



"AND WHATEVER YOU DO, WHETHER IN WORD OR DEED, DO IT ALL IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS, GIVING THANKS TO GOD THE FATHER THROUGH HIM." - COLOSSIANS 3:17

Quilts of Valor Ceremony Held Monday Night



Dawn S. West

If you have never been to a Quilts of Valor ceremony, you have missed a special event. It's something that all Americans should witness at least once. The Quilts of Valor Foundation began in 2003 by Catherine Roberts, from a dream she had while her son was deployed in Iraq. The dream was a young man sitting on the side of his bed in the middle of the night hunched over. The feeling was one of despair. She could see war demons clustered around him, dragging him down into an emotional gutter. The next vision was him wrapped in a quilt, which changed his whole demeanor from despair to one of hope. The message from the dream was: Quilts equal Healing. From that dream, the Quilts of Valor Foundation was formed. The quilts are to be quality made and quilted, not tied, and awarded, not passed down.

As we know, many of the men and

women that serve our country come home with lots of baggage in their hearts and heads from their service. This is just a small way to show our gratitude and love and to give comfort to those who have served unselfishly.

Monday night, the Country Star Quilt Guild sponsored the special Quilts of Valor ceremony. The event was hosted by The Anchor Church in Callahan. The Country Star Quilt Guild is a Quilt of Valor Guild, and the only one in Nassau County. Guild President Lori Frederick and Treasurer Sue Deyo are certified Quilts of Valor representatives. Veterans must be nominated to be awarded a Quilt of Valor. The guild members have worked tirelessly and with so much care and love to make these quilts. The pictures are only a glimpse of how beautiful each large quilt is.

Monday, 14 Veterans were awarded quilts. Each Veteran was called to the stage individually, where their service years and their different tours of duty were announced. Their quilt was undraped behind them and then wrapped around them while saying: "This quilt is meant to comfort you. Quilters say, every quilt tells a story and your quilt began in Callahan. It was pieced by (name of the quilter) and quilted by (another name). Now this quilt becomes a part of your story and we hope it will be a tangible reminder

Harris, 1966-2003; Specialist Robert Hewitt, 1963-1969; Commander Gary Weistroffer, 1983-2006; Hull Technician Fireman Milton Bruce Wells, 1970-1973; and Rear Admiral John Wilcox, 1967-2002. US Air Force: Senior Master Sgt. Charles Perkins, 1972-1998; and Senior Airman Kelly K. Sherrill, 1968-1972. US Marine Corps: Corporal Russell Kennedy Perkins, 1960-1964. The evening also included a special presentation for Veterans that served in Vietnam. Each member was given a commemorative pin, along with a gift from the US Department of Defense. The ceremony ended with all the Veterans on stage while the song, I'm Proud to Be an American, was played.

Special thanks to the Country Star Quilt Guild for their remarkable work. This is but just one of the many ways they continue to pour into our community. Currently, they are holding a quilt raffle as a fundraiser for the guild. Tickets are \$1 each and we have plenty tickets at the Westside Journal office. The drawing will be held Monday, December 9. Please drop by and purchase a few tickets to assist these members to continue to do their amazing work for our community.

It was a special night for all the Veterans, their families and all the guests attending. It certainly made me so proud to be an American and to honor those who fought and are continuing to fight for our freedom. Please visit the Westside Journal Facebook page for more pictures of the event.

God Bless America!



of our appreciation to you for a job well done. We thank you and your family for your selfless sacrifice."

The following are the recipients of a Quilt of Valor: US Army: Sergeant Ronald S. Blume, 1966-1968; Sergeant Bruce Jones, 1967-1970; Sergeant David Melcher, 1974-1978; and Sergeant Eugene Charles Merson, 1966-1969. US Navy: Chief Petty Officer Mitchell Ashley, 1981-2008; Captain John Donovan, 1975-2014; Petty Officer First Class Brent Harris, 1986-2008; Captain C. M. (Tim)



Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Saturday, November 23

10:30 a.m.

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Celebrate Farm City Week

Thanksgiving season is a time when many Americans gather with their families and reflect upon many blessings. One of those blessings is a nutritious and diverse food supply produced by our farmers and ranchers. We also benefit from other agricultural products that provide clothing, housing, medicines, fuel and other products we use on a daily basis. These basic necessities are available to us because of a broad partnership of farmers, ranchers, processors, brokers, truckers, shippers, scientists, wholesalers and retailers. Our collaborative partnerships help maintain our standard of living.

In appreciation of our farm-city partnerships, the President of the United States annually proclaims the week leading up to Thanksgiving Day as National Farm City Week. Florida's agricultural, natural resource and food industries employ more than two million individuals and annually contributes \$182.6 billion to Florida's economy. For more agricultural stats, visit the Census of Agriculture – 2022 Census Publications – State and County



Profiles – Florida (usda.gov) and www.ifas.ufl.edu/extension-economic-contribution-reports/.

We encourage our fellow citizens to pause for a moment during this holiday season and consider the many diverse and healthy foods available to us. Neither the farm nor the city can exist in isolation. Our interdependence creates jobs, markets and relationships that build our economy and support our collective security. As we celebrate Thanksgiving, let us remember the farm-city relationships that have allowed us to create an outstanding quality of life for all Floridians.

Locally, the Nassau County Farm Bureau celebrated the national event by placing educational display boards at the Callahan and Fernandina Beach libraries to educate the community on the connection between farmers, consumers, shippers, packers, scientists, and everyone else who has a part.

Please join us in celebrating Farm City Week, November 21 - 27, as we give thanks for all that we enjoy.

Human Remains Discovered

The Nassau County Sheriff's Office is investigating the discovery of human remains found in Four Creeks State Forest. A hunter reported finding skeletal remains last Friday afternoon, while walking along the Old Wood Shingle Mill Trail in Callahan. Crime scene investigators are thoroughly searching the area for evidence that could assist in identifying the deceased.

The remains were transported to the Medical Examiner's Office for forensic analysis to determine the individual's identity, demographic information, cause and manner of death and approximate time since death.



"This investigation is in its preliminary stages," said Sheriff Bill Leeper. "We will provide updates to the public as new information becomes available."

