



WESTSIDE JOURNAL



VOLUME XVI ISSUE 21

HOMETOWN PEOPLE...HOMETOWN NEWS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2019

“ENTER HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING AND HIS COURTS WITH PRAISE; GIVE THANKS TO HIM AND PRAISE HIS NAME.” - PSALM 100:4

Seniors Enjoy Thanksgiving Dinner in Hilliard and Callahan!



Dawn S. West

There's not much more that thrills my soul then to see the smiles on our 'seniors' faces like I did Saturday while visiting both the Hilliard and Callahan dinners. Both sites had amazing full course Thanksgiving meals: Turkey, dressing, gravy, green beans, etc. and delicious dessert.

Each place served and filled every need for our seniors. I want to give

accolades to many people that cooked, served and cleaned up for that special meal! The Concerned Citizens of Hilliard and the youth and families at the Callahan United Methodist Church are to be acknowledged! They don't ask for recognition but they sure are appreciated! Thank you, for giving the true meaning of Thanksgiving to our seniors! God bless you all for your service!



County Road 115 Construction

On Monday, November 25, 2019, work commenced for the long-awaited County Road 115 Widening and Resurfacing Project, from Henry Smith Road to Bypass Road. Actual construction with lane closures is a few weeks out. Notifications will be sent out before that actually occurs so residents will be aware if/when it will have a direct impact on their commute.

The project will consist of milling and resurfacing of the existing lanes, widening the road approximately 1' on both sides, construction of new 5' paved shoulders and reconstruction of ditches with cross drains and side drains. A contract for construction was awarded to Anderson Columbia at the September 23, 2019 Board of County

Commissioner's meeting.

The overall budget for the project totals \$9,631,351 and is being paid for through a combination of Small County Road Assistance Program (SCRAP) and Small County Outreach Program (SCOP) Funding from the Florida Department of Transportation amounting to \$8,999,026, in addition to \$632,325 funding from the County.

The construction duration is 340 days but is subject to weather delays. It is anticipated that the project will be completed by November 2020.

Should you have any questions, please contact County Engineer, Robert Companion, at (904) 530-6225 or via email at rcompanion@nassaucountyfl.com.

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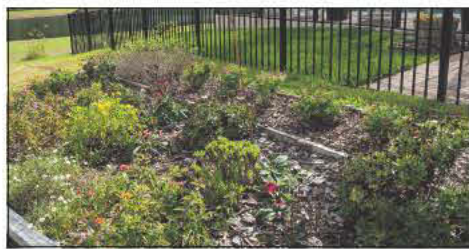
Spotlight on Nassau Gardens

Kathy and Steve Carr moved to Nassau County in the spring of 2017. They were not happy with the plant selection in their landscape and worked hard to replace them with plants of their preference. They removed the Podocarpus trees in the front and relocated them in the back yard to hide the air conditioner and trash cans. These hardy trees are both drought and salt tolerant. The replacement plants were small 8-inch annuals called Celosia 'Dragon's Breath'. They love how the bright red Dragon's Breath have grown and become beautiful in the front of their home. If we have a warm winter, they may survive through the spring. On the back and side of their home they built a screened-in room with a pool where they spend many hours looking over the lake and seeing the flowers blooming and the many pollinators visiting the back yard. They removed a



Holly tree, an Oak tree and many other plants and gave them to their neighbors. They replaced the native trees with crepe myrtles which provide beautiful flowers in the late spring and summer. Steve does 90% of the preparation in the yard and Kathy is the

inspiration and they enjoy it all!



Spotlight on Nassau Gardens is a monthly recognition program of the UF/IFAS Nassau County Extension Service, featuring the beautiful gardens and plants grown by Nassau County residents. To be considered, send a digital photo with a description of your "Spotlight," along with your name, address, and phone number to beawalker105@gmail.com. For more information, call the Extension office at 904-530-6353.



Fish Talk

Flounder Run

Chris Cockerham, Reel Habit

The end of the flounder run signifies the beginning of sheepshead season. From what I've seen so far, it looks like there will be a great season ahead of us!

Pictured below is Ryan Conner with some solid flounder from our trip over the weekend. Also, Trip Cooner is shown with a quality box of sheepshead from a recent trip with his dad Joe Cooner.

I don't know about you but I'm ready for some fried turkey. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving everyone!



In the Kitchen...

Easy Turkey Tetrazzini

- 1 (8 oz.) package cooked egg noodles
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 (6 oz.) can sliced mushrooms
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper

- 2 cups chopped cooked turkey
- 1 (10.75 oz.) can condensed cream of celery soup
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese

Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil. Add pasta and cook for 8 to 10 minutes or until al dente; drain. Preheat oven to 375°. Melt butter in a large heavy skillet. Saute mushrooms for 1 minute. Season with salt and pepper, and stir in turkey, condensed soup, and sour cream. Place cooked noodles in a 9x13 inch baking dish. Pour sauce mixture evenly over the top. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese. Bake in preheated oven for 20 to 25 minutes, or until sauce is bubbling.

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Happy Thanksgiving from our family to yours!



DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 AA Meeting 904-399-8535 7 p.m. Hilliard VFW 10095 Auxiliary Officer Installation	2 AA Meeting 8 p.m. Hilliard Hookers Knit/Crochet - 6 p.m. Callahan Town 7 p.m.	3 AA Meeting 8 p.m. Callahan Town 7 p.m. Westside Republican Club 7 p.m. Hilliard Community Bldg	4 AA Meeting 8 p.m. PAL Meetings 6 p.m. Hilliard Library Callahan Garden Club 10 a.m.	5 AA Meeting 8 p.m. BINGO American Legion Post 401 6 p.m. Hilliard Town 7 p.m.	6 Reformers Unanimous Addiction 7 p.m. Grace Baptist, Baldwin	7 Callahan Christmas Parade 11 a.m. Callahan First Baptist Christmas in Callahan Sat. & Sun. 6:30 p.m.
8 AA Meeting 7 p.m. Ephesus Baptist Church Christmas in the Country 6-9 p.m.	9 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.	10 AA Meeting 8 p.m. Gardening Club of Hilliard - 11 a.m. Lions Club 7 p.m.	11 AA Meeting 8 p.m. PAL Meetings 6 p.m. Hilliard Library Hilliard VFW 10095 7 p.m.	12 AA Meeting 8 p.m. BINGO American Legion Post 401 6 p.m.	13 American Legion Post 401, Hilliard 7 p.m. Reformers Unanimous Addiction 7 p.m. Grace Baptist, Baldwin	14 United Daughters of the Confederacy 11 a.m. Hilliard Library Callahan Farmers Market 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. A Callahan Christmas @ WNHS 9 a.m.
15 AA Meeting 7 p.m.	16 AA Meeting 8 p.m. Callahan Town 7 p.m. Hilliard Hookers Knit/Crochet - 6 p.m.	17 AA Meeting 8 p.m. Bryceville Club 11 a.m. Callahan Town 7 p.m.	18 AA Meeting 8 p.m. PAL Meetings 6 p.m. Hilliard Library	19 AA Meeting 8 p.m. Hilliard Town 7 p.m. BINGO American Legion Post 401 6 p.m.	20 Reformers Unanimous Addiction 7 p.m. Grace Baptist, Baldwin Crossroads Church Heart of Christmas Fri, Sat. & Sun.	21 Food Giveaway Gateway to Life Ministries Hilliard 10 a.m. - noon Callahan Farmers Market 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
22 AA Meeting 7 p.m.	23 AA Meeting 8 p.m. Callahan Eastern Star - 7:30 p.m. Masonic Lodge Friends of the Hilliard Library 7 p.m.	24 AA Meeting 8 p.m. Lions Club 7 p.m.	25 Merry Christmas	26 AA Meeting 8 p.m. BINGO American Legion Post 401 6 p.m. Historical Society 6:30 p.m. @ Depot	27 Reformers Unanimous Addiction 7 p.m. Grace Baptist, Baldwin	28
29 AA Meeting 8 p.m. Out with a Boom Fireworks Spectacular at dusk from West Nassau High School	30 AA Meeting 8 p.m.	31 New Years Eve	"For unto us a child is born..." Isiah 9:6 			

