

"BE ALERT AND OF SOBER MIND. YOUR ENEMY THE DEVIL PROWLs AROUND LIKE A ROARING LION LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO DEVOUR." - 1 PETER 5:8

## Celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Monday, January 18, we will celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. His life and legacy as a Baptist minister, Nobel Laureate and a civil rights activist still rings loud today. MLK, Jr. dedicated his short time on earth working feverishly for social justice, opportunity for all Americans irrespective of color or creed. King was an exceptional man that was passionate about people. He was one of the greatest speakers of all time as he delivered his dream across America. King was assassinated on April 4, 1968 at the age of 39 by James

**"...whatever you do you have to keep moving forward"**

Earl Ray.

King's speeches and quotes still resonate throughout our land. While his most famous speech may very well be the "I have a Dream" speech, there are so many more that also carried a peaceful and demanding call for all to follow. His mission was strictly about equality, his vision was for every man, woman and child to have an equal chance at the American dream. Many who have followed and lived his dream have proven they can make a difference in this world. His words of encouragement are just as profound

today as they were back then.

One famous quote is one that should embolden us all, "If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward."

This year, due to Covid, the Concerned Citizens of Hilliard and the Patricia V. Williams Chapter of the Concerned Citizens of Nassau County have decided that there will be no parades locally. Celebrate by encouraging others, helping those in your community in need, reaching out to your neighbors and somehow making the world a better place to help fulfill Dr. King's dream.

## Hilliard Councilmen Sworn In Thursday Night



Dawn S. West

The Hilliard Town Council met Thursday night for their first meeting of 2021. Three councilmen, who were re-elected in November, were sworn back into office: Kenny Sims, Lee Pickett and Jared Wollitz. Town Clerk Lisa Purvis read the oath of office while each repeated. Following the council discussed the organization of offices. Councilman Lee Pickett requested and made a motion to keep the Council President and Council Pro Tem as they

are. The council unanimously agreed. A motion was made to also keep the department commissioners the same. They were also unanimously agreed upon. They are: Council President and Recreation Department Commissioner John Beasley; Council Pro Tem and Street Department Commissioner Kenny Sims; Councilman and Fire Department Commissioner Jared Wollitz; Councilwoman and Airpark Department Commissioner Callie Kay Bishop; and Councilman and Water &

Sewer Department Commissioner Lee Pickett.

The first agenda item was a presentation by Lee Zell, representing the National League of Cities Service Line Warranty Program. Zell advised the council that many people who have been connected to city water/sewer systems for several years or purchase an older home within city limits on city water/sewer sometimes have repair problems caused from old lines. "Many times these homes have old pipes (clay, etc.) that are prone to breaking over the years," said Zell. "When the problem occurs between the meter and your home or in your walls it's the homeowners expense to fix it. This is a monthly program people can join, if they choose, to take care of these expenses. We are asking for the council's approval to inform your residents about the program."

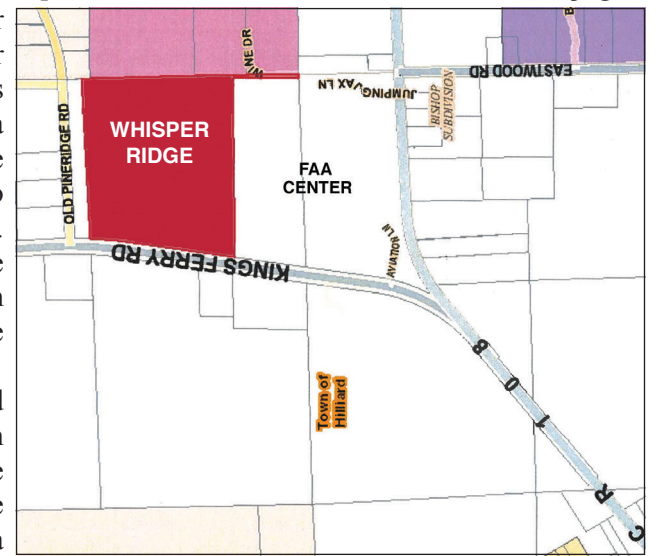
The council requested Town Attorney Christian Waugh to look over the information and make sure everything is okay before a

decision is made.

Janis Fleet, Land Use Administrator, advised the council about the process with the Whisper Ridge PUD that is planned off on the east side of Kings Ferry Road and south of Old Pineridge Road. The development is located on 26.09 acres and will have 72 single-family residential units with related amenities. The project has been going through the Planning & Zoning Department and will be coming before the council for approval soon.

Ordinance 2021-01 was approved on

See 'Hilliard' on page 2



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# Finding Grace

Mary Flowers

I usually wake up around 6 - 7 a.m. every day, depending on when my buddy, Stryker, decides he has to go out, but today (January 7) I awoke at 3 a.m. I am now at my desk writing this. It seems like God likes to talk with me around this time of the morning now. The last time was when the pandemic hit and my heart was filled with the same sorrow it is filled with now.

After hearing and watching what happened in Washington D.C., I think how could we, as a nation, be filled with so much fear and hate? While I lay in bed I began to think of God and what He must feel at this moment in time. Perhaps He feels about us as He felt about the people during Noah's time. As the Bible tells us in Genesis 6:6; "And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart." I think of how the actions

of today must have "grieved him at his heart" again. I know it grieved my heart.

I think, how can we come back from this and all I could do was cry and pray, "God, Father, please let us find grace in your eyes as Noah did." This is as

*God's GOT this*

it was in Noah's day, it didn't happen overnight. This has been coming for a while.

Hate and fear spread as a wild fire, once it starts, it can hardly be contained. We've seen this happen with our nation. If we can't learn, in our hearts, to listen to each other, even when we don't

agree, and try to compromise in the efforts of democracy, then as a nation we certainly will be split apart. As God's word reads in Mark 3:25, "And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand."

I ask that anyone reading this, please say a prayer and ask God if we can find grace in His eyes again! Peace, Love and Prayers for an injured nation!

# Hilliard

Continued from page 1

first reading which concerns Amending the Comprehensive Plan of Hilliard, which will Control Future Land Use, guide Public Facilities and protect Natural Resources. The second reading and final public hearing will be held Thursday, March 4.

Fleet also recommended the reappointment of two members to a 3-year term on the Planning & Zoning Board: Wendy Prather and Dallis Hunter. The council approved the recommendation.

"I think the town should advertise when we have an opening on the Planning & Zoning Board," said Councilwoman Callie Kay Bishop. "You never know when a citizen might be interested in serving."

Two ordinances were approved on second and final reading: Ordinance 2020-09 which concerns amending Section 2-2 Authority of the Mayor; Amending Section 2-3 Delegation of Purchasing Authority; Amending Section 2-5 Procession of Contracts for the Provision of Commodities or Services; and Amending Section 2-7 Exemptions from Competitive Procurement Requirement; and Ordinance 2020-12 which concerns Amending Chapter 58 Utilities, Article IV Water and Sewer System Development Charges by eliminating Section 58-126 charge for water service for fire protection.

