

“CONSIDER IT PURE JOY, MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, WHENEVER YOU FACE TRIALS OF MANY KINDS, BECAUSE YOU KNOW THAT THE TESTING OF YOUR FAITH PRODUCES PERSEVERANCE.” - JAMES 1:2-3



Dawn S. West

The Nassau County Board of County Commissioners met Monday night for their final meeting of January and the chamber and halls were full of people. Residents packed the building for not one, but two top issues to be decided by the commissioners: Gaming Rooms and Second Amendment Support.

The commissioners scurried through the first part of the full agenda and then skipped to Tab M which concerned amending Ordinance 99-02 Code Enforcement Board, amending Article III, Section 1-60 to discuss increasing fines. This issue was discussed as some of the gaming rooms had violations from Code Enforcement which might be a factor in the decision whether to close them or not. The board approved increasing the fees for a violation to \$250 per day for the first offense, until the matter is resolved.

County Manager and Attorney Mike Mullin read the Ordinance concerning gaming rooms. This is an Ordinance Prohibiting simulated gambling devices defining and identifying simulated gambling establishments as a public nuisance and noxious use; prohibiting the use of simulated gambling devices for certain circumstances; and create

and enforcement mechanism for violations.

Following the reading of the ordinance, the commissioners opened the meeting for the public hearing on the ordinance. Over 30 residents, pastors, gaming room employees and owners spoke before the commissioners with their thoughts and passion about the issue. One pastor offered a large list of employers needing employees; while another offered suggestions of what to do with these buildings should they choose to close them. After two hours, each commissioner made comments about their thoughts. Each expressed they felt, with the sheriff's presentation of illegal activities around these places, their vote was for the safety of the residents of the county. The vote was taken and was unanimous 5-0 to close the gaming rooms effective January 27, 2020. Each business has 60 days to close their establishments.

Following, the commissioners also approved a Resolution declaring Nassau County's support of the Second Amendment. This resolution also had several people to voice their opinion, for and against, on this issue. Following about 30 minutes of discussion the commissioners approved the resolution.

## Greene's RV Resort Gets County Zoning Approval

Dawn S. West

The planned Callahan Country RV Resort/Water Park recently received a unanimous approval from the Nassau County Planning & Zoning Board. This RV Resort/Water Park is planned by local contractor Kenny Greene. Greene purchased the 265.5 acres, located off of Lem Turner Road in 2017. The property included the former Deerfield Golf Club, which is now closed. There will be a new entrance into the facility with the front part surrounded by woods.

The development will include an RV Resort Park that will offer all types of camping for travelers. There will be 150 spaces for RV parking or cabin sites. There will be a maximum stay limit of 4 months. The campground will use 57 acres. Greene also plans to have a water park, open to everyone, it will include a lazy river, splash pad and other fun water features. He also plans to offer some type of annual pass for residents as plans continue. A 9-hole golf course will still remain on the property for golfing fun which will encompass 76 acres.

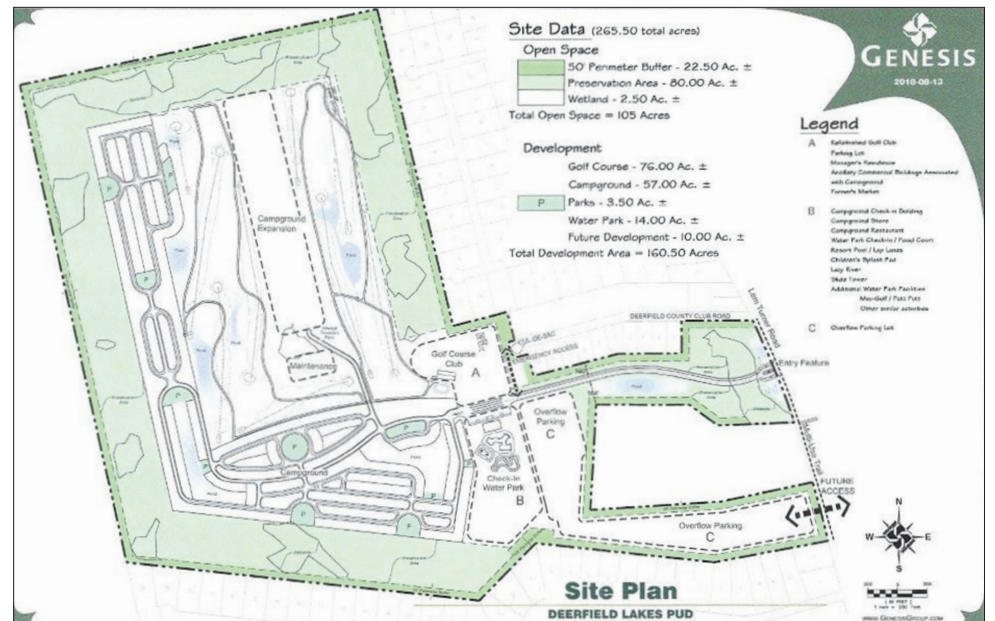
There are 80 acres of preservation area along with a 50' perimeter buffer of

22.5 acres for nearby residents. "I want this to be a great place for people to be able to come to for relaxation and fun," said Greene. "I'm a Callahan resident and want our people to have a safe and fun place to go have fun without the worries of traveling to Jacksonville or further to do so."

Greene has taken into consideration the residents living close by the property by prohibiting noise nuisances such as dirt bikes, ATVs, outdoor concerts, etc. In working with the FDOT, Greene will be adding a left-hand turn lane, as required by DOT, but also plans to add a right turn lane on Lem Turner.

Monday night, the item was heard before the Nassau County Board of County Commissioners. The discussion from the commissioners was lengthy however the vote was unanimous, 5-0, in favor of the project.

The approved zoning plans will now go to the state for approval and then back to the county commission for final approval possibly sometime in March. In the meantime, Greene will be moving forward with the design and engineering process. We look forward to a great recreational facility!



## Basketball Battle Friday in Hilliard

Hilliard Middle-Senior High School will host the Battle of the Westside Basketball games between HMSHS and West Nassau High School.