Callahan Library News

Book Club: Memoir

Muse over a memoir for the Callahan Branch Library Book Club's mid-holiday meeting to be held on Thursday, December 5, from 10:30am-11:30am. The Callahan Library is located at 450077 SR 200, Suite #15, Callahan, 904-530-6500 (#3), www.nassaureads.com.



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Blessed Thanksgiving!

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JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

I have marveled at the success of Chick-fil-A for many years. Ever since 2012 when CEO Dan Cathy made a statement that he believed in the Biblical meaning of marriage is between a man and a woman and the liberal left and the LGBTQ movement exploded with hate and threats, Chick-fil-A stood strong on their Christian foundation. Millions and millions of Christians and conservatives flocked to Chick-fil-A in an unprecedented show of support for their true values. It was a breath of fresh air in a turbulent world to see so many support a Christian-based company.

The support didn't fade away either, Chick-fil-A has risen to the third largest fast food business in America, following only to McDonalds and Starbucks. They prospered even though many cities and airports refused to allow their business to locate in certain regions of our country. They remained closed on Sundays. They stood tall and firm. It was much greater than their food, because we all know a chicken sandwich at the Chicken House (Callahan Barbecue, Danny's Place) is absolutely the best chicken sandwich ever served! It was all because of the Christian stance! Just as Hobby Lobby and other Christian-based companies, God blessed them.

However, Chick-fil-A has abandoned their base; they have caved in to the liberal left and LGBTQ community.

Although they say they haven't, actions speak louder than words. CEO Tim Tassopoulos was quoted as saying, "There's no question we know that, as we go into new markets, we need to be clear about who we are." Chick-fil-A has made the decision to cease donating to the Salvation Army, Paul Anderson Youth Home in Georgia and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Their donations to these groups were the focus of much media scrutiny after it was reported that Chick-fil-A had donated up to \$1.8 million to these groups. The left has labeled these organizations as "discriminatory" because of their "anti-LGBTQ" beliefs on marriage.

Chick-fil-A has now pledged their donations to Junior Achievement USA and Covenant House International. Yes, they have a right to donate to anyone they so please, but it appears to me they are moving away from what made them successful, Christian-based and the millions of people that supported them because of that very cause. I can only believe if S. Truett Cathy, the founder of Chick-fil-A were still alive, this would not be happening.

Now we will watch and see if the chain begins opening on Sundays in the future. As for myself, I am going to keep on enjoying my chicken sandwiches from Danny at the Chicken House!

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

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Ten Thousand Reasons

Pastor Benjie Loyd, River Road Baptist Church, Hilliard



Ten Thousand Reasons, Amazing Grace and Count Your Blessings are all famous songs of church that resonate with all generations of Christians. These are songs of praise that express gratitude for the goodness of God in our lives. As I write this article in lieu of Thanksgiving, my heart is filled with gratitude for the goodness of God that has put in display in my life in a million different ways and I literally mean a million different ways.

When I think about who I am and I think about who God is, I am humbled and overwhelmed by the kindness of God that has been lavished on me. I can't help but think of David's words in Psalm 40:1-5 and see my own life through his eyes. David is crying out to God and God is doing all of the work. David is desperate and God is gracious. Look at what God had done for David. In verse 1, God turned to David and heard his cry for help. In verse 2, God pulled David up out of the pit and set his feet on solid ground. In verse 3, God put on a new song in David's mouth. In verse 5, David affirms God's work in his life with the following words: "Lord My God, You have done many things. Your wonderful works and Your plans for us; none can compare with You. If I were to report and speak of them, they are more than can be told."

This affirmation of praise was not only true of David; this is the affirmation of all of God's people. When I cried out to God, there was no good reason for him to hear me or turn to me. I was an atheist who did not believe in God and I was sinking in the quicksand of life that I had made for myself. I was suicidal and miserable living a life of purposeless and rebellion against God, but God turned to me because of his grace. God gave me new life and pulled me up out of the pit of despair and judgment. God gave me a new life, a new song, a new purpose, and a new standing. I am no longer an object of God's just wrath; I am a son of God. God is the only reason that I am physically and spiritually alive.

As we go throughout this Thanksgiving season, let's do more than carve turkey. Let's carve out some time to get alone with God in silence and simply thank Him for His goodness in our lives. There are 10,000 reasons to sing God's praise. When we've been with him 10,000 years, we will never exhaust the reasons to praise God for His goodness and grace in our lives.

Daughters Provide Thanksgiving Dinner

The St. Mary's River Chapter of United Daughters of Confederacy honored the Dodson family with a Thanksgiving food basket. MSgt. Robert Dodson is a 22 year-plus member of our military, with several deployments to the Middle East. His wife, Susan, is also a veteran. They and their family of eight children, (some of which are special needs), are relocating to Canaveral Air Force Station and have been visiting family here while house-hunting near the base.

The family wishes to express their deep appreciation for this gift and for the support of the Daughters for their support of our military.



Shown (back row) are: Rob, Bryce, Brendan, Nathanael and Grace; front row: Ryan, Nolan and Hope. Susan and Faith, who were unavailable at the time of presentation, are pictured on the right.

CHURCH NEWS

Ephesus Baptist Church "Christmas in The Country" event will be on Sunday, December 8 this year. Come enjoy a live nativity, Christmas cottages and festive food.

Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church invites you to a free "Breakfast With Santa" on Saturday, December 14th. The event starts at 8 a.m. and runs until 11 a.m. There will be Christmas crafts to make and a free picture with Santa.

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.

Annual Town of Hilliard Christmas Tree Lighting

Saturday, November 30 • 6 p.m.

The Town of Hilliard will hold their annual Christmas Tree Lighting on Saturday, November 30 at 6 p.m. on the lawn of the Hilliard Life Care Center located on the corner of US Hwy. 1 and Third Street.

Please come join us for refreshments and Christmas caroling around the tree. Santa will be visiting and will be available for a photo so bring your camera!