Anyone with information related to this case is urged to contact the Nassau County Sheriff's Office at 904-225-5174 or 904-548-4009.

Letters to the Editor



Letters to the Editor may be emailed to news@westsidejournal.net but must include a complete name. Letters should be no longer than 300 words.

Forget Me Not!

Dear Editor,

As a child, I can remember Christmas didn't officially start until the day after Thanksgiving. What's the rush? Decorations on the street poles already lit, Christmas music playing on the radio, Santa in the mall. Boy, have times changed! I wish Thanksgiving would get as much attention, or even more, as Christmas sometimes...Please, forget me not!

Brilliant colors, forget me not! Turkey and dressing, yams, forget me not! Families

getting together, laughing and enjoying each other without exchanging a gift, forget me not! Being thankful for each day and living in a country that is still free! Forget me not! Thanking God for what He has blessed us with, forget me not!

Let the month of November be a thankful month before the Christmas holiday approaches. Forget me not!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Ms. Gerry & Lovebug

In the Kitchen...

- 1 cup water
- 1 cup white sugar

Fresh Cranberry Sauce

- 1 (12 oz.) package fresh cranberries (such as Ocean Spray)

Bring water to a boil in a saucepan; add sugar and cook until sugar is dissolved, about 5 minutes. Stir cranberries into the saucepan and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low, and simmer until cranberries have popped and sauce is chunky, about 10 minutes or longer for desired consistency. The longer you cook it, the less chunky it will be. Pour sauce into a serving dish or jars and cover until ready to use; the pectin in the cranberries will make the cranberry sauce gel as it cools. Mix cranberry sauce with a fork before serving.

TIME FOR SHRIMP!

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30 pc Shrimp
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Bryceville Elementary School Honored in Washington, D.C.

The Nassau County School District announced that Bryceville Elementary School was recognized as a 2024 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education. This honor recognizes Bryceville Elementary's exemplary academic performance and commitment to closing achievement gaps among student groups.

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Kathy Burns, Bryceville Elementary Principal Tammy Smith, and dedicated teacher Pam Ploegert, represented the school and district at the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program Award Ceremony in Washington, D.C., on November 7-8, 2024. This annual event highlights the accomplishments of schools nationwide that demonstrate excellence in education. Bryceville Elementary is among 356 schools across the United States recognized for their dedication to fostering an environment where students thrive academically and socially. These schools serve as models of effective practices, inspiring educators and communities.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools



Shown (l to r) are: Dr. Kathy Burns, BES Principal Tammy Smith, and BES teacher Pam Ploegert.

Program, established in 1982 by then-Secretary of Education Terrel H. Bell, highlights top-performing schools and shares best practices. Awardees represent diverse communities across the country and are celebrated for achieving high academic standards or making significant progress in closing achievement gaps.

Bryceville Elementary School's achievement reflects the Nassau County School District's mission to foster educational excellence.

Gun Raffle Drawing Held

Friday, November 1, a drawing was held for the Gun Raffle put on by Callahan Hagan Ace Hardware with a portion of the monies donated to the Pinky Promise Foundation, Inc.

Pinky Promise is a Cancer Resource Center for women diagnosed with any type of cancer. To be eligible for their services, you will need to visit the boutique and supply them with a current pathology report (within 3 months of date of diagnosis) and a photo ID. You need to be actively going through chemotherapy or radiation.

Pinky Promise is located in Callahan, directly across from Callahan Elementary School in the Harper Rose Cottage. They offer items that you will be able to use as you begin your journey with chemotherapy or radiation treatments. The products are brand new and complimentary to you. They have a large selection of new wigs, head scarves, chemo gift bags and mastectomy camisoles, just to name a few. The products are offered free of charge. The boutique is staffed by



volunteers and is open Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

You are not required to schedule an appointment prior to visiting, however, they do suggest that you call prior to your visit. Call 904-626-2855 and speak to Sybil for more information.

Callahan Hagan Ace Hardware owner Bill Hagan was on hand to do the drawing for the Beretta A400 Xtreme Plus, 12GA, 26", Kimber Rose Gold Ultra II 45ACP and the Savage Arms Impulse Big Game 6.5 Creedmoor 22" BBL 4RD Woodland. Names will be announced once the winners have completed the necessary requirements to own the firearms.

JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

Yes, I am still floating on cloud nine! With each announcement of President Trump's nominations for high level appointments, I just get more excited. The man is very serious about draining the swamp, a monumental task, but a task that is in dire need of accomplishing. It is so easy to see just how good of an appointee is by the reactions of the left are when a name is released. Trump is building an American Dream Team and hopefully his nominees will be approved. Senator Marco Rubio as Secretary of State, great choice. Pete Hegseth, a decorated war veteran as Secretary of Defense! Representative Matt Gaetz as Attorney General, the best choice ever and one the Democrats hate the most. Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. as Secretary of Health and Human Services, which frightens the Democrats also. Governor Kristi Noem heading up Homeland Security with Tom Homan as Border Czar, wow! Then throw in Vivek Ramaswamy and Elon Musk as the Government Efficiency team and Tulsi Gabbard as the Director of National Intelligence, along with many more reputable appointments, yes, that is a dream team.

Of course, we still have a Lame Brained President and Vice President along with a Lame Democratic Senate to deal with for two more months. They will attempt to block every nomination, pass legislation and issue Executive Orders to interfere with the Trump initiatives. They still can't comprehend that America has spoken, and the American message to them is, we are sick of the liberal left and we want our country back!

Trump isn't even in office yet, but within 72 hours of winning the election, he appoints the first female as Chief of Staff (a woman with north Florida ties and daughter of Pat Summerall). The Stock Market hits an all-time high; US companies have already made plans to bring production home; Bitcoin hits all-time highs; the large migrant caravan

that was heading to America is breaking up; Qatar agrees to evict Hamas leaders; Hamas announced they want immediate end to the war; the Taliban claims to want a "new chapter;" China states they want peaceful coexistence with America; Russia is ready to speak with the US; the European Union now wants to buy US gas...not Russian gas; and Ukraine leaders are already in talks with Trump and Musk.

