

"THEREFORE DO NOT WORRY ABOUT TOMORROW, FOR TOMORROW WILL WORRY ABOUT ITSELF. EACH DAY HAS ENOUGH TROUBLE OF ITS OWN." - MATTHEW 6:34

Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebrations Held



The Concerned Citizens of Hilliard held their Annual MLK, Jr. Walk Monday morning beginning at the Volunteer Fire Station and walking to Oxford Street ending at Hisbon Baptist Church where the celebration service was held. The cold weather may have kept a few residents from walking, however, a good crowd was at the

church service.

The Patricia V. Williams Concerned Citizens of Nassau County in Callahan, held their services at Greater Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church and then walked to Ewing Park in Callahan to fellowship together. There was a large group walking and several vehicles.



Callahan Man Arrested in Home Invasion with Stabbing

Last Thursday, January 12, the Nassau County Sheriff's Department arrested Gabreon Brown, 31, of Callahan, and charged him with Attempted First-Degree Murder and Armed Burglary with Battery.

According to NCSO reports, the crime was committed a week ago Sunday, January 8. Brown and another man knocked on the door of a residence on Caulkins Drive in the Swallowfork area in Callahan. When the victim asked who it was, one of the men answered, "It's Michael." The victim had just exited the shower and had wrapped himself with a blanket. As the victim began opening the door, he saw it was



Gabreon Brown

Brown and immediately tried shutting the door as Brown and the other man began forcing their way in. Both men attacked the victim and the fight carried

out onto the front porch. The victim tripped on his blanket and fell to the floor.

A witness told an investigator that is when Brown produced a knife and began stabbing the victim multiple times. The witness also stated that as the stabbing was taking place, she heard a voice from a car that was parked in the driveway. The attackers fled the porch, jumped in the getaway car and sped off. The witness identified the voice of an ex-friend, Somer Edwards. The witness and Edwards had a past disagreement over money. During that disagreement, Gabe Brown was present and told the witness he would "Blow her brains out

with an AK-47." Somer Edwards had also sent a text message to the victim a few weeks ago stating, "Me N Gabe will be paying y'all a visit. U (expletive) with the wrong ones. And keep it up. Ur done."

The victim was transported to a Jacksonville hospital with critical injuries which required emergency surgery to save his life. The following day he was still listed in critical but stable condition and required a second surgery. No further information as to an arrest of Edwards or the unidentified second man.

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A Word From the Publisher

This is already one of the coldest winters I can remember in a long time. I guess I should have known this was going to happen when we had those four or five days of 20 degree weather at Christmas. I, as a Floridian, am a sissy when it's cold. I like the change in temperatures but it has been cold. Probably another reason so many people are sick. Again, it's cold for a couple of days then we jump back to 78 degrees the next two days. I'm just happy to know that the flu, colds and sinus infections are back. That was probably wrong to say but you must remember for over two years you haven't heard of them. I'm sure our quick changes in temperatures have a lot to do with it.

Each of us goes through 'seasons' of life. Of course, as I get older I am learning a lot about these 'seasons.' Some come in like a nice cool breeze and others come in and take your breath away. It's those times that I've learned to get my focus back on the Lord and keep looking up. It's very easy to get so wrapped up in what's happening that it becomes your every thought. What am I going to do? How can I fix this? What am I going to do next week? It's very easy to become overwhelmed and discouraged. It's those times that I know I can't rely on my own strength. That's when I have to remember to turn it over to the Lord. I know some people think this might be crazy, but I would really be crazy if I didn't do just that! The Bible tells us over and over that "... the Lord is my strength."

I know I am totally guilty of being a

fixer. I want to try to fix everything and make everyone happy. It's very hard to be a fixer in our broken world that's why we must rely on God. I have three devotionals that I like to read from. It's so amazing that two of them have dates and one doesn't. However, these last few weeks, I've just been mesmerized at how God has revealed himself in my life through these readings. It's proof to me that He knows what I'm going through and His mercy and grace are pulling me along each and every day. If not, there is no way I could keep up with what I'm doing. I serve an awesome God and He is right with me encouraging and carrying me.

I share my thoughts because I know there are lots of people that are going through 'seasons' in their lives that might be awesome or they might be challenging. You, too, can find the grace and mercy of my loving God and Savior. You just have to earnestly call out to him in prayer. As the verses in one of my favorite hymns says, "Thou changest not (unlike me), thy compassions they fail not, as Thou hast been thou forever wilt be, morning by morning new mercies I see, all I have needed thy hand hath provided, Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me."

I'm so thankful for a compassionate faithful Father that loves me unconditionally and I thank Him for his provision and direction for every moment of my life. Won't you ask Him in your life today?

Have a blessed week!

Dawn S. West

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.

Two Playoffs

Dear Editor,

There are currently two very different playoffs taking place in our country: the AFC vs the NFC; and the Republicans vs the Democrats. The Republican team is led by a half dozen congressmen who are spurred on by testimony of 14 or so FBI agents who have blown the whistle to stop the Biden Administration from undue influence in our Justice Department. Their collective testimony attests to Biden's attempt to infiltrate justice and bring to light his and his family's investments in energy firms while dictating national energy policy.

The Democratic team consists of eight party assailants and one Republican turncoat, Adam Kintszinger, out to make a name

for himself a dirty name. Using witness statements, known to be the least reliable evidence, that sounded more like a soap opera, to foster their attempt to criminalize President Trump.

It's halftime and there's no score with each team racing to reach the goal. Republicans: Biden's impeachment for flagrant misuse of power; and Democrats: Destroy any chance for Donald Trump to ever run for public office. My money's on the Republicans for seeking the truth as opposed to the Democrats, who once again, demonstrate how terrified they are of President Trump. Time to get out of the stands and into the game!

B.R. McConnell

Community Pinewood Derby Races

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Come out and race Pinewood Derby Cars!



