

“AND WHATSOEVER YE DO, DO IT HEARTILY, AS TO THE LORD, AND NOT UNTO MEN; KNOWING THAT OF THE LORD YE SHALL RECEIVE THE REWARD OF THE INHERITANCE: FOR YE SERVE THE LORD CHRIST.” - COLOSSIANS 3:23-24

## FSSNF Team ‘Fired Up’ for School!



Special thanks to the Nassau County Fire Rescue 3101 of professional firefighters for sponsoring the Family Support Services back to school event! Forty local children in foster care got to shop with a firefighter for their back to school supplies on Saturday, August 4!

Each youth also received a backpack, compliments of the Fernandina Beach STAPLES store. Thank you to our Nassau community for supporting our children and making it fun to get back to school!



## Nassau’s Cool Bus Drivers



Dr. Kathy Burns

On Saturday, August 4, Terry Wilkerson organized a “stuff the bus” campaign for our families in transition. He, along with many of his colleagues and friends, volunteered their time to spend the day in front of the Yulee Wal-Mart collecting backpacks and school supplies for students in need. As if that wasn’t enough, he also used the opportunity to recruit future bus drivers. All of the volunteers were sporting special designed pink shirts stating: “Stuff the Bus, Work with Us!”



our future!

WE ARE NASSAU! Drivers and volunteers included: Brenda Beasley, Lataveia Burley, Sarah Coene, Haley Conner, Julie Conner, Luke Flynt, Jan Frost, Kim Good, Sherri McSwain, Sheryl Metts, Debra Miles, Lorie O’Neal, Marian Phillips, Sara Scott, Janaleigh Whittenbarger, Ashley Wilkinson and Terry Wilkinson.



We’re excited to kick off a new school year and happy to work with great people who often go above and beyond! Our theme for this year is “We Are Nassau.” Terry and his team of volunteers are certainly living it out as they take the time to serve others and make a difference for our students,



## 4-H OPEN HOUSE AUGUST 23 4:30 - 7:00 P.M.



Come discover what Nassau County 4-H has to offer your family! Nassau County 4-H Open House will be Thursday, August 23 from 4:30-7 p.m. at the Callahan Extension office (543350 US Hwy 1 at the fairgrounds). There will be information booths, a petting zoo, games, snow cones and more! 4-H is available to all Nassau County youth ages 5-18 as of September 1 and participation only costs \$20 per youth for the year.

Joining 4-H allows your youth to have opportunities to learn about a variety of subjects, make new friends, join a safe community program, and learn life skills such as communication, teamwork, and leadership. At the Open House, there will be representatives from clubs and community programs to answer any questions as well as lots of helpful staff to assist you in getting started. For more information, contact our office at 904-530-6353.

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#### School Safety

- Assisted in the installation of the first ever School Zone Flashing Caution Lights Installed at Callahan Intermediate School
- Attended the 2017 meeting in Washington, D.C. with Congressman Rutherford resulting in extra school safety funding for 2019 through 2028
- Completed Active Shooter Awareness in Educational Institutions training and certification in March 2018
- Personally met with the Sheriff, Chief Hurley, School Resource Officers, and county, state, and federal officials regarding securing our schools

#### Personal Accountability

- Return 100% of my Constituent phone calls and attended 100% of School Board Meetings

#### Vocational Education

- Changing the narrative by promoting vocational education as a “first choice”, not just an alternative to the college track



On August 28<sup>th</sup>, Re-Elect

JONATHAN

\*\*\*\*\* **PETREE** \*\*\*\*\*  
**NASSAU COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD**  
**DISTRICT 5**

Political Advertisement Paid for and Approved by Jonathan Petree for Nassau County School Board, District 5





## Sonshine Welcomes New Preschool Director

Sonshine Christian Academy Principal Lorie Johnson believes in miracles! After months of careful searching combined with prayer, Mrs. Hillary Gressman joins the Sonshine Ministry Team serving as the Preschool Director. Hillary lives in Callahan with her husband Caleb, and daughters Riley, Rowan, and Reese.

Hillary will lead a team of caring Child Care Professionals in carrying out the Sonshine Mission and Vision as follows: Sonshine Christian Academy partners with families to provide an outstanding Biblically-Integrated education that equips students to succeed professionally, know God personally, serve God passionately and edify others persistently.

Sonshine Preschool currently serves 90 families in our community by offering an Accredited Early Learning Program for children ages 2-4 years old.



## Letters to the Editor

Thank you!

*This letter was given us to share with our readers. The letter was given to the Nassau County Road Department from Nassau Oaks resident, Mrs. Love Young.*

Thank you! I just wanted to let you know how delighted I am to see the work y'all are doing in Nassau Oaks. I have lived here for 35 years and have been waiting that long to see this happen.

You all are wonderful and much appreciated. When I wake up in the morning and hear that beep, beep, beep of the big machines, I am happy. Thanks to all of you on the road crew! Just wanted to let you know how I feel.

Love Young  
Nassau Oaks

Thank you!

Dear Editor,

This is to thank the Hilliard Parks and Recreation Department for another great summer pool season. The public pool is a tremendous asset to west Nassau residents, including the Silver Sneakers water aerobics, the summer camp for kids, party rentals for groups and churches and it's availability to the public every day of the season.

The lifeguards are all well trained and work well with the kids. The one-on-one swim lesson program for children should be considered by every family with children. It can save a life. It is amazing that a town the size of Hilliard is so committed to the health of its citizens by devoting limited resources to so many recreation programs, including an excellent gym facility, youth athletic programs and a well maintained park site. Thank you for making a positive impact.

Bud Bloom

Letters to the Editor may be emailed to [news@westsidejournal.net](mailto:news@westsidejournal.net) but must include a name.

### Callahan Library Fun Book Club: Memoirs

Mull over a memoir and share your musings with other Book Club members at the meeting to be held on Thursday, August 23 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the Callahan Library. Refreshments and fun provided! The Callahan Library is located at 450077 SR 200, Suite #15, Callahan, 904-530-6500 #3, [www.nassaureads.com](http://www.nassaureads.com).



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## EVENTS AROUND TOWN

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, General Joseph Finegan Camp 745, will hold their monthly meeting Mon., Aug. 20 at the Pig Barbeque Restaurant in Callahan at 7 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL Polar Blast! August 17, 18 and 19, children 8 & up; 1st United Methodist Church of Callahan, 449648 US Hwy 301, 879-3877. VBS times Friday & Saturday, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Sunday is Family Day beginning at 10:30 a.m. with a picnic to follow.

The Westside Democrats will meet at 7 p.m. Tues., Aug. 21 at the Democratic office at 37194 W. 6th St. in Hilliard, due to Early Voting. Dinner and business meeting to follow. For information call 879-5163.

National Alliance on Mental Illness offers free programs for individuals (Veterans included) with a diagnosis: Thursday Weekly Support Group from 2-3:30 p.m. at the Callahan County building on Mickler St. For more information call (904) 277-1886.

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# Fish Talk

## Still Good Fishin'!

Chris Cockerham, Reel Habit

My favorite season is drawing near! While many prepare for deer season, I will begin prepping my gear for the excellent fall bite. The pressure on the water will soon be transferred into the woods. Not sure about you but I'm ready for some relief from this heat regardless!

So what's the word? Well, if you do get out, red fish have been biting on the incoming tide. The use of cut baits such as mullet and crab are producing very well. Try to find cleaner water and focus on structure where they are most likely to hold. Right now, you can find reds throughout the Northeast Florida region and all along the Intracoastal waterways. Browns Creek has had great reports this week if you're headed to Jacksonville.

Next, the flounder are still on one day and off the next. Look for them around creek mouths and on the back side of oyster beds where bait is being funneled. They are being caught from Brunswick all the way down to St. Augustine. Finger mullet and live mud minnows are still the preferred bait but if you like throwing plastics, pick up a 3" gulp shrimp and try it on a weighted hook or a jig head. Again, many times gulp will out fish live bait. Focus on docks but don't overlook the small feeder creek run outs. Vilano Beach continues to have a decent bite and that will only improve from now through October.

If you are just out to bend a rod, Bull reds are making their yearly runs along the St. John's River. Reds, tarpon and sharks are everywhere. You can find them at either of our Jetties in huge numbers. You can bet that they won't be far from schooling mullet.

As for offshore, if you are interested in trolling for King Fish we still have good numbers near shore. Several kings are being caught over wrecks while free lining pogies as well. Grouper, lots of Snapper and an occasional Cobia are being caught on these wrecks also.

If you get some free time, stop by Callie Kay's in Hilliard and check out their sportsman's section. They are stocked with the latest hunting and fishing supplies! With that said, I hope you all have a great week. Till next time, I'll look forward to seeing you on the water! Be safe!

# JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

I read an article by the "New York" magazine which was published on May 18 of this year. The bold headline was, OBAMA'S VANISHING LEGACY. The sub-title stated, "Obama's Legacy Has Already Been Destroyed."