Meanwhile, we are still suffering from the inept wasting of our hard-earned money by the democrats according to @Mattattack. Joe Biden had a plan to bring high speed internet to rural America. \$42 billion for the BEAD (Broadband Equity Access and Deployment) Program. Tasked with the implementation of this program was none other than the Broadband Czar herself, Kamala Harris. \$42 BILLION to get rural America faster streaming to 8 million people. This averages nearly \$5 thousand per person. They could have sent Starlink to everyone at approximately \$500 each and saved the American taxpayer \$36 billion dollars. Of course, they don't listen to common sense and logical solutions, seems to be rampant amongst liberals. So, moving on with the \$42 Billion BEAD program under Kamala, ZERO people have received this new high-speed internet. Additional climate change mandates on infrastructure projects, prioritizing government owned networks over private investment and over-regulation, plus just poor leadership has contributed to the colossal failure. They also committed \$7.5 billion to build EV chargers. They only built eight! So, the question remains, are they incompetent or are they stealing? Where's the money Joe and Kamala?

We all need to keep praying for America and Donald Trump. As I have said, he's not a savior but he is one of the best leaders ever!

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



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BEFORE

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Words of Wisdom

Pastor Adam Pierce, Liberty Baptist Church, Callahan



Let me start by immediately saying...I do not consider myself the source of wisdom. The title of the article is intended to spur the question, where are the words of wisdom? We have institutions that give us knowledge and education. We have sources that feed us information. We have trusted circles that share their opinions with us. However, where does wisdom come from?

The Bible is made up of 66 books. Of those 66 books, there is one called Proverbs and the Book of Proverbs is often referred to as "The Book of Wisdom." God inspired the King of Israel, Solomon, to pen these proverbs for one stated purpose, *"To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding; To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgement, and equity; To give subtlety to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion."* Proverbs 1:2-4

In a day where the world struggles to grasp understanding, instruction, justice, and equity...God has given to us this knowledge and discretion through His word and wisdom. We could all use some more simplicity in life and from a much younger age. And God's grace to the world is that He gives us all of life's wisdom in one book.

I want to encourage you to consider starting a daily exercise of adding to your life wisdom. In the Book of Proverbs there are 31 chapters...a chapter for each day of most months. And where the months are shorter, you read a few extra chapters in those months. By doing so you will be repeatedly adding to your understanding godly wisdom about many areas of life. Areas which include relationships, integrity, work ethic, honesty, friendship, communication, childhood, parenthood, wealth, manhood, womanhood, marriage, home, diet, and attitude just to name a few.

God said it best when He said, *"Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom..."* Proverbs 4:7

Attend the church of your choice this Sunday.

AllieMay Collecting for the Homeless

AllieMay Griffin, 10, of Callahan, and a 4th grade student at Sonshine Christian Academy, is collecting items for Micah's Place and the Life Care Center of Hilliard for Christmas. Micah's Place is a provider of safety and support for individuals who have experienced domestic violence. The Life Care Center of Hilliard is a nursing and rehabilitation center.



Items requested for Micah's Place: an Angel Tree has been set up to purchase items. For Life Care: coloring books, coloring pencils and crossword or word search books.

Items are requested no later than Wednesday, December 11. For those wishing to donate, items may be dropped off at: CG's Hair Salon, 541671 US Highway 1, Callahan, hours: Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. - noon.

CES Warriors of the Month



Shown are the Warriors of the Month for the month of October at Callahan Elementary School. Our character trait for October was PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY. Students were chosen for showing responsibility for their actions throughout their school days.

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The Arc Nassau Welcomes New Director of Programs!

Open House Friday, November 22, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Megan Felman, MAIO

The Arc Nassau in Yulee, a leading nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting individuals with developmental disabilities, is pleased to announce the appointment of Earnest Davis as the new Director of Programs. With a strong background in psychology, extensive experience in mental health facilities, and a deep commitment to the special-needs population, Davis brings a wealth of expertise and passion to the organization.

Davis' professional journey includes significant work in both clinical and community settings, where he has developed and managed programs focused on improving the quality of life for individuals with a variety of developmental, emotional, and behavioral challenges. His experience working with diverse populations has equipped him with a comprehensive understanding of the unique needs and strengths of those served by The Arc Nassau. He holds a degree in Psychology and has worked in multiple mental health facilities, where he honed his skills in program development, staff training, and direct support services.

In his new role at The Arc Nassau, Davis will oversee a wide range of programs designed to enhance the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities. His leadership will guide the development and expansion of

services that promote self-advocacy, independence, and inclusion, empowering individuals to reach their full potential. "We are thrilled to welcome Earnest Davis to The Arc Nassau team," said Jennifer Paulk, Executive Director of The Arc Nassau. "His unique combination of education,

experience, and passion for supporting the special needs community makes him a perfect fit for this critical role. We are confident that his leadership will help us continue to

provide high-quality, person-centered services to the individuals and families we serve."

The Arc Nassau will be hosting an Open House on Friday, November 22 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at 86051 Hamilton St., Yulee. We invite the community to come out and meet Earnest and give him the opportunity to answer any questions the community may have.

About The Arc Nassau: The Arc Nassau is a non-profit organization that has been serving the intellectually and developmentally disabled community for over 45 years. Programming for clients consists of: life skills development, employment services, job coaching and on the job training. The Mission of the Arc Nassau is to Educate, Motivate and Encourage individuals with varying disabilities to achieve independence and enjoy successful and fulfilling lives.



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Callahan 6U Black Champions!



On Sunday, November 10, the 6U Black team from Callahan Sports Association won their Championship game beating the Oakleaf Knights and making them Division III Champions. This team of boys, mostly all first-year players, have proven to be dedicated and hardworking players. They have worked so hard and grown together as a team this season! They pulled off this win with just 10 players. The team had great coaches and just absorbed their knowledge and put it to action. During the season, the team won 6 games and lost 4. They were the only team from Callahan Sports Association to make it to the championship! This was an amazing win and great season! We're so proud of these boys! Go Warriors!

The team players are: Maverick Clark, Noah Crowe, Camden Dampier, Blake Egerer (quarterback), Aiden English, Lane Fouraker, Remington Hannah, Bowen Haspel, Jacob Homan and Brantley Jefferson. The coaches are: Head Coach Bobby Haspel; and assistants Mike English, Clint Fouraker and Austin MacDonald. Congratulations!