For more information please contact Town Hall:
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39 Years of Thanksgiving Dinners and Still Going!

Susie Bass

Memories, Memories! Thirty-nine years ago, a Thanksgiving tradition began at 1st United Methodist Church in Callahan. Just the thought of this annual event brings the Fiddler on the Roof song spinning in my head... tradition, tradition! Tradition!" Yes, who could have imagined that this event would still be happening 39 years later? It has spanned a generation, with the first year's cooks now reaching their own senior citizen years and the 1980 members of the Methodist Youth Fellowship becoming the newest church leaders and most recent kitchen co-workers!

It all began with a church youth group headed by Steve Pickett called the "CTC - Christians That Care." Steve, and his girlfriend, Susan Cason of Jacksonville, were the youth leaders at 1st UMC at that time. Nationally, Ronald Reagan was president, the average cost of a new home was \$68,700.00, a new car was a major expense at \$7,200.00, one gallon of gas was \$1.19, and the average income in 1980 was under \$20,000! Talk about change! Now yet another song comes to mind... Those were the days my friend, we thought they'd never end... all sound great except for the income!

Preparations for this community dinner began weeks in advance. Church members were asked to donate gallon cans of green beans and corn, small cans of cranberry sauce, and later bring desserts, congealed salads and plates of pears and peaches topped with mayo, grated cheese and a maraschino cherry! Turkeys were purchased and the church ladies signed up to roast, bake, cook,



whatever they called it, the turkeys!

In the 80s, our church had a single-wide trailer located behind what is now called the Trinity Place Building (a former barber shop and tattoo parlor) on 301 South. The trailer had a working kitchen, refrigerator, and sink; so much of the preparations were done there by Steve and his assistant and "chief cook" Cheryl Sloan, two to three days in advance. The meal consisted of all the traditional Thanksgiving cuisine; turkey, gravy, cornbread dressing, sweet potato casserole, mashed potatoes, green beans, corn, cranberry sauce, homemade salads and desserts.

Invitations were sent to local churches, posters displayed in area businesses and by word of mouth. Remember, these were the days BEFORE Facebook, social media, and email became the norm! Many senior citizens arrived several hours before the noontime meal to enjoy a fresh cup of coffee or cold glass of iced tea, as they would visit with longstanding

acquaintances and catch up on the previous year's happenings. Vans from the Hilliard area would make several

trips to transport seniors to the dinner. Youth members served as maître d', waiters, and waitresses for the day so that they could interact with the community's senior age group.

1980... the year of the Pac-Man Video Game, the Rubik's Cube, who shot J.R. from the TV show Dallas, Mount St. Helens eruption and yes, a TV star becomes the president of the United States! Memories and traditions... that's what life should be made of! And time marches on.

As you gather to celebrate the Season of Thanksgiving, share the many blessings that God has provided for you with others; family, friends, those who may be spending the day alone. Share God's blessings He has given you, with others!

Bryceville Community Club Receives Donation

At the recent Bryceville Community Club meeting, \$1700 was donated to the club to use for holiday food boxes for families in the Bryceville area. The club works with the Bryceville Elementary School in the distribution of the food. Alice Neader and Renee Stoffel are working with the Bryceville Elementary School in providing shoes for students in need. In addition to Crawford and Spicer, donations were also received from County Commissioner Justin Taylor, Farmer Septic Tank Service, Fernandina Beach Optimist Club, Westside Optimist Club and an anonymous donor.



Shown (l to r) are; John Crawford, Clerk of the Circuit Clerk, George Spicer, Pat Zeorlin, Club president, Alice Neader, Club Secretary and Renee Stoffel, club member.

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Letters to the Editor



Medicaid Management

Dear Editor,

As we approach the December 1, 2019 window for Medicaid Management Care – many of the residents in Nassau County will have the opportunity to make decisions about who to select to manage their Long Term Care Medicaid Managed Care benefits. As a local Medicaid LTC provider for the last 30 years in Nassau County I wanted to share my personal opinion on the choices that lay ahead for many of the consumers in our community as they weigh the options ahead of them. Often I will work to help ensure we share information with local neighbors on what we know about Medicare, Medicaid, VA and other programs as a way of ensuring our neighbors and community members are successful in navigating the complex maze of decisions associated with long term care planning.

In Nassau County there are several plans in 2019 to select from which include Florida Community Care, United Health Care, Sunshine Health Plans and Humana Health Plans and Staywell – at Dayspring Village and Dayspring Senior Living we have contracts with all of these Long Term Care plans with the exception of Humana Health Plans. While Humana Health Plans has over 102 people enrolled in their Medicaid LTC program in Nassau County and serves the largest number of local residents they refused to negotiate reasonable rates for care similar to what all the other health plans did this year. Despite receiving a 4% rate increase in this region from the legislature the Humana regional representatives stated clearly to us they were not making any provider rate changes in

Nassau County.

We have had deficiency free surveys at both of our facilities and offer care for both the elderly and the adults with the mentally ill between the two facilities that is simply unavailable for Medicaid recipients elsewhere. By contrast Florida Community Care has come to us with a rate that far exceeds its competitors and in our view is the best choice for families who may be considering Assisted Living Facility in the near future. The reality is that between the \$1200 per month that the Medicaid Health plan contributes to the cost of care and the social security benefit that the individual has there are other ways to help optimize the benefits of the potential residents which we explore to help ensure affordability.

The decisions that many Medicaid managed care members will face in the open enrollment period starts on December 1, 2019, we will recommend that members of the community who are enrolled in long term care plan take a closer look at Florida Community Care, this is a health plan that is operated by Floridians and will ensure that when there are rate increases to the plans that funds flow to the providers to help ensure quality care can be provided and that staff and costs of care can be covered for our seniors and the disabled. I can only share what we know and what we personally experience with the various health plans and we will encourage Medicaid Managed Care consumers take a closer look at their options this year.

Douglas D. Adkins
Dayspring Village Executive Director

Hilliard Tree Lighting Saturday

Dawn S. West

The Hilliard Town Council met Thursday night for their final meeting of November. The first order of business was the approval or Resolution 2019-17 that concerned amending the budget for Fiscal Year 2018-2019. Town Clerk Lisa Purvis advised the council that by November 30 the final actual figures for the end of the year are tallied to close out the year.

The following item concerned setting a workshop for a future PUD (Public Urban Development) being discussed, Whisper Ridge, at Kings Ferry Road at Old Pineridge Road. The workshop is set for Tuesday, January 7 at 6 p.m. The community is invited to attend to learn more information about the development.

Council President John Beasley advised the council that he wanted to discuss the property that was discussed at the last meeting (Beasley did not attend that meeting). The road in question is West 11th Avenue between Minnesota and Iowa Streets. “When was 11th Avenue, in that location opened up and cleared out?” asked Beasley. “I know this was a platted road but I just want to know when it was opened and cleared out.”

“There have been stop signs at each end of the road for a while,” added Councilman Kenny Sims. “I don’t know when they got there but they are there. This has been a bogging road for a while. I rode by there with Mr. Thompson probably 8-10 years ago and it was like that with the signs.”