Michael Franklin requested two

septic tank exceptions and provided the necessary information and the council approved both.

Francis Layden, Jr. requested a septic tank exception and provided the necessary information and was also approved.

The town approved Resolution 2021-01 which concerned the 2021 Town Holidays. There were no new holidays added.

Town Attorney Christian Waugh advised the council on a pending litigation from late November. "I am requesting a shade session with the council and court reporter to try to settle this litigation," said Waugh. "We have two options: Litigate it to death or come up with a solution."

The shade session will be held Thursday, January 21 following the regular meeting.

Parks & Recreation Director Gabe Whittenburg advised the council that he would need 'all hands on deck' Saturday, as basketball season begins with 24 teams and 200 players! "Any and all of you that would like to come out and help we would appreciate it!" said Whittenburg. "I am also looking at some fun things to get some citizens more involved including: hosting a 5K, dodgeball and kickball games. Something to think about!"

The council will hold a payables only meeting Thursday, January 21.

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**Callahan First Baptist • Thursday, January 21 • 4:30 - 6:30 pm**  
45090 Green Ave. • Callahan

**Barnabas @ River Road Baptist Church**  
Thursday, January 21 • 4 - 6 pm  
21067 County Rd. 121 • Hilliard

*In the Kitchen...* Chicken Casserole

1 chicken (save broth)	1 stick margarine
1 can mushroom soup	1 cup diced celery
3/4 cup milk	1 cup diced onion
1 sm. pkg. cornbread stuffing mix	

Stew and debone chicken. Save 1 1/2 cups broth. Mix chicken with soup and 3/4 cup milk (other soup may be substituted). Place in baking dish. Melt margarine and add celery then onion and saute until tender. Add to stuffing, mix with 1 1/2 cups broth. Mix together and spoon over chicken. Bake at 350° for 20 - 30 minutes.

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## Fleming Appointed to NCCOA Board of Directors

Geoff Clear, Chair, Nassau County Council on Aging (NCCOA) Board of Directors, is pleased to announce that Urban Fleming, Financial Advisor – LPL Financial, VyStar Investment Services, has been appointed to NCCOA's Board of Directors.



Raised in West Columbia, S.C., Fleming relocated to Nassau County in 2008. After graduating from FSCJ, he began his financial services career as an intern with New York Life where he became a licensed financial advisor. At VyStar, Fleming's focus is retirement and general financial planning for members in Callahan, Yulee and Fernandina.

Fleming served on Callahan's

Zoning and Planning Board, but stepped down after the recent election of his wife, Jacquelyn, to the Callahan Town Council. He is a member of First United Methodist Church of Callahan where he serves in a financial leadership role.

"We are pleased to have Urban Fleming as our newest member of NCCOA's Board of Directors," Clear said. "He brings comprehensive expertise to our agency in the areas of finance and business management, as well as vast knowledge of Nassau County's west side. Mr. Fleming joins our Board at an excellent time since 2021 will be a major year of change and growth for NCCOA's west side operation."

## Barnabas Celebrates Selection for the Winn-Dixie Bag Program

Barnabas has been selected as a beneficiary of the Community Bag Program for the month of February.

The Winn-Dixie Community Bag Program, which launched in February 2019, is a reusable bag program that facilitates community support with the goal to make a difference in the communities where shoppers live and work. Barnabas was selected as the February beneficiary of the program by store leadership at the Winn-Dixie in Fernandina Beach. Barnabas will receive a \$1 donation every time the \$2.50 reusable Community Bag is purchased at this location during February, unless otherwise directed by the customer through the Giving Tag attached to the bag.

"We are so grateful to have been selected as the beneficiary of Winn Dixie's Community Bag program in Fernandina Beach," said Wanda Lanier,



Barnabas President & CEO. "Not only does the program promote reuse and recycling, (a value we demonstrate through the operation of our resale store, which sells gently used items to support our food pantry, health services and crisis assistance programs) but the proceeds from the Community Bags program will provide much needed support to these important services that help our neighbors in need in Nassau County."

Barnabas is a non-profit based in Fernandina Beach with the mission of providing help and hope to individuals and families in need in Nassau County to improve their stability, health, and well-being. Learn more about Barnabas by visiting [www.BarnabasNassau.org](http://www.BarnabasNassau.org).

For more information on the Community Bag Program, visit [seg.bags4mycause.com](http://seg.bags4mycause.com).

## JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

They stole the whole DEM thing! Yes that's my opinion and no one will ever convince me any differently. Donald Trump will be portrayed as the worst President this nation has ever witnessed when the actual truth is, he is the greatest President this country has ever had. He invested four years of his life being condemned by the socialist democrats and the socialist media on a daily basis. He gave up a life of a billionaire because he saw what was happening to the country in which he loves. He saw the corruption of the deep state political sewer in Washington and had a dream to drain the swamp. However the odds against him were insurmountable and the swamp is too deep. A political coup was formed before he even took office with the plan to remove him from office. As hard as they tried he was always one step ahead of them, even combating traitors within his own administration. Yes the Deep State runs deep. From the FBI to the CIA to the NSA to the HLS, and every department in between is corrupted with deep state operatives. He never knew who he could trust and found out early on that the number was very few.

I feel heavy-hearted for President Trump and our country. If Biden/Harris is sworn in this month our Republic is gone. I do know that President Trump will be fine. God's word states in Hebrews 6:10, "God is not unjust; He

will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you helped his people."

As far as the occurrences last week in Washington, I detest what happened and firmly believe anyone that breached the doors of the Capitol Building should face the consequences of their unlawful acts. There is no excuse in that type of behavior. Many bad things have transpired due to their unlawful acts. I do believe and it has been proven by photo identification that there were Antifa members leading the charge and Trump supporters got caught up in a frenzy of emotions because they know what was stolen from them. However their actions opened the door for the likes of Pelosi and Schumer to set the stage that will have dire consequences on true red-blooded American conservative patriots. The liberal socialists immediately labeled the Trump supporters as "domestic terrorists." That term will be their basis when they start their gun grab plan. All Trump supporters will be labeled as domestic terrorists!

They say it's not over until the fat lady sings, well she hasn't sung yet and Pelosi's big push to impeach President Trump again with less than a week until the inauguration tells me one thing. Pelosi is scared to death that the truth is about to come out!

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

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### TOWN OF CALLAHAN, FL Employment Opportunity

The Town of Callahan is in search of a Full Time Employee to Assist in the Water & Waste Water & Street Departments.

Interested Candidates must be able to meet the following requirements:

#### Water & Wastewater Candidate

- A Class 'C' State of Florida Water or Wastewater license, preferred, but not required.
- If applicant does not have the Class "C" license: he/she will be required to complete the State of Florida Course for Water or Wastewater Class 'C' within one year of employment and take test for Florida Class 'C' Operator.

