

“THOUGH I WALK IN THE MIDST OF TROUBLE, YOU PRESERVE MY LIFE. YOU STRETCH OUT YOUR HAND AGAINST THE ANGER OF MY FOES; WITH YOUR RIGHT HAND YOU SAVE ME.” - PSALM 138:7

## Callahan Bids Branham Farewell



Dawn S. West

Prior to the Callahan Town Council meeting Tuesday night, Town Attorney Jeb Branham and his family enjoyed a reception held in his honor. Council members and friends gathered to wish Branham farewell as he was recently appointed to a judgeship. Branham was appointed by Governor Ron DeSantis to fill a judicial vacancy. Branham will serve as a Circuit Judge in the Fourth Judicial Circuit, which encompasses Duval, Clay and Nassau Counties. His position will begin February 1, 2021.

The reception was held in the Fire Station meeting room. Branham was joined by his wife, Michelle and son Caylor (12).

“I leaned heavily on you back in the day. You came at a time when the town was not in very good shape,” said former Mayor Shirley Graham. “We went through a lot of tough times but you helped me through. Thank you for all the guidance you gave me.”

“We sit beside each other during the council meetings. You have politely directed me and helped me to say and do the

right things,” said Council President Ken Bass. “I just want to thank you for helping me to try to understand the process of town government.”

“I know I have probably asked you a million questions and you always provide an answer. Thank you for being patient with me,” said Councilwoman Janet Shaw.

“You’ve laughed with me and heard me cry many times. Thank you for being there with your knowledge,” said Town Clerk Stephanie Knagge.

“We have been together through it all and it’s been quite a ride,” said Town Manager Mike Williams. “I remember you were with us during the Centennial Celebration. I asked you to do the Cow Chip Bingo with the children and adults and you did it. I knew then that you would be around for a while!”

The town presented Branham with a beautiful plaque that read: Presented to Jeb T. Branham Esq. with Grateful Appreciation for your Dedication & Loyal Service as Attorney for Town of Callahan August 2003-February 2021. He was also presented a robe, which was his wife’s Uncle Howard’s robe, who also served as a judge. So unique and special however, Williams had a patch of the Callahan Town Seal sewed on the inside of the robe, where Callahan would always be near to Branham’s heart!

“This has all been so special for me and my family. I’m so grateful to have been able to serve in a place where the people are eager to do the right thing,” said Branham. “I wasn’t even familiar with town government when I came and we all learned together. It has been a great experience and joy to work with each of you.”

As the meeting began, Ken Overstreet



## CMS Cheer Team State Champions!



The Callahan Middle School Rambler Cheer Team was awarded Middle School Cheer & Dance State Champions, following a competition held Friday evening in Daytona Beach at the Ocean Center. The team competed against four other middle schools to take the championship. The team has one more competition in April to compete for the National Championship!

The team also competed Saturday morning at the Warrior Cheer Classic held at West Nassau High School. The team also took First Place in that competition.

The team includes: Claire Turner, Ryan Blanchard, McKenzie Thompson, Connor

Villet, Jaycee Dover, Victoria Williams, Michaela Perret, Sophia Perret, Kayla Manasco, Riley Curtis, Kaylee Areal, Tatum Faircloth, Haylie Young, Abigail Keeton, Jaycee Leatherman, Alyssa Kornegay, Cailee Pike, Rhylee Tillis, Khamani Way, Kinley Crews, Chloe Lambert, Hannah Border, Kylie Hall, Kierson Jaques, Emma Boston, Leyla Selph, Jayden Massengill, Karlee Dailey, Baileigh Love, Katie Howard, Jagger Devereaux, Emma White, Molly Miller and Lacy Johnson. The Head Coach is Kaitlyn Green and Assistant Coach is Ali Hartman.

approached the podium with a complaint. “I have my business (two buildings) and my home on Dixie Avenue behind the former Linda Jean’s. I bought ‘Ann’s’ old house,” said Overstreet. “At the east end of the road, the road has been closed with a load of dirt. I didn’t put it there and now cars come down the road and turn around in my driveway and on my property. I pay my bills and taxes however I don’t understand why the road has been closed.”

“As we discussed today, Dixie Avenue is not even a platted road. It ran beside the old railroad bed,” said Williams. “The property on the Page Street end is owned by Callahan LLC. They are who put the dirt on the end, as that is their property.”