The article began by saying; "The Iran deal terminated. The Obamacare individual mandate erased. The Paris climate agreement; torn up. Trans-Pacific Partnership; withdrawn. The war on coal; ended. Appeasing our enemies; over. Balance of the Supreme Court; restored. Obama's anti-Constitution, anti-freedom, anti-West "fundamental transformation" of America is being reversed."

Amazing what a year and a half under confident, unapologetically pro-American leadership can do to set things right. The impulse to bow has been expunged. No more "leading from behind, strategic patience," on the battlefield. ISIS is being obliterated. Appeasement has been replaced by strength abroad and prosperity at home.

The U.S. embassy was moved to Jerusalem, NAFTA is being renegotiated, DACA phased out, Keystone XL and Dakota Access pipelines greenlighted, onerous fuel emission standards relaxed, federal regulations rolled back to unleash the economic dynamism of a free people. Illegal immigration and sanctuary cities are finally being fought as the rule of law returns and the infiltration of terror, gangs and drugs slows. Insistence on genuine denuclearization of North Korea and Iran is U.S. policy. Tax cuts, tax reform, are producing an economic

boom. Despite the recent Senate vote, so-called "net neutrality," government control of the internet, is over.

Each one of these erasures of Obama policies brought shrieks of "Armageddon now!"

But the apocalypse did not ensue. In fact, as no less a Democrat pol than former San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown wrote in The San Francisco Chronicle on 5/12/18: "Like it or not, a significant number of Americans are actually happy these days. They are making money. They feel safe, and they agree with the President's protectionist trade policies, his call for more American jobs, even his immigration stance."

The truth is Obama's legacy was built on sand. It could not be overturned in a year and a half if it were real. If Obama's legacy were anchored in the will of the American people, President Trump could not send it into the wind. If Obama's policies were so popular, Hillary Clinton would have been elected.

But Obama was doing great damage to this country, so being able to reverse his legacy is a great achievement. This ought to tell you liberals; you do not yet control the hearts and minds of a majority of American people, or Obama's legacy would have stood the test of time. As it is, Barrack Obama's only lasting legacy is: Donald Trump!"

It is rare that I agree with anything that comes out of New York, let alone San Francisco, however, I totally agree with this.

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

### In the Kitchen... Awesome Slow Cooker Pot Roast

- 2 (10.75 oz.) cans condensed cream of mushroom soup
- 1 1/4 cups water
- 1 (1 oz.) package dry onion soup mix
- 5 1/2 lbs. pot roast

In a slow cooker, mix cream of mushroom soup, dry onion soup mix and water. Place pot roast in slow cooker and coat with soup mixture. Cook on high setting for 3 to 4 hours, or on low setting for 8 to 9 hours.



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# Love, Faithfulness and God's Word...a Heritage

Pastor Ted Heglund, First Alliance Church, Hilliard



I recently reread a personal message in the front page of an old Bible that I had not read for years. It was written to an 11-year-old boy on his birthday. Reading it also reminded me of the verse in Isaiah 38:19 when King Hezekiah wrote after his sickness and recovery. *"The living, the living—they praise you, as I am doing today; parents tell their children about your faithfulness."* Isaiah 38:19 (NIV)

This is the personal message in that old Bible:

To our precious son Teddy: Eleven years ago today our hearts were filled with joy. Twas then we knew, our gracious Lord, had blessed us with a boy. We pledged our lives to do our best, In prayers of dedication, that this, our son, would be God's son and point men to salvation. You know Teddy, it's not an easy road you travel today, - in fact it's rough and steep, but in this book, God's Word, you'll find your map and guide to the Promised Land. Use it carefully and prayerfully. We want you to know, that as your parents, we love you more than we can express, -in fact there's hardly a day goes by but what we continually thank our Heavenly Father for all of our precious children [6] and this includes you.

We hope you'll overlook our faults and mistakes and keep your eyes fixed on Christ Jesus. The gates of hell, with its rock and roll, are luring souls every day. But soon the skies will part like a scroll, and our Lord will have His way. 1 John 5:13.

As you surmised this was written to me by my parents, Earl and Kay Heglund. No, my parents were not perfect but they did leave me with a rich godly heritage. It was a Christ centered heritage of love and faithfulness. They had a focus and love on the word of God. The verse they referenced pointed to the value of God's Word. *"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."* 1 John 5:13 (NIV)

What kind of heritage are you leaving? Friends, it is not just parents but each person contributes to the well-being of your family, friends and even the children that meet you in a store or playing in your neighborhood.

Love in your relationships is a heritage you can leave. It is not just a parent/child relationship but it is you and others as well. God's word is clear about love. *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."* Mark 12:30 (NIV) This is a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. *"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."* John 13:35 (NIV) Are your family and friends, co-workers and neighbors going to remember your love for Jesus and for them?

Being an example of faithfulness to the Lord should go hand in hand with love. My parents were faithful in living and serving the Lord and faithful in praying and faithful to their family. (No, Dad was not a preacher but a TV engineer and Mom a teacher.) Likewise the Lord has called you and I to be faithful. *"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."* 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

We never know when this life will be done. The best heritage you can leave for your family is that they know you have asked Jesus to forgive your sin and have received Him as your Savior. Then, leaving a heritage of love and faithfulness will point your loved ones to Jesus and His love. *"22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."* Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)

*Attend the church of your choice this Sunday.*

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## CHURCH NEWS

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL Polar Blast!** August 17, 18 and 19, children 8 and up, **1st United Methodist Church of Callahan**, 449648 US Hwy 301, 879-3877. VBS times Friday & Saturday, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Sunday is Family Day beginning at 10:30 a.m. with a picnic to follow.

**COMMUNITY BARBECUE** at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 5401 Dunn Ave., Jacksonville. Saturday, 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Games, face painting and lots of fun!

**St. George Church of God Revival** will be held August 19-22 with guest speaker Jeremy Pooler. Times will be: Sunday at 5 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m. The church is located at 11912 Johnson St. in St. George.

**Hilliard Pentecostal Full Gospel Church** will celebrate their 13th Homecoming Sunday, Aug. 19 with special music by The Chosen and guest speaker Rev. Ike Mohler. Dinner on the grounds will follow the service. The church is located beside the Hilliard Post Office, 845-8186.

**Hisbon Baptist Church** will hold Women's Day Sunday, Aug. 19 at 4 p.m. with Minister Luella Thomas. The church is located at the corner of 6th and Oxford Streets in Hilliard.

**Gateway to Life Ministries** will have a Food Giveaway Saturday, Aug. 18 from 10 a.m. - noon for families in need. The church is located at 37837 Eastwood Rd., Hilliard.

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## PTOs at Local Schools... Get Involved!

Each of our primary schools have PTOs (Parent Teacher Organizations) in which parents can get involved in their children's schools and classes! PTO and volunteer forms can be picked up in the front office of each of the schools for your convenience. Volunteers are always needed at each of our schools and welcomed! Lots of Volunteers are needed!

**Bryceville Elementary:** \$5 individual; \$10 family to join

**Callahan Elementary:** \$5 fee to join; Meetings the first Friday of each month at 8:30 a.m. in cafeteria



**Hilliard Elementary:** FREE to join; Meeting the first Friday of each month at 2:20 p.m. in the cafeteria.

**Callahan Middle School:** \$5 individual; \$7 family to join; Meetings held the second Monday of each month at 4 p.m. in the library.

## Instrument Zoos at the Library

Joel Pace's piano students conducted two instrument zoo's during July for the Hilliard and Yulee Library Summer Reading Program. The students learned about instruments and got some hands-on time exploring playing them!



## Remembering...

### Roy and Jeanette Wingate



*Dawn S. West*

Just three short weeks ago, longtime Callahan resident, Jeanette Wingate passed away. Saturday, August 11, her sweet husband of 67 years, Roy Wingate, Jr. passed away.

The Wingates have been a family name around Callahan for years. In fact, I can remember Mr. Roy's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Wingate, Sr., who were also members of the First Baptist Church Callahan. They, too, were precious people. All three of Mr. Roy, Jr. and Mrs. Jeanette's children, Janet, Leesa and Keith, attended school in Callahan and graduated from West Nassau High School.

Mr. Roy, Jr. was the owner of the Chevron Station in the middle of Callahan (where Fast Mart now is). He was the first employer of many, many young men. There weren't too many

job opportunities around but Mr. Roy was always happy to try someone out. He not only told these young men what their job description was but also to have respect, patience and be kind to his customers. From what I understand, he made sure these young men understood what he said and obeyed it. He was a kind, gentle and polite man. He would always make time to say hello when you would see him with that sweet smile on his face. He allowed the teens to 'sit up town' at his station in the evenings when he was closed. Even with that, he expected them all to treat his property with respect: clean up your mess and don't destroy anything. He was a wonderful man with a huge heart.

