

# WESTSIDE JOURNAL

VOLUME XVI ISSUE 28

HOMETOWN PEOPLE...HOMETOWN NEWS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2020

"THE LORD DELIGHTS IN THOSE WHO FEAR HIM, WHO PUT THEIR HOPE IN HIS UNFAILING LOVE." - PSALM 147:11

## Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebrated Locally



This past Monday we celebrated 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 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

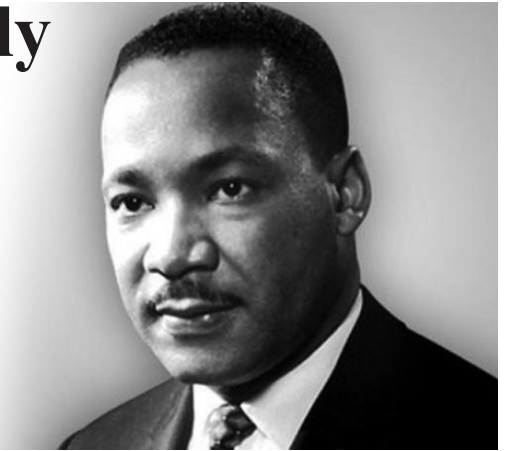
many more that also carried a peaceful and demanding call for all to follow. His mission was strictly about equality, his vision was for every man, woman and child to have an equal chance at the American dream. Many who have followed and lived his dream have proven they can make a difference in this world. His words of encouragement are just as profound today as they were back then. Bernice King, the daughter of MLK, Jr. once said, "...I pray that our global community, from educators to politicians to artists to law enforcement, will truly hear his voice, follow his teachings and demonstrate his love for humanity."

One famous quote from Dr. King 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."

In Hilliard, the Concerned Citizens of Hilliard organized a parade in celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Lead by the Nassau County Sheriff's

Department and the West Nassau High School JROTC, a few people braved the chilly temperatures to walk while a few vehicles paraded through Hilliard. The parade ended at Hisbon Baptist Church where the participants enjoyed a service in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.

In Callahan, a Celebration Service was held at the Second Baptist Church with guest speaker Dr. Gary L. Williams, prior to the parade. The Patricia V. Williams Chapter of the Concerned Citizens of Nassau County organized a parade that began at the church and ended at Ewing Park in Callahan. The parade was joined by the Nassau County Sheriff's Office, the Callahan Volunteer Fire Department, the West Nassau High School JROTC and



dozens of citizens walking. There were several vehicles and also motorcycle riders finishing out the parade! The cool weather didn't dampen the spirits of parade participants! The large group all joined together at Ewing Park where they enjoyed lunch together.



### ATTENTION RESIDENTS!

Special Meeting of Board of County Commissioners  
Concerning Gaming Rooms in Nassau County  
MONDAY, JANUARY 27 @ 6 P.M.

Nassau County Commission Chambers

James S. Page Governmental Complex • 96135 Nassau Place • Yulee

There will be a Public Hearing of the Board of County Commissioners to discuss Electronic Gaming Facilities (game rooms) in the county. The public is invited to be present and be heard. This will be the first Public Hearing and vote of the Board on this issue. If a person decides to appeal any decision by the Board, agency or commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he/she will need a record of the proceedings and that for such purpose may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the evidence and testimony upon which the appeal is to be based.

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# Town of Hilliard Approves Water & Sewer Increase

Dawn S. West

The Hilliard Town Council met Thursday night for their final regular meeting of January. The meeting began with a public hearing on amending Ordinance 2019-12 section 62-361. The section to be amended, concerning ponds and borrow pits, was brought before the council from the Land & Zoning Board. After much discussion from the public and the council the ordinance was approved.

Later in the meeting, the ordinance was on the agenda for final reading. Councilman Kenny Sims advised the council he was concerned as the ordinance placed ponds and borrow pits as the same thing, and they are very different. "I think we need to have either a joint meeting or a workshop with the Zoning Board to discuss this further before approving anything," said Sims.

Town Clerk Lisa Purvis will set up a time for the council to meet with the Zoning Board and advise the council when that will be.

Adrienne Burke, representing the Western Nassau Heritage Preservation Initiative was on hand to discuss their county approved Vision Book. "The Vision Book was created by a lot of community outreach with municipalities and residents. The community stressed to us two top concerns," said Burke. "Quality of life, as people enjoy the peace and quietness of their communities; and environmental concerns along with preserving the history of western Nassau."

Burke advised the council that this is

not a regulatory book but a guidebook to follow as to what the people want.

"Why hasn't more been done on mass transit in the county," asked Councilman Jared Wollitz. "The west side elderly residents continue to suffer. Some of them take the transit bus to the doctor in Fernandina at 9 a.m. and are not able to return home until 5 p.m. due to the bus schedule. Elderly people shouldn't have to even try to drive in the mess over there (Fernandina) much less spend all day away from home because they didn't have a ride."

"That is a very good question and something that certainly needs to be brought into the discussion," answered Burke. "Thank you for your question and it will be brought up."

The council approved Resolution 2020-04 which concerned a grant paid in full by the FDOT and the FAA. The resolution approves the placing of a fence at the south end of the Airpark.

Resolution 2020-04 was also approved by a vote of 4-1 (Councilman John Beasley voted no) which concerns Water & Sewer Rates and Fees. This resolution will amend Resolution 2018-19 for an increase in Water & Sewer rates. Purvis advised the council, per our (town) ordinance rates increase 4.01% every two years.

Resolution 2020-06 was approved which concerned amending Resolution 2002-02, changing the schedule of fees for the Zoning and Land Use Regulations; adding additional fees to the schedule of fees; and addressing

the cost associated with review by the Town Engineer. Councilwoman Callie Kay Bishop voted no on the increase citing it's a huge increase. "Our fees are higher than Putnam and Clay counties and we're much smaller," said Bishop.

"Just remember, we haven't had an increase on building fees in 18 years," said Councilman Sims.

Resolution 2020-07 was approved which concerned amending Resolution 2018-21 setting forth the rules & regulations; programs and fees for the Parks & Recreation Department.

Public Works Director Ritchie Rowe requested approval for a capital

purchase, that was budgeted, a Portable Valve Exerciser at a cost of \$7310. The council approved the request.

Council President and Parks & Recreation Commissioner John Beasley requested approval to accept the resignation of Kid Attendant Macy Glisson. The council approved the request.

Beasley also requested approval to hire Anna Dyal and also Jenny Bradley to be Kid Attendants.

The next regular meeting of the council will be Thursday, February 6 at 7 p.m.