“I recommend that you get a survey of your property so that you know exactly where your property lines are,” added Branham. “That will help things out a lot.”

After much conversation, Bass requested that Mr. Overstreet come to town

hall to meet with him and Mr. Williams to further discuss the problem.

In other business, the town has been approached about the purchase of about 2.16 acres near Amhurst Oaks. “The property was deeded to the town by the contractor of Amhurst Oaks and we took it,” said Williams. “Just need the councils suggestions of what you want do.”

“I recommend we let the purchaser offer a price and see what we think,” said Councilwoman Jaqueline Fleming. The council approved the recommendation.

The next item was inadvertently left off the agenda which concerned a Beer & Wine License. Heather Hagan, advised the council that she is considering turning the old Bingo building into a Pool Hall and is requesting a Beer & Wine License for the business. The item will be on the February 1st agenda for a Public Hearing.

The next meeting of the council will be Monday, February 1 at 7 p.m.

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Dawn West ..... Publisher  
Roger West ..... Owner/Reporter  
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## Who is in Control?

*Pastor Ted Heglund, First Alliance Church, Hilliard*



About a week ago we drove from Hilliard to Clermont, Florida pulling a trailer. It was an uneventful trip. As we were ready to drive back to Hilliard I glanced over the hitch and noticed a problem. The lock on the pin that holds the hitch to the car was missing! I must have not checked carefully that it was locked on the pin. I looked again and noticed that the chain hook had shifted enough that it kept the pin from coming out and thus the trailer coming loose from the car. Who was in control? Not us! It was God who kept us safe.

Many years ago we were traveling along a narrow winding two lane road at night in Papua, Indonesia. The driver was driving a little fast for our comfort. Suddenly, there was a big clump of grass and weeds in the middle of the road. This was the normal warning sign that there is a hazard in the road ahead. Sure enough, immediately, there was stalled dump truck in the middle of our lane with the mountain on one side and a drop off on the other side of road. The driver swerved to go around the truck only to face an oncoming vehicle. Somehow, three vehicles passed each other with not a scratch! Who was in control? None of us! It was God who protected us.

Stop and look around. There are many situations and circumstances that we are living through today that we do not understand. There are events that have or are taking place every day that we want to shout out "Why?" Many speculate on what the future is going to hold for jobs, investments, travel, and our daily way of life.

At this point it is easy for us to feel like everything is spinning out of control. Because of happenings in politics, in your home, at the job and other issues how do we get our feet planted firmly again? First, we must establish in whom we put our faith and confidence. The only solid ground is when we have solid faith in the God of creation and His Son Jesus Christ.

The writer of the book of Proverbs tells us to first, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding..." Proverbs 3:5 (NIV) The key is to trust in the Lord, not in the material matters, political parties, church denominations or anything else.

Next the writer tells us, "...in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:6 (NIV)

When we are submitted to the Lord, we can know the peace, joy and confidence that we know who is in control not only of our lives but of all things. Our peace and security are found in a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ by asking Him to forgive our sins and be Lord (the One in control) of our lives. When we allow Christ to control our lives then we can walk confidently in the midst of difficulties and uncertain times. The Bible also says, "For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control." 2 Timothy 1:7 (ESV)

The answer is that you can know that God, through His Son Jesus Christ, IS in control of all things! Jesus should be in control of your life. Is He in control of your life?

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# Fish Talk

## Brackish Water Fishing!

Chris Cockerham, Reel Habit

This weekend's forecast doesn't look very promising. No rain is expected but the winds are going to be blowing, yet again. As discouraging as this can be, many of my best trips have come from the worst weather days. There are other options for wetting a line. One of my favorite fish to target on days like these is striper. So, don't let the weather discourage you in the least. Let's get to the fishing.

We haven't touched on striped bass in quite some time. None the less, there has been a great bite going on behind the scenes. While everyone targets the typical inshore species, our brackish waters have been firing off. Where to look? What kind of baits should I throw and what are the best tides? Well, just like most predatory fish, you need tidal movement. I actually love the outgoing the best while targeting striper. Funnels, rip rap, tree tops and rubble of any sort is key. Pay attention for the slightest flickering of bait and look for fleeing bait fish as the tide recedes the grass when the water's moving out. All of these items are huge in being successful for catching what I call the Ghost Fish of Northeast Florida. Striper can be on the surface one minute and gone before you make your next cast.