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Where: First United Methodist Church of Callahan

Registration Fee: \$5 at the door

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In the Kitchen... Broccoli & Rice Casserole

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Take Stock Receives Donation

The holiday season was bright for Take Stock in Children of Nassau County (TSIC)! The Ritz-Carlton Amelia Island gifted TSIC with a donation of \$4,443.00 to this scholarship and mentoring program for deserving local students.



The Ritz-Carlton Amelia Island donates 100% of the ticket sales for their annual Christmas tree lighting to several local nonprofits. The tree lighting is an evening of fun and festivities that kicks off the holidays with the lighting of the 40-foot Ritz-Carlton Christmas tree decorated with thousands of lights. Participants were treated to live holiday entertainment by musicians, soloists, and dance performers. Even Santa showed up, and couldn't resist the fresh cookies and cider or the aroma of the famous Ritz-Carlton gingerbread pirate ship. The festivities were capped off with a spectacular fireworks show. The

proceeds from the event are shared with Nassau County Council on Aging, Boys & Girls Club of Nassau County, The St. Marys Riverkeeper, Micah's Place, The Sea Turtle Conservancy and Take Stock in Children. TSIC is a scholarship and mentoring program which has benefited nearly 700 local students since 1997. If you are interested in becoming involved as a mentor or supporter, please contact Executive Director Robin Lentz at rlentz@tsicnassau.org or visit our website www.takestocknassau.org.

BE THE CHANGE NE FL COLLECTING SHOES

The Be the Change NE FL group is in need of new or gently used closed toe shoes for their homeless outreach program. Shoes are needed for men, women and children, all sizes. Please drop donations off to 14244 Pace Road, Jacksonville.

Be the Change will also hold a clothing giveaway Friday, January 20 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at 14244 Pace Road, Jacksonville.



Roger R. West

If you missed reading the article in last week's edition of the Westside Journal titled "Is it Chaos, or Representation" by Douglas C. Pearson, Sr., I strongly encourage you to find it and read it. The point he makes rings so very true and is just another confirmation as to the point I was attempting to make in last week's "Just My Opinion". Media propaganda is a tool used often throughout the world since the beginning of the media.

Remember back in September 2022, Biden was asked by CBS' Scott Pelley how he felt when he saw the DOJ images of the Top-Secret documents on the floor of Trump's Florida home, to which Biden replied: "How could that possibly happen? How could anyone be that irresponsible." Biden added, "And I thought what data was in there that may compromise sources and methods. By, I mean, names of people who helped or et cetera. And it's just totally irresponsible."

President Trump's documents were not found on the floor, they were placed there by the Gestapo, I mean the FBI agents. Now we have a problem Houston, we are now learning that good ole' Joe has classified documents stored all over the place. Documents have been found in a closet of a building on a college campus and in one of Joe's garages next to his Corvette, as well as inside one of his houses. Of course, the

mainstream media is handling this very cautiously for Biden, I mean it's like, no real big deal to the left wingers, but in reality, it's a much larger deal than Trump's case. All of these documents were from when Biden was the Vice President. He had NO legal authority to remove any classified documents from the White House as Vice President. In doing so, he committed a crime, punishable by prison. Of course, we all know that won't happen. The President is the only one who can de-classify documents, such as with President Trump's case.

The first batch of Biden's crime was found in November last year, you know, right before the mid-term elections. However, that was not a convenient time for this type of story to be released, so the FBI sat on it as long as they could. Once again, we have a two-tier justice system in our country and once again, we have a media that is gas-lighting the public in order to make the people believe what the left want us to believe. The Democrat Socialist Party cannot be trusted. They are the most corrupt organization ever in the history of this nation. We are going to see more of their corruption come to light in the near future so sit down, fasten your seat belt and hang-on!

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

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Relationships are Key

Pastor James MacFarlane, First Alliance Church, Hilliard



Nothing can replace the importance of relationships in our lives. For those of us that follow Christ, our relationship with Him is the most important. Our families, friends, co-workers, neighbors; these are people we are also in relationships with. Another important relationship believers in Christ share are relationships with each other, as well as those around us. The health of these relationships is a living testimony to the world around us. Whether we realize it or not, people are watching. When they are watching, what do they see? Christians in healthy relationships of love and mutual caring? Do they see someone they can experience these relationships with for themselves? When they do not, why are we so surprised that they want nothing to do with Christians or churches?

Nothing can replace the importance of relationships. An argument can be made that relationship is at the core of why God created us. God created us in His image (Genesis 1:26-27). God placed Adam in the Garden that He made for him. God talked to Adam, walked with Him. God made us to be relational. Genesis 2:18 reads, "Then the LORD God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.'" God did not create us this way to spend just a few hours, once or twice a week together. Acts 2:42-47 gives us a beautiful example of how we are to be in relationship with each other as Christ's Body. Let's look at the relational aspects of these Scriptures. They devoted themselves to fellowship (v. 42). They were together and had all things in common (v. 44). Supporting any that had need (v. 45). Day by Day attending the temple and breaking bread in their homes (v. 46). Jesus did not spend three hours a week discipling His followers either. Christ invited them into His life (Matthew 4:19).

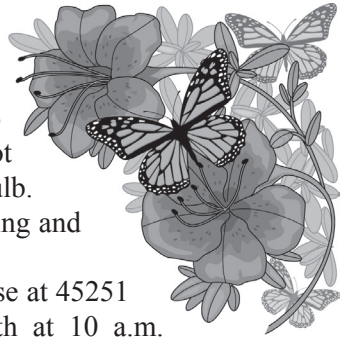
If we are Christ's disciples, we must strive to do the same. We must build and enrich relationships with those around us. It starts in the home with our spouse and children. We must show the love of Christ to our family and friends. Our neighbors and those in our community as well. Here is another aspect of this that is of vital importance. We must seek to build relationships with those around us that are lost as well as saved. We cannot walk up to the lost with no "relational capital" to share the Gospel of Christ and expect real life transformation. This does happen, but it is normally the exception, not the rule. Relationship is how the Body of Christ grows. Christ taught in parable so that others could relate to what He was teaching. He lived His life daily with His disciples to provide a relational example of how to be fishers of men.