#### Street Department and all other Candidates

- Ability to lift at least 50 lbs.
- Ability to work overtime, as necessary
- Available on nights & weekends, as necessary
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- High School Diploma or Equivalent
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Salary will be based on Experience, and position comes with Benefits.

Interested individuals may obtain Application at Town Hall located at 542300 US Highway 1 • Callahan, Florida 32011

Or on our web site <https://www.townofcallahan-fl.gov/Applications>  
Email Completed Application to [pwd@townofcallahan-fl.gov](mailto:pwd@townofcallahan-fl.gov) or drop off at Town Hall addressed to the Public Works Director, Michael Williams.  
Deadline for Applications is Friday, January 22 at 5:00 PM.

The Town of Callahan is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

# All In

Pastor Arlie Johns, Hilliard First Assembly of God



If you're going to be a follower of Jesus you must be willing to die out to self, leave everything behind and put Jesus first. This past Sunday morning I was preaching from the passage found in Matthew 4:18-22 (NIV84) *"As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him. Going on from there, he saw two other*

*brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him."*

To the best of my knowledge, these fishermen had never met Jesus before that day. Yet there was something about Jesus' invitation that caused these men to immediately leave everything behind and go "All In" following Jesus. When they did, they had no idea what they were in for. They knew that they wanted more than what they had already experienced in life. These men were willing to deny themselves, putting everything in their life on hold so that they could follow Jesus. They were "All In." They followed Jesus until the end of His ministry here on earth. Later we see that they became the leaders of the New Testament Church as recorded in the book of Acts.

A few years ago, I read a book by Mark Batterson, entitled All In. In the first chapter of this book Mark tells the story of a missionary that was "All In" for Jesus. This missionary had decided to give his all for Jesus. His name was A.W. Milne. He was one of those missionaries who packed all his personal belongings in a casket for his assignment instead of a suit case. Then he bought a one-way ticket and set sail for the New Hebrides in the South Pacific. He knew full well that the headhunters who lived there had martyred every missionary before him. Missionary A.W. Milne didn't fear for his life, because he had already died to himself. He was willing to go even if it cost him his very life. So, for 35 years he lived among that tribe and loved them. When he died, the tribe members buried him in the middle of their village and inscribed this epitaph on his tombstone: *"When he came there was no light. When he left there was no darkness."* A.W. Milne made an overwhelming impact on that tribe because he was willing to go "All In" and follow Jesus.

I want to challenge you today to do more than just acknowledge Jesus as your Lord. I want to challenge you to go "All In" and die out to self. When we sell out to Jesus, we have the chance to change the world around us. Who knows what impact that you might have on those around you if you were to go "All In" and follow Jesus.

# Successful Adopt-A-Family Program

Throughout the holiday season, Barnabas coordinated the Adopt-a-Family program, which paired local families in need with sponsors to provide them with a joyful Christmas. Sponsors gave gifts of toys, clothing, books and more for each child to open on Christmas morning.

This year, 58 families were adopted by Barnabas and the following community partners: Big Brothers & Big Sisters, Bryceville First Baptist and Springhill Baptist Churches, St. Michaels and St. Francis Catholic Churches, Head Start, Council on Aging and Memorial United Methodist Church.

Barnabas thanks the many individuals, families and businesses that adopted families or provided financial donations including Peacock Electric, CrossFit 32034, First Presbyterian Church, Coastal Vision, UF Health Wildlight, the Ritz-Carlton Amelia Island, Omni Amelia Island Resort and



WestRock.

Barnabas extends its heartfelt appreciation to the community and everyone involved for the success of the program by bringing joy and hope to families in need this holiday season. For more information about Barnabas' programs, please visit [www.BarnabasNassau.org](http://www.BarnabasNassau.org).

## FREE Fish Fry Saturday

Hilliard First Assembly of God would like to bless our community. We will be giving out 1250 Free Fish Dinners this Saturday, January 16 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., or until all dinners are gone, whichever comes first. These will be handed out by Drive-Thru pick-up at the church, 550920 US Highway 1, Hilliard. These are trying times for our friends and neighbors in our small community and we would still like to bless them.

Hilliard First Assembly of God is located on US Highway 1, a quarter of a mile south of the caution light at Eastwood Road in Hilliard.

## CHURCH NEWS

KIDZ Jam Adventure! Friendship Alliance Church, Callahan! Wednesday nights from January 20 - March 10, 6:30 - 8 p.m. All children ages 5 and up are welcome! For more information call 879-1907 or email [Kidz@FriendshipCMA.org](mailto:Kidz@FriendshipCMA.org).

North Hilliard Baptist Church invites you to come as you are, Sundays at 11 a.m. The church is located at 552823 US Highway 1, Hilliard.

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## OREMC Accepting Applications for Scholarships



Okefenokee REMC is now accepting applications for its scholarship program. Annually OREMC awards 10 scholarships in the amount of \$2,000 each. Visit [oremc.com/scholarships](http://oremc.com/scholarships) for detailed information, to download application or complete an online application. Applicants may be a high school senior or an undergraduate or vocational/technical student. Nontraditional students are also invited to apply. The deadline for all applications is 5 p.m. on Monday, January 25, 2021.

OREMC Scholarships: Applicants must reside in one of the eight counties OREMC serves Brantley, Camden, Charlton, Glynn, Ware and Wayne

counties in Georgia and Baker and Nassau counties in Florida. These funds can be used at any accredited college, university or technical school in the United States.

Walter Harrison Scholarship: Funded by Georgia's electric cooperatives, OREMC will submit two applications to the Georgia Electric Membership Corporation to be judged alongside those submitted by other cooperatives from across the state. Applicants' primary residence must be an OREMC member or employee household, and scholarship winners must use these funds at a college, university or technical school located in Georgia. Twelve (12) scholarships will be awarded in 2021.

If you have questions or need more information, contact Member Service Representative Dewayne Johns at 800-262-5131 ext. 1143 or via email at [dewayne.johns@oremc.com](mailto:dewayne.johns@oremc.com).

## Amelia Island DAR Scholarship Opportunities

Applications for the 2021 Amelia Island Chapter DAR Scholarships are now available from the guidance counselors at each Nassau County high school. The \$1,000 scholarships are presented to one senior from each of the county high schools regardless of race, religion, or gender. Applicants must be U.S. citizens and seniors in high school who have been accepted by a college. Home school students are encouraged to apply through their nearest high school. More information is available from the senior guidance counselors at each school.

Deadline for all applications is February 26, 2021. Winners will be presented with a check for \$1,000 at the chapter's awards ceremony in April. Scholarship recipients will also be acknowledged at their school's honors program.

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution is the largest women's service organization in the world and contributes over one million volunteer hours a year. The 200 members of the Amelia Island Chapter contribute 5,000 volunteer hours and \$5,000 in scholarships and awards in Nassau County each year. Go to [www.ameliainslandsdar.org](http://www.ameliainslandsdar.org) for more information about the chapter. Information about additional scholarships from the national society is available at [www.dar.org](http://www.dar.org) and from the state society at [FSSDAR.org](http://FSSDAR.org).