As far as lures go, I typically target them with hard baits and a variety of plastics. Rapala skitter walks, Bomber Pro Long As and Spook Jrs are fantastic search baits. Whether it be top water or sub surface you can't go wrong as long as you adjust to the conditions. During low light, I will use bright colors. As the day progresses and the sun begins to peak, I will switch to large paddle tails to get down deep. Weighted jig heads will need to be switched out to compensate for the tidal current you're fishing.

Lastly, where are we catching striper? Well, because they move so much, the best starting points always seem to be at our bridges. This could be Highway 17 on the Nassau River, I-95 at the St. Marys River and the Buckman Bridge on the St. Johns River. All of these waterways provide great fisheries for striper. Make sure to stay focused, get into the mindset of really searching for them. If you can focus on the hunt, you will be surprised of the outcome.

Hope you all have the opportunity to enjoy your weekend! Until next time, be safe out there and I hope to see you on the water!

## Accident Injures Bryceville Woman

According to Florida Highway Patrol reports, Monday, January 18, around 8:25 a.m. an accident occurred on I-95 southbound in Jacksonville. A gray Jeep, driven by a 56-year-old Bryceville woman and a semi-truck, driven by a 26-year-old Collins, Georgia man, were traveling south on I-95, south of Airport Road. The Jeep was in the right lane while the

semi-truck was in the center lane. While traveling, the vehicles made contact. The Jeep then traveled off the left side of the roadway and struck a guardrail, causing the driver of the Jeep to be ejected. The driver of the Jeep was transported with critical injuries. The investigation is ongoing.

# JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

This week's column is short and sweet. I'm placing myself in a holding pattern to absorb the most defining week in America's history. No matter the outcome, I rest assured that God is in control. We cannot, nor are we supposed to, understand the will of God. If we, with our feeble minds, could comprehend God's will, He would not be God. He is far more superior than we can even begin to understand. That's why it so clearly states in the Bible that "through faith..." I do earnestly pray

that God will bless America again.

I give a shout-out to all who continue to display your Trump signs and fly your Trump flags. As for me, I will proudly fly my Trump flag in my front yard for the next four years. I know who actually won the Presidential election and I am proud to honor him through January 2025! So everyone fasten your seatbelts because we are getting ready for the ride of our life!

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

## Letters to the Editor



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

### America's Downward Spiral

Dear Editor,

Why does America keep spiraling down the sewer? The answer is that America has forgotten God/Jesus! The Bible has been taken out of the schools along with prayer. God has been ignored and He is upset with us and also with the entire world. I'm sure you don't like being ignored, I know I don't; neither does God. That's the reason we have this pandemic. Read your Bible and you'll find several instances where God punished the people sometimes with plagues, famine, droughts, earthquakes, etc. Hosea 4:6 says, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge..."

Most everyone, I assume, knows about the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah; the destruction of Nineveh the capital of Assyria? In Judges 13:1 it says, "And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and the Lord delivered them into the hands of the Philistines forty years."

All the instances mentioned above was because of sin. The most prevalent sin was the sin of idolatry. Idolatry is worshipping a person, object or anything other than Jehovah God Almighty. "For thou shalt worship no other god than the Lord their God... for the Lord whose name is jealous, is a jealous God." Exodus 34:14.

"...For love is as strong as death, its jealousy is cruel as the grave; the coals thereof are coals of fire, which hath almost vehement flame..." Song of Solomon 8:6. This scripture is referring to man and woman, but it can be applied to God's love for people and the church. God is jealous and He's taking vengeance. In fact, there are people who attend church regularly, who know so little about the scripture. "And ye shall seek me and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart," Jeremiah 29:13

In Jesus name,  
Jack Lewis



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## Relay for Life Rod Run Saturday



The 2nd Annual Relay for Life Rod Run will be held this Saturday, January 23 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Northeast Florida Fairgrounds in Callahan. The Rod Run is hosted by the American Cancer Society and Callahan Cruisers. According to Callahan Cruisers we are expecting approximately 300 plus cars and according to Ms. Wendy Kiser and Wanda Nichols we have approximately 35 vendors and 4 main food vendors. Also, we will have

Life South Blood Mobile that will be set up from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. to collect blood donations. Donate blood and receive a free tee shirt.