## 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.

### Gratitude of Thanks!

Dear Editor,

We want to thank the many sponsors that participated in this year's Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade held Monday. We were so blessed to have so many elderly residents to participate and brave the chilly temperatures and thankful that they joined us. We are thankful for the pastors in the community who also joined us. We had a wonderful day of fellowshiping together as we honored Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Sincerely,  
The Concerned Citizens of Nassau County

## FSCJ Continuing Workforce Education



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Microsoft Excel 2016 Basic and Intermediate Courses

Course Price: \$199

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Basic: Wednesdays, January 22, 29 and February 5, from 5-8 p.m.

Microsoft Excel 2016 Intermediate:

Wednesdays, Jan. 19, 26 from 5-8 p.m.; and March 4, from 5-7 p.m.

### In the Kitchen...

- 4 - 6 potatoes, peeled and chopped
- 2 large onions, chopped
- 6 slices of bacon, cooked
- 1 can Cream of Chicken soup
- 1 soup can (or 10 oz.) milk

### Potato Bacon Chowder

- 1 cup sour cream
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. thyme
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- 1 can whole kernel corn

Brown bacon in large kettle. Add onions and potatoes. Cook and stir for 10 minutes. Add thyme, pepper and salt. Stir and add corn, chicken soup, sour cream and milk. Blend together well. Cook for 20 minutes, stirring occasionally.

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## Residents Participate in Adopt-A-Tree Workshops

The first of four scheduled Adopt-A-Tree Educational Workshops was held recently with a capacity crowd in attendance.

Residents participated in an educational workshop led by Rebecca Jordi, Nassau County Extension Director, which was geared to provide the information needed to plant and maintain the trees. Kelley McCarter, KNB Officer and Society of American Foresters

Certified Forester®, provided species specific information to assist residents in choosing the right tree for their planting location. After participating in the educational portion of the workshop, residents selected up to two trees and were provided pine bark mulch for their planting project.

Additional workshops are scheduled; Saturday, February 8, 543350 US Highway 1, Callahan; March 14, 516 S. 10th Street, Peck Center, Fernandina Beach; Saturday, March 28, 37177 Pecan Street, Hilliard Community Center, Hilliard. Directly after the educational workshop residents will



**Kelley McCarter, Certified Forester and KNB Officer, and Rebecca Jordi, Nassau County Extension Director, welcome residents to the Adopt-A-Tree Educational Workshop.**

select 1 or 2 free, 3 to 5-gallon nursery trees. Every effort will be made to ensure participants receive the species best suited for their planting area. Registration is required. Childcare is not provided. To Register visit: <https://www.keepnassaubeautiful.org/news-and-events/>.

Keep Nassau Beautiful thanks the following sponsors; Rayonier, Amelia Tavern and other generous donors who supplied funding for the project, Liberty Landscape Supply for their support in purchasing, maintaining and delivering nursery trees, and donating pine bark mulch, Nassau County Extension Service for the meeting room space and educational expertise, Nantonio's Harmony Gardens for their donation of a Crepe Myrtle which was given to a participant as a door prize, and Starbucks, Yulee, for their donation of coffee.

"Keep Nassau Beautiful launched Adopt-A-Tree to help replace the loss of our tree canopy and provide residents an opportunity to beautify spaces with the right tree. We are happy to play a part in Planting Nassau's Future," said Lynda Bell, Keep Nassau Beautiful Executive Director.



## EVENTS AROUND TOWN

The American Legion Post 401 plays BINGO every Thursday at 6 p.m. at their post, 37405 Henry Smith Rd., Hilliard. Everyone welcome! For more information call 845-7300.

Parents of Addicted Loved Ones (PAL) meets every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Bolognne. PAL provides hope through education and support to parents of addicted loved ones. Visit: [www.palgroup.org](http://www.palgroup.org) to learn more. Free educational support group for parents and families.

FREE Dinsmore Bluegrass Jam Sessions are held every Thurs. at 7 p.m. at the Dinsmore Historical Museum, 7330 Civic Club Dr., Jacksonville, behind Dinsmore Elementary. Everyone is welcome, pickers and listeners! For more information call 514-1514.

By opening your heart and home to a youth in Foster Care, you can help forge a lifetime of success and happiness for a child right here in Nassau. Your support can open a world of possibilities. Are you ready to learn more? Contact [recruiter@fssnf.org](mailto:recruiter@fssnf.org) or 904-421-5864 for information.

## JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

Last week, a Republican-majority Senate committee passed a bill that would stop the so-called gun show loophole. The bill would still allow most all private-party gun sales to continue without background checks. Sounds reasonable, but wait! This bill is nothing less than a major step against our 2nd Amendment. The National Rifle Association was adamantly against this bill and even called it "Nothing less than gun control on steroids!"

The bill if passed by the Senate and House would require a person selling a gun to another individual to check the buyers ID to ensure they are legally allowed to own a gun and there will be a form for the buyer to fill out. The form will have to be witnessed and signed by a notary public, even though the bill does not require the seller to do anything with the form. The seller also has to confirm on the form that they have "no knowledge or reason to believe that the purchaser is of unsound mind." Not filling out this form would be a second-degree misdemeanor, punishable by up to 60 days in jail. This form would include a list of questions the buyer would have to answer. Questions would be such as is the buyer a felon, a fugitive from justice, or have anything in their past that would prevent them from owning a gun. Senator Lee (R) stated it

would be in the best interest of the seller to hold on to the form indefinitely.

Marion Hammer, a longtime NRA lobbyist said a vote for this bill is a vote for massive gun control. Before the vote was taken by the committee members, our very own Senator Aaron Bean (R) walked out of the committee room and did not cast a vote, all other Senator's voted in favor of the bill.

There are just a few reasons I can think of that would make Bean leave the room and not vote, and only one that would be acceptable. If by chance he had an emergency, then yes I would totally accept him not voting! The other two reasons I can think of is, (1) he is against the bill and this was his way of showing his dislike to it. If this is the reason, he should be ashamed and embarrassed for not having the intestinal fortitude to stand his ground. Not voting is the same as voting for the bill. The only other reason is (2) he is in support of the bill but cowered his way out of the room so that his constituents would not find out about his pro-gun-control stance. Either of the two is totally deplorable and unacceptable.

Keep your eye out on Senate Bill 7028 and Senator Aaron Bean. One is very dangerous and the other one is questionable.

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

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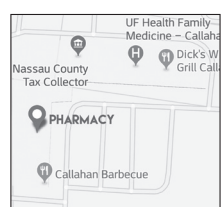
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# An Epic Drama

*Pastor Benjie Loyd, River Road Baptist Church, Hilliard*



When was the last time you read a good book? When was the last time that you read a story that was so gripping that you could not put the book down? What I am about to tell you is not bragging, I am really about to tell you something that I am ashamed to tell you. I just read the Bible. I am not saying that I have never read the Bible before; I preach from it every week and read it almost every day. What I am saying is that I just read the Bible from cover to cover in three weeks. This was not by design, it just happened. This was a phenomenal experience.