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 a Military Ceremony)



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# A Word From the Publisher

As the weather continues its ups and downs, how blessed we are to live in Florida! It seems we always can find something to be grumpy about no matter what. Now the weather, there's not one thing you can do about that. The Lord does what he wants to on that one! We have truly been blessed during this winter season with amazing weather. Don't fret...it's not over yet!

I'm not sure about you but I don't know how we got to the end of January so fast? It kind of makes me a little crazy thinking about how fast time goes! One of the devotionals I read was titled Killing Time. The writer quickly pointed out why would you kill time when there is so much you could be doing? He quickly added that the Lord does command us to rest and we all need it at times. Believe it or not, I could relate to killing time when I was sick. There wasn't much more I could do so I just laid around. I know that was God's way of slowing me down. It is scary how wrapped up we can get in our 'busy' worlds that when we look back we weren't doing anything that mattered.

I've tried to be better this year at being prepared and not procrastinating so much. Procrastinating, it's pretty easy to do. It's much easier to sit something aside and come back to it than to do it immediately. However when 'getting back' is late on Sunday night...that's not real fun. Pray for me as I struggle to keep up the pace I've set so far. I have to say, I'm proud of myself for seeing I had a problem. You all know, I love my home and I love to be there. So it does make me angry when I have to go shut myself in our home office and work rather than work in the

yard or go sit by the fire pit with Roger! That's another one of those 'time' things. To me, making time for others is pretty important! I always remind myself...it's truly the little things that matter the most.

We had a busy weekend with three of our granddaughters! Oh the energy those girls have! Roger said to me, "I've never heard so much giggling and laughing. That's all they are doing!" It was music to my ears. We had a great time playing outside, cooking, drinking hot chocolate, sitting out by the fire, laughing, etc. We didn't really have a schedule and that's a good thing because I think it would have been out the window! We even watched part of one of the Ice Age movies. In it, a whale put some of the creatures in his mouth and moved them from one place to another. Our little girls asked, "How do they do that?" Of course, that reminded me of Jonah and the whale from the Bible. The next morning while the girls were eating, I brought my children's Bible story book to them. Jayden read the story to the little ones. With intense eyes all three listened to the story and looked at the pictures. Of course, Gammy had to explain a little! What a special time to share with our girls.

Thank you Jesus for allowing me to share a little Jesus anytime I can with our grandchildren or whoever crosses my path. There are so many that don't have any idea about His wonderful grace and mercy! God, give me courage to share more!

Have a blessed week!

*Dawn S. West*

# Fish Talk

## Winter Trout

Chris Cockerham, Reel Habit

Gator trout, more widely known as speckled trout, are typically fish that are larger than 4 to 5 pounds. These fish are smart and highly sought after, even by the most avid Anglers. The best times to target these fish are usually going to be early morning and late in the evenings. It is however very common to snag a few studs during the middle of the day. Many times in the winter, trout will hold in deeper water depths. With that said, they will also move up shallow, looking for the warmth that the sun brings and to feed.



I had an opportunity to fish with Brantley Rogers this weekend. Our original idea was to start way up river and find anything that would bite. It was evident quickly in our mission that we'd have to move. There was no bait, the current was slack and honestly, it just didn't feel right. On our trip back down river, Brantley noticed seagulls and pelicans circling and diving into what appeared to be small bait fish. We quickly picked a creek mouth very close to this action and rushed in. Our plan was to start along the grass lines working our way out to deeper water. There was only one problem, we started getting short strikes. Thinking quickly, we down sized to smaller plastics. Second, we slowed down our retrieval and gave a longer pause. Keeping the baits near the bottom greatly increased our catch. It wasn't long before we found the correct depth where trout were hanging out. Our hook up ratio drastically improved and we ended up putting a limit of trout in the box. One of those trout happened to be a solid fish and gave the opportunity for a great photo op.

If I could add any tips to help you become more successful from our experience this weekend, I'd say this. Lighten up on your leader line, 10 lb. test mono or even smaller diameters may increase your chances. Change up your retrieval speed; that could be from fast to slow or slow to fast. Once you find the fish, keep your baits in the strike zone. Lastly, lean into the strikes. Don't set the hook as if it were bass fishing. It's cold and many times the trout bite will be ever so settle in their commitment to the bait.

With that being said, I hope that you all have a successful weekend on the water. Be safe out there!

## PLANT CLINIC

Bring us your tired, diseased, insect-infested plants yearning to be free of problems. When possible, place your plant in a plastic bag to prevent chances of spreading issues to other plants. You will receive current, researched-based information on proper plant care, disease management and insect control. These sessions are free to the public. No registration is required. Come any time between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. for expert advice. These sessions are held at the Yulee Extension Office, 86026 Pages Dairy Rd. For more information, call the Extension office at 904-530-6351.

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**TOWN OF HILLIARD COMMUNITY WORKSHOP NOTICE**

The Town of Hilliard will hold a Joint Planning and Zoning Board and Town Council workshop on Tuesday, February 4, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Hilliard Town Hall Council Chambers, located at 15859 West CR 108. The purpose of this workshop is to summarize and review community input received from participants from both community workshops.

Persons with disabilities requiring accommodations in order to participate in this proceeding should contact the Town Clerk at (904) 845-3555 at least seventy-two hours in advance to request such accommodations.

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The Westside Journal is published every Thursday by Westside Journal, LLC, owned by Roger and Dawn West. Printed by Florida Sun Printing in Callahan, Florida. Mailed free of charge to all residents in postal zip codes 32011, 32046 and 32009.

Advertisement Deadline: Monday at 5 p.m.  
Classified Deadline: Tuesday at 12 p.m.