CHRISTMAS BIKE Giveaway

The Town of Callahan is doing a Christmas Bicycle Giveaway! There is a Santa Box located in the lobby of Callahan Town Hall to register with your name and number and drop it in the box for your child's chance to win a bicycle. There will be four (4) bicycles that will be given away. Two will be for children ages 1-5 years old; and the other two will be for children ages 6-12 years old. You must register your child no later than Wednesday, December 18 at 3 p.m.

The drawing for the bicycle will be held Wednesday, December 18 at 4 p.m. at Callahan Town Hall.



Community First Credit Union Breaks Ground on Callahan Branch

Maria Coppola, APR, CPRC

Community First Credit Union is launching construction at its Callahan Branch, an expansion location set to become the credit union's 24th in the region and its second branch in Nassau County. Credit Union staff, leaders and its board celebrated with a groundbreaking ceremony on Tuesday, November 12 with the mayor of Callahan, representatives with the Nassau County Economic Development Board and Congressman Aaron Bean's office. Located on US 1 between Old Dixie Hwy. and Brandies Avenue, beside the new Tractor Supply store, the branch is set to be complete and open in the second half of 2025.



The Callahan Branch will be a 3,100-square-foot freestanding location with a full-service drive-thru, two ATMs (drive-up and walk-up), and Community First's signature tower feature. Designed with Community First's modern branch concept, this location has an open floor plan, upgraded digital technologies, and a historical mural depicting the history of West Nassau County.

"We are looking forward to serving our Callahan members and businesses where they live," said Sam Inman, President and CEO of Community

First. "Community First is proud to be a part of the growth of west Nassau." The Callahan Branch is part of the credit union's Branch Transformation Project, which aims to enhance member service by expanding the branch network and configuring spaces to create a modern retail experience. Community First has served Nassau with a branch in Yulee since 2018. It has nearly 10,000 members in the county with nearly 1,800 in Callahan. According to the most recent U.S. Census, Callahan is growing at nearly 4% annually and has grown more than 17% since the 2010 census. According to analysts, the area is expected to experience future job growth of nearly 50 percent. The nearby 400-acre Crawford Diamond Industrial Park is contributing to the need for infrastructure and services for residents, businesses and their employees.

Quilt Fundraiser \$1 Tickets



The Country Star Quilt Guild is raffling this beautiful quilt to raise funds for their many projects. Tickets may be purchased from any Guild member, as well as from the Westside Journal office, 450034 SR 200, Callahan, where the quilt is on display. This beautiful, king-size quilt is an original custom design on a white background with hand sown cross stitch patterns on each block and custom quilted. The drawing for the quilt winner, will be held Monday, December 9 at their December meeting. You do not have to be present to win!

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West Nassau's Singley State Champion Swimmer

Congratulations to West Nassau High School's Brody Singley who won the FHSAA 2A State Champion in 200 Free; and 100 Butterfly! Way to represent Warrior Nation Brody!

Brody also won the State Championship in both events last year. Congratulations!



NCCOA Requests Donations for



Join Nassau County Council on Aging (NCCOA) as we collect gifts for Nassau County seniors to help make their holidays a little brighter. Many seniors live alone and are without family and friends...and could use some good cheer!

Please drop off new, unwrapped gifts at the Westside Senior Life Center, 37002 Ingham Road in Hilliard; or to the Westside Journal office, 450034 SR 200, Callahan; no later than Friday, December 6.

Suggested items include: Non-slip socks or slippers; blankets/throws; bath robes; bath towels/washcloths; dish

towels; pill organizers; toiletry items; liquid soap; tissues; toilet paper; hand sanitizer; Q-tips; face wipes; brushes/combs; nail files; postage stamps; battery-operated candles/flashlights; batteries (all sizes); first aid kits; shaving and nail kits; puzzle/coloring books; markers; playing cards; sweet treats; scarves; calendars/planners; umbrellas; pet toys and treats; and gift cards for Winn-Dixie, Walmart and/or Target.

Monetary donations (cash/check) are also appreciated. Make your check payable to Nassau County Council on Aging and specify "Santas for Seniors" in the memo section. You may mail your check to NCCOA, c/o Santas for Seniors, 1901 Island Walk Way, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034. The deadline for donations is Friday December 6, 2024.

Teacher of the Year Finalists Announced Three from West Side Schools



Colleen Watts
Bryceville Elementary



Kayla Hooper
Callahan Intermediate



Mackenzie Washington
West Nassau High School

The Nassau County School District is thrilled to announce the top five finalists for District Teacher of the Year. These outstanding educators have been recognized by their peers for their exceptional dedication and impact on their school communities.

To compete for this distinguished honor, school-level winners submitted an application including a resume, lesson plan, and a 30-minute lesson video showcasing their teaching practices. A judging committee comprising school administrators, last year's Nassau County Teacher of the Year, and former Florida Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Jean Lamar, carefully reviewed these materials to identify the top five finalists. Applications were evaluated based on specific criteria aligned with the Florida Department of Education's Teacher of the Year program.

The finalists will now advance to the next stage, which includes submitting essays responding to writing prompts and participating in a panel interview. These components will be scored using the state's official Teacher of the Year rubric. The district's process mirrors the state's comprehensive selection process, ensuring a rigorous and fair evaluation of each candidate.

The winner of the District Teacher of the Year will be revealed at the Nassau Education Foundation Teacher of the Year Gala on January 31, 2025. This honoree will then represent Nassau County in the Florida Teacher of the Year competition, which includes additional components such as a reflection video and statewide recognition events.

The top five finalists are:

- Colleen Watts – Bryceville Elementary School
- Kayla Hooper – Callahan Intermediate School
- Jennie Jenkins – Fernandina Beach High School
- Mackenzie Washington – West Nassau High School
- Caitlin Stroh – Yulee Elementary School

Please join us in celebrating these phenomenal teachers and wishing them the best in the next steps of the competition! For more information about the Florida Department of Education's Teacher of the Year program, visit <https://www.fldoe.org/teaching/recognition/>.