Christ taught his followers how to love others too. A loving relationship with God that we put first, enables us to build loving relationships with others (Matthew 22:34-40). Living a loving life in Christ that is worth imitation as a testimony to Christ's glory in our own lives (1 Corinthians 11:1). We must be a person of acceptance when so many others are rejecting and divisive. It is not our responsibility to change people for Christ. We are not to convict or judge, that is the work of the Holy Spirit (John 16:8-11). We are to meet them where they are and love on them. This is what Christ calls us to. The only question that remains is if we are ready and willing to answer the call.

Callahan Garden Club News

Barbara Wheeler

At the January 4th meeting of the Callahan Garden Club, members learned how to plant flowering bulbs. The demonstration, taught by Paula Schutte, also included information on care for plants and wet root planting. All those present went home with a potted bulb. In these cold winter days, we look forward to blooming and often fragrant house plants.



The Callahan Garden Club meets at their clubhouse at 45251 Fourth Avenue, the first Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m. Our purpose is to educate, inspire, conserve and beautify our environment and community. Our next meeting on February 1st will include a presentation about planting from seeds. All those wishing to join our Garden Club are welcome to attend. Please join us...you will be inspired!

ATTENTION: Nassau County Homeschool Co-ops



4-H will be hosting an upcoming Public Speaking Contest powered by FPL! This event provides an opportunity for youth in grades 4-8 to improve their writing and public speaking skills. Nassau County Homeschool Co-ops are invited to participate in our county-level competition, which will be held in April 2023.

For more details or Homeschool Co-ops interested in participating, please fill out the interest form <https://tinyurl.com/4-H-FPL-Speech-Contest>. If you're having trouble accessing the interest form, please contact Ms. Laura at the Nassau County Extension office: 904-530-6353 or llaroche@ufl.edu.

NCCOA Annual Meeting January 31

You are invited to Nassau County Council on Aging's (NCCOA's) Annual meeting Tuesday, January 31 from 11 a.m. – 12 noon, at the Fernandina Beach Senior Life Center, 1901 Island Walk Way. Join us as we celebrate our 2022 accomplishments and share a preview of our 2023 programs and services. Light refreshments will be served. Please RSVP by Jan. 25, 904-261-0701.

CHURCH NEWS

Bethany Episcopal Church will be selling Spaghetti Dinners Friday, Jan. 20 from 5-7 p.m. for \$8 each. Eat-in or Take-out! The church is located on CR 108 in Hilliard across from Hilliard Town Hall.

North Hilliard Baptist Church, 552823 US HWY 1, Daughters of God meeting will be held Sat., Jan. 21 from 12-2 p.m. We're inviting any woman and teenage girl to join us.

REJOICE WITH US!

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Change the World with 3 Resolutions

Yvette Outler

The Oxford dictionary defines resolution as “A firm decision to do or not to do something.” These resolutions will not only positively affect your life but every life you touch. Here they are:

BE KIND. I just finished keeping my grandchildren for a few days to give my daughter a respite. While keeping my grandchildren I was reminded of how necessary it is to train children to be kind. What comes natural for a child (and us) is to be selfish, self-centered and to not look out for others. Our actions show others what we believe about God and being kind. Kindness can be found in many ways, such as: Giving a smile away, to hold the door open for the next person, being considerate when behind the wheel and allowing the semi over on the interstate or helping the elderly person reach for the item on the top shelf at the grocery store. We have an opportunity every day to be kind. Look for your chance!

Kindness challenge: Have a day of the week that you fast complaining. What does this look like? You will intentionally choose not to allow a negative or complaining word to come out of your mouth for that entire day. Most importantly because God expects us to be kind. (Ephesians 4:32)

BE FORGIVING. Haven't you held onto your unforgiveness long enough? It's robbed enough from you and it's time to let it go. It's time to take back having “life” in your life. We are all in need of grace. Apart from God's grace we could be doing the most ungodly acts known to mankind. We all need forgiveness. The Lord's prayer closes with, “...and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.” The loving forgiveness bestowed to us can be poured out to others. It's a choice. Forgiveness is not having to agree with how you were treated or what has been done, but simply extending God's grace to the person who offended you. This year have an offendectomy, no, that's not a real word but in my dictionary it means to choose not to be offended. You are the only person in control of your emotions. It's very freeing to realize that no matter how I am treated that I have a choice as to how I respond. I have chosen not to give any person management or power over my

feelings but me.

Forgiveness challenge: Forgive that person (or family) who has treated you wrongly. Holding onto such emotions causes your bones to ache and will deteriorate you spiritually and physically. Turn them over to God. Let it go. God wants you too, as His forgiveness hinges on your forgiveness. (Matthew 6:14 -15)

BE GENEROUS. Be others' refreshment! Have you ever met someone who had a terrific understanding of how to bless others? A generous person spends their resources, time, and themselves on others. You don't have to look far to see someone else in need. The generous person looks out not only for others' needs but pays close attention to others' wants. Like Christ, they're concerned about the “desire of one's heart”.

Generosity challenge: Let's take the “pay it forward” idea to a new level. Each day look for someone to bless. Possibly pay for a single mom's groceries or pay for the meal of the folks in the car behind you at McDonalds if you can afford to. Keep a \$10 gift card (Chick-fil-A or Zaxby's) in your purse to be able to bless someone when the Holy Spirit prompts you. Keep homeless bags in your car to be given out, as needed. Bring your leftovers to your neighbor just because you can. Babysit the worn-out mom to give her a break. Send your son and daughter-in-law away for the weekend, an all-expense paid trip to the mountains. While at the gas station, look out for the one that God will prompt your heart to fill her tank. Keep extra umbrellas in your car to give away when rain comes unexpectedly. A generous heart is content. A generous heart doesn't complain. A generous heart looks like Christ.