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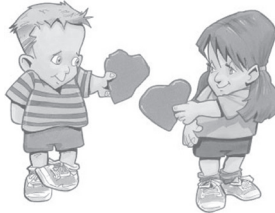
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# FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Happy Valentine's Day</i> Friday, February 14</p>						<p>1 Callahan Farmers Market 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.</p>
<p>2 AA Meeting 904-399-8535 7 p.m. <i>Groundhog Day</i></p>	<p>3 AA Meeting 8 p.m. Hilliard Hookers Knit/Crochet - 6 p.m. Callahan Town 7 p.m.</p>	<p>4 AA Meeting 8 p.m. Westside Republican Club 7 p.m. Hilliard Community Bldg</p>	<p>5 AA Meeting 8 p.m. PAL Meetings 6:30 p.m. FBC Boulougne Callahan Garden Club 10 a.m.</p>	<p>6 AA Meeting 8 p.m. BINGO American Legion Post 401 6 p.m. Hilliard Town 7 p.m.</p>	<p>7 Reformers Unanimous Addiction 7 p.m. Grace Baptist, Baldwin</p>	<p>8 United Daughters of the Confederacy 11 a.m. Hilliard Library</p>
<p>9 AA Meeting 7 p.m.</p>	<p>10 AA Meeting Callahan Eastern Star - 7:30 p.m. Masonic Lodge WN Genealogical Society 10:30 a.m. Country Star Quilt Guild 7 p.m. FBC Hilliard Hilliard Hookers Knit/Crochet - 6 p.m.</p>	<p>11 AA Meeting 8 p.m. Gardening Club of Hilliard - 11 a.m. Lions Club 7 p.m.</p>	<p>12 AA Meeting 8 p.m. PAL Meetings 6:30 p.m. FBC Boulougne Hilliard VFW 10095 7 p.m.</p>	<p>13 AA Meeting 8 p.m. BINGO American Legion Post 401 6 p.m. WNHS SAC Meeting 4 p.m.</p>	<p>14 American Legion Post 401, Hilliard 7 p.m. Reformers Unanimous Addiction 7 p.m. Grace Baptist, Baldwin <i>Valentine's Day</i></p>	<p>15 Food Giveaway Gateway to Life Ministries Hilliard 10 a.m. - noon The Pleasant Place Gala Multi-Purpose Bldg. Fairgrounds, 879-2693 5:30 p.m.</p>
<p>16 AA Meeting 7 p.m.</p>	<p>17 AA Meeting 8 p.m. Hilliard Hookers Knit/Crochet - 6 p.m. <i>President's Day</i></p>	<p>18 AA Meeting 8 p.m. Bryceville Club 11 a.m. Callahan Town 7 p.m.</p>	<p>19 AA Meeting 8 p.m. PAL Meetings 6:30 p.m. FBC Boulougne</p>	<p>20 AA Meeting 8 p.m. Hilliard Town 7 p.m. BINGO American Legion Post 401 6 p.m.</p>	<p>21 Reformers Unanimous Addiction 7 p.m. Grace Baptist, Baldwin</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23 AA Meeting 7 p.m.</p>	<p>24 AA Meeting 8 p.m. Callahan Eastern Star - 7:30 p.m. Masonic Lodge Friends of the Hilliard Library 7 p.m.</p>	<p>25 AA Meeting 8 p.m. Lions Club 7 p.m. NC Library Advisory Board 3 - 5 p.m. Yulee Library FSCI/ Nassau Center</p>	<p>26 AA Meeting 8 p.m. PAL Meetings 6:30 p.m. FBC Boulougne</p>	<p>27 AA Meeting 8 p.m. BINGO American Legion Post 401 6 p.m. Historical Society 6:30 p.m. @ Depot</p>	<p>28 Reformers Unanimous Addiction 7 p.m. Grace Baptist, Baldwin</p>	<p>29</p>

## LANDSCAPE MATTERS

Nassau County Master Gardener Volunteers, Shirley Lohman and Lynn West will conduct a Landscape Matters Class on Roses Wednesday, February 5. The class will include a pruning demonstration, discussion of diseases, remedies, irrigation, varieties, colors, fertilizers and arrangements. They will also discuss when to cut roses for arrangements, conditions for success, different grades of roses, shrub roses, how to plant and good soil amendments. The class will be held at the Yulee County Building, 86026 Pages Dairy Road, US 17 North. For more information, call the Extension office at 904-530-6351.

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SATURDAY 10 A.M. - 2 P.M.



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# JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

By the time this column is printed I assume the Impeachment trial of our President will be over. Hopefully, the Senate will have had enough sense to exonerate President Trump and he will remain in office. However, the damage that the Socialist Democratic Party has inflicted upon our Republic will linger forever. This entire charade orchestrated by the Democrats had one goal and that was to undo the 2016 election and interfere with the 2020 election.

There was no Russian interference in 2016, but there sure has been DNC interference starting even before President Trump was sworn in to office. It is vital that the American people see and understand what has transpired in the last three years. The Democrats lost the 2016 Presidential race that they were all convinced they would win in a landslide victory for their queen Hillary. They still to this day cannot recover nor accept the loss. They have been on a mission since day one to remove Donald Trump from office out of vengeance and hate. Everyone can easily see that the Trump Presidency has done wonders for our country. Our financial system has set record after record of successfulness. The unemployment rate has hit all-time lows. Foreign countries know that they can no longer walk all over us. We are "American Strong" once again and it is because of our President!

To prove that this impeachment is solely about removing a duly elected

president, all you have to do is listen to the Democrats. Rep. Nancy Pelosi stated last week that they (the Dems) have been working on this impeachment for two and a half years. Strange is it not that the impeachment article is about a phone call that transpired in July 2019. Pelosi also stated, "Let's be optimistic about the future - a future that will not have Donald Trump in the White House. One way or another, 10 months from now will have an election if we don't have him removed sooner."

Rep. Al Green stated in 2017, "I'm concerned if we don't impeach this President, he will get re-elected."

Rep. Adam Schiff stated, "The President's misconduct cannot be decided at the ballot box; for we cannot be assured that the vote will be fairly won."

Let that sink in for a moment. Adam Schiff is afraid that the American voters may re-elect Donald Trump. He believes it is best for the Democrat Congress members should decide who can and cannot serve as president. That is why I identify the Democrat Party as a socialist party. Schiff along with his Democratic partners in crime no longer believe in the constitution, they feel as if it is their way or no way.

Our country is under attack by the Socialist Democratic Party. We must stand firm in our Republic and defeat socialism!