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How to get Involved:

1. Contact Jenna D., Facility Manager at 904-874-5261 or email her at jenna@dayspringvillage.org.
2. You will be assigned a resident and their 'wishes'.
3. Have your gift wrapped and back to the facility by December 20th.
4. Baking - If you like to bake we would love to have you sponsor the evening snack for the residents!
5. Music - If you have a musical talent you would like to share we invite you to come and perform!

Dayspring Village is a state licensed limited mental health assisted living facility that is focused on serving the needs of adults with schizophrenia. If you would like to learn more or we can be of any assistance, please contact Douglas D. Adkins, Administrator at 904-583-0134-cell or doug@dayspring.health - Please consider becoming a volunteer this Christmas season, the gift you make in the life of others will truly change lives around you.

God Bless and Merry Christmas!

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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, November 11

Eric Wayne Hagan, 41, Hilliard: Resist without Violence (x 2); Possession of Schedule 1-5 Substance (x 2); Driving with Suspended or Revoked License Subsequent Offense; Tag Not Assigned to Vehicle; Trespassing Structure or Conveyance; Felony Flee/Elude Law Enforcement with Lights and Sirens; Possession of Cocaine

Friday, November 15

Danielle Kathleen Leeds, 37, Callahan: Violation of Probation Community Control Felony; Possession of Schedule 1-5 Substance

Former Deputy Arrested

On November 7, 2024, the Nassau County Sheriff's Office arrested 40-year-old Dale Hutcherson, a former NCSO Deputy, on charges of Battery and Official Misconduct. The State Attorney's Office issued a warrant for Hutcherson's arrest on November 7, and he was taken into custody that day.

The arrest stemmed from an investigation initiated last month regarding an incident in Callahan where Hutcherson encountered an intoxicated individual lying in the roadway. While escorting the person out of the road, Hutcherson used a level of force that was unnecessary and unjustified, as there was no physical altercation or imminent danger that warranted that level of force. Hutcherson also provided false statements in his report about the events leading up to the use of force.

"We are extremely disappointed to have to arrest one of our own deputies,

but we have an obligation to hold all of our employees accountable when they break the law and violate the public's trust," said Sheriff Bill Leeper. "This type of behavior is unacceptable and goes against everything we stand for. We have strict policies and training in place regarding use of force, and we expect all our deputies to follow those guidelines without exception."

Hutcherson had served with the Nassau County Sheriff's Office for roughly two years prior to the incident. "His actions do not reflect the dedication and professionalism of the vast majority of our deputies who serve this community with honor every day. We will continue to uphold the highest ethical standards and ensure our deputies understand the gravity of the responsibility they have been entrusted with," added Sheriff Leeper.



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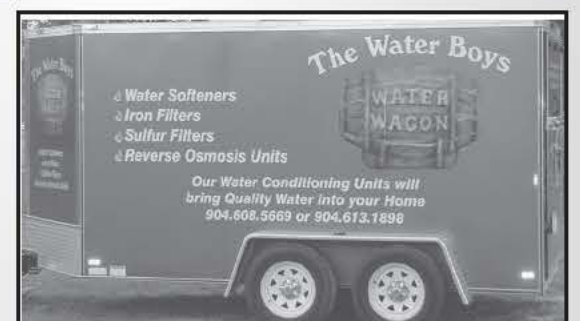
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MARY LOUISE ALTMAN



Mary Louise Altman, 78, of Jacksonville, passed away Wednesday, November 13, 2024, at Dayspring Senior Living in Hilliard. She was born November 2, 1946 in Alma, Georgia, to the late Mack D. Tyre and Linnie E. Taylor Tyre. Louise was known for her profound love for cars, camping, the beaches, and the great outdoors. She was a hardworking woman with a huge heart, always engaging in conversations that showed her genuine interest in others. Louise dedicated her life to her passions and her family, leaving a lasting impact on everyone she met. Her enthusiasm for the outdoors often led her on numerous adventures, making memories that her family and friends will cherish forever. Louise's legacy is one of love, dedication, and vibrant spirit. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her. Louise is preceded in death by her husband, Grady W. Altman; and siblings.

Louise leaves behind her sons Mike (Emily) Altman and Gary (Dana) Altman; sisters Joann Ganas and Margie Cornell; grandchildren Gary Altman, Devon Altman, Tiffany (Sawyer) Fox and Douglas (Krista) Moore; four great-grandchildren; and many nephews and nieces.

A celebration of Louise's life was held Monday, November 18 at Lannie Road Baptist Church with Pastor Buddy Wimberly officiating. Interment followed at Arlington Park Cemetery. The family received friends prior to the service.

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

Visit www.nassaufh.com to sign the family's guest book.

OBITUARIES

his country in the United States Navy. He was a true patriot, and was proud to be an American and fight for his country. During his time in the Navy, Curly became a hero in more ways than one. He was known for his bravery and saved a fellow sailor's life during a critical moment.

Soon after being honorably discharged from the military, Curly married his best friend and forever companion, Margie Diane Driver in 1966. A year later, they made Hilliard, their home where they raised their sweet family. Curly was a devoted husband, loving father and grandfather who always put his family first. He was a selfless and gentle man, known for his integrity and his faith. Curly loved his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and was thankful to be a longtime member at River Road Baptist Church.

Curly enjoyed a successful career as a Plumber, retiring from IMS in 2009. When not working, Curly loved fishing, tending to his horses and was an avid fan of the Florida State Seminoles. Woodworking was his passion, and he thoroughly enjoyed making custom walking canes for family and friends over the years. More than anything, Curly treasured his family and loved spending precious time and making everlasting memories with them. He was an amazing man who was greatly loved and will be deeply missed by all who knew him. Curly was preceded in death by his mother Margaret "Maggie" Hodges Coleman; and grandson Blake Curtis.

Curly is survived by his loving wife of 58 years, Margie Diane Driver Coleman; children Ronnie (Kimberly) Coleman of Callahan and Rachelle (Josh) Curtis of Hilliard; grandchildren Cherish (Jacob) Mulholland, Faith (Travis) Jarrell, Trinity Coleman, Joshua (Sam) Curtis and Riley Curtis; great-grandchildren Lilly, River, Beau and Cole.

