a liaison with local public safety agencies and national, state, and community agencies and organizations in matters of school safety and security; conducting an annual school security risk assessment at each public school; reviewing policies and procedures of the school district for compliance with state law concerning school safety; providing training to students and school district staff; and providing annual recommendations concerning strategies and activities to improve school safety and security.

At its meeting on Thursday, June 28, the Nassau County School Board voted to hire Detective Alfred 'Al' Smith to serve as School Safety Specialist for the Nassau County School District. Detective Smith is a twenty-seven year veteran of the Fernandina Beach



Police Department and has experience in multiple areas of law enforcement, including having worked as a Forensic Crime Scene Investigator, SWAT / Tactical Team Member, manager of the Property and Evidence Department for the Police Department, in undercover drug operations and as a School Resource Officer at Fernandina Beach schools. During his career in law enforcement, Detective Smith has received extensive training in active shooter response, identification of mental health crises and first responder/traumatic injury.

Living with Alligators Class



UF/IFAS Nassau Master Gardener Karl Shaffer will conduct this class on alligators in our region on Wednesday, July 11 from 10-11 a.m. Florida is blessed with a wide variety of wildlife, many of which are reptiles and amphibians. Alligators garner a lot of attention, especially by homeowners new to Florida, and who have little to no knowledge about these creatures that might just be found in their backyards! The class will be held at the Yulee Extension office and is free! Class is open to the public. For more information, call the Extension office at 904-530-6353.

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BERNEICE LOYOLA BARE



Ms. Berneice Loyola Bare, 90, passed away Saturday, June 30, at her home in St. Marys, Georgia. Ms. Bare was born on December 4, 1927 in Ransom, Kansas to the late Frank Peter and Sophia Leis Roths.

Berneice, aka: Mom, Mamma, Grandma, Grammy, Aunt Berneice, Aunt B and Bernie, left home in Kansas at the young age of 18 to join two of her sisters in Washington, DC and help care for a newborn nephew. She also worked part-time at the soda fountain of a dime store. There she met her future husband Dean and married in 1947. They gave birth to their first son Deanie and soon moved to Florida to pursue work opportunities in Miami. According to legend, the car broke down in Jacksonville, so that's where they settled to raise their family, including the birth of their daughters Vickie in 1952 and Deanna in 1968.

Berneice helped her husband Dean in opening and running a sandwich bar restaurant in the downtown Jacksonville Atlantic Bank, as well as other locations. But for the most part, Berneice enjoyed being a homemaker raising her family.

After Dean passed in 1986, Berneice went back to work for a few years running a small restaurant in the old Atlantic Bank on north Main Street. After retirement, Berneice continued to live alone at the family home in Highlands, north Jacksonville, until 2014, when she moved to live part-time with Paul and Vickie Hafer in St. Marys and with Deanna and Lane Iannucci in Jacksonville. Berneice enjoyed 90 years loving others and being loved by family and countless friends, and we will all miss her very much.

Ms. Bare is survived by her daughters Vickie (Paul) Hafer of St. Marys and Deanna (Lane) Iannucci of Jacksonville; her grandchildren Kim Bare, Deanna Dingman, Dean Bare and Hannah Iannucci; and her great-grandchildren Kate Dingman, Gabe Dingman, Grant Dingman, Zane Bare, Peyton Bare and Tenley Bare; her sisters Jane Boyd of Hilliard and Frankie Oliver of Ransom, Kansas; and her brother Bobby Roths of Ransom, Kansas.

Besides her parents; Ms. Bare was preceded in passing by her husband Harold Bare; her sons Deanie Bare and Ricky Bare; and numerous siblings.

The funeral service was held Tuesday, July 3 at the Chapel at Evergreen Cemetery on N. Main Street in Jacksonville. Interment

OBITUARIES

followed at the cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions be made in Ms. Bare's names to the The Lighthouse/WECC Radio Station in Kingsland, Georgia.

SHIRLEY L. COBB

Shirley L. Cobb, 80, of Callahan, passed away on June 26 at her residence. Mrs. Cobb was born April 21, 1938 in Live, Oak. She is predeceased by a stepson Rowdy Cobb; and a granddaughter Lisa Nash.