“During the last threat of a hurricane this year, we (public works department) were concerned about flooding in certain areas. We quickly began pulling ditches and clearing drains,” said Ritchie Rowe, Public Works Director. “Eleventh Avenue was a quick dumping site, as that stuff was messy and mucky,

and we didn’t want to haul it through town so we dumped it there. Fortunately for us, Michael Franklin was near the area working on his property with a skid-steer. I asked him could you spread that stuff out so it would dry and he did, no questions asked. That’s how it got spread out.”

“Mr. Franklin has emailed St. Johns River Water Management District to see if wetlands have been disturbed in that area and is waiting to hear back from them,” added Sims. “He did that because his name was brought up at the last meeting. He (Franklin) is not our (the town’s) problem. He was asked for help and he gave it. We have a town problem.”

After much discussion, the council will wait to hear from SJRWMD to see what, if anything needs to be done at the site.

Town Attorney Christian Waugh advised the council that the town had received a form from Florida Power & Light to be completed and returned to them concerning hanging Christmas decorations on the light poles through town. “The agreement is okay however the town can only hang lights on the poles through 2020,” said Waugh.

In closing comments, LeeAnne Wollitz advised the council that she wanted to thank the Public Works Department. “Friday, November 15, a tree fell on Oak Street at the worst possible time, during school travel time. The guys were there in a matter of minutes, cut the tree and removed the debris,” said Wollitz. “I just wanted to say they are doing a great job!”

“Don’t forget the Hilliard Christmas Tree Lighting will be held Saturday, November 30 at 6 p.m. at the Life Care Center of Hilliard,” said Councilman John Beasley.

The next meeting of the council will be Thursday, December 5 at 7 p.m.

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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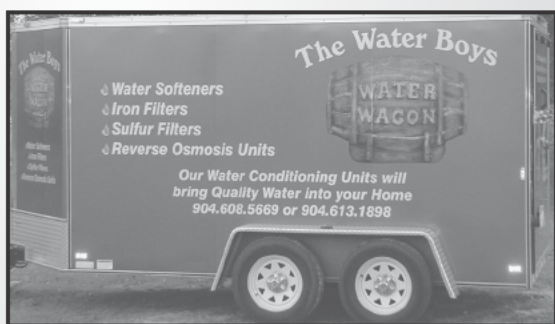
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TOWN OF HILLIARD COMMUNITY WORKSHOP NOTICE

The Town of Hilliard will hold a Community Workshop on Thursday, December 5, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Hilliard Town Hall Council Chambers, located at 15859 West CR 108. The purpose of this workshop is for the citizens of the Town of Hilliard to identify community preferences and provide input on public facilities, land uses, how to address growth in Hilliard through 2045, and other community issues.

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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Local Athletes Sign

Hursey Signs with UNF



Last Wednesday, West Nassau High School senior Garrett Hursey signed a letter of intent to attend the University of North Florida on a basketball scholarship. Hursey, who is a 3-point shooter specialist for the Warriors, chose UNF because they also teach and train 3-point shooters. "UNF basketball Coach Driscoll is a fine Christian man," said Julie Hursey, Garrett's mother. "He is a great mentor, trainer and coach all wrapped in to one

person. We are so happy for Garrett!"

"This has been my 'dream school' for a long time. I'm really excited about the opportunity to not only play there but to also study," said Garrett. "They (UNF) are known as a 3-point team so I hope to fit in well. I have probably been shooting, playing or practicing basketball since I was about six!"

Garrett plans to major in Construction and one day, be a contractor like his father and grandfather. His sister Haley is also a West Nassau graduate currently attending UNF in the nursing program.

He is the son of Jason and Julie Hursey of Callahan; and the grandson of Julian and Betty Scaff; Jerrel Hursey; and Bertie Hursey.

Crews Signs with UNF

Last Wednesday, Jacob Crews, a senior at Hilliard Middle-Senior High School signed a letter of intent to attend the University of North Florida on a basketball scholarship. Jacob is the grandson of Doug and Cheryl Davis of Hilliard.

Congratulations Jacob!



Geiger Signs with FL Southwestern



Brooke Geiger, who is the senior pitcher at Hilliard Middle-Senior High School, recently signed with Florida Southwestern State College in Fort Myers. Geiger verbally committed to FSW earlier this year. She is the daughter of Richard and Karyn Geiger of Hilliard.

Congratulations Brooke!

Tucker Signs with FL Gateway

Last Wednesday, Brianna Tucker, a West Nassau High School senior volleyball player, signed a letter of intent to attend and play volleyball at Florida Gateway College, formerly Lake City Community College, in Lake City. "Brianna is a great athlete. She works so hard and loves the sport. I've coached her since she was a freshman and she has only grown stronger in the sport," said Col. Gregg Kline, West Nassau Volleyball Coach. "It's a great opportunity for her to continue playing what she loves!"



Brianna not only plays for the high school but also plays in tournaments throughout the year with other teams. She plans to continue her studies to achieve her RN Degree and then transfer to another college to continue for her main goal as a Pediatric Nurse.

She is the daughter of Stephen and Karen Tucker of Callahan. She has two younger siblings Maddox and Alayna. Her proud grandfather Erwin Tucker and her aunt Machel Tucker were also at the signing.

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Westside Journal Meets Miranda Lambert

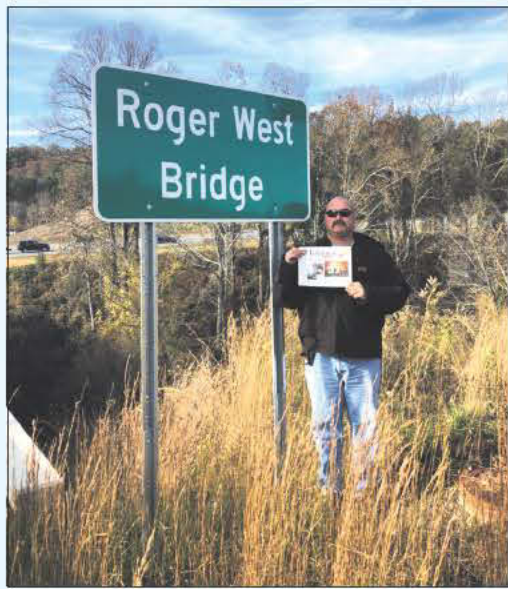
Thursday, November 21, Shelly Harrison, formerly of Callahan, went to the Miranda Lambert (country music star) Concert in Jacksonville. Shelly is a member of Lambert's fan club and entered a chance for a Meet & Greet at the concert. Shelly was chosen, along with several other people! While meeting Lambert, she took along a copy of the Westside Journal on which Shelly was featured on



the front page for winning a state award for Food Service at Callahan Elementary. Shown is: Shelly with Lambert and her signed paper! I must say this is a first for the Westside Journal! Congrats Shelly!

Westside Journal Visits North Carolina

Many people from around our area visit North Carolina a lot! We recently received a picture from Chuck and Sherrie Hansen, of Hilliard, from their recent visit to North Carolina to visit family. While traveling into Murphy, North Carolina at the entrance to the Cherokee River Basin and Casino they spotted this sign! Chuck just had to stop and have his picture made with it! And no, Roger had nothing to do with it!