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

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual MISSIONS CONFERENCE

A WAITING WORLD, A WILLING CHURCH

Friday, February 7 @ 7 pm

Saturday, February 8 @ 10 am

Sunday, February 9 @ 10:30 am & 6 pm

Come be with us as we host our 3rd Annual Missions Conference. This is a 3 Day ACTION PACKED Conference with missionaries all across the world. This conference is an amazing opportunity to get to know our missionaries on a personal level.

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## NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP

### TOWN OF CALLAHAN, FLORIDA Charter Amendments & COMP Plan

Residents that live within the Town limits are encouraged to attend the Workshops. The Residents and Elected Officials will review and discuss amending the Charter in reference to Election of the Mayor and Clerk

**Monday, February 3, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.**

**Town Hall Council Chambers**

542300 US Hwy. 1 • Callahan, FL 32011

Followed immediately by a discussion of the Town of Callahan Comprehensive Plan with the Northeast Florida Planning Council, Callahan Planning and Zoning Board and the Callahan Town Council.

This workshop may continue another time, if needed. The matters may also be discussed in the regular council meeting at 7:00 p.m. following the Workshops. Residents are also encouraged to attend the Meeting.

Individuals with disabilities needing a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in the program or activity should contact the office of the Town Clerk, Stephanie Knagge, at (904) 879-3801 or clerk@townofcallahan-fl.gov at least seventy two hours in advance to request such accommodation.

*If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the board, agency, or commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.*

# It's All an Act

Pastor Steve Wolgamott, Live Oak Baptist Church



When I was a young man growing up in Pennsylvania, I had neighbors down the street that I thought were really great people. The couple had no children and they seemed to take an interest in the local neighborhood children. Next to their house they had a large double lot where they allowed us to play baseball in the spring and summer and football in the fall. We thought it was really great that he would let us do that. Often, he and his wife would come out with lawn chairs and sit and watch us play. He would laugh at our antics. His wife never had much to say but would just sit and smile when he smiled.

One evening we heard an ambulance coming down our street and everyone ran out to see where it was going. The ambulance turned into the home where our friends lived. Already, there was a police car in front of the house. We were all standing around wondering what had happened. In a few moments the men operating the ambulance came walking out carrying a stretcher. There was a body on it with a sheet covering over the person's face. In just a few minutes the police came out leading our friend secured with handcuffs. He was covered with blood.

Soon the news came out. Our friend had literally beaten his wife to death using his fists, his feet and an iron rod. It also came out that he had been physically abusing his wife for years, careful to only beat her where her clothes would cover the bruises. Apparently, the evening that he killed his wife he had lost all control committing that horrible act.

We had thought they were the perfect couple. That he was a good man, a man to be admired. But it was all an act. He was really a savage man, a fool, and for whatever reason, a man not in control of his thoughts and actions. We think to ourselves, "what an awful situation." Sadly, things like this are happening every day somewhere in the world. Even more awful than this though, is the fact that there are many people walking around smiling, laughing, being helpful, looking like the finest people in the neighborhood who are only putting on an act. Inside they are lost and condemned to an eternity separated from God. They may act like they are good people, a Christian, a believer, someone others should look up to. But they are lost. They have never accepted Jesus Christ as personal Savior and allowed him to take away their sins and to give them a new life.

God wants to give everyone a new life. The Bible, the word of God, says, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." God wants us all to be a part of his family so that he can give us a new life, not a life dependent upon what the world says but one that is pure, holy, righteous, and eternally free through the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Dear friends, God doesn't want us to wait until it's too late for him to save you. God doesn't want you to be carried out of this life on the stretcher of eternal death. God wants you to admit what you are, lost, and ask him to save you. Quit acting and start being real. Take off the mask and let the light of Christ shine through. For those of you who profess to be a Christian, start acting like it, not false actions, with phony faces but as real children of God. Don't try to be what you aren't.

# Barnabas to Open Satellite Office in Callahan

Barnabas Center will reopen its service center in Callahan on Monday, February 3 to serve residents in west Nassau County. The new office is located at 449644 US Highway 301, Callahan, (adjacent to First Methodist Church). Barnabas extends its thanks to First Methodist Church for its part in supporting this project. Nassau County residents may apply for assistance in Callahan by appointment only. To schedule an appointment, call (904) 261-7000 for any of the following assistance: Medical Services; Assistance with Food Stamp applications; Emergency financial assistance for rent or utilities; Enrollment for medical and dental services. For more information about Barnabas' programs, please visit [www.BarnabasNassau.org](http://www.BarnabasNassau.org).



# County Flood Outreach Events

Join the county, February 6 to learn more about results from the County's Vulnerability Assessment looking at floodplain management, protection strategies for flooding, flood zones and flood insurance.

We want to hear from you! Tell us about areas that you know flood or changes you have seen over time in Nassau County regarding flooding. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection awarded Nassau County a second Resilience Planning Grant to conduct a Vulnerability Assessment for the remainder of Nassau County. The first grant, awarded in 2018, looked at the Yulee and Callahan areas. The County selected the Balmoral Group to assist with the assessment, and they will be on hand at the outreach events to talk about their findings.

**Thursday, February 6 from 6-7:30 p.m.  
Hilliard Library • 15821 County Road 108**

The two areas studied in this second phase are: 1) Amelia Island and 2) west of I-95 and north of A1A/SR 200/301. After completion of this phase, assessment of the entire County's vulnerabilities will be complete. This assessment will help Nassau County be better prepared in planning for flood risk and changes in sea level, which is especially important as the community is expected to grow. More information is available at: [www.nassaucountyfl.com/vulnerabilityassessment](http://www.nassaucountyfl.com/vulnerabilityassessment) and [www.nassaucountyfl.com/floods](http://www.nassaucountyfl.com/floods).

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).