## Extended Office Hours to File for Exemptions

The Property Appraiser's office will be extending their office hours to allow all property owners the opportunity to file for exemptions and ask questions. "Many homeowners have to rearrange their day just to come apply. This is a customer service initiative that will make the process easier and less time consuming for the homeowner," said Mike Hickox.



constitutional guarantee that reduces the taxable value of residential property for qualified residents. If you own property in Nassau County and it is your primary residence, you may qualify for an exemption of up to \$50,000 off your assessed value. Per Florida Statute 196.031,

homeowners must own and occupy the residence as of January 1st in order to receive the benefit for the 2021 tax year. If you are unable to come to the office to file for the exemption, you may still file for homestead online at [nassaupla.com](http://nassaupla.com). You may stay up to date on important deadlines and other information by following the office on our Facebook page, A. Michael Hickox, Nassau County Property Appraiser. The deadline to file for any property tax exemption is March 1, 2021. For questions, please contact the Property Appraiser's office at 904-491-7300.

homeowners must own and occupy the residence as of January 1st in order to receive the benefit for the 2021 tax year.

If you are unable to come to the office to file for the exemption, you may still file for homestead online at [nassaupla.com](http://nassaupla.com).

You may stay up to date on important deadlines and other information by following the office on our Facebook page, A. Michael Hickox, Nassau County Property Appraiser.

The deadline to file for any property tax exemption is March 1, 2021. For questions, please contact the Property Appraiser's office at 904-491-7300.

## Relay for Life Rod Run

Wanda Nichols, Chairperson for the 2021 West Nassau Relay for Life, is excited to announce the 2nd Annual Relay For Life Rod Run! The event will be held Friday and Saturday, January 22 & 23 at the Northeast Florida Fairgrounds. "Last year was our first time having the event and it was a huge success! We're looking forward to many more vehicles and lots of fun again this year," said Nichols.

For information about being a part of the Car Show call Al Gordy at (904) 322-3794 or Greg O'Quinn at (904) 654-2918. Details: Vendor spaces: \$20; Car Show Registration, \$20; Gate Admission: \$2

The schedule of events includes:

Friday, 2-5 p.m. Meet & Greet and Vendor set-up.

Enjoy free chili, chips & drinks

Saturday, 8-11 a.m. Registration;

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Rod Run Show

At 2 p.m. the Hot Rods will be escorted by police to Historic Springfield Main Street Cruise in Jacksonville



## 2021 Hilliard Little League Spring Registration!

**BASEBALL & SOFTBALL SIGN UPS!**  
Early Bird Fee \$75 • Boys & Girls League Age 4 -16

Sign up at the Ball Field on Bay Rd.

**EVERY SATURDAY IN JANUARY!**

January 16, 23, 30 • 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**FINAL SIGN-UPS Saturday, February 6**  
Fee increases to \$85 after January 23!

ALL fees must be paid by the last sign-up date.

Player Evaluations (Tryouts) will be February 6 (Final day of Sign Ups)

9 - 11 a.m. - Ages 9 - 12 • 1 - 3 p.m. - Ages 6 - 8 • Tee Ball does not participate in tryouts.

\$20 Volunteer Fee per family - to be refunded once volunteer duties have been completed

\$5 Voter Cards Available for Purchase During Registration ONLY.

Coaches, Umpires and Volunteers Needed!

Must provide: Child's BIRTH CERTIFICATE, REPORT CARD & GUARDIAN'S DRIVER'S LICENSE or 3 Proofs of Residency.



For more information, call Hal Keene at 904-860-1202.

### JERRY'S OPEN AIR MARKET

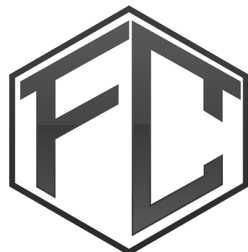
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## Remember to Pray for Our Troops

**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.**

Gabriel Albert (Hawaii), 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), Hunter Brannon (Africa), Conrad Brauhn (Afghanistan), Ryan Brooks (Connecticut), John Brookshire (North Carolina), Aaron Brown (Japan), Branden Brown (USS Nimitz), Anthony Broekema (Virginia), Ethan Bulford, (Virginia), Calen Burnette (North Carolina), Thomas W. Burnette (North Carolina), Ahmad Butler (Japan), Brayden Lamar Carroll (North Carolina), Allen L. Carter (Alaska), John Coltrane (NAS Jax), Scott Cooper, Dustin Corum (California), Trevor Corum (Nebraska), Charlie I. D. Cox (South Korea), Quinn Coxwell (New Mexico), 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), Robert Dodson (Florida), Devin Michael Dowling (Kansas), Christopher Downs (Arizona), William Clay Dryden (South Korea), James Dale Evans (Baghdad), David Farhat (Kuwait), Christen Fernandez, Clinton Fouraker (Virginia), Jeremy Francisco (Mayport), Jennifer D. Frederick (Colorado), Kevin J. Gahrns (United Arab Emirates), Michael E. Garcia (Afghanistan), Marcus Gee (Iraq), Samantha Gee (Korea), Tabetha 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 (Colorado), Todd W. Hanner, Jr. (Texas), Andy Harper, Harley Henderson (Texas), A.L. Henck (Middle East), Nathan Hess (Japan), Jeff Higgs (Spain), 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), 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 (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), Nicholas Louese (Spain), Jason Lovejoy (Colorado), Patrick Lynagh (Nevada), 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), Steven Miner (Germany), Chase Allen Mitchell (Colorado), 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), 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), 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), Kenneth Pullum (Washington, DC), Kyle Pullum (Louisiana), 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), Brian M. Sartain, Jr. (North Dakota), James Sanders (Germany), Tressie Scott (Afghanistan), James Scully (Poland), Marcus Sharpe (Michigan), Donald Shaw (Iraq), Michael Shearer (Illinois), Jesse D. Silcox (Bahrain), Daniel Singley, Corey Slayton (California), Christopher E. Smith (Iraq), Michael J. 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## Clerk Crawford Presents at New Clerk Academy



Florida Court Clerks and Comptrollers (FCCC) recently hosted their New Clerk Academy Orientation, a week-long event that gives newly-elected Clerks of Court and Comptrollers training and resources required to perform their constitutional and statutory duties in their respective counties. This year, our own Nassau County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, John A. Crawford, presented a session on "Protecting and Preserving the Public Trust." Clerk Crawford strongly pushes the message that, first and foremost, "we are public servants!" Crawford says, "Whatever can possibly go wrong probably will go wrong, and you must know how to mitigate those risks by requiring compliance with Florida statutes, and it's Constitution."

Whether in his role as the Clerk of Courts, or as the county's Comptroller,

Mr. Crawford is ever aware that each decision made in his office must be in accordance with the law. The importance of this was emphasized throughout his presentation to the incoming Clerks. Mr. Crawford shared his own real-life experiences in handling a vast array of issues over the course of the last 16 years that he has been serving Nassau County as Clerk of the Court and Comptroller.