The Bible contains the most thrilling drama that has ever been recorded. The Bible is about Jesus and his conquering a world of rebellion and his victory over all things. The Bible begins beautifully. God is completely satisfied in the fellowship of the Trinity, but He wants to put his glory on display so he creates the heavens and the earth out of nothing and then he creates his masterpiece, mankind. God gives man dominion and authority and everything that he could ever imagine, but man rebelled against God. The rebellion continues and sin and death spread like a contagion. As things progress, there are moments of victory and rays of hope, but every victory is short lived and every hero becomes a failure. The world appears to be hopelessly fractured and broken, but this single solitary figure emerges. This man is Christ Jesus. Jesus appears in human history and begins to unravel the work of the work of the first man. He is sinless, he performs many miracles, but then he is crucified by the people that he came for. It looks like it is more of the same. More death and more disappointment, but on the third day Jesus conquered death as he vacated the tomb. Jesus leaves the earth and sends the Holy Spirit and empowers his people with new life and gives them a new mission and He leaves them with the promise that he would return to be with them. Now that Jesus has come and went the first time, we proclaim Him, we are on mission for Him, and we adore Him who we do not see. As the church, we are his bride awaiting his return. When he does return, we will be married to him and live with him in our bodies on the earth.

Right now, our hearts ache as we live in anticipation of our wedding day. We have tears, pain, suffering, and grief, but we are not hopeless. We overcome it all through our union with Christ. Christ's victory is our victory. This world that is trashed and ravaged by sin and death will not be like this forever. The Bible begins in a garden paradise and the Bible ends with a new world and a new city. The tree of life that we were barred from enjoying will be healing for the nations. The Bible is an epic drama, but unlike other epics, this story is completely true. Jesus and his salvation are truly this great. I challenge you to read the Bible as a story and learn how every aspect of this story points us to Jesus! When you do, you will see that this is the most fascinating read imaginable, because you and I are a part of the story of redemption.

*Attend the church of your choice this Sunday.*

# Nassau County 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Career Shadow Day

Nassau County School District Career and Adult Education will sponsor the annual Career Shadow Day for eighth grade students on Wednesday, February 5, 2020. The event motivates students to learn by demonstrating a tangible application of classroom lessons in a workplace environment.

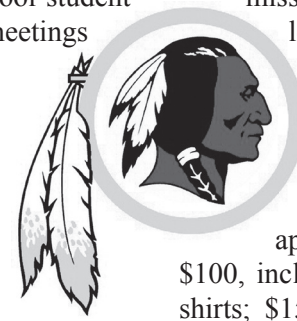
Career Shadow Day is open to all Nassau County eighth grade students. Students may shadow either at parent's place of employment or other businesses. Parents are required to complete registration packets and return to the student's Guidance Counselor.



Additional information and registration packets are available on the event website; [www.nassaucareersshadow.com](http://www.nassaucareersshadow.com). Registration deadline is Tuesday, January 28.

# Warriors for Christ

Warriors for Christ are a faith based student led club with a desire to serve just as Jesus did. The club includes any West Nassau High School student that wishes to attend our meetings and join the club. This is a club of young men and women that want to be the light within the schools, the community and to anyone and everyone that they can bless. The advisors for the club are Bea Mitchell and Eric Hernandez.



Warriors for Christ are looking for sponsors so the students can continue to

bless more people in need. They use the funds to help: families and students in financial need; offset the cost of local mission trips; offset the cost of leadership courses and study material used for student and club growth; and to offset the cost of fellowship events.

Any and all donations are appreciated. Sponsorships are \$100, includes business name on club shirts; \$150, business name on shirts and banner.

For more information, call Bea at 879-3461 or Eric at 904-612-9992.

## FREE Quit Smoking Class

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## CHURCH NEWS

Burford Grove Baptist Church will present Rediscover the Wonder of Our God with Brad Brown Magic on Sunday, Jan. 26 at 9:45 a.m. Come and rediscover our mighty God! The church is located at 553274 US Highway 1, Hilliard.

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## Quilt Guild Offers “Learn to Quilt” Class

Country Star Quilt Guild is offering a “Learn to Quilt” class in February and March. Instructors Marsa Detscher and Lori Fredrick will guide participants through the process of making a Rail Fence lap quilt during four Saturday sessions at the Masonic Lodge in Callahan. Sessions will be held on February 15th and 22nd and March 7th and 14th from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. The cost for the class is \$30 per person.



machine, the machine’s manual, and know the basic operations such as how to thread the machine, sew a straight line, and re-wind a bobbin. Participants will also provide their own fabric, thread, scissors, seam ripper, etc. Once registered, participants will be given a supply list along with a fabric material list. Participants will bring their own lunch and drink in a spill proof cup.

Those 14 years old or older may register for the class by contacting: BegintoQuilt@gmail.com or Marsa at 239-560-4657. The class is limited to 12 people, so sign up early.

The Country Star Quilt Guild meets on the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the First Baptist Church in Hilliard, Florida. They welcome all those that are interested in the making of quilts, quilts as pieces of artwork and their history.

Instructor Marsa began sewing when she was in junior high. Quilting is now her passion. She loves traditional patterns with modern fabrics and twists. Instructor Lori loves to embroider, sew and quilt. Her very first quilt was made with the Rail Fence pattern. These energetic, knowledgeable instructors will certainly bring a fun learning experience into the classroom.

Participants must bring a sewing

## Free Food Distributions at Callahan Fairgrounds

Barnabas Center's mobile food pantry team will hold free food distributions for lower-income Nassau County residents on Monday, January 27 and February 10th. Sign-in begins at 10:30 a.m. and the distribution will last until all the food is distributed at the Northeast Florida Fairgrounds, 543378 US Highway 1 in Callahan. Distributions take place every other Monday. The fairgrounds are located 1.2 miles north of Callahan on US Highway 1. Barnabas Center is located at 1303 Jasmine Street, Fernandina Beach. For more information, please call (904) 261-7000 and visit [www.BarnabasNassau.org](http://www.BarnabasNassau.org).



Barnabas is celebrating ‘Get to Know Your Customers Day’! Come volunteer with us and get to know the wonderful people we help in Nassau County! We need your help in two (2) areas: Callahan Food Distribution on January 27; and the Barnabas New to You Resale Store. For more information, call Kim Cherry at (904) 261-7000 x 118.