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## Callahan Town News

Dawn S. West

The Callahan Town Council met last Tuesday night (due to the Monday holiday) for their final meeting of January. Sybil Purvis along with myself (Dawn West) approached the podium. Mrs. Purvis began her discussion with addressing the council concerning doing something in Callahan to honor Howard 'Howie' Kendrick, West Nassau graduate and now 2019 World Series Champion. She also read his bio and his many accomplishments prior to the World Series. "I came to the council meeting back in 2011 concerning Howie during his early accomplishments and suggested doing something but we didn't. Now he played on the team, Washington Nationals, that won the 2019 World Series," said Purvis. "There are many people wishing to show their excitement for all he has accomplished. Would you consider having a new sign put up? Example: Welcome to Callahan! Home of Howard 'Howie' Kendrick, 2019 World Series Champion. Would you also consider renaming the road leading to the WN baseball field (Brinkley Rd.), Howie Kendrick Way? We are also talking with West Nassau High School about honoring him on the baseball scoreboard but haven't heard back."

"I am also here for Howie. Not as a business owner but as a proud WN Alumnus and mother of children who went to school with Howie," I continued. "We must remember that chances of us (Callahan) having another athlete in the World Series is slim but possible. Why

not place some visual honor about him and what he has done around our town? This is a small amount of recognition for an amazing man. Remember, each time he has been interviewed he says he is from Callahan, Florida and graduated at West Nassau High School."

Pastor Walter Cooper also addressed the council thanking them for being a sponsor for the MLK Parade and Patricia V. Williams Concerned Citizens of Nassau County Scholarship Program. "We appreciate the sponsorship and the attendance," said Cooper. "This was one of the best services, parade and luncheons that we have ever had. Thank you."

The council approved Ordinance 2020-001 with changes on first reading concerning unsafe structures. A few changes will be made before the next reading.

Resolution 2020-R01 was also approved which concerned donating \$504 to the Ferst Readers Foundation. The money will sponsor 14 students for one year.

Mayor Marty Fontes advised the council that the town COMP Plan needed to be redone. We (council) need to schedule a joint workshop with the NE FL Planning Council and the Planning & Zoning Board. The council agreed for the workshop to be held Monday, February 3 at 6 p.m. prior to the next council meeting. "There are many things we need to look at changing with zoning titles for one," said Fontes.

The next meeting of the council will be Monday, February 3 at 7 p.m.

## CMS Band Students Chosen for Honors Band



Congratulations to these Callahan Middle School Band students (listed with their instruments) that were selected to play in the Duval/Nassau County Honors Band: Tristen Deditch, Euphonium; Alec Koci, Clarinet; Jacob Peterson, Contra-Alto Clarinet; and Evelyn Cohoon, Clarinet. These four 8th graders did an amazing job Saturday at Atlantic Coast High School. Thank you, to Mr. Arnold, CMS Band Director, for all his support in this journey!

Each student went through a try-out process with judges from all over Florida. Callahan Middle School was one of several schools chosen (including middle and

high schools) such as Douglas Anderson, LaVilla, Fernandina Beach Middle and Stanton High, to participate. Students that participated in the Honors band, only practiced together Thursday, Friday and Saturday, before performing Saturday for hundreds of friends and family members at Atlantic Coast High School in Jacksonville.

The students played the following pieces of music: The Star-Spangled Banner John Stafford Smith, Into the Clouds! Robert Saucedo, Moscow, 1941 Brian Balmages, A March on the Kings Highway Pierre La Plante, Music from Wicked Michael Sweeney and Novo Lenio Samuel Hazo.

## CMS Beta Donates Toys

Callahan Middle School Beta Club members donated over 50 toys for children at Wolfson Children's Hospital. The club sends their donations through the non-profit Tyler's Toys for Wolfson's Wishlist.



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# New Beginnings and Milestones

## Dorothy Richo Celebrates 92<sup>nd</sup> Birthday



Dorothy Richo, of Kings Ferry, celebrated her 92nd birthday January 22. She was born in Kings Ferry on January 22, 1928. She was born about 60 yards away from where she resides today. Ms. Dorothy is a hardworking woman with a sweet spirit. She enjoys spending time with friends and family and going to the Westside Senior Center to play Bingo. She celebrated her special milestone with a huge party held in her honor Saturday at Boondocks Junction in Hilliard. She was joined by many family members, lots of food and plenty of fun and fellowship together!

She has one son Louis Jordon of Kings Ferry; three grandsons Louis Jordon, III, Brian Jordon, both of Kings Ferry and Desmond Jordon of Orlando. She also has five great-grandchildren Brian, Cameron, Jalen, Palmer and Mattie!

## Happy 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday Adrienne Jane Arnold

Adrienne Jane Arnold celebrated her first birthday January 15. She celebrated her special day with a huge birthday party in her honor with big brother Pryce and lots of family and friends joining in the fun! Her proud parents are Christopher and Mariah Arnold of Callahan!

Proud grandparents are Diane and Troy Arnold; and Melissa and Ashley Coxwell, all from Callahan. Proud great-grandmothers are Dorothy Minchew of Callahan; and Jane Bossert of St. Petersburg.



## Mr. and Mrs. Jaccob Gross



Marisa Moore and Jaccob Gross were united in marriage January 17 at 4 p.m. at Plantation Oaks in Callahan.

The bride is the daughter of David and Maria Moore of Orange Park. She is employed as a Registered Nurse at Baptist Nassau Hospital in Fernandina Beach.

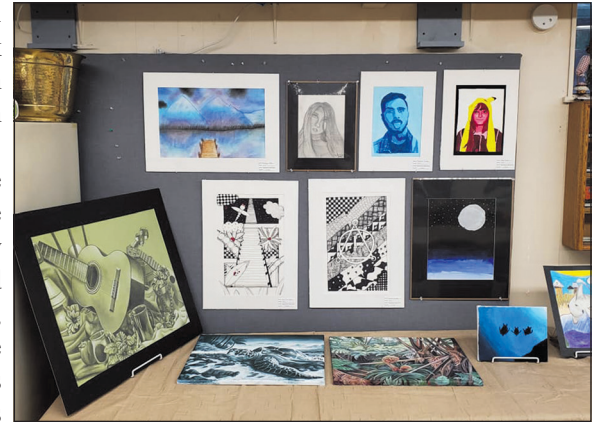
The groom is the son of Michael and Bonnie Gross of Jacksonville. He is employed with Its ConGlobal.