Following is a list of some of the vendors and activities going on: Live Entertainment by the band Bluesdog66, playing a variety of music; Food Vendors: LuLu's BBQ, Roasted Rooster Coffee, Wise Guys Pizza, Cafe Bon Bien and Dixie Fair Food Favorites; along with other vendors selling homemade fudge, boiled peanuts, homemade snacks (breads, brownies), gluten free snacks (breads, pastries) and more; Vendors include: Scentsy, Paparazzi Jewelry, Homemade Wreaths, wood carving, large wooden furniture, Salty Girl Soap (homemade soap) and much more; over 30 vendors with a variety of items for sale; Kid Zone with Petting Zoo and a 40' Nerf War Obstacle Course.

We are expecting over 300 plus cars, trucks, etc. plus there will also be a Swap Meet for Car Parts for sale during the rod run.

There is a \$2 entry fee to the event; Cars for the Rod Run \$20 fee; Swap Meet vendors \$20 fee (pay the day of the event). Awards include: TOP 20 award (1) Top Club Participation and (1) Best in Show. There is something for everyone! Come out and enjoy and help support the Relay for Life event!



Gabe Whittenburg  
Director, Parks & Recreation

2021 is in full swing and we at HP&R have many exciting events to tell you about. Our youth basketball league just finished up our opening weekend with 14 action-packed games taking place in two gyms! I am thankful for our parents and volunteers who made our opening day a huge success. Having played sports in both college and in high school, I can attest to how powerful the concept of 'team' can be. My goal is to create an environment for our kids to feel the power of team though participation in our league. Not everyone will become the next LeBron James, but it doesn't mean everyone can't develop necessary life skills that only participation in sports can bring. Thank you to all the parents who have allowed us to be a part of that development!

Moving on, we are in the middle of our spring soccer and gymnastics registrations. Again we are hopeful you will entrust us with your child as they participate in these programs. If you are like me, soccer

may not be your top sport. However, I do believe soccer provides a fun avenue for your child to further develop athletically. I am a strong believer in kids participating in multiple sports, so here is hoping you give our soccer program a try. Likewise, if you have a child who loves tumbling at home, I hope you will give our gymnastics program an opportunity. My goal is to see all of our youth programs flourish so I hope you'll consider all or some of our sports programs.

As for the active adults in our community, don't fret! We have some exciting events planned for you as well. First up is our 1st Annual Love the Run your With 5K. We are finalizing the date in February so please be on the lookout for news on this event. Looking ahead to spring, start honing your dodging skills as we are looking to introduce a Rusty Wrench Dodgeball Tournament. Also on the slate is a Stars & Stripes Kickball and Turkey Bowl Flag Football tournaments. I hope you will be as excited as I am for these events!

To close, I would like to remind everyone of what we offer at Hilliard Parks & Recreation. Our 24-Hour Fitness Center is here for you. We are a proud program location for Silver Sneakers, Tivity Prime and RenewActive members. For our Hilliard residents, we have an exciting After School program for K-5 students. Lastly, we encourage you to come and visit one of our parks. We have locations on Oxford Street as well as West 3rd Ave. in Hilliard. Come and see us!

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## Local Musician Donates Proceeds from Sales



Local country music artist, Clint Anglin, recently wrote a song, Before It Kills You, which was inspired by the hardships an old friend had faced. His friend was addicted to drugs, specifically opioids. Even after fighting for a

long time he eventually passed away from an overdose. "I started noticing just how many lives were being affected and how it was causing pain for their families as well," said Clint.

In order to make a change, Clint decided to donate all the proceeds from his latest song, Before It Kills You, to



Recovery Strong, a recovery program designed to help individuals relearn to balance both their mental and physical health. Clint partnered up with Payton Vaughn who shared, "In the year 2020, we donated lunches to over 10,000 homeless individuals."

As mentioned previously, all proceeds earned from Before It Kills You will be donated to Recovery Strong.



The song will be available to the public on Friday, January 29. You can access it through any platform such as iTunes, Apple music, Amazon, Spotify, etc.

For more information about Clint and his music, you can follow him on social media @ClintAnglinMusic. Remember to hold your loved ones tight and give back to your community!



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Sign up at the Ball Field on Bay Rd.  
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January 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.