Mrs. Jeanette taught fourth grade, I think. She was always so pleasant and proper. She had a beautiful smile and loved her students. She worked hard to make sure all the students understood and if they didn't, she took the extra time to help them out. She was sweet but firm in her classroom and always was in charge of her students. They respected her and she in turn respected them.

What a blessing it was to have this special couple to be such a big part of Callahan. It's because of people like this that makes our community so special. I'm so thankful to have known them. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with their children and family at this difficult time.

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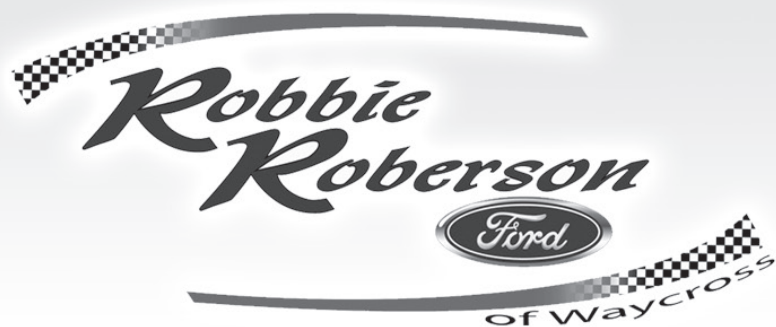
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## Amelia Shotgun Sports Charity of the Month for Nassau Ferst Foundation

Amelia Shotgun Sports was named Nassau Ferst Foundation its "Charity of the Month" for July and it was a SUCCESS! Sportsmen (and women) were given the chance to donate to NFF online in conjunction with a national clays tournament, a donation jar and a raffle! All the monies raised during July supports children from birth to 5 years old registered in Nassau County who are currently receiving a free, age-appropriate book in the mail each month, with a parent newsletter which provides tips and activities related to the book the entire family can enjoy. During the national clays tournament, local businesses sponsored stations and lunch.

Thank you to Cochrane's Collision Center, Nassau County Sheriff's Office Charities, SoCo Hair Company, ReMax (Pam Meyer) and Costal Vision Center for sponsoring one station which sponsored 5 children! Thank you to CBC National Bank, for sponsoring 3 stations which supports 15 Nassau County children! Thank you to OREMC for being the lunch sponsor which supports 42 Nassau County children!

Thank you to Amelia Shotgun Sports' donation which will allow 8 Nassau County children to receive a free book each month! Thank you to the Women of the Moose Chapter 2355 for donating 2 baskets for the raffle! Thank you to Design It for creating the station signs!

The generosity of these local

business partners means 90 Nassau County children will receive free books each month for an entire year! Currently, NFF has almost 700 children receiving books each month!



Nassau Ferst Foundation appreciates its local business partners and welcomes others to join us in bringing the love of reading and bridging the early learning gap in Nassau County. Even though we are an "A" district school system, there are still many children who come to school unprepared and lack early literacy skills. Providing books directly to the children and building their home library, encourages reading together as a family and offers vocabulary and background knowledge building opportunities.

If you would like to sponsor a child (\$36 per year for one child), volunteer or register a child under 5 years old to receive books email: [nassauferstfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:nassauferstfoundation@gmail.com) or message us on Facebook at Nassau Ferst Foundation for Childhood Literacy (follow us, too). You can learn more about us at [www.ferstreaders.org](http://www.ferstreaders.org).

## FSCJ District New Members and Reappointments Announced

Florida State College at Jacksonville's (FSCJ) District Board of Trustees welcomes its newest member, J. Palmer Clarkson, who was recently appointed by Governor Rick Scott. Additionally, Board Chair Karen Bowling and Vice Chair for Nassau County Candace Holloway were reappointed by Governor Scott.

A Duval County resident, Mr. Clarkson has over 31 years of experience as an entrepreneur, business builder and manager with extensive experience in accounting, finance and operations. He has served as the Chief Executive Officer of Bridgestone HosePower, LLC (HosePower) since 1992. He was the Founder of Masthead Industries, Inc. in 1992 and sold his company to Bridgestone in June 2014. Mr. Clarkson previously served as the President and Chief Executive Officer of Anchor Coupling Company from 1987 to 1992.

Mr. Clarkson has been a Director of CNX Resources, Inc. since May 2017 and Actuant, Inc. since February 2018. He serves as a member of the Board of Directors at Bridgestone HosePower, LLC and Hawkson Properties, Inc. He also sits on the boards of several organizations including the Jacksonville Port Authority.

"We are pleased to welcome Mr. Clarkson onto the District Board of Trustees," said FSCJ Interim President Kevin E. Hyde. "His years of entrepreneurial and leadership experience will bolster the College's growth and advancement efforts."

Mr. Clarkson succeeds Randy DeFoor and is appointed for the term beginning July 20, 2018, and ending May 31, 2022.

Ms. Bowling, a resident of Duval County, was originally appointed to the FSCJ District Board of Trustees in August 2011 and was elected chair in August 2017. She served on the Board's Finance and Audit Committee from August 2016 to July 2017. Additionally, she served as the District Board of Trustees' liaison to the Foundation Board from August 2011 to July 2014, and as a member on the Board of the Florida State College at Jacksonville Foundation.

A Nassau County resident, Ms. Holloway was appointed to the FSCJ District Board of Trustees in August 2011 and was elected vice chair for Nassau County in August 2017, having previously served in that role from August 2015 to July 2016 and August 2012 to July 2014. She was also elected District Board of Trustees' liaison to the Foundation Board in August 2017.

The reappointments are for the term beginning July 17, 2018, and ending May 31, 2022.

"We are fortunate to have Chair Bowling and Vice Chair Holloway to continue their service on our District Board of Trustees," said President Hyde. "Their commitment and leadership has been invaluable to this institution and we look to their guidance for our continued success for the students and communities we serve."

The appointments are subject to confirmation by the Florida Senate.

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**YOU'RE INVITED**  
**SPORTSMAN'S Sunday**  
 A FAMILY EVENT  
**FREE ADMISSION!**

- BBQ LUNCH
- OUTDOOR BOOTHS
- YOUTH TURKEY CALLING CONTEST
- DOOR PRIZES

Grand prizes include:  
 Adults: Savage Axis II XP 30-06 Rifle  
 Kids (12 & Under): .22 Rifle & BB Guns

*Enjoy a Bible message, activities, food and fellowship with others in our community that love the Lord and outdoors.*  
**SUNDAY, AUGUST 26 @ 11 A.M.**  
**LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**55045 MOUNT OLIVE RD. • CALLAHAN**  
 Pastor Adam Pierce  
[www.lbccallahan.com](http://www.lbccallahan.com) • 904-879-5287

*"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."*  
 Eph. 2:8-9

\*Must be present to win prizes and those under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. All firearms awarded are subject to a background check.

*Thought of the week...*  
 There is a longing in every heart that only Jesus can satisfy.

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## Church Firearms Course to be Held

Churches have historically been a sanctuary from world-weariness and certainly a refuge from violence, but no more. This dynamic and life-changing course begins with classroom instruction that covers legal and liability issues and safety with a firearm. Classroom discussion includes the lawful and proper use of force supported by the United States Supreme Court case precedents. Principles and tactics are applicable to team members who serve churches and religious organizations in an armed security capacity. The instructor for the class is Roger Huggins.

Topics include: The principles of marksmanship; equipment selection and proper gear placement; legal and justifiable use of force; a winning

mindset and stress management; loading, unloading and reloading; Developing Natural Index Points; Communication and Working with a Partner; Verbal Challenges and Commands; Proper Draw Stroke and Proper Recovery to the Holster; and much more.

The 2-day course will be held August 20 & 21 (Monday & Tuesday) from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. and will be held at the NF Firearms Training Center, 8888 Pistol Range Place, Bryceville (off of CR 119). The cost for the course is \$350 per person and you must bring 600 rounds of ammunition. You must register online at: [www.strategosregistration.com](http://www.strategosregistration.com) or by calling 888-569-5444. Space is limited to 24 people.

## Troubleshooting Your Lawn



UFI/IFAS Nassau Director Becky Jordi, along with four of her Master Gardener volunteers, conducted a "Trouble shooting Your Lawn" session at the home of Dan Hubbs. Ms. Jordi demonstrated water conservation by calibrating the irrigation system. The session was open to neighbors, who had the benefit of hearing about the topics that affect their lawn and learned best management practices to follow in maintaining their yard, whether lawn and plants.

Jordi gave instructions to her Master Gardener volunteers on setting plastic cups



throughout the lawn. The cups are used to determine the amounts of water sprayed by the irrigation system. Once the amounts are identified, the irrigation system can be "calibrated" (set time run per zone) to give out the correct water amounts. Several of the neighbors participated in measuring the water collected from various positions of Mr. Hubb's front yard. Jordi began the session in Mr. Hubb's garage, where she discussed proper fertilizer application, tree pruning and turf grass disease management, among other topics.