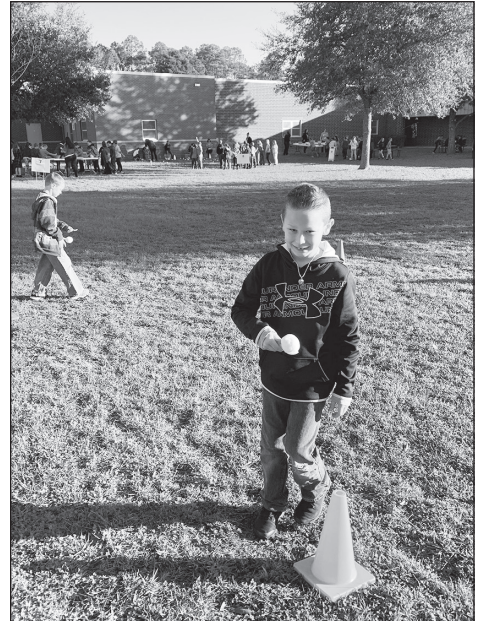
## CIS Announces Spelling Champ

Callahan Intermediate is pleased to announce that Aiden Morgenberger is our Mighty Warrior Spelling Bee Champion! Aiden recently competed at the District Wide Spelling Bee! Aiden thank you for representing Callahan Intermediate and the Mighty Warriors!



## Reading Rally at CIS

On Friday, January 17 over 500 Mighty Warrior students from Callahan Intermediate enjoyed a Winter Reading Rally! Their morning was full of games, music, activities, and snacks! The students who were celebrating, met their AR goal for the 2nd nine weeks! We are very proud of you! Keep up the great work and keep reading!



## ELECTRIC BILL ASSISTANCE

Nassau County residents may receive assistance with electric bills up to \$600. Eligibility is based on household income and family size.

To schedule an appointment call: 1-844-625-8776, 24 hours a day. The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program is administered by: Northeast Florida Community Action Agency, Inc. For information call: (904) 261-0801.

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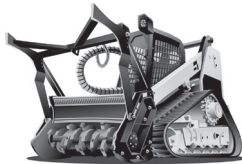


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# RELAY FOR LIFE ROD RUN

NORTHEAST FLORIDA FAIRGROUNDS

Join The Fight!  
With The

*Callahan Cruisers*



For those of you that have those unique cars and hot rods, we'd love for you to join in the Rod Run to benefit the Relay for Life of West Nassau County! The event will be held this Saturday, January 25 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Northeast Florida Fairgrounds. Registration will be from 8-11 a.m. Car Show registration is \$20. For information on the car show call Al at 904-322-3794 or Greg at 904-654-2918.

Vendors are encouraged to also come and rent a spot for your business. All vendors are welcome! Vendor spots are also available for \$20. For information about vendor spots, call Wanda at 904-294-2088.

Life South Community Blood Centers will be on hand for blood donations from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Also, Bluesdog 66 Band will be performing throughout the day! Come out and enjoy some great cars, food, fun and entertainment! There is a \$2 gate admission which also goes to the Relay event! The event is hosted by Relay for Life of Nassau County and The Callahan Cruisers.

All proceeds will benefit the Relay for Life of West Nassau County event that will be held Saturday, April 25 from 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.



## New Beginnings and Milestones

### Barrett Layne Canaday

Cody and Brandy Canaday, of Hilliard, are proud to announce the birth of their son, Barrett Layne Canaday. Barrett was born November 27, 2019 at 3:29 a.m. at Baptist Nassau. He weighed 7 pounds 5 ounces and measured 22 inches long.

Proud grandparents are Reggie and Sharon Canaday of Hilliard and Donna Wilkerson, also of Hilliard.

Barrett was welcomed home by big brothers, Brantley and Chasen!



### Dallas Colton Miller



Amanda and Ewald Miller, III, of Callahan, are pleased to announce the birth of their son Dallas Colton Miller. Dallas was born December 3, 2019 at UF North Hospital at 9:25 p.m. He weighed 7 pounds 11 ounces and measured 20.67 inches.

Paternal grandparents are Ewald Miller, Jr. of Jacksonville.

Maternal grandparents are Michael and Donna Galloway of Woodbine, Georgia.

Dallas was welcomed home by his siblings Jade and Kinsley Miller and Kayliana Galloway!

## CALLAHAN SPEEDWAY

Across from the Northeast Florida Fairgrounds • US 1

**RACING THIS WEEKEND!**

**Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.**

**Admission - \$10 (6 years & Under FREE)**

**Practice - Thursdays 6 - 9 p.m.**

Cart Racing Every Saturday Night at 6 p.m. For more information, call 904-254-7085

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4 - 6 p.m. only!

Fried Pickles • Fried Mushrooms  
Onion Rings • Cheese Sticks  
8 Boneless Wings

**\$4 - \$6 Dinners**

All Dinners Listed come with 1 Side

Additional Side 99¢

Country Fried Chicken • Hamburger Steak  
Chicken Strips • Hamburger • Fish Sandwich  
Popcorn Shrimp • Clam Strips • Fish Dinner  
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Fri. & Sat. 11 am - 9:30 pm, Sun. 11 am - 9 pm



## Baby Donations needed!

The Nest, A Women's Center is in dire need of baby items. The Nest Women's Center is a place where women can go and receive Pregnancy Testing, Ultrasound, Counseling and join a Parent Education Program (PEP) along with many other services. They also provide counseling for young mothers and provide some baby items.

The Nest has two locations, Jacksonville and in Yulee. Appointments can be made by calling 904-619-4914. The items currently needed are listed below. If you can donate any of the items from the list you may bring the items to the Westside Journal office, 450034 SR 200, Callahan. Items needed are: Diapers size 3 and 4; Pacifiers; Bottles; and any kind of Baby Formula.

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# TALK TO US ABOUT RECREATION IN NASSAU COUNTY

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 30 6 - 7:30 PM**

**MULTI-PURPOSE BUILDING AT THE FAIRGROUNDS 543350 US HWY 1 CALLAHAN**

## County Seeks Citizen Input on Recreation Master Plan

Nassau County is embarking on a long-range Recreation Master Plan for the entire county, with the goal of completion in Fall 2020. The plan will be evaluating recreation needs in the community as we grow, identify existing and future opportunities, and make recommendations regarding operations and maintenance into the future.

As part of the planning process, the County will be doing a variety of public outreach, including a statistically valid survey, one on one meetings with Commissioners and other officials, and stakeholder meetings with various groups related to recreation in Nassau County.

The public is invited to participate in an open house event to learn more and provide input into the planning process. All are welcome!

The Open House Event will be held Thursday, January 30 from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Multi-Purpose Building at the Fairgrounds, 543350 US Hwy 1, Callahan.

More information is available at: [www.nassaucountyfl.com/recplan](http://www.nassaucountyfl.com/recplan).

The Nassau County Planning and Economic Opportunity Department is charged with leading long-range and current planning for the community, with a focus on technical planning, implementation and management of the Land Development Code and Comprehensive Plan, development and site plan review, and assistance to citizens, the Board of County Commissioners, County Manager and other staff, advisory boards, government agencies, and the private sector regarding growth and development in Nassau County. For more information on our Plan, Code, or current initiatives, call (904) 530-6300 or visit: [www.nassaucountyfl.com/planning](http://www.nassaucountyfl.com/planning).