Serving as bridesmaids were Becca Moore, Shirley Bush and Kayla Thomas. Serving as groomsmen were Paul Ahern, Zach Thomas and Hayley Craven.

Following a honeymoon trip to Killarney, Ireland, the couple is residing in Callahan.

## Art Show Winners Announced

The West Nassau Historical Society would like to thank everyone who attended our 8th Annual Nassau Art at the Callahan Depot Art Show held January 25. Over 220 visitors attended the annual juried event held inside the historic 1881 train station. Twenty Nassau County artists displayed over 50 of their paintings, photographs and 3-D art while students from 5 local schools exhibited an additional 51 pieces of art. Some local artists also made scores of their works available for sale in our Art Shop. Thank you Nassau County artists and students! While the exhibition was being judged, historical society members and friends with support from Callahan Subway and Callahan Barbecue hosted a delicious luncheon for the artists.



Afton Hamelin; 4th place Heidi Dinius; 5th place Heidi Dinius; 6th place Emily Lefebvre.

The 3 winning paintings and top photography winner from the adult division will be on display at the Nassau County Courthouse in Yulee from January 27 through 31; Amelia Island Museum of History the week of February 2; Vystar Callahan Branch, the week of February 9; and Southeastern Bank Hilliard Branch the week of February 16.

We would like to thank renowned artist Pablo Rivera for judging our art competition and for all the artists and students who participated. The West Nassau Historical Society is a member of Arts and Culture Nassau, a county wide arts advocacy group that supports cultural events such as NACD. For pictures of all the art show entries, like our Facebook page. Visit [www.wnhsfl.org](http://www.wnhsfl.org) for more information about our all-volunteer 501c3 nonprofit and more upcoming events.



The winners of the judged competition are as follows: 3-D art: 1st place Elizabeth Wiegel; 2nd place Christine Elsesser; 3rd place Linda Vacca; Photography/CGI: 1st place Shari Bickford; 2nd place James Widerman; 3rd place Cindy Belt; Painting/Drawing: 1st place Barb Wylie; 2nd place Gary Johns; 3rd place Ann Wamack; People's Choice Award Barbara Davis; Student Division: 1st place Heidi Dinius; 2nd place Josie Jordan; 3rd place



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# West Nassau Wrestling Celebrates Seniors

Dawn S. West

West Nassau High School is proud to offer their students many different types of sporting activities to give them the opportunity to try out different options in sporting. Last Wednesday night, WN Wrestling honored their three seniors prior to the match. They are: Bradley Hulett, Requan Works and Brendan Ferenchik. Congratulations to these young men!

Wrestling has been offered for many years but has never really been an advertised sport. I recently spent a little time at a wrestling practice. It was very hot and humid in the room and extremely intense.

Coming from a football background, I had to admit to the new Head Coach Adam Bolger, that I really didn't know much about it. The season lasts from December to March with normally one match during the week and tournaments on the weekends. West Nassau currently has 10 wrestlers on the team. The matches are 6 intense minutes. They wrestle in strict weight limits. Each wrestler is taken back with a referee to weigh prior to their



particular match to make sure their weight is correct. "Cutting weight is illegal and all wrestlers have to be hydration tested prior to the beginning of the season. This allows them to lose weight at a low rate which is safe if they even choose to be at a lower weight class. They go through the same training and conditioning, constantly honing their skills to be better than their opponents," said Bolger. "The mental fortitude you gain from constantly improving yourself, getting knocked down by someone who has worked harder, then getting back up to get better and better and better, working on the things you aren't good at so much that they become your specialty."

WN has a quality wrestling team with no quantity. The Warriors have 10 wrestlers on the roster, with injuries they

usually bring 8 wrestlers to tournaments and matches. High school wrestling has 14 weight classes. "Giving up an average of 30 points per dual meet it is difficult to win as a team, yet we do. Individual wrestlers have an approximate 75% win average," added Bolger. "Just imagine if we had a full team? We need more wrestlers!"

Bolger started a youth program, boys and girls of all ages, this past summer and it will continue year round. The youth program meets every Tuesday and Thursday from 5:30-7 p.m. also at West Nassau High School. He

encourages anyone who is interested to just come, watch if you want, practice if you want. See if it's for you. It is not for everyone. Everyone should have the ability to defend themselves and this is one way to learn. "I look forward to seeing new faces in the coming months," continued Bolger. "And I look forward to seeing the same faces with tears of joy standing in the middle of a ring getting their hand raised in victory over the coming years."



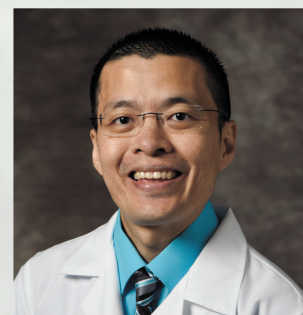
Coach Bolger is joined by Assistant Coach Brandon Bostick and Faculty Sponsor, Sherida Jones.

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Life Care Center of Hilliard now hiring **RNs and LPNs,** must have FL License. Please apply in person to: 3756 West 3rd Street, Hilliard or fax resume to 904-845-9487, or email to: Loren\_Reddish@lcca.com<mailto:Loren\_Reddish@lcca.com. tfn

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## 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 21

Raymond Louis Crews, 63, 15635 CR 108, Hilliard: Trespass After Warning  
 Christian Michael Durham, 22, 27223 Kara Circle, Hilliard: Violation of Probation Resisting Arrest without Violence  
 Angela Carver Bergeron, 47, 35401 Quail Road, Callahan: Failure to Appear Possession of Controlled Substance

## Sheriff Leeper Gives Out 'Great Kids Award'

The "Great Kids Award" Program was started by Sheriff Bill Leeper to recognize outstanding kids in our community who constantly show respect for their peers, help others in a time of need, maintain a strong academic standard and represent themselves, their family and their school with great character and pride. The program is facilitated in partnership with NCSO's School Resource Deputies and Nassau County Public Schools.



Shown (l to r) are: Deputy Alyssa Fender, YHS Principal Natasha Drake, Kenneth Aldrich and Sheriff Bill Leeper.