### FLAG FOOTBALL & CHEER

**NOW REGISTERING! Call 845-2733**

**\$60 per child** Multi-child discount available

Register Now through Friday, August 17

**Boys & Girls**  
Ages 5 - 15

Practice Begins  
Week of August 27  
Season: Saturdays,  
September 22 - October 27



**HILLIARD**  
PARKS & RECREATION  
37516 Oxford Street • Hilliard

## Fusion Team National Champs!



On August 3-5, Team Fusion, a soccer team of U16 girls from Callahan who play for West Nassau, competed in a soccer tournament at the ESPN Wide World of Sports. They won their first National Championship in 3v3. Fusion is coached by head coach Will Kirkland and assistant coach Tony Perez. Prior to playing in the ESPN tournament, Fusion played in multiple tournaments which range from Ponte Vedra to Palm Coast to qualify for the ESPN soccer tournament. The girls have been playing together for two years, playing in tournaments and putting in many hours each week to practice year round to achieve this major accomplishment.

During the tournament, Fusion won two games and lost one, which

qualified them for the second seed in the semifinals. Winning their semifinal game 9-3 against a team from Canada put Fusion into the final match. The Final match was against an undefeated team from Miami. The girls won by scoring 4 goals to their 3.

We, as coaches, are proud of the girls' hard work and dedication that they put into this sport and to helping it grow in our town. We want to thank our parents and sponsors who made it possible for the girls to have this experience.

Shown (l to r) are: Assistant Coach Tony Perez, Mikaela Wagner, Gabryelle Tapley, Jenna Kish, Madison Sapp, Alyssa Perez, Josie Ratliff and Head Coach Will Kirkland.

 Look for us on Facebook!

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# DAWN HAGEL

FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 2



### Aaron Bell of Callahan Proudly Supports Dawn Hagel for County Commission

It was such a pleasure to meet Aaron Bell and his wife Dana! Aaron's family has lived in the county since the 1800's. He has a welding business in Callahan, and he and his wife are well respected members of the community. Aaron and Dana wanted to dispel the rumors that he was running against me to become the next County Commissioner. It was nice to find out after meeting them that both Aaron and Dana support me in my efforts to becoming the next County Commissioner and feel I will do what's best for the people of Nassau County!

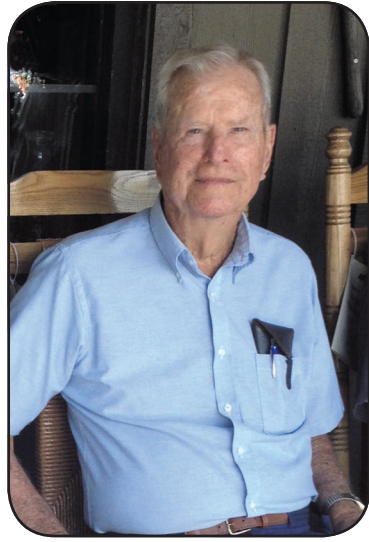
**REMEMBER TO VOTE AUGUST 28<sup>TH</sup>!**  
**VOTE DAWN HAGEL**  
**COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 2**

Political Advertisement Paid for and Approved by Dawn Hagel, Republican for County Commissioner, District 2.



# New Beginnings and Milestones

## Les Mosley to Celebrate 87<sup>th</sup> Birthday



Les Mosley, of Callahan, will celebrate his 87th birthday Friday, August 17. Mr. Les was born and raised in Baldwin. He played Baldwin basketball and ran the soda fountain at the drugstore, while attending school. Following high school, he worked in manufacturing, while living in the Paxon area in Jacksonville. He married the love of his life, Dorothy Thornton Mosley, and they had two children. He went to work with the Atlantic Coast Railroad (now CSX) and retired at 55. They moved to Alma, Georgia and bought a small farm until 2002. They later moved to their residence on River Road. Mrs. Dot passed away in 2012, after over 50 years of marriage. He is a member of River Road Baptist Church.

He has two children Lynn Letellier of Middleburg and James (Sarah) Mosley of Callahan. He also has several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

## Happy 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday Kaiden Shawn Xavier Williams

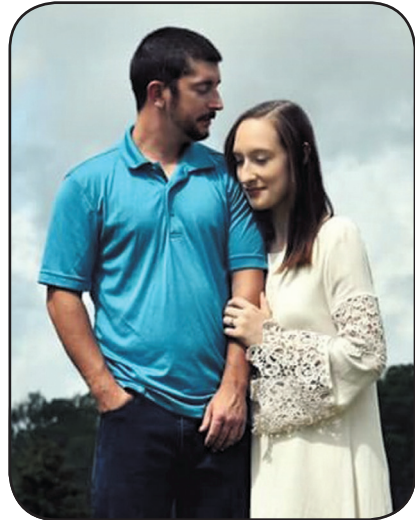


Kaiden Williams celebrated his first birthday July 11. He celebrated his special day with a 'Trolls' themed party held in his honor at his grandparent's house with over 80 family and friends joining in the fun! His proud parents are Richard and Ashley Williams of Charlotte, North Carolina.

Proud grandparents are Mark and Rita Pippin; and Henry and Susan Pacetti, all of Callahan.

Proud great-grandparents are Helen (Dufus) Dosier of Asbury, West Virginia; and JC and Carolyn Keegan of Callahan.

## Ms. Miller and Mr. Register Announce Engagement



Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Sawyer of Hilliard; Mrs. Lola O'Berry and the late Randy O'Berry of Hilliard; and Mr. Robert Register of Nahunta, Georgia, are proud to announce the engagement and upcoming marriage of their children Sabrina Miller and George Register.

The bride-elect is employed with Winn-Dixie in Hilliard.

The groom-elect is employed with the Nassau County Road & Bridge Department.

The wedding will be Friday, September 7 at Laytn's Landing, by invitation only.

## Westside Journal Visits Germany

Recently, a copy of the Westside Journal was photographed at the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, Germany with Buddy and Pat Green of Jacksonville and their awesome travel partners Gail and John Bowen of Callahan. Berlin was one of their stops on a Baltic Cruise from Copenhagen to St. Petersburg, Russia, where we spent two days. The Brandenburg Gate was built in 1788-1791 and has been the symbol of the tumultuous history of Europe and Germany and is now a symbol of European unity and peace. This is where President Reagan said in his 1987 speech, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall." One block south is the Memorial to "The Murdered Jews of Europe" memorializing the millions killed... Walking through the memorial was heart-breaking.



vote **JOE**  
**ZIMMERMAN**  
FOR STATE HOUSE



- Pro-Faith - God First
- Pro-Second Amendment
- Pro-Life
- Pro-Family
- Fiscal Conservative

## Joe's Common Sense Plan

-Repeal or Amend HB-1075 - The Stewardship District has been a nightmare! Over \$50 MILLION in possible taxes on citizens - NO WAY!

-Repeal HB-631 - Our beaches belong to the citizens. I will fight for our beach rights!

## Community Endorsements

Former  
Commissioner  
Marianne  
Marshall

Former  
State Rep.  
Janet  
Adkins

Former  
Commissioner  
Barry  
Holloway

and many more at [www.ZimmermanForHouse.com](http://www.ZimmermanForHouse.com)

**VOTING DATES:**  
Early Voting Begins August 17th  
Election Day Voting August 28th

**REPUBLICAN**



# 2018 FOOTBALL SCHEDULES

PERSEVERANCE RESPECT SACRIFICE DEDICATION HARD WORK

## VARSITY HILLIARD FLASHES

August 16	@ Christ Church	7:00 p.m.
August 24	BYE	
August 31	Fernandina Beach	7:30 p.m.
September 7	Andrew Jackson	7:30 p.m.
September 14	@ West Nassau	7:00 p.m.
September 21	@ Cedar Creek Christian	7:00 p.m.
September 28	Episcopal (Homecoming)	7:30 p.m.
October 5	@ Chiefland	7:30 p.m.
October 12	@ Warner Christian	7:00 p.m.
October 19	@Williston	7:00 p.m.
October 26	Hawthorne	7:30 p.m.
November 2	@ North Florida Ed.	7:00 p.m.

## VARSITY WEST NASSAU WARRIORS

August 17	Terry Parker	7:00 p.m.
August 24	@ NFEI	7:00 p.m.
August 31	@ Episcopal	7:00 p.m.
September 7	@ Providence	7:00 p.m.
September 14	Hilliard	7:00 p.m.
September 21	Yulee	7:00 p.m.
September 28	Baldwin (Homecoming)	7:00 p.m.
October 5	Bradford	7:00 p.m.
October 12	@ Fernandina	7:00 p.m.
October 19	Paxon	7:00 p.m.
October 26	@ Jackson	7:00 p.m.
November 2	BYE	

## WEST NASSAU JUNIOR VARSITY

August 23	Bradford	6 p.m.
August 30	Fernandina	6 p.m.
September 6	Terry Parker	6 p.m.
September 13	@ Westside	6 p.m.
September 20	@ Yulee	6 p.m.
September 27	@ Charlton	6 p.m.
October 4	Palatka	6 p.m.
October 11	@ Paxon	6 p.m.
October 18	Bishop Kenny	6 p.m.