The family will receive friends Friday, November 22 at 11 a.m. prior to the celebration of life service at 12 p.m. at River Road Baptist Church with Pastor Hal McIntosh and Pastor Benjie Loyd

officiating. Interment will follow at River Road Baptist Church Cemetery where military honors will be rendered.

Visit www.nassaufh.com to sign the family's guest book.

JOHN WAYNE NELSON



John Wayne Nelson, 62, of Callahan, passed away unexpectedly November 1, 2024. John, affectionately called John Wayne, was born December 28, 1961, in Greenville, South Carolina to the late Olin Nelson and Martha Ferguson Nelson. His love story began in South Carolina, where he met his wife, Lori. John Wayne and Lori shared 17 beautiful years of marriage and eventually moved to Florida to be closer to family, demonstrating John Wayne's dedication to his family.

He was an avid lover of antique cars, was known for his big heart and profound love for his family. John Wayne proudly served his country in the United States Army. His dedication to his community was evident through his active membership in the Masonic Lodge #32 where he served as a Past Master in 2023, the Widow Sons Riding Association, as well as, a 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Mason.

John Wayne was also a cherished member of North Jax Baptist Church, where he practiced his faith. His legacy is carried on by those who knew him as a compassionate individual with a zest for life and a passion for the open road and the rumble of an antique engine. John Wayne's presence will be deeply missed by all who knew him. He was preceded in death by his parents; and brother Joseph Dee Nelson.

John Wayne leaves behind his loving wife, Lori; children Mindy Nelson, Nicholas A. Bailey and Ben E. Kunkel; uncle Walt (Judy) Ferguson; and grandson Colt Bailey.

Visit www.nassaufh.com to sign the family's guest book.

VICKY JO PETERSON



Victoria (Vicky) Jo Peterson, 72, of Callahan, passed away November 16, 2024. Vicky was born May 31, 1952, the youngest of three daughters born to John and Velma Brand. She grew up in Dinsmore, attended local schools and graduated from Paxon Sr High School in 1970. Just after graduation, she married her first and true love, Owen Peterson. Together they moved to Callahan, where they created a home and grew their family. A nurturer by nature, Vicky found joy in being a mother and a supportive wife.

In addition to caring for those around her with gentle hands and a kind heart, she also enjoyed time in the garden with Owen. Together they raised chickens, grew beautiful flowers and great gardens of fruits and vegetables. Vicky preserved much of each year's harvest, canning items to share with others, and to last the family throughout the year. Masterful in the kitchen, Vicky created perfectly prepared meals, which were always delicious and made with love. She took her love of cooking, generous spirit, and kindness to work with her each day, as a cafeteria lady for Nassau County Schools. An example to the world of what kindness looks like, Vicky was genuinely loving; and in return, she was loved by all that met her, including the many students whose lives she touched. She retired in 2017, after nearly 30 years of service.

Of all that she did, Vicky's proudest work was that she did as a wife, mother and grandmother. She wholeheartedly loved her husband of nearly 54 years, her daughters, and her grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband Owen Peterson; her parents; and her sister Gail Colson.

Vicky is survived by daughters Brandy Brandies and Alisha (Tub) Whitaker; grandchildren Dylan (Hannah) Brandies, Brent (Gracen) Whitaker and Laney (Austin) Whitaker; great-granddaughter Hazel Brandies; sister Jenny Grable; and many extended family members and friends.

Pallbearers will be Brent Whitaker, Dylan Brandies, Austin James, Drew Peterson, Bubba Bryant and Todd Colson. Honorary pallbearer will be John Grable.

The family will receive friends Friday, November 22 from 6-8 p.m. at Nassau Funeral Home. A celebration of Vicky's life will be held Saturday, November 23 at 11 a.m. also at the funeral home with Pastor David Harris officiating. Interment will follow at Dinsmore Cemetery.

Arrangements by Nassau Funeral Home, 541720 US-1, Callahan, 904-879-1770.

Visit www.nassaufh.com to sign the family's guest book.

EVERETT FRANKLIN COLEMAN



Everett "Curly" Franklin Coleman, 85, of Hilliard, passed away November 17, 2024, at Community Hospice Warner Care Center with his loving family by his side. He was born July 7, 1939 in Inverness, Mississippi. Curly was raised in Mississippi and following high school, proudly served



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Surprised? You Weren't Paying Attention!

Douglas C. Pearson, Sr.

On January 20, 2021, President Joe Biden, in his inaugural address, told us that the opposing party needed to be eliminated, then promptly called for unity. He promised to be a "transition" president, and did not realize he would not be the one to transition us back to the days of energy independence, border security and a stable economy. His entire administration was devoted to destroying the opposition and the constitutional protections that are afforded to "We the People...", unknowingly outlining his agenda to "Bring the country together."

In July, 2024, after being bullied by Nancy Pelosi, Chuck Schumer and Barack Obama, President Biden announced he was stepping aside and endorsing Vice-President Kamala Harris for the Democratic Presidential Nomination. The unity of the nation was visible, on the horizon. But many from the "Main Street Media" and DNC did not see it, as their Rose-Colored glasses saw nothing but Joy as they envisioned their own version of Turning the Page.

Along the way, the supporters of the opposition, and anyone who might even think about being a supporter, were being described as carry-over deplorables, right-wing extremists/terrorists, Nazis and, ultimately, garbage. Even in our own social circles, we were discouraged from talking politics, for the fear of offending someone who had absolutely no concern over trying to impose their own liberal/socialistic ideals on us. After all, we needed to be Re-Educated! We were the ones holding on to our fanatical religious beliefs and guns, which was abhorrent to the liberals. As has been said; "If you don't like the people, you'll never be able to lead the people." Polls indicated it was going to be a close race, primarily because of the new technology; Caller-ID. People I know don't answer the phone any more, especially if the ID says Spam or Caller Unknown. In doing so, the mindset is; "If it is important they'll leave a message." All this renders telephone polling useless. So, what happened on Tuesday, November 5, came as a complete surprise that was so very predictable.

Now all the tears and surprises are coming from those who ignored We the People. The candidate that listened, set policy to comply with the mandates and he was the successful one. Even on the "Left Coast" they've been listening. True, it is still Blue, but the many propositions' that passed returned to establishing responsible laws and enforcement.