Gold Division Champions: Callahan 6U Warriors Lieutenant Red



The Callahan 6U Warriors were proud to be named the Gold Division Champions during their recent playoffs! The team had a record of 8 wins and 1 loss! They even followed high school tradition by letting each of the players "hit the sign" for good luck. It worked! These boys and coaches have put in so much hard work and dedication and have become more like family than just a team!

The team includes: Cash Alexander, Jensen Blackshear, Jaxson Bryant, Wyatt Carter, Landry Janney, Knox King, Joseph Long, Cy Love, Bryson McWhorter, Johnny Mizell, John O'Neal, Blaine Pittman, Gannon Scarbrough, Lane Schmelzle, Mason Stevens, Trenton Stevens, Grady Whittemore and Beau Wilson. The coaches are: Jason Love, Roger Alexander, Buddy Bryant, Todd Carter, Austin Janney, Chris King, TJ Scarbrough, Jeremy Whittemore and Ronald Williamson.

Come Run With the Grinch!




Callahan Elementary School will hold their 9th Annual Grinch 5k Run and Family Walk Saturday, December 14 beginning at the school at 8:45 a.m. with registration beginning from 7:30 – 8:30 a.m.

Entry fees are: \$15 (Ages 13 to Adult); \$5 (Ages 12 and Under).

Forms may be picked up at the school. Please return all entry forms to: Ms. Bailey-Williamson at Callahan Elementary School. Make all checks payable to Callahan Elementary School and include an address and phone number.

Pre-Registration is encouraged for t-shirts! Forms will be available at all local schools and business offices. There will be registration on the day of event. Participants may pick up t-shirts on day of race.

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Gifted Students Visit Marineland



Monday, November 18. While at Marineland students participated in an up close dolphin encounter, interacted with dolphin trainers, participated in a plastic voyage lesson to remove micro plastics from water, a mock stranding of a dolphin rescue, and a behind the seas tour. It was a great day of learning for our students!

Tracy Cruce

The elementary gifted students have been learning about the ocean, marine life, and ocean conservation. At the beginning of this unit students received a message in a bottle from a family who was shipwrecked. Through this mock simulation, they have researched clues as well as facts about ocean currents to locate the stranded family. Students have also learned about ocean pollution and how plastic trash is destroying marine life.

In correlation to the ocean study, gifted students visited Marineland on



U.S. Constitution Scholarship Foundation News

The U.S. Constitution Scholarship Foundation welcomed Heritage Foundation President, Kay Coles James to Nassau County recently for a women's donor luncheon and discussion. James has extensive background in crafting public policy and served as Associate Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and as Director of the U.S. Office



Shown (l to r) are: Dawn Hagel, Momi Halspeis, Kay Coles James, Dr. Kathy Burns and Judith Pines.

James shared her life story as a community leader, advocate for improved housing, education and social services, and the blessings and challenges of being a mother and grandmother. Her presentation emphasized safeguarding and preserving America's values for future generations and the importance of communicating with our young people as to the importance of the value system they will inherit.



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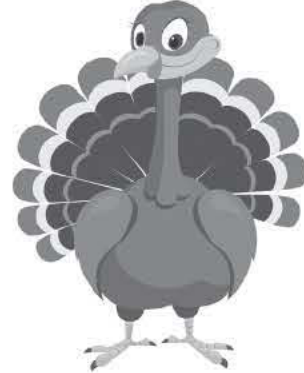


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FIREFIGHTER/EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT): Nassau County has 9 openings for Firefighter/Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) in the Fire Rescue Department at \$12,2597 hourly (in accordance with CBA) plus benefits. Applications will be accepted until filled. To apply please visit www.nassaucountyfl.com or for additional information contact the Human Resources Department located at 96135 Nassau Place, Suite 5, Yulee, Florida 32097, Telephone (904) 530-6075 or Fax (904) 321-5797. Drug Free Workplace. This position is eligible for Veterans' Preference in accordance with applicable laws. 122819

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Dangerous Traffic Stop Made in Callahan

On Saturday, November 23, 2019, around 4 p.m., a Nassau County Sheriff's Office deputy observed a red 2018 Kia Soul traveling northbound on US 1 in the Callahan area above the posted speed limit. The deputy also observed the vehicle traveling in an aggressive and reckless manner.

A traffic stop was conducted and the female driver advised she did not have a driver's license. The deputy asked the driver to step out of the vehicle and back to his patrol car. While talking to the driver, she stated that she was driving in a manner to get law enforcement's attention because she was being held against her will by the rear seat passenger who had a gun. They had just left a residence in Jacksonville where the backseat passenger committed an armed home invasion on Trout River Blvd. where he pistol-whipped an adult woman and fired off several rounds into the floor of the residence. An adult male who also lived at the address on Trout



River was forced to get in the vehicle at gunpoint against his will as well.

Several other deputies responded to the scene of the traffic stop and secured the backseat passenger where they found a .380 caliber handgun stuck behind the seat where he was sitting and 3.4 grams of methamphetamine. Deputies notified the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office in order to conduct a well-being check on the female who lived on Trout River Blvd. and also requested that their detectives respond to the scene in Nassau County.

The backseat passenger was confirmed to be a convicted felon and was arrested for Possession of a Weapon by a Convicted Felon and booked into the Nassau County Jail. Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Detectives were in the process of obtaining an arrest warrant for home invasion and aggravated assault on him as well. Dominic Alan Dimaio, 37, from Jacksonville, was charged with Possession of a Weapon by a Convicted Felon.

CEU Class Offered

Erin Harlow and Rebecca Jordi will teach 4 hour class and provide 4 CEU Abiotic Factors for Ornamentals; New Ornamental Varieties for NE Florida; Chemical Spill Recover; Pesticide Labeling. Topics include: Pesticide spill with on-site activity; reading a pesticide label; and advanced weed identification with hand-on activity.

This program is designed to enhance the professional development of personnel in the green industry, pesticide applicators and landscapers. This program will provide the required CEUs for license renewal for multiple pesticide licenses working with landscape management. CEUs (total of 4) will be available in the following categories: Limited Commercial Landscape Maintenance, Limited Lawn

& Ornamental, Commercial Lawn & Ornamental.

The class will be held Thursday, December 12 from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. It will be held at the Yulee County Building, 86026 Pages Dairy Rd. Yulee. Call for directions! The Early bird fee is \$30 per person; at the door is \$40. Limited seating (30 people).

Attendees must register online at Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/advanced-landscape-for-professionals-tickets-73152293479?aff=ebdsbdestsearch>. Registration closes on December 7 at 5 p.m.

For more information about this program contact Rebecca Jordi, Horticulture Agent, at 904-530-6351 or Justina Dacey, Natural Resources & Agriculture Agent at 904-530-6353.

POLICE REPORTS

Names, Addresses and all information appearing in the Police Reports are taken from the Sheriff's Department files and do not necessarily indicate guilt, only that arrests were made or charges were filed.