Paying it forward is a lifestyle. The mystery to me is how God refreshes our soul when we refresh others. (Proverbs 11:25) I don't know about you, but I want my town to look different. I want my town to resemble its Creator: Kind, Forgiving and Generous.

Never doubt the power of one person (you). Change always begins with just one person. In 2023 be among the greats! Noah built the ark. Esther saved the Jews. David conquered the giant. What is before you that you can do? It can begin with you.

NCSO Officer Involved in Fatal Shooting

Last Wednesday, January 11, Nassau County Deputies were dispatched to a residence on Barbara Lane near Hilliard due to a domestic disturbance. 911 operators received the call at 2:14 a.m., the caller stated someone at that location was threatening to harm herself. According to Sheriff Leeper, the deputies learned that the woman had left the residence prior to their arrival, but was most likely still somewhere on the property. Deputies began searching the property and located the woman hiding in thick underbrush. The deputies tried talking to her to get her to surrender peacefully. One of the deputies observed that the woman was holding a “dark barreled rifle in her hands.” “At one point, while the deputies were talking with her,” Leeper stated, “she appeared to aim the rifle towards the deputies and that is when one deputy fired a single shot, striking her. She was pronounced deceased at the scene. Upon further investigation it was found that the rifle was a “BB-style rifle”

but in the darkness the deputies had to assume it to be an actual rifle.”

Sheriff Leeper stressed, “Nobody wants to do this, it's traumatic for everyone, and it's unfortunate that someone died. But I am thankful that deputies are not hurt. But it's not something we look forward to doing. But they have to protect themselves, and that's just what he was doing.”

The victim was identified as Donna Dale, age 47 and a mother to three children. Dale has had other run-ins with law enforcement as recent as the day before this incident. Her past includes arrests for domestic battery, attempted murder, aggravated battery, and five domestic violence injunctions.

The deputy that fired his weapon was identified as Christian Copher. Copher has been with the Nassau County Sheriff's Department since 2015. Copher was placed on Administrative Leave which is normal protocol in this type of situation, until he's cleared to return to work.

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New Beginnings and Milestones



Serenity Love Rehme

Jonathan and Shawna Rehme, of Hilliard, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Serenity Love Rehme. Serenity was born December 13, 2022 at 11:06 p.m. at UF Health North in Jacksonville. She weighed 7 pounds 4 ounces and measured 20 inches.

Paternal grandparents are Scott and Robbie Rehme of Hilliard.

Maternal grandparents are Steve and Stacy Collins of Jacksonville.

Proud great-grandparents are Bob Rehme; Carol Collins; Janet Arn; and Maryanne Collin.

Serenity was welcomed home by her sisters Aurora and Skyla!

S.C.V. Holds Annual Banquet

On Sunday, 103 family, friends and members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans dined at Maggiano's Little Italy in Jacksonville as Kirby-Smith Camp 1209 held its annual Lee/Jackson banquet. This yearly remembrance honors the lives of General Robert E. Lee (January 19, 1807 - October 12, 1870) and General Thomas J. (Stonewall) Jackson (January 21, 1824 - May 10, 1863).

The guest speaker was S.C.V. Commander-In-Chief Jason Boshers, who with his wife Linda, traveled from their home in Tennessee for the event. For more information go to www.scv-kirby-smith.org.



Shown (l to r) are: Florida Division Commander Calvin Hart presenting a statuette of President Jefferson Davis to Boshers as a token of thanks for his presentation.

 Look for us on Facebook!

Florida Forest Service to Begin Prescribed Burning

Robert Chase, FL Forest Service PIO

The Florida Forest Service's Jacksonville Forestry District will begin dormant season prescribed burning in the coming weeks on state lands in Clay, Duval, and Nassau counties. Approximately 14,593 acres are scheduled to be burned on the 5 state forests within the three counties. This figure does not include privately managed land or land managed by other public agencies.

Dormant season prescribed burns are conducted during the winter months when temperatures are cooler, and trees are in their dormant stage. Burning during the cooler months helps to minimize stress on the timber while reducing heavy fuel loads. Prescribed fire is a safe way to apply a natural process, ensure ecosystem health, and reduce wildfire risk. Other uses of prescribed fire include disease control in young pines, wildlife habitat improvement, range management, preservation of endangered plant and animal species, and the maintenance of fire-dependent ecosystems. Pre-planned prescribed burns are carefully analyzed and conducted under specific weather conditions. Specific calendar dates for burn activities are fluid. Only when conditions are right can prescribed burns achieve desired results.



The Florida Forest Service treated 199,572 acres of Florida state forests with prescribed fire during the most recent fiscal year. The Jacksonville Forestry District burned 7,470 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 forests and provides forest management assistance on more than 17 million acres of private and community forests. The Florida Forest Service is also responsible for protecting homes, forestland, and natural resources from the devastating effects wildfire on more than 26 million acres. Learn more at FDACS.gov/FLForestService.

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Hilliard VFW Honors Students



Each year, nearly 68,800 students in grades 6-8 across the nation enter the VFW's Patriot's Pen youth essay contest for a chance to win their share of more than \$1.4 million in state and national awards. The essay contest encourages young minds to examine America's history, along with their own experiences in modern American society, by drafting a 300 - 400 word essay expressing their views based on a patriotic theme.

The Patriot Pen essay 2022-23 theme was "My Pledge to Our Veterans." This was open to middle school students, grades 6 - 8. A record 118 essays were turned in for consideration to the Hilliard VFW Post 10095. Due to the number of entrants, eight students, who were district qualifiers, were allowed to advance to District Competition from

the Hilliard VFW Post 10095.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10095 of Hilliard is proud to announce the winners of the Patriot Pen Essay writing competition: Cory Cook, Christian Domenick, Jackson Hodges, Brody Liras, Presley Manning, Brooke Mayberry, Genevieve Parden and Sophia Whiteman, all 7th graders at Yulee Middle School were chosen to represent Hilliard VFW. Each winner received a certificate.