## HILLIARD MIDDLE SCHOOL

August 21	@ Camden	5 p.m.
September 11	@ Callahan	6 p.m.
September 18	@ Charlton	6 p.m.
October 2	Episcopal	6 p.m.
October 9	University Christian	6 p.m.
October 24	@ St. Marys	5 p.m.

## CALLAHAN MIDDLE SCHOOL

August 22	Yulee	6 p.m.
August 28	@ Bolles	4:30 p.m.
September 4	Bethune Middle	5 p.m.
September 11	Hilliard	6 p.m.
September 18	Fernandina Beach	6 p.m.
September 25	@ Episcopal	6 p.m.
October 2	@ Christ's Church	6 p.m.
October 9	Trinity	6 p.m.

*Football doesn't build character,  
it reveals character.*

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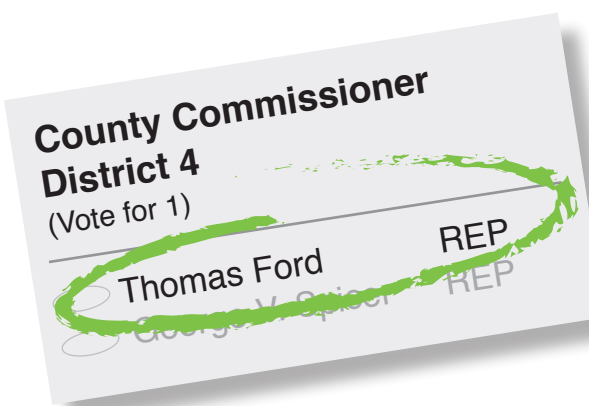
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## VOTE THOMAS FORD ON AUGUST 28<sup>TH</sup> NASSAU COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 4



- New, youthful leadership with vision for the future of Nassau County
- Foresight to make common sense decisions when it matters the most
- Refuse to ignore the deterioration of county services such as fire/rescue and road and bridge departments
- Guided by principles, not politics

Elect

THOMAS

FORD

for  
County Commission, Dist 4

Pd pol. adv. paid for and approved by Thomas Ford REP for County Commission, Dist 4



## SERVICES

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2018** is the end of the extension deadline for most taxpayers who requested an extra six months to file their 2017 tax return(s). Contact **COUNTRY LAW and TAX SERVICE INC.** in Callahan at (904) 628-0635 if you need help dealing with IRS. 83018

**PRO WASH PRESSURE WASHING.** We pressure wash anything, hot or cold water. FREE estimates. Call 904-507-9263. tfn

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

**CALLAHAN ANIMAL HOSPITAL,** Hours M-F, 9:30A - 6P; Saturday, 9:30A - 4P; Sunday, Noon-4P. Online pharmacy, digital x-rays, laser therapy, and lower prices. 879-3775, www.callahanvet.com. tfn

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

**HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING.** Repairs, FREE Estimates on New Installations. Licensed & Insured. Owner Timothy Reeves, Reeves Climate Control (904) 238-8492. tfn

**NEED A NOTARY?** ALL legal documents, titles, wills, marriage certificates, car titles, etc. accepted. Available 24/7, No appointment necessary! Call 879-5488 for more information. 83018

**SUPERIOR STUMP GRINDING:** Professional, affordable, dependable, licensed & Insured. Self-propelled grinder can fit through a 36" gate opening to access your yard. Any size stump. Call Robert at (904) 699-8957. tfn

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

**GRASS GETTERS LAWN SERVICE!** Mowing, blowing, edging, trimming & much more. Call for a FREE estimate: (904) 762-6048 or (904) 879-2766.

**AFFORDABLE TREE SERVICE,** trimming/removal, licensed and insured, difficult removal specialist. FREE estimates. Call 904-349-0869 or 845-3957.

**ART'S LOCKOUT SERVICE.** Locksmith/Lockout Specialist. Licensed, bonded, insured, 24/7 emergency services, auto, home, business. Serving: Nassau, Duval, Charlton & Camden Counties. 904-294-0314, ArtsLockout.biz or FB/Art's Lockout Service. tfn

**UPHOLSTERY WORKROOM SINCE 1969.** Don't throw that furniture away! Refurbish it! Change colors! FREE estimates! Call 879-5130 or 398-1653.

**CONCEAL CARRY CLASS** (First Founders Firearms School). \$45 per student, group rates available, Saturday morning and afternoon classes in Callahan. Exceeds State standards. NRA certified instructor. Call KC at (904) 591-7779. tfn

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**C & C SAW & MOWER.** We fix lawnmowers and tractors. Welding services also available. Call Chuck at 904-507-9263. tfn

**CONCRETE-CONCRETE-CONCRETE!** Get your certified steel building slab done right at good prices! First quality materials and workmanship. Also, walkways, patios, driveways and more! In business 47 years. One call, we do it all! Call Joe Daughtry at (904) 545-0555. 83018

**SMART FAMILY WORKS, LLC.** Lawn care, landscaping, debris removal. FREE estimates. Commercial/Residential. Serving NE FL & SE GA, 904-428-4130. tfn

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

**TREE SERVICE & STUMP GRINDING!** Tree trimming, tree removal. Leonard's Tractor Service, (904) 813-9514. FREE estimates! tfn

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# CLASSIFIEDS

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## SERVICES CONT.

**SOPHIA'S PARTY BOUNCERS:** Local bounce houses starting at \$99; Water Slides starting at \$150 (local). Also available: Party packages, balloons, snow cone and cotton candy machine rentals! Call 507-1345. tfn



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

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**WE BUY SCRAP,** old tractors, equipment and junk cars. FREE tow away! FREE appliance pick-up. Call Johnson's Automotive at 879-6788 or (904) 613-7067. tfn

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## ANIMALS

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**Classified Deadline is Tuesdays at Noon.**

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**BEAUTIFUL HOME** for sale in Hilliard! 3BR/2BA, 1679 living sf, 2304 sf total, newly remodeled with new flooring, appliances, A/C and more! \$206,900. Call Ryan at 904-238-3102. tfn



**HOME FOR SALE** in Callahan; 3BR/2BA, 1497 living sf, 2092 total sf, located in Amhurst subdivision, 45311 Ingleham Circle, \$175,000. Call Mike, (904) 483-6475, for more information or to see this home! tfn



**90 ACRES +-** fronting US Highway 1 and Swearinger Road; \$6,700 per Acre for ALL, will split one (1) time. Serious inquires only, (904) 813-3510, Bobby Franklin. tfn

## YARD SALES

**MULTI-FAMILY, SATURDAY,** 7 a.m. - noon, 54235 Trotter Lane, Callahan, off of Musslewhite Rd. Men's clothes, ladies clothes, girls & boys clothes, furniture, household items, toys. Too much to list!

**JACKPOT ESTATE SALE!** Something for Everyone! Must See! 812 S. King Rd., Jacksonville; Sat. 9A-4P; Sun. 10A - 3P; and Mon. 9A-2P, facebook.com/sellingthesouthjax.

**HUGE MULTI-FAMILY YARD SALE,** Friday, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Saturday & Sunday, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. 6182 Patti's Path (off CR 119 & CR 121) Bryceville. Look for signs! 1974 Cobia boat; 1983 & 1984 AMC Eagles with titles; Bobber Motorcycles: 1980 Honda 400 & 1985 Rebel 250; BMW wheels & parts; truck dog box; many old car parts & motorcycle parts; 1950 MJ Jeep; 1930 Model-A Sedan; Model T parts; furniture, clothes, appliances, baby items!

**COMMUNITY BARBECUE** at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 5401 Dunn Ave., Jacksonville. Saturday, 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Games, face painting and lots of fun!

**ESTATE SALE:** 37323 El Terrace Dr., Homeland, GA 31537. Friday, August 17 and Saturday, August 18, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

## FOR RENT

**CHARMING COUNTRY COTTAGE,** private drive off Sandy Ford Road, Callahan. 2BR/1.5BA, new carpet & paint inside and out, large deck and yard. Call (904) 673-1583 or (904) 672-6260. 81618

## PLANT CLINIC

On Monday, August 20, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Rebecca Jordi, Extension Director/Horticulture Agent will conduct a Plant Clinic. All residents are invited to bring plant samples showing landscape problems to the Yulee Extension office on Pages Dairy Road. Problems will be identified and solutions offered for correction. For information call 530-6353.