"All too often in today's society we focus our resources and time on those that don't do it right, while kids who go above and beyond tend to go unrecognized," said Sheriff Leeper. "The Great Kids Award allows us to recognize students who make a positive impact in our community."

Kenneth Aldrich, who is in the 12th grade at Yulee High School, was nominated for the Great Kids Award by School Resource Deputy Alyssa Fender.

According to Deputy Fender, Kenneth, who is on the cross country team, is a very respectful student who never fails to set an example for his peers. He holds the cafeteria door open

every day for other students and school staff entering the cafeteria. He always has a positive attitude, is a motivated athlete and serves as a role model for other students. His daily actions show what it truly means to be a Yulee Hornet. Kenneth's future goal is to become a firefighter in Nassau County.

"These qualities not only make Kenneth a great kid, but will one day ensure that he is a great young man who respects and helps others in order to make our community a better place," said Leeper.

On Friday, January 24, 2020, Kenneth received a plaque and a challenge coin from Sheriff Leeper.

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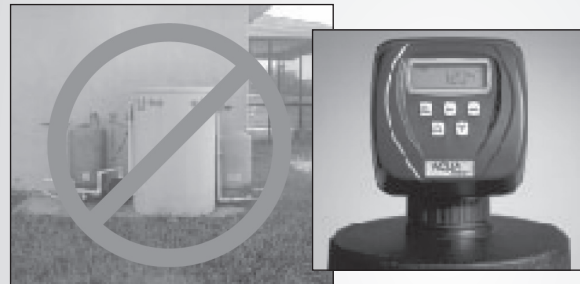
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**WILLIAM PHILLIP BROOKS**



William Phillip Brooks, 85, of Callahan, passed away at UF Health Jacksonville on January 24, 2020. He was born May 2, 1934 in Lynchburg, Kentucky.

William honorably served his country in the United States Navy and retired in 1970. He then moved to our area and worked as an electrician at WestRock in Fernandina Beach. William enjoyed woodworking, flying planes and gardening.

William is survived by his loving wife of 56 years, Barbara Joy Hansen Brooks of Callahan; children Donnie (Pat) Brooks of Tucson, Arizona, Teri McCuen of Orange Park and Bill (Cindi) Brooks of Callahan; five grandchildren Tony, Alex, Jacque, Joshua and Darby; great-grandchildren Natalie, Cylus and Titus.

A visitation to honor William's life was held Monday, January 27 at Nassau Funeral Home. Visit: [www.nassaufh.com](http://www.nassaufh.com) to sign the guest book.

**PAULINE CALHOUN**



Pauline Calhoun, 74, of Hilliard, passed away January 12, 2020 at St. Vincent's Hospital in Jacksonville. She was born January 24, 1945 in Detroit, Michigan. In her early years, she worked as a Chemical Tech at a dental lab in Michigan.

She is survived by her son Stephen Michael Lane; and a sister Mary Jane Smith of Hilliard.

A private service was held.

**BEULA H. FOURAKER**



Beula Higginbotham Fouraker, 94, of Bryceville, passed away January 25, 2020. She was born in Callahan, and lived her entire life in North Florida. She was a member of Bryceville First Baptist Church where she taught Sunday school for 75 years. She was retired from Duval County Schools after 30 years of service. She was preceded in death in 2008 by her husband of 59 years, Earl Eugene Fouraker; and in 2018 by her granddaughter Heidi Nicole Blair.

Survivors include her son Earl L. (Lou Ellen) Fouraker, Sr.; two daughters Marlene

# OBITUARIES

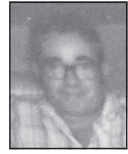
F. (Jim) Hicks and Karen F. (Larry) Inman; grandchildren James Hicks, III, Earl L. (Sabrina) Fouraker, Jr., Lacy (Ryan) Van Sickle and Thomas E. (Amanda) Fouraker; great-grandchildren Grant, Gabriel, Bailey, Sarah, Emily, Emma Lou, Thomas Jr, Hazel and Stella; and many other family and friends.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, January 29 at Bryceville First Baptist Church, with Pastors Richard Fish and Interim Pastor Paul Abernathy officiating. Interment followed in Brandy Branch Cemetery. The family received friends Tuesday, January 28 at the church.

For those who prefer, donations may be made to Bryceville First Baptist Church in her name.

Arrangements by Giddens-Reed Funeral Home, Baldwin, FL, 904-266-2337, [www.giddensreedfh.com](http://www.giddensreedfh.com).

**TERRANCE DELANO GRAY**



Terrance Delano Gray, 82, of Marietta, went home to be with the Lord January 24, 2020, following a brief illness. Terrance was born March 9,

1937 in Princeville, West Virginia. He was a carpenter by trade and a member of Paxon Revival Center in Jacksonville.

He is survived by two brothers John (Nona) Gray of Hilliard and David (Charlotte) Gray of Marietta; and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family will receive friends Thursday, January 30 from 5-6 p.m. with a memorial service at 6 p.m. with Rev. Stephen Dobbs officiating.

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

**FRANCIS M. GRIFFIN, SR.**



Francis 'Eggman' Matthew Griffin, Sr., 86, of Callahan, passed away January 24, 2020 at his home. He was born in Boston, Massachusetts on May

5, 1933 to the late Aurther Cave Griffin and Mary Amanda Gaumont Griffin. Francis was a lifelong resident of Nassau County and graduated from Callahan High School

in 1951. His father started Griffin Poultry farm in 1943 and today it is called A.C. Griffin & Son. Francis worked on that farm all of his life. He was taught to play the piano by Claude P. Ganus and he played for church, weddings and funerals. It was most apparent in Francis' life how much he loved God. He was a soul winner and faithful to every Sunday School Class. He is preceded in death by his parents; and wife of 16 years Linda Griffin.

Francis is survived by his children Matt (Stacy) Griffin, Andy (Cherree) Griffin, all of Callahan and Mandy (Rocky) Harrington of St. George; sister Claudia Hickox of Callahan; 12 grandchildren Jed, Madison, Avery, Chelsy, Cody, Tiffany, Dalton, Amber, Allie May, Trae, Austin and Haley; and great-grandchildren Cooper and Daisey.