**REBECCA TERESA BURCH**



Rebecca Teresa Burch, 76, of Callahan, passed away Friday, January 15, 2021. She was born October 22, 1944, in Atlanta, Georgia to John and Lucy Street. She is preceded in death by her parents; and sister Diane Johns.

Rebecca is survived by her husband of 59 years, Larry Burch; sons Larry Scott (Beth) Burch and Ronald Troy (Kathy Ann) Burch; brother Johnny Street; grandchildren Derrick (Kelsey) Burch, Josh (Mabry) Burch, Lindsey Burch and Brandon (Jessica) Burch; and several great-grandchildren

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

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

**LEIGHA ENGLAND CONNER**



Leigha England Conner, 37, of Callahan, went home to be with the Lord with open arms on January 14, 2021. Leigha was born on October 29, 1983 in Jacksonville, to Lonnie England and Maryen George. Leigha graduated from West Nassau High School in 2002. She enjoyed going camping, going to the beach and to Disney World. There was nothing that was going to stop her from living life to the fullest. Leigha touched many lives and was loved by so many. She will be missed dearly. She is preceded in death by her stepfather William 'Billy Bob' George.

Leigha is survived by her husband of nine years, Jeremy Conner; father Lonnie England; mother Maryen George; children Lilly Conner, RyAnne Conner, Laura Leigh Conner and Griffin Conner; sisters Renae (Chris) Young and Tonya (Mitch) Harris; brother-in-law Andrew (Erika) Conner; uncles Robert Alan Bibby, Jr. and Chris

**OBITUARIES**

Bibby; nephew Lincoln Young; niece Isabelle Harris; extended nieces, nephews, relatives and many, many friends.

A Celebration of Leigha's life will be held Saturday, January 23 at 1 p.m. at Nassau Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you make a donation to a Cancer Research of your choice.

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

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

**KYLE LAMAR ELLIS**



Kyle Lamar Ellis, 67, of Callahan, passed away Wednesday, January 13, 2021. He was born January 20, 1953, in Jacksonville, to Lawrence and Amelia Ellis. Kyle moved to Callahan from Jacksonville, in 1977. Kyle was a musician and in his spare time he enjoyed making knives, wood working, leatherwork, staining glass and acrylic painting. He was preceded in death by his parents; and brother Lawrence (Laurie) Ellis.

Kyle is survived by his daughters Heather Ellis of Fernandina Beach and Hollie Ellis of Melrose; sister Carol (Jerry) Green of Amelia Island; grandchildren Tabitha Davis, Kody (Kennedy) Barnes and Kyler Shirley; great-grandchildren Ayden Davis, Jonah Ward, Hadley Barnes and Harley Reynolds; best friend Heather Johnson.

A Celebration of Kyle's life will be held Friday, January 22 at 5 p.m. at Nassau Funeral Home with Pastor Ken Barney officiating.

Arrangements by Nassau Funeral Home,

Callahan, 904-879-1770.

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

**JOHN LEPLEY, III**

John Lepley, III, 49, passed away December 31, 2020 at his residence in Athens, Georgia. John was born March 31, 1971, in Callahan to Phillip Lepley, Jr. and Sherma Perpall Lepley.

He spent most of his young years in Mandarin, where he had many close friends that remained close throughout the years and during that time made wonderful memories with his grandparents. His love of music brought him to Athens, where he delved into music performance and academic studies. He made many close bonds with fellow musicians. John's favorite subjects to study and have long conversations about were Christianity, Tesla, Music Theory, and Samurai Philosophy. Some friends would describe him as a "walking encyclopedia." John was a member of Miracle Internet Church and a devout follower of Christ. He loved his family and friends dearly.

He is survived by his parents John Phillip Lepley, Jr. and Sherma Perpall Lepley; his sister Kelly (Rod) McLanahan; his aunts Ann Lepley, Cathy Wasdin, Shawna Perpall and uncle Leon Perpall, III; cousins Shelby (Mike) Lee, Ashley (Allen) Freeman, Sean Wasdin, Ali Perpall, Cameron Perpall, Lexy Lee and Michael Lee; and his nephew Kelson Irwin.

Graveside funeral services were held Saturday, January 9 in Conner-Green Cemetery, Hilliard.