Survivors include her husband Ralph L. Cobb; children Barbara (Larry) Nash, Bruce Swearingen, Cindy (Tommy) Johnson and step-daughter Cynthia Wilcox; grandchildren Bo (Samantha) Johnson, Todd (Rachael) Johnson, Christopher (Nina) Wilcox, Marie Wilcox and Bryan Swearingen; great-grandchildren; siblings Charles (Marsha deceased) Boone, Jerry (Dot) Boone, Cordelia (Robert) Frank and Betty (Fred) Roth; and numerous nieces, nephews, and a host of friends.

Visitation was held Thursday, June 28 in the Chapel of Callahan Funeral Home. The funeral service was held Friday, June 29 at Bethel Primitive Baptist Church with Elders Albert Altman and Jimmy Thornton officiating. Interment followed in the church cemetery.

Condolences may be expressed at www.callahanfh.com.

Arrangements under the direction of Callahan Funeral Home.

FLORENCE BYRD CREWS



Florence Helen Kotlarich Byrd Crews, 93, passed away at her residence June 29. She was born August 3, 1924 to Peter Miller Kotlarich and Julia Lassen Kotlarich in Galveston, Texas. She grew up in Galveston and graduated from Ball High School in 1941. After graduation, she attended Metropolitan Community College in Galveston where she received a Secretarial Degree in Shorthand and Bookkeeping. On July 2, 1942, she married James Ivey Byrd of Folkston, who was stationed at Fort Crockett with the Army

National Guard in Galveston.

James, Florence and their four children moved to Folkston in February 1961 awaiting his retirement from the Army in April 1962. On May 20, 1962, James suffered a massive heart attack leaving Florence a widow with four small children. Following his death, Florence worked several jobs in Folkston including bookkeeper at Western Auto, secretary and columnist at the Charlton County Herald, secretary at First Baptist Church of Folkston, substitute teacher for Charlton County School System and bookkeeper with Gowen Timber Company.

On May 2, 1969, Florence married Buster Crews of Folkston and moved to Fernandina Beach, where she worked with Anchor Savings and Loan until her retirement in 1985. After her retirement, they moved back to Folkston in December 1990.

Throughout her life in Folkston, Florence served many local organizations: the Folkston Jr. Women's Club and Business and Professional Women's Club where she served as secretary for several years, The Charlton County Athletic Boosters Club where she sponsored the BEST FORWARD girls basketball trophy, wrote the "Indian Chit Chat" and the Folkston Society Columns for the Charlton County Herald, she was an active member of the First Baptist Church in Folkston where she taught Sunday School, sang in the Adult Choir, served as church clerk and was the Director of WMU until her marriage in 1969. Moving to Florida, she became involved in the Order of the Eastern Star Chapter #55 where she served as treasurer and remained an active member. She served as a State Committee Woman for the State Democratic Party in Georgia and Florida.

Florence loved to travel with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She visited almost all 50 states as well as Canada, Mexico and Europe. She felt it gave her a better grasp of the world and its culture. She often said, "The major joy in my life is being able to play a vital role in the lives of my grandchildren and great grandchildren which in return has helped keep me physically and mentally alert."

Along with her parents, she was preceded in death by her husbands James I. Byrd and Buster Crews; her sisters Mary Kotlarich Rutchi, Josephine Kotlarich, Julie Kotlarich Blackwell, Martha Kotlarich Speaker, Anabel Kotlarich Skelly, Patsy Kotlarich Wimberly; her brothers Peter Miller Kotlarich, Jr., William Stephen Kotlarich, J.L. Kotlarich; and a grandson Kenneth Andrews "Andy" Snyder.

She is survived by her children Dr. James I. (Santee) Byrd, II, Janice Byrd (Carl) Wolters, Dean Miller Byrd and Julie Byrd Snyder; grandchildren Jason C. Byrd, Adam (Sarah) Byrd, Stephen (Sharla) Wolters, Philip Wolters, John (Andrea) Wolters and Carla Wolters; eight great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; and several nieces, nephews and other relatives.

The family will receive friends Thursday, July 5 at Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home from 6-8 p.m. Funeral services will be held Friday, July 6 at the First Baptist Church in Folkston at 11 a.m. with Dr. Randy Jacoby and Rev. Randy Wainright officiating. Burial will follow in Pineview Cemetery.

Condolences may be expressed at www.shepardfh.com.

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home in Folkston.