Sophia Whiteman won 1st Place; Brody Liras was 2nd Place; and Christian Domenick was 3rd Place. These students will also receive a cash prize. All eight qualifiers will have an equal chance to win at the district level and advance to State and National selection. "To read these essays from so many of our local children shows me that patriotism is alive and well," said VFW Auxiliary President Lanaie Reed.



Shown (l to r) are: VFW Post 10095 Commander Shane Bray, Christian Domenick, Brody Liras, Sophia Whiteman and VFW Vice Commander Gene Colbert.

"Our future continues to look bright in the minds of our students that take the time to think about America's purpose," added Shane Bray VFW Post 10095 Commander.

CONGRATULATIONS ZEB!

Zeb Bryson Turner, 6, of Bryceville recently won 1st Place in the Cup Karts of North America Winter Nationals held recently in Jacksonville. Zeb is in the first grade at Bryceville Elementary School. He started racing go karts at 5 years old at North Florida Kart Club.



The Cup Karts of North America (CKNA) Winter Nationals race were

held January 6-8 at the 103rd Street Sports Complex in Jacksonville. Zeb won 1st Place! He was up against tough competition, beating 7 other drivers from all over the country.

He races locally at NFKC at the 103rd Street track once a month. Racing is his passion and favorite thing to do! He hopes to grow up and be a NASCAR driver. He would like to thank his sponsor Dane Dirtworks, LLC. His proud parents are Zeb and Kayla Turner of Bryceville! Congratulations!



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Northeast Florida Community Action Agency, a non-profit Florida corporation is soliciting proposals for a **Certified Quality Control Inspector** for Weatherization Assistance Program. Bids are due no later than February 3, 2023. A bid package may be obtained on the Agency's website <https://nfcaa.org/> under "News and Press" or by email request to kmarino@nfcaa.org.

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Northeast Florida Community Action Agency, a non-profit Florida corporation is soliciting proposals for a **General Contractor** for Weatherization Assistance Program. Bids are due no later than February 3, 2023. A bid package may be obtained on the Agency's website <https://nfcaa.org/> under "News and Press" or by email request to kmarino@nfcaa.org.

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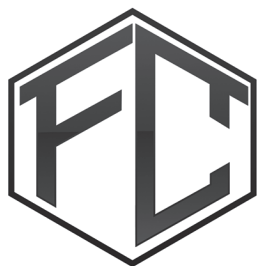
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Northeast Florida Community Action Agency, a non-profit Florida corporation is soliciting proposals for an **Energy Auditor/Pre-Inspector** for Weatherization Assistance Program. Bids are due no later than February 3, 2023. A bid package may be obtained on the Agency's website <https://nfcaa.org/> under "News and Press" or by email request to kmarino@nfcaa.org.

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Corbin's Corner Community Pet Pantry Grand Opening

In 2016, tragedy struck the Higham family when their son Corbin unexpectedly passed away. His passion for animals and compassion for others certainly left a mark on this world and he has been truly missed.

To honor his life and share his light with the community, Corbin's family has now established Corbin's Corner to offer essential pet supplies to low-income families. Offering dog and cat food, litter and toys, Corbin's Corner seeks to ease the financial burdens on pet owners. Low-cost microchipping, vaccines and spay/neuter programs with veterinary partners will make sure that your pets stay happy and healthy.

If you have found yourself in need of assistance in caring for your furry friend, please register at: www.pawpawspetrescue.org/corbins-corner to benefit from Corbin's Corner



Services. Events will be held the third Saturday of every month.

This Saturday, January 21, will be the Grand Opening of Corbin's Corner Community Pet Pantry. The Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting will be held at 9:30 a.m. Pets must be registered at the website mentioned to receive assistance. There is a limit of 4 pets per family. The event will be held from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. at Corbin's Corner, 2850 SR 2 in Hilliard.

New Retirement Rules for 2023

Urban Fleming, MS-PFP, CRPC

Congress created new rules for retirement accounts in December 2022 with immediate and long-term effects. The new legislation called SECURE Act 2.0 is lengthy and details are still being digested by experts and financial firms but some immediate positive changes have already been identified.

(1) The age for RMDs (Required Minimum Distributions) has been pushed to age 73 from 72. If you have already started taking RMDs, this change will not impact you. Moreover, penalties for missed RMDs have been reduced to 25% from 50%.

(2) More exceptions to the 10% early withdraw penalty have been added and include terminal illness, victims of natural disasters and public safety workers with at least 25 years of service.

(3) Roth SEP IRAs and Roth SIMPLE IRAs have been introduced for small business owners and their employees. However, financial firms will not have products developed or

available for some time.

The IRS has already started hiring for the 80,000+ positions created last year- now is a great time to review your tax and financial planning needs. It is critical to work with a tax professional to ensure compliance with the tax code and a financial planner to develop a plan to meet your retirement goals. I recommend using a CPA or an EA (Enrolled Agent) for your taxes since they have demanding education requirements and have the ability to represent you in an audit.