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

**SAMUEL A. PAPARO**



Samuel A. Paparo, 87, went home to be with his Lord and Savior on January 13, 2021. He was born on June 19, 1933 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in Philadelphia to Susie G. and Frank Paparo. He moved to Florida in 1967 with his wife Ann. Sam served in the Conshohocken Fire Police in Pennsylvania for 10 years. He was a Master Meat Cutter for 55 years, working for A & P and Publix; including in his privately-owned butcher shop for 12 of those years.

Sam had an outgoing personality and amusing wit; he made friends with everyone he met. He would help anyone in need. He was skilled at fixing just about anything. He loved boating, fishing, camping and spending time with his children and grandchildren. He was a wealth of self-educated knowledge. He found particular joy introducing others to new things they may have never known or experienced before. He would see these things for the first time again through their eyes. He will be dearly missed.

Sam is survived by his wife of 56 years, Ann; daughter Bernadette (Andy) Russell, grandson Taylor; son Mark (Melissa) Paparo, grandchildren Baylee, Presley, Evan, great-grandchildren Zoiee and Malachi; son Martin (Jennifer) Paparo, granddaughters Katelyn, Hannah and Bethany; sister Mary I. Weychert; nieces Susan (Peter) Blakeley and Sandra (Douglas) Rollins; nephew William (Tara) Weychert; and cousin Michael (Judy) Paparo. He has one deceased brother Anthony Paparo and surviving niece Margaret and nephew Frank.

A memorial service was held Monday, January 18 at Friendship Alliance Church in Callahan with Rev. Gerald Wollitz officiating.

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## Callahan Masonic Lodge Installs Officers for 2021

Right Worshipful Jesse Tiner was Installing Officer during Callahan Masonic Lodge No. 32 Officer Installation for 2021. As he introduced each man, he described their office and also the emblems which denote each office. Each new officer was then escorted to his new position by the Installing Marshal, Past Master Kenny Farmer. Right Worshipful Tiner also presented the new Worshipful Master, Benjamin "Ben" John Derr, a hat, another symbolic emblem of leadership for a Worshipful Master.



Shown (l to r) are: Glen Miller (Sr. Steward), Paul Potrok (Installing Sr. Deacon), John Wayne Nelson (Jr. Warden), Kenny Farmer (Installing Marshall), George Spicer (Treasurer), Ben Derr (Worshipful Master), John Page (Secretary), Tom Siebers (Sr. Warden), Al Martinez (Installing Chaplain), Gary Burchfield (Jr. Deacon), Dan Hare (Tyler), Jesse Tiner (Installing Officer) and JD Goodwyne (Jr. Steward). Not pictured: Jim Ottinger (Sr. Deacon) and Don Nichols (Chaplain).

## Barnabas Continues to Provide Food Assistance

As the safety net organization for Nassau County residents in need, Barnabas Center continues to be on the front lines during the COVID-19 crisis. Services offered to Nassau County residents with low-to-moderate incomes include food programs, financial assistance for housing and utility payments and medical and dental care.

In response to the need for food in Nassau County due to this pandemic, Barnabas continues to operate mobile food distributions throughout Nassau County. In addition, Barnabas offers a drive-through service distribution three days per week of pre-bagged food items at our main office (1303 Jasmine Street, Fernandina Beach).

Last year, over 200,000 meals of healthy food were provided to more than 4,000 food insecure households. The number of households in need more than tripled as the negative economic effect of the pandemic increased in 2020. Through established partnerships, (including Feeding Northeast Florida,

Elm Street Sportsmen Association, Hilliard First Baptist Church, Bryceville First Baptist Church, Springhill Baptist Church, Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Greater Mt. Pleasant Missionary Church, River Road Baptist Church and Mt. Olive Baptist Church) Barnabas provided fresh produce, dairy and meats to people in need. We are grateful to all our supporters and community partners that continue to help us meet the needs of our neighbors during these extraordinary times.

For more information about Barnabas food programs and how to get help, call our office at (904) 261-7000 or visit <https://barnabasnassau.org/covid-19-food-program-updates/>.

For information about available assistance and eligibility, contact Barnabas at (904) 261-7000, or visit [www.BarnabasNassau.org](http://www.BarnabasNassau.org). For your safety and others, please call us for a telephone pre-screening for crisis assistance, food stamp and/or Medicaid applications before visiting our office.

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