Visit us anytime at:

[www.mywestsidejournal.com](http://www.mywestsidejournal.com)

## Basketball Battle of the Westside Friday, January 31 in Hilliard



Hilliard Middle-Senior High School will host the Battle of the Westside Basketball games between HMSHS and West Nassau High School. HMSHS will also honor our military with a Military Appreciation Ceremony at 7:30 p.m. Military personnel (with proper Military ID) will be admitted Free to the games and also receive a meal ticket. Come out and cheer on your team! Admission to the games is \$5 per person. The schedule is as follows:

JV Girls play at 3 p.m.

JV Boys play at 4:30 p.m.

Varsity Girls play at 6 p.m.

Varsity Boys play at 7:30 p.m. (following Military Ceremony)

## Braddock Receives Military Honor

Recently, Lissa Braddock, of Callahan, accepted her late husband, Ronald 'Ronnie' Braddock's, wartime recognition award for his active duty service as a US Army Officer during the Vietnam War. The award was presented by John H. Page at a military reception held in Orange Park. "Ronnie always spoke of his service to his country with great honor and pride," said Lissa.

Accompanying Lissa were her daughter Erin and Erin's fiancé, Joe Gray.



## RED DOT PROJECT COLLECTION

Harley Miller, of Callahan, is collecting small cosmetic bags with teen feminine products. The Red Dot Project solely depends on donations of teen feminine products such as pads, panty liners, tampons, panties, individually wrapped feminine wipes and small cosmetic bags (Ipsy bags). Donations may be brought to the Westside Journal office, 450034 SR 200 (across from Dollar General) Callahan, 879-4180. The care packages are distributed to our middle schools and are available as needed in the nurse's office.



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## Jeff Gray Announces Candidacy for District 3 Commissioner

Recently, Jeff Gray filed to begin his campaign for Nassau County Commissioner District 3. The position of County Commissioner requires steadfast leadership and the foresight to identify and plan for the upcoming challenges and opportunities



of the 2020s. Jeff & his wife Diana fell in love with Nassau County years ago and decided to move here and raise a family. When asked specifically what drew him to Nassau County, Jeff gladly tells anyone, "The people of this county are so friendly and welcoming! The natural beauty that can be seen from any part of the county...like the beaches of Fernandina, the marshes of Yulee, to the wide open lands of Callahan, Bryceville and Hilliard...it's just hard to beat! And Diana and I both believed it would be the best place to raise our children Jeffrie & Brooke." Beyond the friendly people and natural beauty Jeff points out, "There is a great opportunity to improve the quality of life for everyone who calls Nassau County home. By attracting and managing the right type of economic growth, we can create new jobs and keep more money right here in the county."

Jeff's strong background in business and community involvement make him uniquely qualified to take a leadership role in promoting smart-growth, while preserving personal property rights. Jeff has worked for 32 years for one of the world's largest and most diversified corporations, AB Volvo Group/Mack Trucks, Inc. Working his way through the ranks, Jeff became a business manager for this company...a position that demands attention to detail, planning, and dedication to meet complicated goals and exacting deadlines. In our community, Jeff has served in various leadership roles. On the Nassau County Code Enforcement Board, Jeff served as a board member and as Chairperson, ensuring that the highest standards were upheld in construction projects to keep our citizens safe. "People ask me, what does code enforcement actually do?" Jeff says, "The best way I can answer that is to let people know that our job is to promote the uniform application of ordinances, laws, and code to ensure corners are never cut that would affect the safety or accessibility of a building, road, sidewalk, or other infrastructure project. Without this enforcement, the quality of our infrastructure would be low and pose a real safety hazard, which would significantly diminish our quality of life."

In addition to serving on the Code Enforcement Board, Jeff has served on the Nassau County Economic Opportunity Board as well as the Planning & Zoning Board. After the retirement of Chairperson Thomas Ford, Jeff was named the first new Chairperson of the

Economic Opportunity Board in nearly two decades. Away from planning and working to promote economic opportunity, Jeff has also served as a little league coach, umpire, and community services volunteer and has participated in Angel Food Ministries and Gracie's Kitchen of Nassau County. Jeff and his family are members of Bridge Family Worship Center in Yulee.

Jeff is running for Nassau County Commissioner District 3 because he understands that decisive, forward-thinking leadership will be required to take Nassau County into the next decade. Jeff is committed to promoting growth projects that will not only enhance the quality of life for our current citizens but will also lay the foundation for a stronger, more prosperous future. To accomplish this, Jeff believes that we need to be proactive about growth. Attracting the right type of growth will lead to job creation, new avenues for recreation, and the ability to keep more money in the county. Further, Jeff believes that the tax base must be diversified. "We cannot continue to rely on residential properties to generate the vast majority of tax revenue. Nassau County must take the steps necessary to not only attract commercial and industrial entities to the county, but also ensure they pay their fair share in property taxes," Jeff says, "This will help keep our residential property taxes among the lowest in the state, while still allowing for much needed investments in the county." To get all this done, Jeff will engage the public & all stakeholders during critical phases of planning, so all voices of Nassau County can be heard...only then can we truly move forward as a county.

Jeff will continue to build upon his reputation as a relationship builder to work with individuals, business, industry, and government to develop common-sense plans that will benefit everyone who calls Nassau County home. And with the help of friends like you, we can shape a brighter future for everyone in Nassau County. To learn more about Jeff Gray and his campaign, visit [www.VoteJeffGray.com](http://www.VoteJeffGray.com) or call Jeff at 904-302-0137.

## 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 14

David Wayne Greable, 51 44996 Swallowfork Avenue, Callahan: Violation of Probation Community Control Felony

### Sunday, January 19

Elvin Junl Torres, 28, 54892 Church Road, Callahan: Duval County Warrant Petit Theft; Resisting Officer without Violence

## Suicide Threat in Yulee

On Wednesday, January 15, 2020, around noon, the Nassau County Sheriff's Office received information about a suicidal person at 78315 Duckwood Trail in Yulee. The suicidal person (Nollie Burgess Dean, 41) had a gun and was threatening to kill his mother and his juvenile son and wanted law enforcement to kill him.

When NCSO deputies arrived they could hear yelling coming from inside the residence. They entered the home and quickly evacuated the mother and juvenile. They could hear the suspect, who had barricaded himself in another room, yelling that he wanted to kill law enforcement officers and law enforcement officers to kill him.

Deputies exited the residence and set up a perimeter around the house while NCSO's Special Response Team and negotiators responded.