GERMAIN 'TATE' DAVIS



Germain (Tate) 'Papa Tater' Davis, 74, of Hilliard, whose battle with a rare cancer ended at his home on Friday, May 11 when God reached down and

declared Tate the winner and gave him an everlasting reward. He was a beloved son, daddy, papa, brother, uncle and friend. He was a native of Buckhannon, West Virginia, born on May 27, 1943 to Charles and Letha Davis, who both preceded him in death. He is also preceded in death by his brothers Chuck Davis and Homer Davis.

Tate had a witty sense of humor and always had a joke to bring a smile to everyone. He is a Veteran of the US Army. As a professional he was an over the road truck driver for 45 years. He traveled many miles all over the country, which afforded him the opportunities to visit his beloved daughters, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, numerous family and friends quite frequently. When he wasn't on the road, he could be found tinkering with just about anything for anyone. He enjoyed gardening, canning, cooking and sharing these. He will always be remembered for his unconditional love and never ending support. He was so loved and will be truly missed by all who knew him.

He leaves to treasure his memory his daughters Donna Jo and Dionne Rachel, both of Murfreesboro, Tennessee; his son Jeffrey of North Carolina; six granddaughters Shana, Sherra (Slim), Samantha, Caidence (Noodle), Casynn (Snowball) and Sidnee (Sister); grandson Ryan (Roo Roo); great-grandchildren Tayden (Taz) and Emma; and sisters Helen Miller and Dorothy Slusher; brothers Bill Davis and Neil Davis; and numerous nieces nephews and other family

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OBITUARIES

and friends that adore him.

A memorial service will be held Monday, July 16 at 11 a.m. at Jacksonville National Cemetery on Lannie Road.

ANN MARIE HALBUR

Ann Marie Baxter Halbur, 68, of Hilliard, passed away in Jacksonville on June 28. She was born February 19, 1950 to the late Gladison and Wilma Baxter. She was preceded in death by a daughter Michelle Roach.

She is survived by her husband Gerald O. Halbur; a daughter Tonia Heronemus; two sons James (Angie) Kerrigan and Gerald L. (Elaine) Halbur; a sister Pat Norvell; grandchildren Steve Baxter, Joshua Heronemus, Kelley (Cody) Murray, Allen Kerrigan, Ashleigh (Derek) Frederickson, Melissa Marshall, Gracie Halbur and Gerald J. Halbur; and nine great-grandchildren.

The family received friends Monday, July 2 at Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home. Memorialization was by cremation.

Condolences may be expressed at www.shepardfh.com.

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home in Folkston.

action in the Pacific and in Europe and was awarded several metals including a Bronze Star. Jack was also a member of the famous "Devil's Brigade." His unit as a whole was awarded a Gold Congressional Medal of Honor in 2015. Jack and all surviving members received a commemorative Brass Medal. After the Brigade disbanded, Jack was sent to Norway where his unit excelled in their duties. In 2016, his unit received the Defense and Commemorative Medal and Citation from the Royal Norwegian Embassy and signed by His Majesty King Harald V of Norway.

Jack was a member of the Masonic Lodge in Jacksonville FL. In 1966, he served as Worshipful Master of Ezra Lodge number 67, Free and Accepted Masons. He received his 70 year pin in September 2017.

Jack was an authoritative but loving father who made holidays very special for his children.

He is survived by his son John P. (Charlene) Roberson of Franklin, North Carolina, daughter Susan R. Esposito of Callahan and son Lee L. (Tammy) Roberson of Monroe, North Carolina; 11 grandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren; 15 nieces and 24 nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife Lois T. Roberson; sister Bessie Witt; brothers Lee Roberson, Hugh "Bubba" Roberson, Mark Roberson and Frank Roberson; daughter Barbara Mansfield; sons-in-law Richard Mansfield and Albert Esposito.

A viewing was held prior to the funeral service held Tuesday, July 3 in the Nassau Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Benji Lloyd and Pastor Hal McIntosh officiating. Interment followed in the Jacksonville National Cemetery.

Pallbearers were John Roberson, Andy Pressley, Lee Roberson, Caylon Esposito, Randy Crawford and Ricky Roberson.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations in his memory be made to Community Hospice.

Condolences may be expressed at www.nassaufh.com.