Preparing the incoming Clerks across the state for their new responsibilities is part of the mission of the FCCC, as they seek to unite statewide to protect the public trust. We are proud to be a part of that mission, and encourage the citizens of Nassau County to learn more about the services we offer to protect and preserve your trust. Please visit our website, [www.nassauclerk.com](http://www.nassauclerk.com), and follow us on social media—Facebook, Twitter and Instagram—to stay informed.



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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!

# Florida Forest Service Set to Begin Dormant Season Prescribed Burning



A Florida Forest Service Ranger using his "Fire Pot" to start a prescribed fire on Cary State Forest.

The Florida Forest Service's Jacksonville District is set to begin its 2021 dormant season prescribed burning on state forest lands in Duval, Nassau, and Clay counties. Jacksonville Forestry District plans to burn approximately 11,605 acres across the five state forests within the district. This figure does not include any other public land management agencies or privately managed land.

Dormant season prescribed burns are conducted during the winter months when temperatures are cooler, and trees are in their dormant stage to minimize

stress on the timber while reducing heavy fuel loads. Prescribed fire when applied by trained professionals is a safe and effective way to maintain healthy forest ecosystems and reduce wildfire risks. Other benefits of prescribed fire include disease control in young pines, wildlife habitat improvement, range management, preservation of endangered animal and plant species, and the maintenance of fire-dependent ecosystems. Prescribed burns are carefully planned prescriptions designed and developed by certified team members to ensure a safe and

calculated burn. Only when all required prescription conditions are met such as wind direction, relative humidity rate and dispersion rates, will the prescription be implemented.

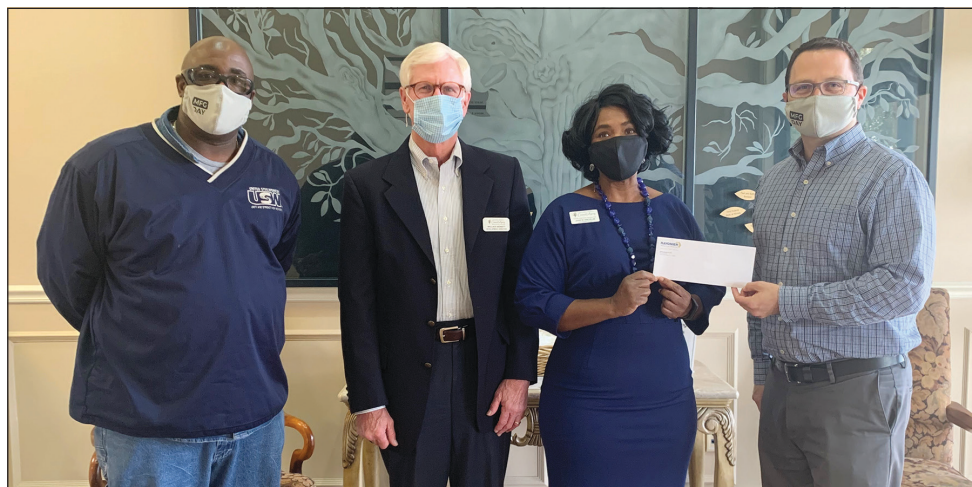
The Florida Forest Service safely and effectively prescribed burned 200,506 acres of Florida state forest land in the recent fiscal year. The Jacksonville Forestry Center successfully burned 7,981 acres on state lands during the most recent fiscal year.

The Florida Forest Service, a division of the Florida Department of

Agriculture and Consumer Services, manages more than 1 million acres of state forest land and provides forest management assistance on more than 17 million acres of private land and community land. The Florida Forest Service is also responsible for protecting homes, forestland and natural resources from the devastating effects of wildfire on more than 26 million acres. To learn more about prescribed fire and its benefits please visit [FDACS.gov/FLForestService](http://FDACS.gov/FLForestService).

## Rayonier Supports NCCOA Seniors

Rayonier Advanced Materials (NYSE: RYAM) visited Nassau County Council on Aging's (NCCOA's) Fernandina Beach Life Center, January 6, to make a generous contribution supporting programs and services for Nassau County seniors. A long-time community partner, Rayonier Advanced Materials most recently supported NCCOA's "boots on the ground" initiative during the pandemic, providing balanced, nutritious meals to seniors unable to leave their homes due to the risk of contracting COVID-19.



Shown (l to r) are: Wayne Peterson, Operator Utilities & President of United Steelworkers Local 395; Wallace Bennett, NCCOA Development Director; Janice Ancrum, NCCOA President & CEO; and Mark Homans, General Manager, Performance Fibers/Rayonier Advanced Materials Fernandina Plant.

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**BEAU DIRT TRACTOR SERVICES:** Grading and drainage, demolition, removal, culvert installation, aggregates, delivery and more! Estimates are always FREE! Call 904-699-9312. tfn

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**FOURAKER MECHANICAL HEATING & AC.** Installation and service of all brands! Locally owned & operated. FREE estimates! Call 945-5404. tfn

**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

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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

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Mulch Manufacturing Inc. is **NOW HIRING LABOR WORKERS AND BAGGING LINE OPERATORS.** Full time 40 hour week, day and night shifts available. Apply in Person at: Mulch Manufacturing, 446195 Hwy 301 South, Callahan, FL 32011. 11421

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**TRAFFIC SIGNAL SPECIALIST.** Nassau County has an opening for a Technical Signal Specialist in the Engineering Services Department at \$20.7768 - \$31.6143 hourly plus benefits. Applications will be accepted until January 26, 2021. To apply please visit www.nassaucountyfl.com or for additional information contact the Human Resources Department located at 96135 Nassau Place, Suite 5, Yulee, Florida 32097, Telephone (904) 530-6075 or Fax (904) 321-5797. Drug Free Workplace. This position is eligible for Veterans' Preference in accordance with applicable laws. 11421

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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.*

### Tuesday, January 5

Susan Elaine Gaston, 31, 45027 Second Avenue, Callahan: Driving While License Suspended/Revoked; Failure to Appear for Leaving the Scene of Accident without Giving Information

Gina Anne Drabek, 49, 37423 Oxford Street, Hilliard: DUI 3rd Violation more than 10 years; Refuse Breath Test

### Thursday, January 7

Luke Christian Field, 34, 19817 Blue Moon Drive, Hilliard: Possession of Weapon by Convicted Felon

### Friday, January 8

Melissa Gail Lacey, 48, 45200 Ewing Park Road, #49, Callahan: Burglary Vehicle Conveyance/Unoccupied

### Saturday, January 9

Kayleigh Ann Ferguson, 22, 27333 Georgia Street, Hilliard: Volusia County Warrant Violation of Probation Battery

## New Rotary Club Chartered in Nassau County

The Greater Nassau Rotary Club has officially moved from satellite status to become the newest Rotary Club in Nassau County. The former satellite group of the Amelia Island Sunrise Rotary celebrated their new charter at the North Hampton Golf Club in November. This will make the third Rotary Club in Nassau County following the Amelia Island Sunrise Club and Rotary Club of Fernandina Beach. This is the first club West of Fernandina reaching Yulee, Callahan, Hilliard and Bryceville.