After more than four hours of trying to negotiate with the suspect to come out of the house peacefully, he broke a window out and pointed a rifle and fired toward the deputies striking their special response vehicle. Deputies returned fire and struck the suspect. The suspect was transported by Nassau County Fire/Rescue to UF Health in Jacksonville



Prior Booking Photo

with non-life threatening injuries.

The suspect was a prior convicted felon. He was charged with Aggravated Assault on a Police Officer and Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon.

NCSO requested the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) to investigate the shooting incident as an independent agency and any further questions would be referred to them.

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**JEFFERY BOOTH**



Jeffery 'Jeff' Booth, 40, of Yulee, passed away on Friday, January 10, 2020. Jeffery was predeceased by his father Julius Booth.

Jeffery was born in Jacksonville on August 12, 1979 to Sheila and Julius Booth. Jeffery was reared in Callahan, later moving to Yulee about 12 years ago. He attended schools in Callahan and later obtained his diploma.

He is survived by his mother Sheila Booth; four brothers, David (Pam) Booth, Jason Booth, Justin (Micki) Booth and Jonathan (Melissa) Booth; four nieces, one nephew; and many other loving family members.

A memorial service was held Tuesday, January 21 at Eternity Funeral Home in Jacksonville.

**MELVIN WILSON COX, JR.**



Melvin Wilson Cox, Jr., 56, of Callahan, went home to be with the Lord on January 19, 2020. AKA; Pastor Cowboy, was born September 23, 1963 in Jacksonville, to Melvin and Annie Cox, Sr. He enjoyed preaching the gospel, fishing and hunting. Melvin was the Pastor of Bible Christian Fellowship Church in Callahan.

Melvin is survived by his wife Roxanna; his sons Bruce (Rachelle) Cox, Eric (Ashley) Cox, Shane Cox, Matthew Rogers and Bradley Rogers; chosen daughter Lena; and chosen sons Dakota and Isaiah; his parents Melvin and Annie Cox; a brother Danny (Genesis) Cox; sister Pam (Tim) Roskie; grandsons Robert, Carsten and Aiden; granddaughter Tamia; nieces Crystal, Lexi, Danielle and Emily; nephew Daniel; great nieces Skylar, Astrid and Frejya; great nephew Ryar; and the Church family.

The family received friends Tuesday, January 21 at the Nassau Funeral Home Chapel. The funeral service was held Wednesday, January 22 at Victory Celebration Church, 4220 New Berlin

# OBITUARIES

Road, Jacksonville, with Pastor Jim Matthews officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests to make donations to Bible Christian Fellowship of Callahan, PO Box 1504, Callahan, Florida 32011.

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

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

**IAN DAVID FINCHUM**



Mr. Ian David Finchum, 42, of Callahan, passed away Wednesday, January 15, 2020.

A lifelong resident of Callahan, he was a 1996 graduate of Baldwin High School. Ian was a caring, family-oriented man with a fantastic sense of humor. He loved people and never met a stranger. Ian enjoyed singing and entertaining at the Ramona Flea Market in Jacksonville, where he was well known for selling boiled peanuts at his family's peanut stand. He loved attending the Strawberry Festival every year in Plant City. Some of his favorite things were the Florida Gators, shopping at the Orange Park Mall, enjoying meals with family, and tending the animals on the family farm.

He is survived by his son Corbin Finchum of Greer, South Carolina; mother and stepfather Lynda and Donnie Starling of Callahan; father and stepmother John and Malinda Finchum, Jr. of Plant City; sisters Amy (Nick) Shepherd of Middleburg and Ashley (James) Hobbs, Jr. of Callahan; nephew Jayden Watson; nieces Gracie and Sophie Hobbs; maternal grandmother Senobia Jones; and numerous cousins and a multitude of friends. He was preceded in death by his maternal grandfather Thomas Jones; and paternal grandparents John and Nancy Finchum, Sr.

A celebration of Ian's life was held

Saturday, January 18 at Otis Road Church of God, Jacksonville with Pastor Stephen Thomas officiating. Burial followed at Sellers Cemetery, Jacksonville. The family received friends prior to the celebration.

Arrangements by Warren Funeral Services of Baldwin.

Please sign the online guestbook at [www.warrenfuneralservices.com](http://www.warrenfuneralservices.com).

**NATHAN COLE GALLANT**



Nathan 'Nate' Cole Gallant, 19, of Jacksonville, passed away Sunday, January 12, 2020. He was born in Jacksonville and was a graduate of Lighthouse

Christian School. Nate was the 'entertainer' of his close-knit family, always making everyone laugh with his talent for voice impersonations. He enjoyed hunting, going to the beach and working out at the gym. Nate loved spending time with his family, playing pool and bowling. His siblings were his best friends and he adored his nieces.

He is survived by his parents Ray and Diane Gallant of Jacksonville; brother Rey (Ashley) Montemayor of St. Augustine; sisters Jessica Crosby of Jacksonville and Victoria Gallant of Sanderson; nieces Addison and Josie; maternal grandmother Carol Waite of Jacksonville; paternal grandfather Paul Gallant of Mississippi; and paternal grandmother Diana Ritter of Maryland.

A graveside funeral service was held Friday, January 17 at Gethsemane Memorial Gardens, Jacksonville, with Reverend Jeff Carter officiating.

Arrangements by Warren Funeral Services of Baldwin.

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

**MARIAN LINDA JOHNSON**



Marian Linda Johnson, 77, passed away on Saturday, January 18, 2020 in a local care center. Mrs. Johnson was a native of Jacksonville and a graduate of Andrew Jackson Sr. High School. She retired after 44 years of service to Florida National & Wachovia Banks. She

was a member of the Bit & Spur Saddle Club and worked as a gate attendant at Jax Raceways for many years. She was a member of Christ Fellowship in Yulee where she worked with the children of the church and was a Sunday school teacher. Mrs. Johnson loved Elvis and Willie Nelson.

She was preceded in death by her daughter Michelle Faith Johnson; son David Joseph Johnson; and brother Carl Williamson.

Survivors include her husband of 57 years, Joseph Johnson; two daughters Susan (Clark) Higginbotham and Delisa (David) Larsen; two grandchildren Kenneth Higginbotham and Kyle (Samantha) Higginbotham; three great-grandchildren Riley Beecher, Breylee Higginbotham and Kinlynn Higginbotham; and numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

Memorial services will be held Saturday, January 25 at 11 a.m. at Christ Fellowship Church, 850987 US Hwy 17, Yulee, with Pastor JJ Bradley officiating.

In lieu of flowers, her family request that donations be made to the Christ Fellowship Children's Church Renovation Fund, 850987 US Hwy 17, Yulee, Florida 32097.

Peebles Family Funeral Homes is serving the Johnson Family.

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

was a member of the Bit & Spur Saddle Club and worked as a gate attendant at Jax Raceways for many years. She was a member of Christ Fellowship in Yulee where she worked with the children of the church and was a Sunday school teacher. Mrs. Johnson loved Elvis and Willie Nelson.