After some time, we got a concession speech from the loser, where they were not contrite at all, vowing to continue the fight. So, I'm sure they will continue the disparaging descriptions of the President-Elect and his supporters. In addition, 24 hours later, the outgoing President promised a peaceful transition, where he and his staff will provide all the necessary means to assist the President-Elect. The entertaining part of that address was the ever-present smile on his face, which indicated a secret "Thank-You", to those insurgents that drove him from his already successful campaign for re-election, in favor of someone who had never even received a single vote. He appeared to be relieved that nothing, that had taken place, could be pinned on him.

Finally, the entertaining over-night results of a historic election day. Every media outlet, conservative as well as liberal, was completely surprised by the "Landslide" taking place before their very eyes. Why? Because no one tried to pay attention to "We the people." Just days prior to the election the DNC Candidate lied to a group of supporters, when she faked a call to a constituent. In addition, in my own mail, I was informed that my Health Insurance premiums were being raised, for the year 2025, by 16%. Another \$1300.00 per year addition to my already inflated budget. Both circumstances we attribute to the failed awareness of the out-going administration. (The notice of increase came to me from the Office of Personnel Management, a Federal Agency.)

So, I want to give a big "Thank You" to President Joe Biden. You, indeed, unified the nation like no one envisioned before, because "you were not paying attention!"

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.

Gabriel Albert (Hawaii), Jacob Ash-Medina (Japan), Jewel Rene Barron (Virginia), Timothy Beasley (Cuba), Cody Beaver (Virginia), Jessica Bell (Hawaii), Chad E. Black (South Carolina), Kevin & Brooke Blanton (Georgia), Sgt. Caleb Bohannon (Oklahoma), Israel Marcos Bonilla (Missouri), Derek Borden, Benjamin Black (Iraq), Conrad Brauhn (Afghanistan), Ryan Brooks (Connecticut), John Brookshire (North Carolina), Aaron Brown (Japan), Branden Brown (USS Nimitz), Anthony Broekema (Virginia), Ethan Bulford, (Virginia), SSGT Thomas W. Burnette (North Carolina), Ahmad Butler (Japan), Brayden Lamar Carroll (North Carolina), Allen L. Carter (Alaska), Samuel S. Clemons (Japan), John Coltrane (NAS Jax), Cody Cooper (Florida), Scott Cooper, Trevor Corum (Nebraska), Charlie I. D. Cox (South Korea), Quinn Coxwell (England), Gavin Crews (Germany), Tison J. Crews (Korea), Charles 'CJ' Cribbs, III (Washington, DC), Dennis L. Davis II (Alabama), Joshua M. Davis (New York), Shannon Davis (Nevada), Johanna Diaz (Nevada), Clif Dixon (Iraq), Devin Michael Dowling (Missouri), Christopher Downs (Arizona), William Clay Dryden (South Korea), David Farhat (North Carolina), Christen Fernandez, Randall Heath Forde (Georgia), Medford Foskey (Arizona), Clinton Fouraker (Virginia), Jeremy Francisco (Mayport), Jennifer D. Frederick (Colorado), Kevin J. Gahris (United Arab Emirates), Michael E. Garcia (Afghanistan), Marcus Gee (Iraq), Samantha Gee (Korea), Tabettha Gee (Korea), Chadrick Gibson (Iraq), Charles Gibson, Darrell Goodwyne, Jr. (Iraq), Sgt. Daniel Graves, Jr. (North Carolina), Eric Greene (Georgia), Branden R. Griffis (Florida), Wendy Griffis (Afghanistan), Phaylyn Griffith (California), Kandis Guyton (California), Hunter C. Guzman (Georgia), Micah Hall (Georgia), Michael Hall, Michael Hallman (Key West), Ronnie Hammer (Kentucky), Todd W. Hanner, Jr. (Texas), Andy Harper, Harley Henderson (Texas), Nathan Hess (Alaska), Jeff Higgs (Spain), Jonah Hilliar (Poland), SPC Hodge (Iraq), Josh Hoyle (California), Levi Hren (West Point), AT2 Brian Hughes (Bahrain), Bryan K. Jeffers II (Iraq), Jacob Jensen (Middle East), Cade Johns (Virginia Beach), Aaron L. Johnson (Colorado), Carlus Johnson (Texas), Donald Johnson (North Carolina), Joshua Michael Johnson (Italy), Jamaal Jones (Hawaii), Bradley Justice, Brian J. Kerns (Virginia), Kayla King (Germany), Scott Kirkland (California), Joshua Knight, PO3 Travis E. Kornacki (North Carolina), Jordan Kriner (Italy), Victoria LaMontagne (Florida), Tyler Landreville (Florida), John C. Larkin (Iraq), Thomas Layden (North Carolina), Chase M. Lewis (North Carolina), Katelyn Lewis (Japan), Mattie Lewis (Texas), Jason Lovejoy (Colorado), Patrick Lynagh (Nevada), Steven Lynn (Michigan), Gatlin Mackie (Virginia), Kevin Marshall (Germany), Canisha Martin (Georgia), Tony Martin (Georgia), Anthony Mastrogiovanni (Georgia), Stacey McDaniel (Virginia), Caleb McGee (Virginia), Noah E. McKinnon (Iraq), Michael McQuaiz, Matthew McRae (North Carolina), Russell Mellroy (Afghanistan), Ivory Melton, Jr. (Kuwait), Brian Middleton (Afghanistan), Weston J. Miller (South Carolina), Steven Miner (Germany), Dallan Mirando (North Carolina), Chase Allen Mitchell (Colorado), Britt Mizell (South Carolina), Dillon Mock (Florida), Spencer Money (North Carolina), 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), Gary Nelson (Kuwait), Michael Nettles (Iraq), Lee Nickola (Iraq), Ryan Norton (North Carolina), Jesse O'Berry (England), Daniel O'Dell, Shannon O'Dell, David Oppfelt (Florida), Lane O'Quinn (Alaska), Steven A. Oxforth (Connecticut), Walter Oxforth (New Mexico), Chase Parden (Kansas), Michael Park (South Korea), Danielle Parker (North Carolina), Jeremy Pelkey (Georgia), Christopher Phelan (Virginia), Darren Phelan (Washington State), Kyle Pipkins (South Carolina), Joshua Poirier (Georgia), Austin Potochnik (California), Dusty Price (Iraq), Michael Price (Germany), Jeffery Rapadas (Kuwait), Justin Reed (North Carolina), Kasie Richardson (North Carolina), Jeffrey Rigdon (Kentucky), Camilla Roberts (Alaska), Sydney A. Robinette (Florida), Michael Robinson (Alabama), Jason Rodgers (Texas), Douglas Raymond Roth, Marc Rowe (Georgia), Dillon Rozar (Louisiana), Brian M. Sartain, Jr. (North Dakota), James Sanders (Germany), Tressie Scott (Afghanistan), Marcus Sharpe (Michigan), Donald Shaw (Iraq), Michael Shearer (Illinois), Jesse D. Silcox (Japan), Daniel Singley, Corey Slayton (California), Christopher E. Smith (Iraq), Michael J. Smith (North Carolina), Nathan Smith (Texas), Robbie Smith, Jr. (Germany), Nicolas Snow (North Carolina), David Stallings (Kuwait), Bill Starling (Iraq), David Starling (North Carolina), Larry V. Starratt, III (Korea), Scott M. Stephens (Hawaii), James 'Mike' Stringer (Iraq), Joseph R. Taylor (Texas), Luke Thomas (Germany), Michael Thomas (Japan), Crystal Thompson (Iraq), Terry Thompson (Virginia), Tiffany Thompson (Washington), Sarah Tindell (North Carolina), Corey M. Turner (Kuwait), William Varner (Florida), Shawn W. Vickers (California), Jonathan Vroman (Tennessee), Brett Wade (Florida), Reece Wade (Arizona), Jeff Walters (Iraq), Shawn Ward (Texas), Brian Waring (Iraq), Daniel Waters, David Watson (California), Justin Webb (Oklahoma), James D. Whitman, Carson Williamson (North Carolina), Earl Youman, Jr. (Virginia)