Richard Wood was sworn in as the club's new President and is excited about the many opportunities to serve the community. "Every day our neighbors face tough challenges," Richard comments. "Our focus will be the Rotary mission of 'Service Above Self' as we work to help those who need it most in our community."

Richard's primary occupation is an agent with Farm Bureau Insurance, but his love of service stems from his family's own hardships as he has watched his children spend time in and out of the hospital on many occasions while facing transplants. This led Richard and his wife Christina to establish Compassionate Hearts for Kids, Inc. as a way to bring hope and love to children who are battling various forms of illness. According to Richard, "It is our responsibility as Rotarians to help our fellow neighbor and lift them up when we can."

About Greater Nassau Rotary Club: Through regular club programs, projects, and neighborhood activities, our members learn about the issues facing Nassau County and exchange ideas on how to take action and respond to them. Rotarians have donated their time to collect canned goods, serve meals, and raise money for those in need. While Rotary provides opportunities to grow personally and professionally, we truly are a service above self-organization. Guests are welcome to attend meetings every Tuesday at the North Hampton Golf Club at 5:30 p.m. For more information on the Greater Nassau Rotary Club, visit its Facebook page [www.facebook.com/nassaucountyrotary](http://www.facebook.com/nassaucountyrotary).



## Sheriff Leeper Appointed to Commission

Nassau County Sheriff Bill Leeper has been appointed to the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA), which oversees the law enforcement accreditation program in the State of Florida and officially accredits law enforcement agencies that have passed the rigorous review process, which requires compliance with more than 250 professional standards designed specifically for Florida law enforcement agencies. Leeper will be one of five sheriffs on the commission.



The Nassau County Sheriff's Office was first accredited by CFA in 2010 and was reaccredited in 2014, 2017 and 2020. NCSO also maintains accreditation on the 9-1-1 Communications Center, as well as the Jail/Detention Center.

In 1993, Florida Statute 943.125 directed the Florida

Sheriffs' Association and the Florida Police Chiefs' Association to create a voluntary law enforcement accreditation program. Through a grass roots effort by the Chiefs and Sheriffs, law enforcement standards were developed and accepted by the Florida law enforcement community and the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation, Inc. was formed. CFA is recognized as the premier state law enforcement accreditation program in the United States. In 2007, The CFA expanded the program to include standards and a process specifically to accredit inspectors general offices. The CFA is comprised of five Chiefs, five Sheriffs and one representative from the State Law Enforcement Chiefs Association, the Association of Counties, The League of Cities, Florida Supreme Court, and the Chief Inspector General Office. The Commission meets three times a year to oversee the accreditation program and to officially accredit agencies that have passed the rigorous review process. For more information on Accreditation, please go to the website at: [www.flaccrreditation.org](http://www.flaccrreditation.org).

"I am honored to be appointed to the CFA Commission by Florida Sheriff's Association President, Gilchrist County Sheriff Bobby Schultz," said Sheriff Leeper. "Being a CFA Commissioner allows me the opportunity to ensure accredited Florida law enforcement agencies deliver law enforcement services at the highest standards in professional policing."

The CFA has the following objectives:

- Establish and maintain standards that represent current professional law enforcement practices
- Increase effectiveness and efficiency in the delivery of law enforcement services
- Establish standards that address and reduce liability for the agency and its members
- Establish standards that make an agency and its personnel accountable to the constituency they serve.

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## CALLAHAN LITTLE LEAGUE Spring Baseball & Softball Sign-ups

Registration Fee: \$115 (Multi-player discount available)

Boys & Girls Ages 4-16

Register through January 18<sup>th</sup> (Late Fee Applies After 1/18)

**ALL registrations must be done online:**

<https://tshq.bluesombrero.com/callahanlittleleague>



**Upload a photo of the player's birth certificate and 3 proofs of residency.**

All paperwork and payments are due at time of registration.

Tryouts (ages 7+): Week of January 18.

Look for an email!

Practices scheduled to begin in early February.

We are accepting volunteer applications now for managers and coaches.  
Visit us on Facebook: Callahan Little League or call 904-562-8696

**SHIRLEY BEVERLY DAVIS**



Shirley Beverly Davis, 78, of Callahan, went home to be with her Lord and Savior on January 8, 2021. She was born on April 11, 1942 in Blackshear, Georgia, to Ira and Irene Beverly. Shirley loved the Lord, was a humble servant and started her day with prayer and reading the word of God. Shirley married the love of her life, Huey O. Davis, on January 28, 1957 and together they had four daughters. People that knew them said, "They had a love like no other." Shirley enjoyed making people laugh, cooking, feeding people, and canning. She was the true definition of a Home Maker. Shirley loved spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren. She encouraged people on how to read the Bible in one year and even gave out completion certificates. She is preceded in death by her parents; husband; and several brothers and sisters.

Shirley is survived by her daughters Sheila (Roger) May of Easley, South Carolina, Sandra (Ricky) Pugh of Callahan, Vickie (Mike) Price of Nahunta, and Huguette (Carl) Werts of Callahan; grandchildren Misty Abels, Nikki Bryson, Amy (Aaron) Copher, Mandy (Tony) Mazza, Kari Price, Kimmie Cobourn, Joshua (Kristin) Werts, Justin (Brandie) Werts, Rebecca (Zane) Hatley and Luisa (Justin) Wright; great-grandchildren, Tyler Abels, Hailey Copher, Aaron Copher, Kaylynn Mazza, Cole Bryson, Dalton Bryson, Luke Bryson, Hagan Werts, Cooper Werts, Blake Werts, Conner Werts, Karen Hatley, Zale Hatley, Zack Marcus, Taylor Marcus, Cannon Cobourn, Macen Werts and Easton Mazza; sister Vernell Lee; brothers Frank (Barbara) Beverly and Travis Beverly.

Shirley's home going service was held Wednesday, January 13 at the Bolougne Holiness Church, Hilliard, with Pastor Andrew Gillis officiating. The family received friends Tuesday, January 12 at Nassau Funeral Home. Interment followed at Enon Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery in Blackshear.

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

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

# OBITUARIES

**WILLIAM CHARLES DYER**



Mr. William Charles 'Bill' Dyer, 69, of Baldwin, went to be with the Lord in paradise on Tuesday, December 29, 2020. A Jacksonville native, he was born to the late Howard Dyer and Ruth Gray Dyer Werner. Upon graduating from Robert E. Lee High School in 1969, he began a diverse work career, from long haul truck driving to working in the maintenance department at Florida State College at Jacksonville, where he spent 23 years until his retirement in 2012.