She was preceded in death by her daughter Michelle Faith Johnson; son David Joseph Johnson; and brother Carl Williamson.

Survivors include her husband of 57 years, Joseph Johnson; two daughters Susan (Clark) Higginbotham and Delisa (David) Larsen; two grandchildren Kenneth Higginbotham and Kyle (Samantha) Higginbotham; three great-grandchildren Riley Beecher, Breylee Higginbotham and Kinlynn Higginbotham; and numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

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In lieu of flowers, her family request that donations be made to the Christ Fellowship Children's Church Renovation Fund, 850987 US Hwy 17, Yulee, Florida 32097.

Peebles Family Funeral Homes is serving the Johnson Family.

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

**VIRGINIA PETTYJOHN WEBB**



Virginia Hellen Pettyjohn Webb, 73, passed away peacefully on Monday morning, January 6, 2020, following a long illness.

Virginia will be remembered as someone who enjoyed relaxing, reading at the beach, hairstyles and life.

She leaves to cherish her memories, one daughter Felicia M. Webb Washington; three grandsons Paris, Michael and Jonathon; and one granddaughter Alaysha Washington; two brothers Walter J. Pettyjohn of Folkston; two sisters Linda Pettyjohn (Gary) Clark, Sharon P. Harris of Tallahassee; as well as many other family members and friends. She was preceded in death by one brother Charles A. Pettyjohn; and one sister Charlie Mae P. Ward.

Family and friends, whose lives Virginia touched, are invited to attend a Celebration of Life Ceremony for her, Saturday, January 25 at 12:30 p.m. at Mt Charity Baptist Church, US Highway 1 in Hilliard.

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## Annual Nassau Health Summit

The Florida Department of Health-Nassau and the Partnership for Healthier Nassau will be hosting the 2nd Annual Nassau Health Summit on Thursday, January 30 at the FSCJ Nassau Red Bean Center, 76346 William Burgess Blvd., Yulee from 1-5 p.m. This event is open to the public and will feature speakers on critical health topics: health improvement, behavioral health/suicide, tobacco, vaping, Age-Friendly efforts, infant mortality-substance exposed babies, faith-based health programs, housing and the Western Nassau Heritage project.

Speakers will be from the various groups: The Partnership for a Healthier Nassau, the Nassau Behavioral Health Consortium, the Nassau Polydrug Taskforce, Tobacco Free Nassau, the Nassau Age-Friendly Livability Project,

Nassau Infant Mortality Taskforce, Substance Exposed Newborn Taskforce, Nassau Interfaith Health Ministry, Essential Housing Advisory Council, Western Nassau Heritage Project and the Nassau County Health Improvement Coalition.

This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about a multitude of topics which affect our community, to network with others who care about health and to identify resources. There will also be a health fair prior which will host projects and services supporting health in the community.

Come join the discussion and help us make Nassau County "the best place to grow up, work and retire."

For more information, call Mary von Mohr at 904-557-9133 or mary.vonmohr@flhealth.gov.

## American Sign Language Interpreting

Connie Krug, of Callahan, is a super sweet lady that is very talented to be able to interpret funerals in American Sign Language on a volunteer basis. She worked with Christian deaf groups for about 35 years. Previously, she taught Bible study and interpreted for worship services at Arlington Baptist Church in Jacksonville for more than 25 years. She is a member of Callahan First Baptist where she recently

interpreted a funeral.

Connie is retired from the Duval County School Board where she worked 28 years as a Speech/Language Pathologist for students from age 3 through high school. She also taught American Sign Language to students in an after school club in Jacksonville.

For more questions, call Ms. Connie at 904-583-5497.

### In Loving Memory of

## Rose Marie Way

January 18, 1949 - November 13, 2019

Our Rose, our Rose, bubbly budding...yes, you with the beautiful smile were picked from our community. Still your memories will always be around! Happy Birthday Rose!

Much love from your other family,  
Ms. Taylor, Gina and Shelia



## McAninch Family Thank You

We, the family of our wife, mother, grandmother and sister Charlotte A. McAninch, would like to express our thanks and gratitude for the food, flowers, cards and most of all prayers during Charlotte's illness and passing. Special thank go out to Baptist Medical Center (Weaver Tower) for their care during her illness, as well as Dr. Mohammed Khan and the Lavilla staff where she took her chemo treatments for the last four years.

Next special thanks go to Dr. Warren Groff and the staff at Baptist Primary Care for their compassion, care and sometimes patience, as well as Callahan Walgreens for their help with keeping me straight with the nearly 20 medications she had to take during her illness.

For Charlotte's home going service, I would like to thank Jack Heard and Kyle Adkins of Oxley-Heard Funeral Directors for their planning and professionalism; Terri McAninch of Nassau Funeral Home for the beautiful video tribute; and Mike and Tabitha Hill for the musical presentation.

In closing, we would like to thank the community as a whole for their love and support during this difficult journey in our lives.

Sincerely,  
Ellis, Amanda, Macky and Arielle McAninch

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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.**

Nicholas Armstrong (England), Morgan Bartchlett (Louisiana), Chris Barr (Texas), Jewel Rene Barron (Virginia), Timothy Beasley (Cuba), Cody Beaver (Virginia), Jessica Bell (Hawaii), Chad E. Black (South Carolina), Kevin & Brooke Blanton (Georgia), Spc. Caleb Bohannon (South Korea), Israel Marcos Bonilla (Missouri), Derek Borden, Benjamin Black (Iraq), Hunter Brannon (North Carolina), Conrad Brauhn (Afghanistan), Ryan Brooks (Connecticut), John Brookshire (North Carolina), Aaron Brown (Japan), Branden Brown (USS Nimitz), Anthony Broekema (Virginia), Ethan Bulford, (Virginia), Aaron Burnette (South Carolina), Calen Burnette (South Korea), 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 (Washington State), Tison J. Crews (Kuwait), Charles 'CJ' Cribbs, III (Washington, DC), Dennis L. Davis II (Alabama), Joshua M. Davis (New York), Shannon Davis (Nevada), Benjamin DeVille (Afghanistan), Johanna Diaz (Nevada), Clif Dixon (Iraq), Robert Dodson (Florida), Devin Michael Dowling (Kansas), Christopher Downs (Arizona), William Clay Dryden (Kansas), James Dale Evans (Baghdad), David Farhat (Kuwait), Christen Fernandez, Clinton Fouraker (Virginia), Jeremy Francisco (Mayport), Jennifer D. Frederick (Colorado), Kevin J. Gahris (United Arab Emirates), Michael E. Garcia (Afghanistan), Marcus Gee (Iraq), Samantha Gee (Korea), Tabetha Gee (Korea), Chadrick Gibson (Iraq), Charles Gibson, Darrell Goodwyne, Jr. (Iraq), Brandon Graham (Georgia), 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), Michael Hall, Michael Hallman (Key West),