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

JACK PERSHING ROBERSON



Jack Pershing Roberson, 99, passed peacefully into the hands of our Lord on June 29. He was born on September 13, 1918 in Waycross, Georgia

to William and Bessie (Fowler) Roberson. Jack was always faithful to our Lord with reading the Bible each day especially with his sister Bessie before she passed. Along with the love of his life, Lois, he was very involved in the church. He served as a Deacon at Franklin Street Baptist Church in Jacksonville; Taft Street Baptist Church in Hollywood; an honorary Deacon at River Road Baptist Church in Hilliard.

Jack was a WWII veteran where he saw

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Clothing Giveaway Saturday

Joel Pace's Music students conducted a hands-on instrument zoo recently at the Callahan County building for the Callahan Library! The guests tried out all kinds of instruments and even had their faces painted.

This Saturday, the students will celebrate Mr. Joel's birthday, with a yard sale/free clothing giveaway/party from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at 14244 Pace Road, Jacksonville. Everyone is invited! Students will perform all day at the event.



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Q: Should I cut down my native Red Bay tree to prevent it from getting the ambrosia beetle? CG

A: I see no advantage to removing the Red Bay, *Persea borbonia*, tree before the ambrosia beetle attacks it. This invasive beetle is still here. There are literally dozens of species growing in this area in which it can live and survive quite well. At least one of the favored species (camphor tree) is considered a pest here. I have noticed many of the leaves on the local camphor trees, which are evergreen, have turned yellow. The leaves are normally a dark, green color year 'round. Thriving on little care in full sun or partial shade, Redbay can tolerate a wide range of soils, from hot and dry to wet and swampy. So, to answer your question, I would say leave the native bay tree alone and let's hope for the best. If you decide to cut the bay tree down, do not transfer the wood from one area to another – this is most likely how the beetle moved from Georgia throughout Florida.



all over my yard? I have fertilized with sludge, turfbuilders, weed and feed products and several weed killers. It does not go away. RR

A: I am going to take this opportunity to remind everyone – the appropriate fertilizer for all grasses grown in Northeast Florida is 15-0-15 applied April 15 and September 15 only. The sludges, turfbuilders and weed and feed products contain too much nitrogen compared to the last number (potassium). We do not recommend any of these products. With the freezing temperatures we experienced this winter, it is perfectly normal for St. Augustinegrass to go dormant and the leaves or blades of grass to turn brown. If the grass has a healthy root system, it should return once our temperatures remain warm several days in a row. The weed you brought to me is called knawel, *Scleranthus annuus*. This weed is a winter annual which is found all along the Eastern Seaboard



of the United States, from Canada to Florida. Its only means of propagation is by seed. The thin, multi-branched leaves are attached directly to the stem (this is called sessile). It looks like lawn burweed but does not have the sharp spines. Since it reproduces only by seed, it is best managed by putting out a pre-emergent herbicide (atrazine or trifluralin – NOT both!) in October to keep the seeds from germinating in the winter. You can apply these products in March to help control summer weeds. As always, please read and follow the directions on the label – “The Label is the Law.” Knawel weed will soon die off in our summer heat but the best thing to do right now is hand pull them.

Q: My large oak tree has dozens of growths on the trunk. Several people have advised me it should be cut down because it is diseased. I hate to lose it. What should I do? PA

A: Your question was sent to me from a fellow certified arborist and I am so glad you called him rather than trusting someone who wants to

cut the tree down. His answer was correct regarding the condition on the oak tree being only cosmetic and not structurally damaging to the tree. The trunk galls can be caused by bacteria or fungi found in the dark, growths you see on the bark but the good news is, it generally only penetrates the bark tissue and goes no deeper. Therefore, this condition is superficial and warrants no



chemical application and certainly there is no need for removal of the tree. Having said that, it is important to give the trees an area around the roots with no other plant competition.

If possible, don't plant anything underneath tree canopy especially lawn grass. It is best to leave plenty of root space for the tree to grow without having to share or fight for water and nutrients. Allow a foot or two with nothing but soil and air then outside this area place an inch or so of pine bark or pine straw. The tree will thank you by living a long, long time and provide a strong healthy canopy. Look at other areas of the bark. If you see large, deep, longitudinal cracks or bark sloughing off then you have cause for concern.

Q: What is this weed? It is growing

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