Bill was always friendly and known for his infectious smile and sly sense of humor. His love of the ocean and fishing was well known by his family and friends. He also had a deep passion for racing. He spent most of his retirement years cheering on his grandchildren in their respective sports and hobbies and doing anything he could to support them, even if it was just giving them a smile and a 'thumbs up' through the fence.

Mr. Dyer is survived by his children Ronald Michael (Billi) Dyer of Tennessee, James (Scarlett) Dyer of Jacksonville and Kristy Marie (Lance) Byrd of North Carolina; grandchildren Ethan, Michael, Evan, Travis, Campbell, Grayson, Collier, Christian and Sebastian; sisters Ruth Milton and Becky (James) Sanchez; longtime companion and love, Cindy Dyer; and numerous loving nieces, nephews, and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents; and his granddaughter Payson Byrd.

A celebration of his life will be held Friday, January 15 in the chapel of Warren Funeral Services of Baldwin. The family will receive friends prior to the service at 5:30 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to a cancer charity or research center of choice.

Warren Funeral Services of Baldwin is serving the Dyer family.

Please leave online condolences at [www.warrenfuneralservices.com](http://www.warrenfuneralservices.com).

**JEAN IRIS HOLT**



Jean Iris Douglas Holt, 86, of 175 Aldren Avenue, formerly of 209 E. Virginia Blvd, passed away Monday, January 4, 2021, in UPMC Presbyterian, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She was born November 10, 1934, in Cogdell, Georgia, a daughter of the late Harvey and Mabel Flanders Douglas. She was married to John S. Holt on November 25, 1955 in Callahan. John preceded her in death on December 9, 2018. Prior to her retirement, she was employed for many years by Jamestown Public School District in the bookkeeping department at the Administration Building. She was a member of First Covenant Church and Gideons Jamestown Camp. She was a dedicated, loving homemaker who thoroughly enjoyed cooking, baking, sewing and entertaining. More than anything she treasured her family and time spent with them.

Surviving Jean are her sister Lavern Douglas Higginbotham of Callahan; and sister-in-law Lois Joiner of Smyrna, TN; her three children Cynthia (Charles) Reese of Pittsburgh, PA, Wayne Holt of Franklin, PA and Linda (Kennan) Tillman of Houston, TX; five grandchildren Charles Reese of Pittsburgh, PA, Daniel Reese of Los Angeles, CA, Allyson Holt of York, PA, Shaylor (Devin) Tillman of Tucson, AZ and Karis Tillman of Houston, TX; two great-grandchildren Emma Reese and Petra Tillman and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

When Jean married John, two families in her heart became one. She is survived in Jamestown by JoAnn and Don Anderson, Dick and Cindy Holt, Susan and Terry Meyers (Syracuse, NY), Paul and Nancy Holt, and their families. In addition to her parents; and husband; she was preceded in death by four brothers John (Olean), Harvey Jr., Leo and Cleo Douglas; sister Viola (Holmes) Conner; and niece JoAnn Holt. Friends were received prior to the funeral held Friday, January 8 at Zion Covenant Church of Jamestown. The funeral was available to be viewed via live stream at [www.facebook.com/lindfuneralhomeinc/](http://www.facebook.com/lindfuneralhomeinc/) with Rev. Adam Rohler and Rev. Daniel Rumpfelt officiating. Burial followed in Lake View Cemetery. Memorials may

be made to Jamestown Gideons, PO Box 3373, Jamestown, NY 14702-3373 or First Covenant Church, 520 Spring Street, Jamestown, NY 14701.

Lind Funeral Home assisted the family.

**JACK OTHO JONES**

Jack Otho Jones passed from this life January 1, 2021, at his home in Mulberry Gap, Tennessee. He was born on September 13, 1937, in Jacksonville, to Victor Hugo Jones and Tressie Inez Voyles. Jack was the oldest of seven children. Jack married his high school sweetheart Carol Ann Branning in Jacksonville on July 16, 1958. Their marriage was later solemnized in the Salt Lake City LDS Temple. An avid outdoorsman, Jack loved hunting and fishing, watching Gator football, and was a member of the Duval County Road Patrol.

Jack is survived by two sons Brian (Brooxie) Jones and Gary (Brenda) Jones; two grandchildren Josh (Shelby) and Tressie; two great-grandchildren; and siblings Vicki (Gary) Bowen, Arthur Jones, Deborah McClelland and James Jones.

He was preceded in death by his loving wife; his parents; brother John Jones; and sisters Sylvia Jones and Tressie Ann Aldridge.

A graveside service was held Saturday, January 9 at Jones Cemetery Callahan.

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

Arrangements by Callahan Funeral Home, 879-2336.

**CARLIS LEE**

Carlisle Lee, 83, of Jacksonville, went home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at UF Health North after a brief illness. Carlisle was born on January 28, 1937 in Nicholls, Georgia to the late Prince Lee and Ada Kirkland Lee. He was raised on a farm, where at a young age he was taught what hard work was. He helped work in the fields plowing and tending the crops.

He moved to Jacksonville at the young age of 18. He went to work as an apprentice for Auchter Construction Company. He worked hard and he retired from there as superintendent, overseeing many high rise projects throughout the downtown area and surrounding counties. He enjoyed

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being outside in his younger years hunting, especially with his coon hound dogs and fishing. In his later years, he took up beekeeping and making honey.

In addition to his parents; Carlis is predeceased by his wife of 59 years, Euletha Grayson Lee; three sisters Christine Brown, Mary Lois Nettles and Geraldine Carter; as well as three brothers J.V. Lee, Donnie Lee, and Albert Lee.

Survivors include a brother Virgil Lee of Douglas; two children Carl Edward Lee of Jacksonville and Sharon Lee (Randy) Ray of Waycross; five grandchildren Shawn (Kristi) Lee, Justin (Vickie) Lee, Michael (Jamie) Ray, Lauren (James) Ballew and Kristen (Davis) McHugh; six great-grandchildren Ethan, Madison and Brayson Lee, Maverick and Hunter Ray and Raylee Ballew.

The funeral service was held Friday, January 8 in the Chapel of Callahan Funeral Home with Rev. Bill Forde and Rev. Randy Ray officiating. Visitation was held prior to service. Interment followed in Jones Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Shawn Lee, Justin Lee, Michael Ray, Gene Lee, James Ballew, and Davis McHugh.

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

Arrangements by Callahan Funeral Home, 879-2336.

**AMEIL MILLARD THOMAS**



Ameil Millard 'Tommy' Thomas was taken to his eternal home on January 10, 2021. Tommy was born December 31, 1924 in Hanna, Oklahoma, to Millard Filmore Thomas and Lemer Stubblefield Thomas.

He is preceded in death by his wife of 53 years, Beverly Ruth Thomas; and granddaughter Aimee Thomas. Tommy enlisted in the US Navy in September of

# OBITUARIES

1941 and served during WWII and in the Korean War. He retired rank AMC in March of 1962. After his retirement from the Navy, he worked in several vocations. He achieved a 32 degree in the Scottish Rite Temple. He served as a scout master. For the last 26 years of his life, he was a dedicated mentor for Alcoholics Anonymous.