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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, January 9

Mark Allen Windham, 42, Callahan: Driving an Unregistered Motor Vehicle; Felony Driving While License Suspended with Knowledge

Tuesday, January 10

Ashley Rene Moore, 34, Hilliard: Violation of Probation Community Control Felony (x 2)

Jeremy Scott Thompson, 46, Callahan: False Name While Detained; Driving While License Suspended with Knowledge 2nd Conviction; Tag not Assigned on Vehicle; Theft of Motor Vehicle; Possession of Motor Vehicle with Altered VIN number

Thursday, January 12

Gabreon Beraile Brown, 31, Callahan: Attempted Murder; Burglary Armed Joseph Abraham Hamza, 24, Callahan: Sell of a Controlled Substance within 1000' of School or Park (x 2)

Steven Benjamin Krause, 34, Possession Schedule 1-5 Substance David Allen Sweat, 53, Bryceville: Possession Schedule 1-5 Substance; Possession of Drug Paraphernalia with Residue

Saturday, January 14

Ian David Taylor, 22, Hilliard: Petit Theft

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BARBARA ANN BROWN

 Barbara "Peggy" Ann Brown, 75, of Jacksonville, passed away peacefully January 10, 2023. She was born on December 8, 1947 in Cairo, Illinois to the late William Watt Butler and Mary Mayo Butler.


Barbara leaves behind her loving husband of 57 years, Autry Beryle Brown; son Beryle (Atha) Watt Brown of Hilliard; daughter Tammy (Roger) Doles of Jacksonville; nephew Steve (Ann) Brown.

A graveside service for Barbara will be held privately at Jacksonville National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the charity of your choice.

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

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

DONNA RENE DALE

 Donna Rene Dale, 47, of Hilliard, passed away Wednesday, January 11, 2023. She was born March 6, 1975 in Jacksonville to James D Merritt, Sr. and the late Judith Barber Merritt. Donna was one of four of the last living children of James and Judith. She was a member of Oak Grove Primitive Baptist Church in Nahunta, Georgia.

In addition to her mother, she is preceded in death by three sisters, Dana Merritt, Jana Stoner and Lana Tanner; and a brother Jonathan Merritt.

She is survived by her husband of almost 12 years, Joseph Dale; three children Blake (Jason) Crumbaker, Dana "Alli" Dale and Blaine Dale; siblings James (Sherry) Merritt, Jr., Gina (Neil) Bolen and Marlana Michael; along with many nieces and nephews.


A memorial service will be held Monday, January 23 at 11 a.m. at Callahan First Baptist Church.


Arrangements by Callahan Funeral Home, 879-2336.

Condolences may be expressed at www.callahanfuneralhome.com.

OBITUARIES

WILLIAM EDWIN JACKSON

 William (Jack) Edwin Jackson, 90, went home to be with Jesus on January 9, 2023, in Jacksonville, following a 12-year battle with Alzheimer's.

 He was the loving husband of Joanne Jackson. Jack was born August 30, 1932 in Joy, Illinois to John and Florence Jackson. Jack joined the US Army at the age of 15 and served his country for four years in the Korean War. After the Army, Jack relocated to Miami, where he raised two daughters Kelly and Tracey.

He later relocated to West Palm Beach where he met the love of his life Joanne in Sunday school and married her in 1982. Jack and Joanne raised two children Joshua and Janna. Jack loved to read and spend time with his family. He was very patriotic and loved his country. He radiated kindness and joy. Everyone who met him felt loved. At the age of 38, Jack accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior. His salvation completely changed his life and he never lost the joy of his salvation. He owned an insurance agency for 34 years, where he told everyone he met how Jesus changed his life and how they could know for sure they would be in heaven when they died. We will miss him very much. He is finally in heaven with Jesus. A place he talked about for many years has finally become reality. He is preceded in death by his parents; and siblings John and Jim Jackson and Mary Jackson Leach.

He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Joanne Jackson of Jacksonville; his children Kelly Jackson of Mexico, Tracey (Norman) DesRosiers of Georgia, Joshua and (Lenina) Jackson of Bryceville and Janna Jackson of Jacksonville; grandchildren Zachary (Amber) Morgan, Colin Morgan, Aaliz DesRosiers, Chase and Gabe Adkins and Calista Jackson; great-grandsons Keegan Morgan, Zeth DesRosiers and Gannon Morgan; along with many extended family and friends.


"Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord." 2 Corinthians 5:6-8

The celebration of life memorial service will be held Saturday, January 21 at 11 a.m. at the Church of Eleven22, 651 Commerce Center Drive #100, Jacksonville.

The service will be live streamed on Facebook www.facebook.com/janna.jackson.98.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Alzheimer's Association; Samaritan's Purse; Church of Eleven22; or Tunnel to Towers Foundation.

BISHOP EDDIE LAWRENCE

 Bishop Eddie Leroy Lawrence, 94, a life-time resident of Callahan, made his eternal transition on December 28, 2022. He was born November 15, 1928 in Callahan to the late Chandler and Maggie Noble Lawrence, the only boy in a house full of girls. Bishop Lawrence attended the local community school and began working at an early age.

He was employed with the Seaboard Railroad for 22 years. His other places of employment included: Rayonier Sawmill and St. Regis Paper Mill. He also worked as a truck driver for Mr. Tom Arline for a short period of time before becoming self-employed. He purchased his own truck and started working in the Pulpwood Industry. He was known in the community for wearing his overalls and driving his small pulpwood truck, sometimes only transporting one log on the back of it. He eventually retired from driving the pulpwood truck and working in the wood; however, he didn't retire from working. On any given day you could pass his home and find him in the yard mowing the grass at the age of 94. He took pride in remaining active and refused to just sit around in his favorite chair and do nothing. Over the course of his life, he was married three times and enjoyed the beauty of family.

He joined Bethel A.M.E Church in his youth and served as a Deacon for many years. In 1968, he accepted the call to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Bishop Lawrence pastored for a very long time in Nassau County, his first pastoral assignment was Friendship Baptist Church in Yulee, followed by Mt. Carmel Baptist Church

in Gross Community, and his last pastoral assignment was at St. James Baptist Church in Evergreen Community. While pastoring St. James he was consecrated as a Bishop by Chief Bishop Dr. Lorenzo Hall, Sr. After retiring from full time pastoring, he joined and attended Church of God Sanctuary of Praise in Jacksonville, Bishop Kevin M. Hardy, Senior Pastor.