## EMPLOYMENT

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

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

**LOOKING TO HIRE a PAINTER,** experience negotiable, must have transportation, good work ethic, part-time to start; good pay! Call (904) 333-3262. tfn

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**HELP WANTED:** Lawn and yard maintenance person, valid license required. Franklin Property, (904) 845-7576. tfn

**SEEKING EXPERIENCED LAWN TECHNICIAN.** Must have clean valid driver's license, transportation and be dependable. Call (904) 879-6709 for and interview. tfn

**SALES ASSOCIATE:** Join the ERA Fernandina Beach Realty Callahan team! Florida real estate license required. Experienced or new - will train. Call Mary Vickers at 904-879-3011. 82318

**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 \$11.00 per hour. For applications, please call 904-879-4710 and ask for Janet or Erica. 83018

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**EXPERIENCED LAWN CARE HELPER,** must have valid driver's license and own transportation. Pay \$10/hour. Call (904) 554-4254. 82318

**ECS, Inc.** is hiring **HVAC DUCT INSTALLERS** and **HVAC/APPRENTICE HELPERS.** Experience and references preferred, but not required. Must have clear driving record. ECS offers comparable wages/benefits. Apply in person M-F, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. to ECS, Inc., 85083 Deonas Way, Yulee, (904) 225-5651. ECS, Inc. is a drug-free workplace. 82318

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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, August 6

Rodney Keyshawn Alderman, 22, 2736 Kara Circle, Hilliard: Duval County Warrant Driving While License Suspended/Revoked

## Wednesday, August 8

Mark Adam Starling, 32, 36221 Acorn Place 1, Hilliard: Violation Domestic Violence Injunction

## Thursday, August 9

Delores Ella Harn, 72, 37445 Cody Circle, B4, Hilliard: DUI  
 Jesse Robert Jordan, 29, 36065 Kelly Lane, #40, Hilliard: Duval County Warrant Failure to Appear Battery Cause Bodily Harm; Resisting without Violence

Megan Bell Wingate, 32, 44121 Kingbird Drive, Callahan: Duval County Warrant Failure to Appear Petit Theft Retail

Marshall Shane Latimer, 41, 555049 Thomas Road, Callahan: Jeff Davis County Georgia Warrant Violation of Probation Possession of Methamphetamine with Intent to Distribute

## Friday, August 10

Aaron Martin Henderson, 29, 44089 Caties Way, Callahan: Trespass After Warning

## Crash Course on Gardening

County Extension Director Rebecca Jordi will conduct a 3-day seminar, "Crash Course on North Florida Gardening." The classes will held on consecutive Thursdays: August 30, September 6 and 13; from 8 a.m. - noon at the Yulee County Building next door to the Yulee Extension office. Topic covered include: proper landscape practices and plants for our area, with different information being presented each day.

Notebooks, refreshments and plenty of garden material will be given away to participants. Classes will contain information on Florida Friendly plants, annuals, perennials, attracting wildlife, trees, shrubs, lawngrass, palms and

citrus. Appropriate watering and fertilization methods will be discussed as well as proper pruning and plant selection.

The cost is \$50 per person or \$75 per couple. Deadline for registration is Friday, August 24 at 5 p.m. Registration must be completed online through Eventbrite at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/crash-course-in-north-florida-gardening-tickets-45777900934>. After the August 24 registration deadline, the cost will go up to \$75 per person and \$100 per couple. There is a class limit of 30. For questions, contact the Extension office at 904-530-6351, or Ms. Jordi at [rljordi@ufl.edu](mailto:rljordi@ufl.edu).

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**WILLIAM MICHAEL BRIGGS**



William 'Bill' Michael Briggs, 65, of Callahan, went home to be with the Lord on August 11. Bill was born on November 22, 1952 in Jacksonville to William and Evelyn Briggs. He was an active member of Friendship Alliance Church where he loved to serve and be with his church family whom he dearly loved. He was a devoted employee at Brandies Ace Hardware in Callahan where he considered all of his coworkers his family. Bill enjoyed working with Friendship Alliance, Live Oak Baptist and First Baptist Church with the Florida Baptist Disaster Relief. He enjoyed writing about things he saw on the news or about disasters such as Katrina. He loved muscle cars and all kinds of cars and trucks. He loved people! His passion was helping people whether at work, or with car troubles such as flat tires or needing gas, he would give anyone the shirt off of his back. He loved his family and spending time with them above all.

He is survived by his loving wife, Virginia Clements Briggs; step-son John Christopher Larkin; and a brother Gregory Briggs. He was preceded in death by his parents, William and Evelyn Briggs.

The family received friends Tuesday, August 14 in the Nassau Funeral Home Chapel. The funeral service was held Wednesday, August 15 in the Nassau Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Tim Carpenter officiating. Interment will follow in Patterson, Georgia.


Pallbearers were Chris Larkin, Buddy Davis, Raymond Fachko, Mickey Henderson, Jim Harvey and Sambo Gordon.


Condolences may be expressed at [www.nassaufh.com](http://www.nassaufh.com).

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

# OBITUARIES

**JOHN ALLEN MERRITT**



John Allen Merritt, 81, of Callahan, went home to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ Sunday, August 12 at his residence, surrounded by loved ones. John was born  January 28, 1937 in Wilmington, North Carolina to Della Mae and Allen Hall Merritt. He served in the United States Army and the Army National Guard for 18 years.

His life revolved around his family and friends. He loved fishing, UNC Tar Heels basketball, watching Jimmy Swaggart, making his secret recipe Datil Pepper sauce, and spending time with all of his babies.

John is preceded in death by his wife Shirley Ann Merritt; his parents; sons John Arthur Merritt and Michael Allen Merritt; daughter Kimberly Marie Merritt; and granddaughter Valeri Kip Shepherd.


John is survived by 10 children, his daughters Deborah (Lee) Hunt, Amber (Craig) Christmas, Debra (Silas) Carter, Connie Harrell, Crystal Merritt and Ashley Merritt; sons Timothy (Kacey) Merritt, William Merritt, Charles Woodward, Jr. and Donald Woodward; 27 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren.


The family will receive friends Thursday, August 16 in the Nassau Funeral Home Chapel from 6-8 p.m. A celebration of life service will be held Friday, August 17 at 11 a.m. also at the funeral home with Pastor Ken Barney officiating. Interment will follow in the Arlington Park Cemetery beside his wife of 35 years.

Condolences may be expressed at [www.nassaufh.com](http://www.nassaufh.com).

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

**SAMUEL JACOB SIKES**



Samuel Jacob Sikes, 86, of Hilliard, passed away August 7 in Jacksonville. He was born September 6, 1931 in Nassau County, Florida. He served his  country during WW II in the US Army. He retired from the City of Hilliard Road Department. Mr. Sikes was a member of Bethlehem Primitive Baptist Church. His passion in life was farming.

Mr. Sikes was preceded in death by his parents, Felix and Ola Sikes; a granddaughter Christina Johnson; two brothers Jack and James Snowden; and two sisters Louise Ricketson and Helen Ricketson.


He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Helen M. Sikes; two children Denise (Frank) Tolosi and Sandra (Mike) Tolosi; four grandchildren Lisa Tolosi, Candace Parker, Carrie Johnson and Jacob Tolosi; six great-grandchildren; and a number of nieces, nephews and other relatives.

The family received friends Friday, August 10 at Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home. Funeral services were held Saturday, August 11 in the chapel of the funeral home with Elder Jimmy Brannan officiating. Burial followed in Mill Creek Cemetery.

Condolences may be expressed at [www.shepardfh.com](http://www.shepardfh.com).

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home in Folkston.

**GERTRUDE TOMORY**



Gertrude Tomory, 90, of Bryceville, passed away August 9 at her son's home in Jacksonville. She was born April 9, 1928 in North Carolina to the late Dump Reaves and Thelma Simmons Reaves. Gertrude grew

up in North Carolina where she met the love of her life, Louis A. Tomory. They were married July 21, 1945. Gertrude enjoyed taking long walks on the beach with her dog. In her spare time, she also enjoyed sewing but more than anything she liked watching her grandchildren and spending time with her family. Gertrude is predeceased by her parents; her husband of 40 years, Louis A. Tomory; son Louis 'Max' Tomory; and her sisters Ann and Alene.


Gertrude is survived by her children Ron Tomory of Jacksonville Beach, Bob Tomory of Jacksonville, Sue Bromagen of Kansas and Betty Martin of Bryceville; nine grandchildren Lisa, Bobby, Michelle, Ronnie, Beth, Jennifer, Julia, Tonya and Louis; 12 great-grandchildren; eight great-great-grandchildren.

A graveside service was held Tuesday, August 14 at Beaches Memorial Park Cemetery. The family received friends prior to service at the funeral home.

Arrangements were under the care of V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services at Beaches Memorial Park, 1500 Main Street, Atlantic Beach, 904-249-1166.

Visit: [www.ferreirafuneralservices.com](http://www.ferreirafuneralservices.com) to sign the family's guest book.