Monday, November 18

Desirea Nancy McCullough, 19, 371529 Henry Smith Road, #11, Hilliard: Grand Theft from Person older than 65; False Information to Pawnbroker less than \$300; Dealing in Stolen Property

Dwayne Ray Rageth, 33, 1134W. 4th Street, Hilliard: Habitual Traffic Offender; Driving an Unregistered Motor Vehicle

Trey Adam Rutledge Johnson, 26, 54048 Eva Court, Callahan: Writ of Attachment Contempt of Court for Failure to Comply with Judges Orders

Tuesday, November 19

Ray Shaun Bryant, 37, 45035 Vera Avenue, Lot 4, Callahan: Contempt of Court

Wednesday, November 20

Gary Wayne Cothorn, 51, 16328 Patsy Lane, Hilliard: Duval County Warrant Failure to Appear Attached Tag Not Assigned; Driving While License Suspended/Revoked with Knowledge

Tevin Devron Whigham, 27, 58158 Seal Lane, Hilliard: Failure to Appear Driving While License Suspended with Knowledge

Amber Nicole Darby, 40, 44141 Cross Creek Boulevard, Callahan: DUI 4th or Subsequent Offense (Felony); DUI with Property Damage/Injury

Barnabas Looking for Supporter to Adopt a Family for the Holidays

Barnabas Center is coordinating the Christmas holiday Adopt-a-Family program again this year, which pairs a family in need with a sponsor to "adopt" that family. Through the Adopt-a-Family program, children of a family that are experiencing a financial, health or other crisis are linked with an "anonymous" sponsor who provides gifts of toys, clothing, books, etc. for each child to open on Christmas morning. This ensures these children

will have the opportunity to experience a joyful holiday.

Barnabas is seeking individuals, families, groups or businesses to adopt a family in need.

For more information about the program, please contact Linda Ellis at (904) 261-7000, ext. 131 or lellis@barnabasnassau.org.

To learn about all of Barnabas' programs, please visit www.BarnabasNassau.org.

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For Information Contact: jandcoproductions@gmail.com

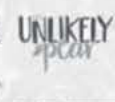


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JAMES DANIEL AMMONS



James Daniel Ammons, 69, of Jacksonville, went home to be with the Lord on November 24, 2019.

He was born on August 18, 1950 in Jacksonville to James and Lois Ammons. James was an avid hunter and fisherman, Florida Gator fan and NASCAR fan, go #24! He loved spending time with his wife, children and grandchildren. They were the light of his life.

James is survived by his loving wife Mary Ammons; children Steven Ammons and Tracy (KJ) Kroger; siblings Robbie (Bobbie) Ammons, Lawrescia Ammons, Patricia Mosser and LaDon (Dena) Ammons; grandchildren Megan, Jacob and Fisher; many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; and a sister; Sue Ellen Johnston.

Viewing was held Tuesday, November 26 at Garden City Church of God. The funeral service will be held Wednesday, November 27 at 11 a.m. at the church with Pastor Phillip Wyatt officiating. Interment will follow in Jones Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Steven Ammons, KJ Kroger, Jason Kirk, Sonny Tubman, Fisher Ammons and Robbie Ammons.

Condolences may be expressed at www.nassaufh.com.

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

OBITUARIES

CHARLES HENRY BRIDGE



Charles "Chuck" Henry Bridge, 71, of Jacksonville, went home to be with the Lord on November 24, 2019. He was born on February 6, 1948 in Jacksonville, to Albert and Mary Bridge. Charles proudly served his country in the US Navy on the USS Independence as a Chef. During his younger years, Charles demonstrated his artistic talents with relief sculptures and painting as a hobby, and he was also a model train enthusiast. Charles had a close circle of friends who will miss him.

Charles is survived by his siblings Dorothy "Dotti" (Guy) Williams, Elizabeth "Libby" (Charles) Norman and Roger (Robin) Bridge; daughter Amy (Timothy) Weed; grandchildren Isaiah Weed and Emily Weed; niece Tammy Johnson; and nephews Tim (Stacy) Williams, Terry (Mary Beth) Williams, Skyler (Maria) Dobbin and Kyle Bridge. He was preceded in death by his brother Richard Bridge; and his parents.

A private family memorial service will be observed at a later date.

Condolences may be expressed at www.nassaufh.com.

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

ELOUISE BLOODSAW



Elouise Bloodsaw was born August 12, 1944 to P. C. Walker and Elouise King in Fernandina Beach. Later, she and her mother moved to Vidalia, Georgia where she attended public school. Elouise and her mother eventually relocated to Fernandina Beach. She was a member of Kingdom Ministries where she attended church and Sunday school when her health permitted; she was devoted to her Pastor and church. She was employed with Amelia Island Plantation for many years.

Elouise transitioned to her heavenly home, Wednesday, November 20, 2019. She was preceded in death by her husband, Pete Bloodsaw; and two children born to this union.

Due to failing health, Elouise was relocated to Quality Health of Fernandina Beach.

She leaves to cherish her memory, loving cousin, Kevin G. (Corliss) Brown; special and close friends, Lynn Smith and Mrs. Marion Harris; nurses Vanessa Hamilton and Tammy Lynch; a host of brothers, sisters, cousins, sorrowing friends, including staff and residents of Quality Health.

He is loved and will be greatly missed.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 26 years, Wanda; his parents; sisters Annette and Paulette; niece Lourie; and great niece Krizma.

He is survived by his sons Ben and David Daughtry; stepsons Mason and Joe, Jr.; and stepdaughter Wandella; brothers Joe, Bobby, Jerry and Charles; sister Shirlene; grandchildren Christian, Josh, Buddy Lee, Katie, Taylor, Lanae, Conner, Michael, Marc, Alyse, Adam and Dallas; great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

A viewing will be held Sunday, December 1 in the Nassau Funeral Home Chapel from 6-8 p.m. The funeral service will be held Monday, December 2 in the Nassau Funeral Home Chapel at 11 a.m. with Bishop James McGee, Sr. officiating. Interment will follow in Jones Cemetery.

Condolences may be expressed at www.nassaufh.com.

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

PAUL HARRIS, JR.



Paul Harris, Jr. was born January 9, 1940 to the late Paul Ford of Kings Ferry, Florida and Laverne Harris of Dania Beach, Florida; raised by stepmother Gladys M. Ford.

He attended and graduated from Attucks High School in Hollywood, Florida. Paul enlisted in the United States Navy and served his country, receiving an honorable discharge. He was a self-employed contractor, helping people throughout the community.

Paul was a member of Mt. Olive Baptist Church under the leadership of Rev. Lorenzo Watson. He was also a member of The Progressive Masonic Lodge Number 690, Hollywood. Paul enjoyed talking on his C.B. Radio, fishing, farming and

BENJAMIN F. DAUGHTRY
Benjamin Franklin 'Frank' Daughtry, Jr., 74, went home to be with the Lord on November 24, 2019. He was born on December 13, 1945 to Benjamin Franklin Daughtry, Sr. and Virginia Wylene Cooler Daughtry. He was a lifelong resident of Nassau County. Frank was a retired concrete truck driver and an avid NASCAR fan. He is now healed, free and happy in Glory with family and friends that went on before him.