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

God Bless our Troops!

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\$13.00 cash / CC \$13.52
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SUNDAY BUFFET
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MONDAY - THURSDAY 2 - 4 P.M.
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1 POUND \$40.12 CASH / \$41.73 CARD • ALL YOU CAN EAT \$47.69 CASH / \$49.60 CARD

MENU IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED ON AVAILABILITY

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

- SUNDAY**
Fried Chicken • Baked Chicken • Stewed Beef • Baked Ham • Grilled Shrimp
Chicken Liver or Chicken Gizzards • Rice • Mashed Potatoes • Gravy • Stewed Tomatoes
Green Beans • Greens • Corn • Cabbage • White Limas • Baby Green Limas • Stewed Squash
Yams • Mac & Cheese • Cornbread • Biscuits • Fried Squash • Fried Okra • Fries • Fatback
Salad Bar • Cold Bar • Cobbler • Ice Cream
- MONDAY**
Fried Chicken • Baked Chicken • Cubed Steak • Sausage, Peppers & Onions • Meatloaf
Chicken Liver or Chicken Gizzards • Rice • Mashed Potatoes • Gravy • Green Beans • Greens
Corn • Cabbage • Field Peas • Blackeye Peas • Rutabaga • Carrots • Stewed Squash
Mac & Cheese • Cornbread • Biscuits • Fatback • Salad Bar • Cold Bar • Cobbler • Ice Cream
- TUESDAY**
Fried Chicken • Baked Chicken • Fried Pork Chops • Sausage, Peppers & Onions
Chicken Liver or Chicken Gizzards • Rice • Mashed Potatoes • Gravy • Stewed Tomatoes
Rutabaga • Pinto Beans • Green Beans • Greens • Corn • Cabbage • Baby Green Limas
Yams • Mac & Cheese • Cornbread • Biscuits • Fatback • Fried Okra • Fried Squash
Salad Bar • Cold Bar • Cobbler • Ice Cream
- WEDNESDAY**
Fried Chicken • Baked Chicken • Stewed Beef • Baked Spaghetti • Chicken Liver or
Chicken Gizzards • Rice • Mashed Potatoes • Gravy • Stewed Tomatoes • B Mac's Mix
Pinto Beans • Green Beans • Greens • Corn • Cabbage • Ford Hooks • White Limas
Yams • Mac & Cheese • Cornbread • Biscuits • Fatback • Fried Okra • Fried Squash
Salad Bar • Cold Bar • Cobbler • Ice Cream
- THURSDAY**
Fried Chicken • Baked Chicken • 4 Flavors of Chicken Wings • Sausage, Peppers & Onions
Ham • Chicken Liver or Chicken Gizzards • Rice • Mashed Potatoes • Gravy
Stewed Tomatoes • Onion Rings • Fries • Green Beans • Greens • Corn • Cabbage
Baby Green Limas • White Limas • Yams • Mac & Cheese • Cornbread • Biscuits • Fatback
Fried Okra • Fried Squash • Salad Bar • Cold Bar • Cobbler • Ice Cream
- FRIDAY & SATURDAY (LUNCH ONLY)**
Fried Chicken • Baked Chicken • Fried Shrimp • Boom Boom Shrimp • Fried Fish • Rice
Mashed Potatoes • Gravy • Stewed Tomatoes • Hush Puppies • Clam Strips • Green Beans
Greens • Corn • Cabbage • Baked Beans • Cheese Grits • Mac & Cheese • Cornbread
Garlic Cheddar Biscuits • Biscuits • Fried Squash • Fried Okra • Fatback
Salad Bar • Cold Bar • Cobbler • Ice Cream
- FRIDAY & SATURDAY (STARTING AT 4 P.M.)**
Fried Chicken • Baked Chicken • Fried Shrimp • Boom Boom Shrimp • Low Country Boil
Fried Oysters • Fried Fish • Crawfish • Clam Strips • Steak • Rice • Mashed Potatoes
Gravy • Stewed Tomatoes • Baby Green Limas • White Limas • Green Beans • Greens
Cabbage • Baked Beans • Cheese Grits • Hush Puppies • Mac & Cheese • Baked Potatoes
Baked Sweet Potatoes • Cornbread • Biscuits • Fried Squash • Fried Okra • Fatback
Salad Bar • Cold Bar • Cobbler • Ice Cream