**JOHN RICHARD VINSON, SR.**



John Richard Vinson, Sr., of Hilliard, passed away on August 6. He was born August 22, 1963. He was a very caring and hardworking man, who never sat still. If he wasn't working he was helping someone in need. He enjoyed spending time with his kids, grandchildren, fishing and working on cars.

He is survived by his children John, Brandy, Christopher, Hannah and Nicholas; and his nine grandchildren.

Arrangements entrusted to Integrity Funeral Home & Cremations, Jacksonville, 904-891-6211.



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# OBITUARIES

## ROY LEE WINGATE, JR.



Roy Lee Wingate, Jr., 92, of Callahan, passed away on August 11. Roy, Jr. owned and operated Wingate's Chevron Station (formally Wingate's Standard Oil Service Station and Oil Company) on the corner of US 1 and A1A in Callahan for over 40 years and also worked as a railroad Telegraph Operator for 12 years. He was a 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Master Mason, Past Master of the Masonic Lodge of Callahan and was a member of the Morocco Shrine Club. He was born December 16, 1925 to Roy Lee and Louise (Jones) Wingate in Nassau County, Florida.

Mr. Roy was a generous, honest, and good-hearted man. Because he grew up in Callahan, he was well-known in the community. He liked to provide employment to boys looking for summer jobs; he often did things for others without expecting anything in return. Mr. Roy was friendly to all and he enjoyed making people laugh. He taught his children the values of honesty, responsibility, faithfulness, character and respectfulness. His actions modeled humility and empathy for others. Mr. Roy

will be remembered as always having a smile, joking with his friends and customers and playing the big bass drum for the Drum and Bugle Corp in Shrine parades.

He was predeceased three weeks ago by his wife of 67 years, Jeanette; his parents; his sister Lonnie; his Aunt Virgie (Alf) Green; and his grandmother Aggie Ogilvie Jones.

He is survived by two daughters and a son, Janet Wingate-Robinson, Leesa Graham and Keith Wingate; three grandchildren, Savanna Robinson, Ross Graham and Darci Wingate; a much loved daughter-in-law Terry Haynes Wingate; and two nephews.

The family will receive friends Wednesday, August 15 from 6-8 p.m. at Nassau Funeral Home. The funeral service will be held Thursday, August 16 at 10 a.m. at the First Baptist Church of Callahan, where Roy was a lifetime member, with Dr. Lynn Hyatt officiating. Interment will follow at Jones Cemetery.

Condolences may be expressed at [www.nassaufh.com](http://www.nassaufh.com).

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

## Affordable Housing in Nassau County

Justin M. Taylor, Chairman

The lack in affordable housing has been a long-standing issue in Nassau County and with our growing population, one that needs to be addressed soon. In 2017, the United Way presented the ALICE Report which focused on individuals who are just above the poverty level and do not have services available to them. (ALICE is an acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed). In the report, we found that Nassau County is one of four counties in which the affordability of housing dropped more than 20% from 2007-2015. We also see in the data that 37% of low to moderate income households are struggling to make ends meet. These concerns led the Nassau Board of County Commissioners to create a committee to address the vital issue and provide recommendations on how to move forward. A group of 11 community leaders have come together to form the Nassau County Affordable Housing Committee (AHAC) to ultimately serve as a catalyst for innovative solutions. However, before we can address the issue, we must first answer, "What is affordable housing?" and "Where is it needed?"

With the assistance from Nassau County and the City of Fernandina Beach, we are contracting with the University of Florida Shimer Center to create a comprehensive housing needs study to help us define and determine what the needs in the County truly are. Once we learn of the detailed needs, we will then begin crafting policy to effectively improve affordable housing countywide.

Many people have compared affordable housing to government subsidized homes and that is not within our plan and has not played any role in our discussion. To be clear, Nassau County is not creating a housing authority, but instead working through strategic partnerships, targeted ordinances, and meaningful incentives that assure that critical members of our workforce can find safe, dignified, housing within the proximity to the neighborhoods they enrich and serve. In fact, the more common term being used is "Workforce Housing."

According to the Housing and Urban Development website ([hud.gov](http://hud.gov)), "Families who pay more than 30% of the income for housing are considered cost burdened and may have difficulty

affording necessities such as food, clothing, transportation, and medical care." Using an example of a new college grad making an annual salary of \$32,000/year, federal guidelines say that their monthly rent should not be more than \$800. With the growth we are seeing in Nassau County, we need to be proactive and encourage developers to include affordable housing within their developments. In order to thrive and encourage successful communities, we need to provide better opportunities for our residents that include affordable living.

Housing affordability affects more people than some may realize. While we need adequate housing for all of our residents, many are on the brink of an even greater downfall. As a young child, I can remember my mom working two, sometimes three jobs just to put food on the table and a roof over our head. As a single parent she struggled just to get by. Many of the places we lived were areas with high crime and very few opportunities for success. Our living arrangement changed when I was 10 years old and we found ourselves sleeping in our car in a church parking lot. A 1986 Plymouth Gran Fury with no air conditioning is not how I envision a 10 year-old living, yet that was our home off and on for the next few years. In between sleeping in our car or at a friend's house, my mom still worked a few jobs to help provide for us, but the opportunity for quality affordable housing just wasn't there.

My personal goal for this committee is to ensure that people will not have to struggle like I did as a child and we can find quality housing that will provide opportunities for much of our county's workforce. While affordable housing may not directly affect you, I bet you know someone who it does directly affect.

The Nassau County Affordable Housing Committee (AHAC) is made up of the following community leaders: County Commissioner Justin Taylor (Chair), City Commissioner Len Kreger, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kathy Burns, Greg Matovina, Lisa Rozier, Mary Pitcher, Lora Britt, Carlene McDuffie, Jenna Emmons, Dr. Lauren Pagel, and Betsie Huben. Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 4:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers located at 96135 Nassau Place, Yulee, FL 32097.

**Obituaries are published free of charge.**  
They may be emailed to [news@westsidejournal.net](mailto:news@westsidejournal.net).

## 2018 Callahan Christmas Parade

The 45th Annual Callahan Christmas Parade & Crafts Fair will be held Saturday, December 1. The Arts & Crafts Fair will be held in the Wells Fargo parking lot from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. The theme of the parade is "A Piney Woods Christmas" and will start promptly at 11 a.m. at the Callahan Depot.

Parade and float entry cost is \$45; and vendor entry for the arts & crafts fair will be \$55. The deadline for parade sponsorship is November 1. Please visit [www.nassaucountyflchamber.com](http://www.nassaucountyflchamber.com) or call (904) 261-3248 for more information.

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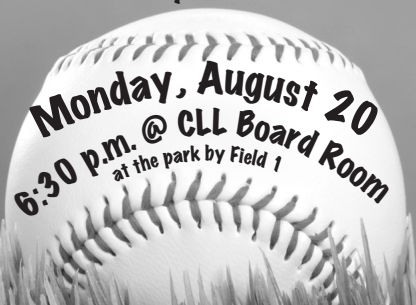
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## Callahan Little League's Annual General Assembly Meeting & Board Elections

All positions are open for the 2019 season. Must be a member in good standing with the league to run for position or vote.



Paul D!

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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 Barhlette (Afghanistan), Johnathon Bates (Florida), Timothy Beasley (Cuba), Cody Beaver (Washington), Danielle Beaver (Spain), Jessica Bell (Hawaii), 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 (North Carolina), Conrad Braawn (Afghanistan), Ryan Brooks (Connecticut), 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. Gahrts (Oklahoma), Michael E. Garcia (Afghanistan), Marcus Gee (Iraq), Samantha Gee (Korea), Tabettha 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), Phaylyn Griffith (California), 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. Oxfurth (Connecticut), Walter Oxfurth (New Mexico), Chase Parden (Kansas), Michael Park (South Korea), Danielle Parker (North Carolina), Jeremy Pelkey (Georgia), Christopher Phelan (Virginia), Darren Phelan (Washington State), Linn Phillips, III (Italy), Kyle Pipkins (South Carolina), Austin Potochnik (Japan), Dusty Price (Iraq), Michael Price (Germany), Kenneth Pullum (Washington, DC), Kyle Pullum (Louisiana), Robert W. Pyles (Kuwait), Jeffery Rapadas (Kuwait), Justin Reed (North Carolina), Kasie Richardson (North Carolina), Jeffrey Rigdon (Kentucky), Camilla Roberts (Alaska), David Roberts (Alaska), Stephen Roberts (Mayport), Michael Robinson (Alabama), Jason Rodgers (Texas), Douglas Raymond Roth, Marc Rowe (Georgia), Brian M. Sartain, Jr. (Pensacola), James Sanders (Germany), Tressie Scott (Afghanistan), James Scully (Germany), Donald Shaw (Iraq), Michael Shearer (Illinois), Jesse D. Silcox (Bahrain), Tayib A. Simmons (San Diego), Daniel Singley, Corey Slayton (California), Christopher E. Smith (Iraq), James A. Smith (North Carolina), Michael J. Smith (Alaska), David Stallings (Kuwait), Bill Starling (Iraq), Larry V. Starratt, III (Korea), Caleb & Jordan Stoner (North Carolina), James 'Mike' Stringer (Iraq), Joseph R. Taylor (Texas), Luke Thomas (Germany), Michael Thomas (North Carolina), Tim Thomas, Crystal Thompson (Iraq), Terry Thompson (Japan), Tiffany Thompson (Washington), Sarah Tindell (North Carolina), Adam Tyndall (Germany), William Varner (California), Shawn W. Vickers (California), Daniel Vroman (Missouri), Jonathan Vroman (Virginia), Brett Wade (Florida), Jeff Walters (Iraq), Shawn Ward (Texas), Brian Waring (Iraq), Daniel Waters, James D. Whitman, Earl Youman, Jr. (Virginia)