He is survived by his daughter April Thomas (Ben Harnage); son Wayne Morgan (Lynn) Thomas, daughter Valarie Morgan and son Phillip Lee (Lynn) Thomas, Sr.; grandchildren Phillip Thomas, Jr., Michael (Rebekah) Thomas, Christy Thomas, Stephanie (Harnes) Stewart, Bradley (Angela) Murray, Mandy (Travis) Sad, Paul (Stephanie) Thomas; and several great and great-great-grandchildren.

Full Military services will be held Thursday, January 14 at the Jacksonville National Cemetery at 10 a.m. In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations made to Alcoholics Anonymous.

**MARIE ELAINE THOMPSON**



Marie Elaine Thompson, 55, of Callahan, went to be with the Lord Tuesday, January 5, 2021, following a brief illness. She was born November 22, 1965. She loved to plant flowers and go fishing. She had a sweet personality, beautiful eyes and a smile that would light up a room. She loved her grandchildren! She is preceded in death by her father Elmer Kato; her sister Tammy Edwards; and her niece Vanessa Dixon.

She is survived by her longtime companion Randall Sullivan; her sons Mark (Jenny) Thompson of Callahan and Matthew Thompson; step-children Brianna (Chad) Sullivan and Randy (Brooke)

Sullivan; her grandchildren Chamberlian, Hunter, Michael, Bristol, Chad, Jr., Sawyer, Brae and Brackey; her mother Vickie Kato; brothers Larry Kato, David (Debra) Kato and Ronald Kato; and several nieces and nephews.

A celebration of her life will be held Sunday, January 17 at 2 p.m. at The Anchor Church in Callahan with Ethan Thompson officiating. The family will receive friends following the service.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations in her name to: Community Hospice & Palliative Care, 4266 Sunbeam Road, Jacksonville, 32257.

The family sends their sincere thanks to all of the nurses and doctors who treated Marie while in St. Vincent's Riverside. They went above and beyond for her, as well as for us.

**RUTH LOUISE WILES**



Ruth Louise Fisher Wiles, 98, of Hilliard, passed away December 24, 2020. She was born May 6, 1922 in Etna, Pennsylvania to the late Edna and Harry Fisher. She was the fourth born of six siblings. She graduated from Etna High School in 1940. On February 20, 1943, she married Donald E. Wiles, Sr., who preceded her in death on July 3, 1991.

She and her family moved to Hilliard in 1977. In the local community she was employed by Maynard's Service Station, Lucky Dollar, Supertest and Lil Champ to name a few. She also helped run a family business and was a caregiver to her disabled brother for several years until his death. She was very organized and meticulous and was a bookkeeper by trade.

She had many jobs in her lifetime but the one she treasured the most was that of being a mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and most recently prior to her passing, a proud and loving great-great-grandmother.

Her happiest times were when she was hosting family dinners and gatherings with her beloved friends of faith, both of which included lots of food and lots of card playing. She enjoyed crocheting and crafting, cooking and baking, playing cards and Rummikub with family and friends, having tea parties with her dear lady friends and telling others about her faith.

Ruth was well known for her hospitality, generosity, her love of God, and her love for people. She was happiest when she was serving others, no matter what time of day or night, whether it be family, friends, or her community. She found great joy in being with her friends and family no matter where that might be. She loved to laugh and she loved to make others laugh. She never met a stranger.

She was one of Jehovah's Witnesses and was baptized in 1953. She was a member of the Hilliard Congregation. It was her strong faith in God's word and His promise of a future paradise under the rule of His son Jesus Christ that gave her strength and hope for the future. She loved to share that hope and promise of God's Kingdom with everyone she could.

She is survived by her children: Donald E. (Mimi) Wiles, Jr. of Hilliard, Richard A. (Darlane) Wiles of Havana and Diane L. Wimer of Quincy; six grandchildren, Ronald (Lori) Wiles, Anthony (Doris) Wiles, David (Carmel) Wiles, Jason (Ronnie) Wiles, Erik (Kelly) Wiles and Desiree Gorman; five great-grandchildren, Keri (Jacob) Beam, Joshua Wiles, Amanda Wiles, Erika Livingston and Dylan Gorman; one great-great-granddaughter Eleanor Louise Beam; and many friends that she loved and cherished so dearly.

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# Resilience in the Form of a Holiday Party

Kelsey Irvine

2020 has taught our 4-H community more lessons than we wanted to have in only one year. With big ups, downs, and new paths our members trekked forward with hope and understanding.

We may have missed some big annual milestones like our awards banquet, the fair and traditional summer camps, but recently we made the end to the year bright with an Awards & Holiday Celebration. We truly could not have done it without the amazing support of Dr. Simonne, the NE FL Fair Board, Nassau County BOCC Technical Services & Facilities Maintenance, our Extension staff, and of course a committed and resilient 4-H Community! Thank you to everyone who helped to make this event a reality for our youth!



celebration with our annual holiday party. Following both county and UF guidelines our team made a plan.

Project and Record books are a chance for 4-H members to demonstrate their mastery of a specific subject area over the course of the year. These books are submitted and graded each year by agents. Youth can receive awards for completion of project books or progress made toward their goals. This year we had a record-breaking 19 submitted books! The following youth completed the Horse Record Book: Raelin Tew



Mr. Ted, Mrs. Laura, Ms. Holli and I, started the discussion of how to have a safe in-person event after the Nassau County 4-H Association pushed for more in-person 4-H activities. We decided to merge our postponed awards

- Blue; Danyelle Bell - Blue; Lainey Walters - Blue; Lauren Walters - Blue; Kimberly Forster - Red; Jack Norstrom - Red; Emily Pilcher - Red; Charlie Norstrom - White; Emma Norstrom earned 1 Blue ribbon for her Horse Record book and 2 certificates of progress for the Goat and Horse project books; Kai Laurendine earned 2



Blue awards for both the Horse Record book and his Sheep Record book; Kee Laurendine earned 2 Blue awards for completing the Horse Record book and Sheep Record book; Tucker Williams earned a Blue ribbon for his Swine Record book; Tristan Shannon was being recognized for his progress in his Crank It Up project book; and Peyton Brown earned 2 Red awards for her Lamb and Swine Record books.

Volunteer Awards were also announced: Club Leader of the Year: Patti Walker; Volunteer of the Year: Amanda Stevenson; School Enrichment Volunteer of the Year: Madison Stevenson; Youth Volunteer of the Year: Emma Norstrom; Outstanding Community Partner: Nassau County



**4-H'er of the Year: Kaitlyn Malott**

Florida Farm Bureau; and 4-H'er of the Year: Kaitlyn Malott!

This year we collected so many items for three different animal rescue organizations! Our staff & members also created more than 40 letters for first responders!

Please enjoy some of the friendly faces from our event! All unmasked moments were in compliance with guidelines. Thank you to everyone who braved the cold to celebrate with us!



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