A Celebration of Life service was held Wednesday, January 29 at Live Oak Baptist Church. Interment followed at Live Oak Cemetery. The family received friends Tuesday, January 28 at the funeral home.

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

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

**ASHLEY MARIE GUINN**



Ashley Marie Guinn, 36, of Hilliard, passed away Friday, January 24, 2020, in Jacksonville. She was born December 14, 1983 in Fernandina Beach. She was preceded in death by her mother Sheila Lee Guinn; and grandparents Delores and Winfred 'Wimpy' Lee.

She is survived by her children Devon Scott Miller, Kayla Michelle Guinn and Cheyenne Crews; her father Michael Anthony Taylor; grandparents Joan Dixon and Glenn Taylor; a brother Michael Milton Taylor; and an aunt Sandy (Rob) Calvert.

Memorialization will be by cremation.

A graveside service will be held at a later date

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

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, Folkston.

**PATRICIA ANN NORRIS**



Patricia Ann Norris, 77, passed away January 27, 2020 in a local care center.

Mrs. Norris was a native of Jacksonville and a member of Gardenview Baptist Church where she was affiliated with the Red Hat Society. She enjoyed sewing, cooking, camping and loved the outdoors. Her favorite place to vacation was in the mountains but her favorite thing of all was spending time with her family and friends. Mrs. Norris was preceded in death by her parents Henry Turner Lewis and Vera Cobb Lewis; and a brother Skipper Lewis.

She is survived by her husband of 59 years, Earl Roland Norris, Sr.; three children Roland (Mary) Norris, Jr., Angela (Todd) Fouraker and Debbie (Ronnie) Randalls; two sisters Dorothy Wilcox and Shelia (Paul) Rich; brother Kenny (Tabatha) Lewis; eight grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

Her family will receive friends Thursday, January 30 from 5-7 p.m. at the Event Center at Peoples Funeral Home, 14165 N. Main Street. Funeral services will be held Friday, January 31 at 11:30 a.m. at Gardenview Baptist Church, Armsdale Road with Rev. Roland Norris, Jr. and Pastor Jason Reid officiating. Burial will follow at 1:35 p.m. in Jacksonville National Cemetery (Lane #2).

Peoples Family Funeral Homes is serving the Norris Family.

**HOMER MELTON WILSON**



Homer Melton Wilson, 89, of Fernandina Beach, passed away on January 25, 2020 at the Warner Center for Caring. He was born January 20, 1931

in Shamrock, Florida to the late Frank William Wilson and Emma Johnson Wilson. Homer has been a resident of Nassau County since 1970 and attended First Baptist Church of Callahan. He proudly served his country in the US Army.

Homer enjoyed riding around with his son-in-law, Lane, in his classic cars, fishing and telling stories. One of his favorite things to do was dance with 'Suppie' his wife of 65 wonderful years. Homer was the best husband, father and grandfather and will be missed dearly.

He is preceded in death by his parents; brothers Eugene and Woodrow Wilson; sister Mable Baggett; and son Melton Kent Wilson.

Homer is survived by his loving wife, Althea 'Suppie' Lee Wilson, of Fernandina Beach; children Frederick Earl (Patricia) Wilson of Callahan, Sabrina (Lane) Mashburn of Fernandina Beach, Angela (Timothy) Keener of Hilliard; nine grandchildren Erika, Jordan, Kirby, Lane Aaron, Presley, Faith, Grace, Hope and Alissa Joy; one great-granddaughter Zoey Sophia.

The family received friends on Wednesday, January 29 at Nassau Funeral Home. A graveside service followed at Jacksonville National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Community Hospice Warner Center for Caring, (904) 268-5200.

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## Ag Students Celebrate Arbor Day



Alyson McCullough,  
Agriscience Teacher and FFA Advisor

National Arbor Day is celebrated the last Friday in April. Florida's Arbor Day is a state celebration held the third Friday of January. The Hilliard Middle-Senior High School Ag students celebrated the third Friday in January to work around Pine Tree Planting season. Agriculture Education students at HMSHS get the opportunity to work hand in hand with Mr. Jim Tootle our County Forester in managing the Hilliard FFA Chapters 60 acre forest.



Students not only get to learn about reforestation with Rayonier, Westrock, and the Forestry department, but they also get a multitude of opportunities to put their skills to the test. FFA Vice President Jennifer Martin says "We aren't

To celebrate Arbor Day, Ag Foundations and Ag Tech students worked with county foresters to plant over 2,000 pine trees in the FFA Forest.



just planting trees, we are creating a sustainable economic opportunity for the next group of students coming in behind us." With Pine Trees being the number one crop in Northeast Florida its imperative students learn their economic impact and explore and experience career opportunities right here in our county.

## Relay for Life Rod Run a Success



such a great cause. This was our 1st Annual Relay for Life Rod Run. We are excited and looking forward to next year's event the 2nd Annual Relay for Life Rod Run," added Nichols.

The Relay for Life of West Nassau County will be held April 25 from 10 a.m. – 10 p.m. at the Northeast Florida Fairgrounds. To sign up your team, volunteer or donate, call Wanda at: 904-294-2088 or email her at: wandanich1@gmail.com.

Saturday, the Relay for Life Rod Run was held at the Northeast Florida Fairgrounds. The event hosted 106 classic cars and two new vehicles from Davis Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram. There were 18 vendors and 6 vendors for the Swap Meet. Approximately \$2,500 was raised for the upcoming Relay event. "I would like to say Thank You to everyone that came out, all the Car Clubs, all the vendors and a special Thank You to Northeast Florida Fairgrounds for letting us use their facility," said Wanda Nichols, Relay Chairperson. "Thank You to the Callahan Cruisers. They played such an important role. We could not have done it without them."



Food vendors included LuLu's BBQ, Wise Guys Pizza, Kubs Coffee and a doughnut vendor. Bluesdog 66 Band performed during the entire event and the crowd loved it! "It really was an excellent event. I can't say thank you enough to everyone who came out and supported

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