

# WESTSIDE JOURNAL



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Our next issue will be published January 2, 2020.

VOLUME XVI ISSUE 24

HOMETOWN PEOPLE...HOMETOWN NEWS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2019



*"Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."*

*And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" - Luke 2:8-14*

## Country Star Quilt Guild Celebrates 5 Years

Sara Aicher

On Monday, December 9, past and present members of the Country Star Quilt Guild gathered to celebrate their accomplishments over the past five years. The Guild began 2015 when a small group of quilters wanted to promote the art and history of quilt making in northeast Florida and southeast Georgia. The evening honored the founding members. Currently there are 57 active members in the Guild.

In recognition of the Guild's contribution to the community and to various organizations, Mr. John



Quilt Guild's Charter Members

Beasley, President of the Hilliard Town Council, presented the proclamation signed by Hilliard Mayor Floyd Vanzant that December 9, 2019 be designated as "Country Star Quilt Guild Day." The proclamation was also read and presented to Guild members before the Hilliard Town Meeting December 9.

Mr. Beasley also had the honor of drawing the winning ticket for the Guild's annual Opportunity Quilt. This is the Guild's primary fundraiser that

supports the many projects for charity organizations and others. The winner of this year's beautifully handmade quilt was Mr. Ben Johnson of Fernandina Beach. Ms. Pam Nelson, Executive Director of The Nest, also spoke to the group about the Guild's contributions and how they have touched many young women that have come to their facility.

The fellowship hall at First Baptist Church of Hilliard was decorated for Christmas for the event with close to

70 people in attendance. Following the speakers and the show and tell of quilts, tickets were drawn for the many door prizes that were generously provided by the following businesses: Viking Sewing Gallery, Toby's BBQ, Ladybug Quilt Shop, Hagan Ace Hardware Hilliard, Callie Kay's, Junior's Seafood, Cedar River Seafood, Lollipops Quilt Shop Fernandina Beach and the Scrappy Rooster Quilt Shop St. Marys.

The Country Star Quilt Guild meets on the second Monday of each month at the First Baptist Church of Hilliard at 6:30 p.m. The next meeting is January 13, 2020 and will include a presentation on Bargello Quilts. Visitors and new members are welcome.



Quilt Winner



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Well, here we are at Christmas time again! It's so hard to believe that we're on the dawn of another new year. This past weekend, Roger and I enjoyed special family time with both of our families. My family Christmas gathering was Saturday and Roger's family gathering was Sunday. How blessed we are to both have such large families.

The Stearn group met at Crooked River State Park. It is a large building with lots of tables and chairs and a kitchen. The building is surrounded by windows that look directly at Crooked River, of course. It is a beautiful setting and plenty of room to stretch out and visit from table to table. All my siblings were present except for Marci, who was truly missed. After enjoying a wonderful lunch and dessert, we all settled in for Daddy's devotional. Daddy, who is 87, handed out handwritten cards to everyone present and thanked them for coming. Daddy has such a heart for the Lord and his family. He shared the Christmas story in a different but special way. He encouraged us all to get involved in a church family and mingle with people that love the Lord. My brother Dub also asked to say a few words. Dub said, "We (your children) just look at you and Mom and see Jesus in you both. You are such an encouragement and inspiration to me and all of us. Thank you for being the witnesses you both are. We're so blessed!"

The West group met at Mom's house in

Bryceville. This year, Mom chose to have a Food Truck come to the house and handle the food! It truly worked out amazingly! We all packed into her home, as that was her request. Once in, we all listened intently to her precious yet powerful words. She, too, has such a heart for the Lord and loves her family. Her main concern is that we all are in fellowship with the Lord and choose or have chosen to invite Him into our hearts. We sang a couple of Christmas carols and Garrett, one of the great-grandsons, read the Christmas story from the Bible. We had prayer and headed outside to eat.

## A Word From the Publisher



experiences all my life. My family is my life. Growing up was a difficult time for parents with five children. But somehow they made it look easy. Well, at least for me it looked easy. I never knew I did without. I could hardly wait to creep down those stairs and see just what was under the tree. Better yet, I couldn't wait to see what was in my stocking! Today, Roger and I make our stocking the most fun part of our Christmas! They are filled with so much fun stuff! Growing up, mine had fruit, pecans and sometimes we even got chewing gum! It was great. I'm so thankful that God chose my parents for me...they are the best, still!