In addition to pastoring, Bishop expressed his servant heart to God's people by opening the doors of his home for prayer and worship. He and his wife Mother Elease Lawrence opened their home every Tuesday night for a community prayer meeting. Many came from near and far for these weekly gatherings to lift up the name of the Lord. Many received Christ as their Lord and Savior under Bishop Lawrence's ministry. He was a spiritual father to many.

Bishop Lawrence's love for the Lord was expressed in his love for people and for God's church. The central tenet of his ministry revolved around his commitment to prayer and pastoring. With more than 54 years of service to God and His people, the Lord called him from labor to reward on Wednesday, December 28, 2022.

Those that preceded him in death include his wives; parents; daughters Apostle Edith Jones, Mary L. Walker and Mildred Grant; son Donald Lawrence; sisters Louise Lawrence, Maggie Hill, Isabelle Lawrence, Hilda Johnson and Altamese Deneffield; grandchildren Rodney Fairwell, Tonja Watson and Shawn Lawrence.

He leaves to cherish his memory, his sons Leveny Reese and Charles Lawrence (Frances); daughter Avis L. Kemp of Callahan; step-daughter Anna Calhoun (Anthony); grandchildren Prophetess Victoria Blue (Bishop Thomas), Pastor Walter (Gwen) Cooper of Callahan, Pastor Dr. Keva Hampton, Terri Cooper, Dr. Jason Kemp, Adrenia Kemp, Shannon Kemp of Callahan, Derrick (Tanya) Davis, Donald J. Lawrence, Jr. of Fernandina Beach and Alana (Lance) Reed; 15 great-grandchildren; 16 great-great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

The family received friends January 6 at Bethel AME Church in Callahan. The celebration of life service was held Saturday, January 7 at True Believers Church of God by Faith in Callahan. Interment followed at Callahan Community Cemetery.

Sarah L. Carter's Funeral Home Northside served the family.

Obituaries are published free of charge.

They may be emailed to news@westsidejournal.net.

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GEORGE LAVERNE JONES



George Laverne "Vern" Jones, 66, went home to be with the Lord Sunday, January 1, 2023. He was born February 13, 1956, in Jacksonville, to George L. and Magnolia Jones. Vern received his education in the Nassau County School System graduating from West Nassau High School in 1975. He received his Associate Degree from Florida Junior College and completed his Bachelor of Science Degree in Pharmacy at Florida A&M University in 1988.

Vern loved sports. His favorite basketball team was the L.A. Lakers, and he loved the Dallas Cowboys football team. You would always find him at home watching a game on Sunday afternoons. During high school he played basketball and was his own person. Even though he did not run with the "crowd," he still had a lasting impact on his classmates as a "comical" and "overall sweet person." Everyone loved him. Following graduation, Vern worked diligently to achieve his college education. He worked fulltime at Sears to support himself and pay for college. It was not an easy task but with his tenacity and dedication he achieved his goal of becoming a pharmacist. He was the first black Pharmacist in Callahan. He worked for Eckerd Drugs/CVS for many years. He always had a smile for his customers and co-workers. He was especially encouraging and instrumental in the growth of his colleagues. Education was important to Vern. He was officially retired; however, he continued to keep his Pharmacy license active through continuing education courses. He was a member of Florida A&M University's Alumni Association and looked forward to attending FAMU's Homecoming every year.

Vern accepted Christ as his personal savior at an early age and was a very active and dedicated member of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Callahan. He loved his church and Pastor. His Christian belief was evident in every aspect of his life. Vern was an active Trustee, a Son of Allen, and the Church Treasurer. He was a pillar in the church, and he was very supportive of the male chorus. He was preceded in death by his parents; and his beloved brother Arthur Lee Jones.

He leaves to cherish his memory a devoted son, Jamaal L. Jones; grandchildren Kalani Jones and Malakai Jones; aunts

OBITUARIES

Emma Brown, Annie Bordeaux and Ida Bennett; uncle Edward Simmons; daughter-in-law Deanna Jones; sister-in-law Rachel Jones; nephew Eric Jones; nieces Belinda Felder and Arthurene Jones; great nieces Erica Jones and Porsha Morris; a host of cousins and special friends, Lenford Killings, Agnes Reynolds, Wanda Morris, William Thomas, Debra Thomas and Melvin Moore.

The family received friends January 13 at Bethel AME Church, Callahan. The celebration of life service was held Saturday, January 14 at True Believers Church of God by Faith, Callahan. Interment followed at Callahan Community Cemetery in Callahan.

Sarah L. Carter's Funeral Home Northside is serving the Family.

CHARLES 'ROCKY' MISTLER, JR.



Charles E. "Rocky" Mistler, Jr., left his earthly home and stepped into his heavenly home Sunday, January 15, 2023 surrounded by love and



laughter with is family by his side.

Rocky was born May 21, 1947 in Jacksonville to Charles E. "Bud" Mistler, Sr. and Naomi Barker Mistler and was the only boy with four sisters. He was raised in Dinsmore and graduated from Paxon High School. Rocky joined the US Army where he served our country in Vietnam. He was also in the Army National Guard, and a Green Beret in the United States Special Forces.

Rocky moved his family to Callahan where he and his wife Bonnie raised their three daughters. Rocky served the Nassau County Sheriff's Office for many years. Although he was not perfect, he was a big man with a big heart and positively impacted most everyone he knew. Rocky was a good friend to many people and never met a stranger. Later in life, Rocky obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Bible studies. He loved the Lord and wanted to talk to anybody and everybody about Jesus. Rocky was a father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, uncle and friend who will be greatly missed. We know we will see him again one day. Rocky was preceded

in death by his parents; and sisters Patsy Wilson, Fayette Layton and Jackie Waters.