## CAR-B-QUE Saturday in Hilliard



Saturday, at Stein Tompkins Sports Complex on Bay Road in Hilliard, a Car-B-Que will be held to raise money for Hilliard Youth Football. Of course, there will be a Car Show with trophies for top cars and also a National Sanctioned Steak Cook-off. The teams will be cooking Steak, Chicken Wings and St. Louis Style Ribs for top money prizes. The car show begins at 9 a.m. Around noon, ribs, chicken wings and French fries will also be available for purchase. This is sure to be some good barbecue from top cooks from all over. All proceeds will go to the boys and girls of Hilliard Youth Football. For more information, contact Hal Keene at 904-860-1202.

## Sheriff's Explorer Program

The Nassau County Sheriff's Office Explorer Unit is a member of the Florida Sheriff's Explorer Association. The F.S.E.A. is made up of explorer posts from around the state of Florida. Each post is comprised of young adults that are exploring the field of law enforcement. These young adults are males and females ages 13 to 21 years old.



FSEA was created to allow Sheriff's Explorers to meet quarterly for training, competition and networking. Building today's youth into tomorrow's leaders! Law Enforcement Exploring provides educational training for youth and young adults ages 13-21 on the purposes, mission and objectives of law enforcement. The program provides career orientation experiences, leadership opportunities and community service activities.

Explorer Training will involve learning: CPR/First Aid; Physical Training; Firearm Safety & Training;

Ride-Along Safety; Criminal Law; Crime Scene Investigations; Traffic Stops; Report Writing; Communications; Boot Camp Training; Corrections; Community Involvement and so much more! The Explorer's meet the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Sheriff's Office. To apply for the program visit the online at: [www.nassauso.com/explorer-program](http://www.nassauso.com/explorer-program) and print out the application. Return completed application to the Nassau County Sheriff's Office at 77151 Citizen's Circle, Yulee, FL 32097. For more information call (904) 225-0331.

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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](mailto:news@westsidejournal.net). God Bless our Troops!**



# Are You Ready, YET?

Kelsey Irvine

The Nassau County Youth Emergency Team (YET) completed its inaugural year in 2017-2018 with 17 graduates. This innovative program partnered Nassau County 4-H and Emergency Management utilizing the fundamental curriculum from Teen CERT and partnering it with the philosophies of 4-H.

Several of these graduates have since continued on with the program volunteering at events as first-aid responders, conducting public outreach and communication, applied for National positions, competed in local and district speech competitions and even leading a massive service learning event teaching over 400 teenagers at 4-H University. Our graduates have impressed their parents, friends, instructors, and practically everyone they encounter. This is attributed due to their wealth of knowledge and wholesome character.

What is YET? So what exactly happens in a Youth Emergency Team class? Youth ages 11-18 sign up through 4-H. Participants attend several classes spanning a few months. This allows the training to be more in-depth and strengthen the team mentality of the cadre. The youth complete a final written exam and drill, then attend a graduation ceremony. Once graduated they are able to participate in community events as official YETies!

The program is free unless the

participants seek outside activity in 4-H, which would only require a \$20 a year fee. Older youth who show good leadership are tasked with being a group mentor. These group mentors oversee 2-3 other YET members for group activities and evaluation preparations. Group mentors are also tasked with other assignments such as helping instructors, checking homework, or leading class activities. These mentors also receive extra community service hours for their additional responsibilities. All graduates earn a minimum of 40 community service hours and there is no maximum allowance.

Each week will tackle multiple subjects involving emergency response or disaster preparedness. These topics include: Disaster preparations, evacuation routes, and supply kits; Animal sheltering and behavior; Search and Rescue; Stress Management; Terrorism; Practice Drills; First-aid; and Fire Safety.

This year's team will include everything from last year with the addition of another level of mentors. Graduates from the inaugural class are dedicated to helping the next team and will have a large role in leading this year's YET!

Why Join? Our graduates have given us quotes about YET stating that by completing the program they have/are: A sense of "family" and belonging; Increasing Confidence; Feeling empowered with skills to help

themselves and others; Overcoming emotional issues; Leadership skills; and Public Speaking confidence. Beyond this our graduates earn large amounts of community service, have opportunities to practice their skills, join a team that is committed to helping Nassau County and have access to career-readiness opportunities and support.

Up for it? If your family is interested in YET, consider joining us for our interest meeting Thursday, August 30 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the Nassau



County Emergency Operations Center. No RSVP required but it is appreciated.

Registrations for the next class are due September 7 and the first class will begin September 13 (hurricanes permitting). All classes are held at the Nassau County Emergency Operations Center from 4:30-7:30 p.m.

For questions visit our dedicated Facebook Page or you can call either Ms. Kelsey (904-530-6353) or Mrs. Paula (904-548-0900).



## FREE Diabetes Program

Do you or someone you love have diabetes? Everyone with Diabetes Counts is a program that encourages small lifestyle changes while learning about your diabetes and the way it affects your health.

**Wednesdays, Now through September 5**  
MCCI Callahan from 2 - 4 p.m.

Call (904) 482-0189 to pre-register or for additional information.

## Baby Donations needed!



The Nest, A Women's Center is in dire need of several baby items. The Nest Women's Center is a place where women can go 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 Baby Formula.

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**Top Round Roast Beef \$4.00 lb.**



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**5 lb. Breaded Chicken Tenderloin \$7.95**  
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**Bone-In Chuck Roast \$2.99 lb.**  
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**USDA Choice Angus Cowboy Steaks - 10 oz. \$3.95 ea.**  
Great for the Grill!  
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**Fresh Lean Ground Beef Family Pack \$1.99 lb.**  
Expires 8-21-18 WJ

**Fresh Fryer Drumsticks 10 lb. Bag \$5.95 lb.**  
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**Buy One, Get One FREE Cut Turkey Necks or Wings \$1.69 lb.**  
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10 lb. French Fries

**\$169.95**

Expires 8-21-18 WJ

## FREEZER SPECIAL

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1 Package Sliced Bacon  
1 2 lb. Pack Ground Beef  
3 lb. Fryer Drumsticks

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Pete and Barbara Smith live in a lovely mid-century modern home on Amelia Island and their backyard abuts the thick and wild natural area which is a part of Egan's Creek and the Greenway. Barbara has ten 4'x 8' raised vegetable garden beds and Pete enjoys tending his bees as they make their delicious

## Spotlight on Nassau Gardens

use palmetto plants. Other bee friendly native plants blooming in July and August are the more common nectar sources. Those plants are elderberry, loblolly bay, Mexican clover and many local wildflowers. Bees collect pollen, which is a protein, to raise their young. They also collect nectar and consume the honey as their food supply. If there is not enough honey stored in their bee hives, beekeepers must leave the honey in the hive. This spring was a wonderful time for bees to make honey,



honey. Look at his beekeeping activities at [info@hivepirate.com](mailto:info@hivepirate.com). The vegetable gardens support rotating crops of basil, lettuce, squash, turnips, kale and more. They have wonderful compost piles near the back of their property. The compost uses leaves from pine, magnolia and coastal oaks and maintains a constant 130-140 degrees most days which encourages the material to break down quickly. This means the Smiths have a constant supply of homemade, rich soil to add to their vegetable garden.

Pete first heard about beekeeping in Boy Scouts. Then he learned how good the local Florida environment was for keeping bees and how the native plants provide plenty of nectar for the bees which enable the bees to produce delicious honey. In the spring, the local honey is produced primarily from native holly and in the summer the bees

so there also are many delicious bottles of honey available to sell.

So how do we keep our own yards bee friendly? First, we should never prune or trim anything while it is in bloom. A good time for pruning is in February and March. You can also reduce or eliminate the use of pesticides in your landscape. Remember to always follow label



instructions. Planting indigenous plants, such as cabbage palm, saw palmetto, yaupon holly, gallberry, wax myrtle and redbay would be a good start. Pete and Barbara are very happy together with their vibrant interests and their enthusiasm for bees and native plants is inspiring.

"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](mailto:beawalker105@gmail.com). For more information, call the Extension office at 904-530-6353.



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