Froitzheim Family Thank You

Words do not seem enough to thank the many people that showed our family so many acts of kindness during the loss of our mother, Sylvia 'Terry' Froitzheim. We were so blessed with food, cards, calls, visits and flowers. Please continue to pray for our family as we heal.

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1. Contact Ashley Turner, Secret Santa Coordinator at 904-845-7501 or ashleyt@dayspringvillage.org
 2. You will be assigned a resident and their 'wishes'.
 3. Have your gift wrapped and back to the facility by December 23rd.
 4. Baking - If you like to bake we would love to have you sponsor the evening snack for the residents!
 5. Music - If you have a musical talent you would like to share we invite you to come and perform!

Dayspring Village is a state licensed limited mental health assisted living facility that is focused on serving the needs of adults with schizophrenia. If you would like to learn more or we can be of any assistance, please contact Douglas D. Adkins, Administrator at 904-583-0134-cell or dadkins777@bellsouth.net - Please consider becoming a volunteer this Christmas season, the gift you make in the life of others will truly change lives around you.

God Bless and Merry Christmas!

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traveling; he has traveled to locations as far as Jerusalem.

On November 29, 2019, the Lord called Paul to his final resting place, his heavenly home. Paul was preceded in death by his parents; grandson Paul Harris; and stepdaughter Selestine Ware-Jenkins.

He leaves to cherish his memory, his wife, Evangelist Myrtice Nesbitt Harris; children John Wesley Harris, Jr. and Wylane Harris Ingram; stepchildren Nicole Ware, Sonya and Tonya Williams, Anthony, Andre and Sherrie Norton; grandsons Corey Harris and John Harris, III; stepgrandchildren Trickia Ware and Shanisha Kendle; great-grandchildren; brother Deacon Withie (Shirley) Ford, Sr.; nephews Withie D. (Traci) Jr. and Jeffrey Ford, Sr.; niece Kimberly Ford; a host of nephews, nieces, cousins, extended family and friends.

The family will receive friends Friday, November 29 from 5-7 p.m. at the church. The Home-going Celebration for Paul Harris will be held Saturday, November 30, 2019 at 11 a.m. at Mt. Olive Baptist Church, 32046 Mt. Olive Rd, Kings Ferry. Interment will follow in Mt. Olive Church Cemetery.

Arrangements entrusted to J. E. Fralin & Sons Funeral & Cremation Services, 904-924-9400.

DEANNA M. JARRETT



Deanna M. Jarrett, 81, of Jacksonville, passed away Sunday, November 17, 2019. Deanna was born in Norfolk County, Virginia to her doting mother, Ida M. Wyatt, who preceded her in death. She was a beloved mother, grandmother, friend and "Nana" to many. Deanna will forever be remembered for her kind and generous spirit, her wonderful cooking and her devotion to her church.

She is survived by five children and their spouses; seven grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and many dear friends.

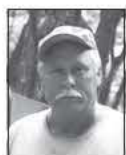
A memorial service will be held Saturday, December 21 at 11 a.m. at Dinsmore Baptist Church, 10500 Old Kings Road, Jacksonville, FL 32219 with Dr. Winson Butler officiating.

OBITUARIES

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Deanna's memory to your favorite charity or animal rescue.

Corey-Kerlin Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

CURTIS VICTOR KNOWLES



Curtis Victor Knowles, 54, of Hortense, Georgia, went home to be with the Lord November 21, 2019, surrounded by his family.

He was born on February 5, 1965 in Jacksonville to Theodore and Eloise Knowles. Curtis was a truck driver by trade but his first love was family. He was an avid hunter and fisherman and loved to spend time at the hunting camp or cooking out. His favorite hobby was swimming with his grandkids! He loved being Papa above all. He loved his wife with all he had and did everything he could to make sure she was taken care of, even to the end. He was affectionately referred to as a "Moma's Boy." Curtis loved BIG! He had a heart of gold that will be missed by everyone who knew and loved him.

Left to treasure his memories are the love of his life, Patricia "Trissy" Knowles; parents Ted and Eloise Knowles; children Curtis V. (Sam) Knowles, II, Lindsey (Matt) Desiderio, Felicia Johns, Georgeanna (Jacob) Briley and Scarlett (Devon) Addis; grandchildren Cheyenne, Paisley, Hunter, Holden, Felicity, Xana, Bell, Huey, Triston and Tara; sister Valerie Knowles; and numerous, aunts, uncles and cousins. He was welcomed home by his son Jerel Reed; brother Lucas Knowles; and grandbabies Forest and Willow.

The family received friends prior to the memorial service held Saturday, November 23 in the Nassau Funeral Home Chapel.

Condolences may be expressed at www.nassauffh.com.

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

JAMES CARROLL STONE, SR.



Mr. James Carroll Stone, Sr., 56, of Bryceville, passed away on Friday, November 22, 2019. Mr. Stone was born in Jacksonville and resided in Bryceville most of his life. He graduated from Ed White High School in 1980 and worked as a truck driver. Mr. Stone thoroughly enjoyed fishing and wood work but loved his grandchildren unconditionally.

He is survived by his father Carroll (Dixie) Stone; and his mother Kay (Paul) Rowe Perry Stone; his two sons Justin (Danielle) Stone of Bryceville and James (Kelly) Carroll Stone, Jr. of Jacksonville; his daughter Jennifer (Eric) Simoneau of Jacksonville; stepchildren Dewey (Lissley) Maddox of Callahan and Florida and Rachel (Casen) Crews of Macclenny; one brother Charles (Mary) Bruce Stone of Bryceville; one sister Michele Courtney of Bryceville; and six grandchildren.

Visitation and gathering with the family was held Monday, November 25 at the funeral home. A funeral service to honor the life of Mr. Stone was held Tuesday,

November 26 in the Chapel of Guerry Funeral Home, Macclenny, with Pastor Robert Tucker officiating.

Final disposition will be by cremation.

Guerry Funeral Home has been entrusted with the funeral arrangements.

Please sign the online guestbook at www.guerryfuneralhome.net.

CHELSEA MARIE TAYLOR



Chelsea Marie Roe Taylor, 29, of Jacksonville, passed away Tuesday, November 19, 2019. She was born June 7, 1990 in Jacksonville. She was a homemaker and graduate of Middleburg High School.

She is survived by her husband Justin Taylor; and son Jace Taylor; and a number of other relatives.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held Saturday, December 14 at Restoration Baptist Church, 9714 Ridge Blvd, Jacksonville at 11 a.m. with Rev. Bob Taylor and Rev. Doyle Harper officiating. Memorialization will be by cremation.

Condolences may be expressed at www.shepardfh.com.

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home in Folkston.

Obituaries are published free of charge. They may be emailed to news@westsidejournal.net. For more information, call 904-879-4180.

Poppell Family Thank You

The family of Kristen Poppell would like to thank the Nassau County community and the 4-H community throughout the state for all of your kindness, prayers and support during the loss of our loved one. We are grateful for the cards, messages, food and hugs we have received. You can help to continue Kristen's work by making donations to the Nassau County 4-H Program or <https://www.uff.ufl.edu/giving-opportunities/020101-ifas-extension-nassau-county-fund/>.