Ronnie Hammer (Virginia), Todd W. Hanner, Jr. (Texas), Andy Harper, Mark Harris (Virginia), Harley Henderson (Texas), Nathan Hess (Japan), Jeff Higgs (Spain), SPC Hodge (Iraq), Josh Hoyle (California), AT2 Brian Hughes (Bahrain), Bryan K. Jeffers II (Iraq), Wyoming Jefferies (Ohio), Jacob Jensen (Middle East), Cameron Johns (North Dakota), Aaron L. Johnson (Colorado), Carlus Johnson (Texas), Donald Johnson (North Carolina), Jamaal Jones (Hawaii), Bradley Justice, Brian J. Kerns (Virginia), Joseph A. Kidd, IV (Iraq), Kayla King (Germany), Scott Kirkland (California), Joshua Knight, PO3 Travis E. Kornacki (North Carolina), Jordan Kriner (Italy), Victoria LaMontagne (Florida), Tyler Landreville (Florida), John C. Larkin (Iraq), Chase M. Lewis (North Carolina), Katelyn Lewis (Japan), Nicholas Louese (Spain), Jason Lovejoy (Colorado), Patrick Lynagh (Nevada), Gatlin Mackie (Virginia), Kevin Marshall (Kentucky), Canisha Martin (Georgia), Tony Martin (Georgia), Anthony Mastrogiovanni (Georgia), Stacey McDaniel (Virginia), Noah E. McKinnon (Iraq), Michael McQuaiz, Matthew McRae (North Carolina), Russell Mellroy (Afghanistan), Ivory Melton, Jr. (Kuwait), Brian Middleton (Afghanistan), Steven Miner (Germany), Britt Mizell (South Carolina), Dillon Mock (Florida), Joshua Monds (Virginia), Anthony Moore (Afghanistan), Anthony Moore (South Carolina), Roland Moore (Iraq), Chris Morehead (North Carolina), Sgt. Travis Morris, Climart 'CJ' Moses (Afghanistan), Michael Murphy (Iraq), Aaron Musgrove (Afghanistan), Stephen Myers (Korea), Jonathan Neeve (Texas), Gary Nelson (Kuwait), Michael Nelson (Florida), Michael Nettles (Iraq), Lee Nickola (Iraq), Ryan Norton (North Carolina), Jesse O'Berry (England), Daniel O'Dell, Shannon O'Dell, Steven A. 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), Linn Phillips, III (Italy), Kyle Pipkins (South Carolina), Joshua Poirier (Georgia), Austin Potochnik (California), Dusty Price (Iraq), Michael Price (Germany), Kenneth Pullum (Washington, DC), Kyle Pullum (Louisiana), Robert W. Pyles (North Carolina), Jeffery Rapadas (Kuwait), Justin Reed (North Carolina), Kasie Richardson (North Carolina), Jeffrey Rigdon (Kentucky), Aaron Roberts (Florida), Camilla Roberts (Alaska), David Roberts (South Carolina), Sydney A. Robinette (Florida), Michael Robinson (Alabama), Jason Rodgers (Texas), Douglas Raymond Roth, Marc Rowe (Georgia), Brian M. Sartain, Jr. (Pensacola), James Sanders (Germany), Tressie Scott (Afghanistan), James Scully (Kansas), Donald Shaw (Iraq), Michael Shearer (Illinois), Jesse D. Silcox (Bahrain), Daniel Singley, Corey Slayton (California), Christopher E. Smith (Iraq), James A. Smith (North Carolina), Michael J. Smith (North Carolina), David Stallings (Kuwait), Bill Starling (Iraq), Larry V. Starratt, III (Korea), Scott M. Stephens (Hawaii), Caleb & Jordan Stoner (North Carolina), James 'Mike' Stringer (Iraq), Joseph R. Taylor (Texas), Luke Thomas (Germany), Michael Thomas (North Carolina), Crystal Thompson (Iraq), Terry Thompson (North Carolina), Tiffany Thompson (Washington), Sarah Tindell (North Carolina), Andrew N. Turner (Alaska), Corey M. Turner (Texas), William Varner (California), Shawn W. Vickers (California), Daniel Vroman (North Carolina), Jonathan Vroman (California), Brett Wade (Florida), Jeff Walters (Iraq), Shawn Ward (Texas), Brian Waring (Iraq), Daniel Waters, David Watkins (California), James D. Whitman, Earl Youman, Jr. (Virginia)

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

God Bless our Troops!



# Local Professional Athlete Memorializes His Grandmother



prevention and support for single parents. My Cause My Cleats allows players to express their commitment to the causes that are most important to them.

Chris lost his grandmother to breast cancer, but she remains in his memory and he chose to honor her with his cleats. Milton's cause is the Edith Marie Foundation, which helps breast cancer patients with their daily expenses, paying bills or taking them to doctor appointments. Learn more about the Edith Marie Foundation by visiting: [www.edithmarie.org](http://www.edithmarie.org).

Chris Milton, a Charlton County High School graduate, now plays in the National Football League with the Tennessee Titans. After graduating from high school, Chris attended and played for Georgia Tech. He was originally signed by the Indianapolis Colts



as a rookie free agent in 2016 and was waived by the Colts in 2019 only to be claimed by the Tennessee Titans, where he currently plays. Chris' mother and stepfather, Victoria and Dwayne Blue, live in Callahan.



In early December, hundreds of NFL players showcased causes that are important to them with custom cleats for the NFL's My Cause My Cleats campaign. As part of the collaboration between the NFL and players, players represented hundreds of charitable organizations that focus on causes from youth wellness to sex trafficking

# District Spelling Bee Held Friday

The Nassau County School District held its District Spelling Bee Friday, January 17. There were 11 students who all won their school-level competitions. The District Winner was Ian Wilking from St. Michael Academy. The Runner-Up was Jaiden Godron from Hilliard Middle School. Congratulations to all these students!



The winners from each school were: Bryceville Elementary, Tori Bowen; Callahan Intermediate, Aiden Morgenberger; Callahan Middle, Lucas Phillips; Emma Love Hardee Elementary, Olivia Stuntz; Fernandina Beach Middle, Cale Meredith; Hilliard Elementary, Erin McCannell; Hilliard Middle, Jaiden Godron; Wildlight Elementary, Jennings Mullis; Yulee Elementary, Noah Robertson; Yulee Middle, Aidan Stroupe; St. Michael Academy, Ian Wilking.

Chris' cleats, along with many other unique items will be auctioned off at the Edith Marie Foundation Gala to be held in July. Visit the website to find out more and how you can contribute to this great organization.

We are so blessed to have so many talented and compassionate athletes in and from our community!



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