Rocky leaves behind the mother of his children, Bonnie Mistler; daughters Shelly (Mike) Harrison, Wendy (Andy) Thompson and Angie (Shawn) Copher; grandchildren Cortney (Clayton) Burns, Alex (Danielle) Thompson, Christian (Kayla) Copher, Logan Harrison, Tori (Jay Paul) Stewart, Trenton (Brean) Thompson, Angelica Copher, Gunner (Virginia) Harrison, Alli (Neil) Kuypers, Elli Copher, Topherr Harrison and Madison Harrison; great-grandchildren Carson, Cambri and Cohen Copher, Colton Stewart, Azalea Null and Lorelei Kuypers; sister Melody Whitley; many nieces and nephews; beloved family friends Judith Ann Belz, Michael Antonini and Dusty Bechem.

The family will receive friends Monday, January 23 from 5-7 p.m. at Callahan First Baptist Church. A celebration of Rocky's life will be held Tuesday, January 24 at 11 a.m. also at the church with Dr. Lynn Hyatt officiating. Interment will follow at Jacksonville National Cemetery where military honors will be rendered.

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

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

FRED E. WINGO



Fred E. Wingo, 103, of Charlotte, North Carolina, began his journey to heaven Friday, December 30, 2022. Mr. Wingo was born September



19, 1919 in Jacksonville. Many will remember Fred's Barber Shop that was located on Norwood Avenue in Jacksonville for 40 years. Many memories come from the fun stories shared at Fred's Barber Shop.

Virginia Kirkland and Fred were married

in Vero Beach and lived happily together for 56 years. Later they had three children Dale Wingo and Terry Wingo, of Callahan and Rhonda Wingo of Charlotte, NC. Many grandchildren and great-grandchildren followed. Fred has one living brother, Carl Wingo of Tennessee.

Prior to this time, after the attack at Pearl Harbor, Fred joined the United States Coast Guard. His main assignment was leading a horse patrol. He helped protect our Eastern Shoreline from German attacks on horseback at Little St. Simon Island, S.C. and patrolled on Coast Guard Cutter Ships.

After his retirement, Fred and Jenny moved to Charlotte, NC. For approximately 30 additional years, Fred enjoyed helping his neighbors and friends with home projects and improvements. After Jenny's passing, he was blessed to meet Genene Dodson of Woodlawn Baptist Church. They met many wonderful friends and were blessed to have selected this church for worship. Fred was blessed also to have many good friends in Charlotte: Jane Parker "JP", Ceres Vandiver, Kathy and Tim Goss, Georgia and Richard Cole, Pat Crowell and all of his amazing neighbors from Garamond Court, "The Garamonders!"

All of us who knew Fred can smile. He lived an unbelievable life. Up to 102, Fred lived independently, still working in his immaculate yard and home. Exercise was always a top priority too! He worked out daily on his recumbent bike for hours and had a regiment with other exercises. The last week of his life, his nurse said that he looked like he might be 80! What a man! Fred will be loved and missed by everyone who knew him. He was truly an unbelievable father, grandfather and friend! Fred will never be laid to rest but will be beside Virginia Wingo in the Evergreen Cemetery.

A graveside service will be held Friday, January 20 at 2 p.m. at Evergreen Cemetery, 4535 N. Main Street, Jacksonville.

The Wingo Family have entrusted arrangements to Roseboro's Mortuary & Crematory.

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Supervisors of Elections Announces \$1,200 Scholarship Opportunity

Janet H. Adkins, Nassau County Supervisor of Elections, is pleased to announce the opportunity for local college students to apply for a \$1,200 scholarship given through the Florida Supervisors of Elections (FSE). The deadline to apply is March 10, 2023.

The scholarship will be awarded to a full-time student enrolled or accepted to a senior college or university in Florida (accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools). Applicants must: Be either a Political Science/Public or Business Administration or Journalism/Mass Communication major; Be a U.S. citizen and a Florida resident for two years preceding the academic year for which an application is made; Be at least a junior in college, or have enough credits for enrollment as a junior before the application deadline; Have maintained a "C" average, or



above, for the previous academic year. Applications are available online at www.VoteNassauFL.gov or may be picked up from the Nassau County Supervisor of Elections office, 96135 Nassau Place, Suite 3, Yulee, FL 32097.

Applications must be submitted to the county's elections office in which the applicant is registered to vote.

All applications received will be reviewed by the Supervisor. One finalist will be selected and forwarded to the FSE Scholarship Committee to represent Nassau County. The FSE Scholarship Committee will choose four winners from among the finalists submitted by the Supervisors of Elections throughout Florida. Each of the four winners will be awarded a \$1,200 scholarship.

For additional information, call 904-491-7500 or visit VoteNassauFL.gov.

BEWARE: Thieves are Still Watching!

A local resident reached out to us (Westside Journal) to share that packages were stolen off from her porch. Please beware of thieves. Just because Christmas is over doesn't mean they are not on the prowl watching where delivery trucks go!

"At 7:03 p.m. last Thursday night, a guy was caught on my camera stealing three Amazon packages. My home is located off of Brown Street in Callahan. It was too dark to see much of him but he was wearing a mask. I got a police report and I have the video. Just wanting to make people aware!"

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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), 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), Seth Blackman (North Carolina), Hunter Brannon (Africa), Conrad Brauwn (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 (Virginia), John Coltrane (NAS Jax), Scott Cooper, Dustin Corum (South Korea), Trevor Corum (Nebraska), Charlie I. D. Cox (South Korea), Quinn Coxwell (Georgia), Gavin Crews (Germany), Tison J. Crews (Korea), Charles 'CJ' Cribbs, III (Washington, DC), Dennis L. 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It is our honor to recognize our local Armed Service members. We would like to update our 'Pray for our Troops' list, adding those who have recently joined our Armed Services or removing those who no longer serve. Please read over the list. If you need to make a correction, addition or deletion, just give us a call, 879-4180. You may also email changes to news@westsidejournal.net.

God Bless our Troops!