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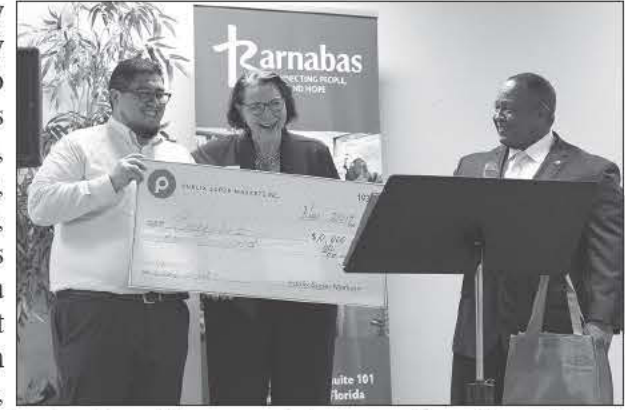
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Barnabas Thanks Community

Barnabas Center recently held its 6th Annual Empty Bowls luncheon and thanks to the generous event sponsors and donors, nearly 500 guests, the Empty Bowls committee, volunteers and bowl painters, the event was a tremendous success. An empty bowl is a symbol of hunger. In support of our neighbors coping with hunger and food insecurity, each year Barnabas hosts this simple meal of soup, bread, and dessert donated by the Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island and the Omni Amelia Island Plantation Resort in an effort to raise much-needed funds to support Barnabas programs that help people in need in Nassau County.



Corporate and individual sponsors were critical to the financial success of this event. Thanks to the volunteer sponsorship chair, Pam Fox, Empty Bowls sponsors more than doubled in number, making this year's fundraising event the most successful ever. Barnabas is especially appreciative of the support of presenting sponsors, Baptist Medical Center Nassau and The Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island; and by a grant from the Delores Barr Weaver Forever Event Fund, est. 2015.

First Baptist Church of Fernandina was the site for the event with a program that included keynote speaker

Tammy Johnson, Barnabas Board member and Principal of Hilliard Middle and Senior High School; as well as a performance by Hupp and Ray. An important event challenge grant was announced and gave the Empty Bowls event attendees the chance to match a \$20,000 anonymous gift. The challenge exceeded the anonymous match sponsorship, reaching \$48,774! To top it off, Barnabas received a generous surprise gift from Publix Super Markets. Dwaine Stevens, Publix Community Affairs Manager, presented \$10,000 at the luncheon to Barnabas President & CEO, Wanda Lanier.

Barnabas is deeply grateful for the volunteers from the Rotary Club of Amelia Island Sunrise, Lisa Presnell Productions, who played an integral part in setting up and supervising the event; community members for hand-painting nearly 700 bowls; UNF and JU for donating hand-crafted pottery bowls; and other numerous individuals who donated their time and talent during the event.

Finally, thanks all who attended Empty Bowls. Thanks to the generous community support, Barnabas can continue to provide help and hope to individuals and families in need throughout Nassau County.

Holiday Events at the Library

The Nassau County Public Library System will celebrate the holidays with special seasonal stories, holiday characters, visit from Santa, balloon art, crafts and treats. For more information please contact: Michelle Forde, Youth Librarian at 904-530-6506 or visit the Library website at www.nassaureads.com. Visit your local library branch on these dates and times:

<u>Bryceville Library</u>	<u>Hilliard Library</u>	<u>Callahan Library</u>
Thursday, Dec. 5	Thursday, Dec. 12	Tuesday, Dec. 17
6:30 p.m.	6:30 p.m.	6:30 p.m.

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Tropicana Speech County Winners



Ted Karsch

Friday, November 15, twenty-two students, from seven Nassau County schools, delivered their best speeches, in front of a live audience, competing as finalists in the annual 4-H Tropicana Public Speaking Program. The students with the highest scores in 12 different categories each received a plaque for first through third place. Additionally, the first-place winners in each grade level also received a full scholarship to attend the week-long 4-H Cherry Lake summer camp.

Three judges from the community, including County Commissioner Justin Taylor, evaluated the competitors using a rigorous list of criteria including: choice of material, delivery, articulation and audience bond.

The 4-H Florida Tropicana Public Speaking Program and Contest has been an annual Nassau County tradition for over 20 years. The county contest on Friday was the culmination of hundreds of hours of hard work, by students and teachers alike, in seven Nassau County elementary and middle schools. First, a total of 1,499 students prepared

their speeches, under the guidance of teachers, using the curriculum provided by 4-H. The students then polished, revised and practiced delivering the speeches in front of their classes before competing with other students within their schools at the same grade level. Winning students advanced to the county competition.

The 6th Grade winners were: First Place, Gabriella Oldaker, Callahan Middle School; Second Place, Emma Dillard, Hilliard Middle School; Third Place, Kenneth Mathis, Hilliard Middle School; and Honorable Mention, Kory Moser, Callahan Middle School.

The 5th Grade winners were: First Place, Alyssa Neal, Emma Love Hardee Elementary School; Second Place, Sadie Pouncey, Wildlight Elementary School; and 3rd Place, Vala Harrison, Bryceville Elementary School.

The 4th Grade winners were: First Place, Jack Fagre, Wildlight Elementary School; Second Place, Sara Carter, Hilliard Middle School; and Third Place, Duncan Chesler, Wildlight Elementary School.

More than 100 Volunteers Participate in Callahan Community Cleanup

Keep Nassau Beautiful thanks the Town of Callahan, local Sponsors, and community volunteers for the removal and recycling of more than 4.38 tons of litter and debris!

In observance of America Recycles Day, Keep Nassau Beautiful and the Town of Callahan sponsored a community cleanup and recycling event. More than 80 volunteers and 20 sponsor representatives did not let the cool drizzle stop them from their mission to collect and recycle as much as possible within the 2 1/2 hour event. Volunteers, including the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and West Nassau High School Air Force JROTC cadets, collected more than 4 tons of litter and debris from roadways, parks and parking lots. Meridian Waste donated time, equipment and disposal services to remove the litter and debris. Residents of Callahan had the opportunity to drop off, for free, residential yard debris, residential construction and demolition



debris, tires, prescription drugs, and propane tanks. SandHill Recycling, Nassau County Solid Waste Dept., Nassau County Sheriff's Dept. and AA Bottled Gas donated services for the beautification and recycling event. Sponsors Schwend Insurance and the Callahan Lions Club helped make the event possible with their generous donations.

Following the cleanup, volunteers and sponsors were treated to a BBQ lunch provided by the Town of Callahan and prepared by Mike Cole, OHPA Commissioner and KNB Board Member.



"America Recycles Day draws attention to the importance of recycling and reusing items which is why Keep Nassau Beautiful was proud to offer reusable gloves and reusable bags for the cleanup event, recycling bins for bottles and cans and serve the BBQ lunch without the use of plastic or Styrofoam," said Lynda Bell, Keep Nassau Beautiful Executive Director.

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