I pray that each of you may have a Christmas season filled with the spirit of giving! I know we are all tired as Christmas day nears because we have been going and giving so much. What a blessing it is to be



The carport was decorated sweetly with pretty white lights outlining the building and poinsettias placed on the black/white checked tablecloths. Everyone lined up to start ordering the food and the guys filled orders much faster than I thought they would. It was the Butt Hutt Food Truck from Jacksonville. Kudos to them for their incredible service and food. It was delicious!

This is what Christmas is all about... family, celebrations, children and so much love all around. I have been very blessed to have experienced wonderful Christmas

able to give to others. Giving doesn't mean only money and material things it can be anything and time is probably the most precious.

As we celebrate Christmas, make sure to take time to thank the Lord Jesus for His most precious gift...His son. God is so good to us ALL the time. Let's make sure to make time for Him!

Merry Christmas!

*Dawn S. West*



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him*

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## FSCJ's Florida Apprenticeship Grant Receives National Recognition

Florida State College at Jacksonville's (FSCJ) Florida Apprenticeship Grant was recognized nationally as one of the top 15 performing American Apprenticeship Initiative (AAI) grantees. Led by FSCJ, along with consortium members St. Petersburg College and Broward College, the Florida Apprenticeship Grant Program is helping to address the state's workforce challenges related to the vast number of retirees and the skills gap that they will leave behind.

The program promotes the expansion of apprenticeships in manufacturing and cross-sector construction and trades occupations, health care and information technology. Over the course of the five-year grant, the program aimed to serve 1,000 workers. Currently 1,245 workers are being served with ten months remaining in the grant cycle. "We are proud to support the work of the American Apprenticeship Initiative through the Florida Apprenticeship Grant program," said College

President John Avendano, Ph.D. "By engaging with various industries who welcome apprenticeship programs, our representatives have seen great success in establishing similar programs for other high-need occupations that have not traditionally explored the opportunities that apprenticeships may provide for their workforce."

Each of the top grantees will be featured in the AAI Final Report, which is intended to help other apprenticeship program administrators learn from the institutions' successes. FSCJ Program Manager Dr. Melanie Ferren and Program Coordinator Cheryl Duff will participate in the writing of the report. They will travel to Washington, D.C. to represent the Florida Apprenticeship Grant in a full-day workshop on January 9, 2020, where they will meet with the other top performers to share strategies and success stories designed to promote future growth in the world of apprenticeships.

## Omni Amelia Island Plantation Supports Barnabas

Barnabas extends its thanks to the Omni Amelia Island Plantation Resort for their generous holiday gift of more than \$4,000. This contribution will be used to help Barnabas give families and individuals in need, hope and joy this holiday season.



Shown (l to r) are: Sara Gaslin, Wanda Lanier, Lee Gomez, Gary Bleil, Levi Welling, Mary O'Donnell and Alexa Heredia.

In addition to this gift, the Omni is supporting four families through Barnabas' Adopt-a-Family Program. Last year, the Omni provided bikes for every child in each family they supported. Barnabas is grateful for the Omni and the ongoing support they provide to families in need in Nassau County.

For more information about Barnabas' programs, please visit [www.BarnabasNassau.org](http://www.BarnabasNassau.org).

Mary O'Donnell, General Manager of the Omni, joins Omni team member in presenting a check to Wanda Lanier, Barnabas President and CEO.

## JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

As we wrap up another year and I reflect on things that have and are occurring in our nation and our world, I am convinced we are living in the last days as depicted in the Bible. I do not consider myself as an overly "Religious" person, however I do know that I am a "born again" Christian through faith by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I love God and praise Him for sending his only Son to be born of a virgin right here on the very earth we live on. For 33 years He walked this earth as the only perfect one to ever live here. His mission was to show the way to eternal life by sacrificing His own life for me and each of you.

I firmly believe every word of the Bible to be the complete truth with no variation whatsoever! What is wrong is wrong and what is right is right. We as a people cannot arbitrarily make evil good to satisfy our earthly desires. God is the one and only gauge of evil and good and He spells it out very clearly through His word. Our world is ever

changing, it is becoming more corrupt and evil every day that passes. Even our Religious Institutions are changing. It seems as we are seeing less and less of denominations and more of churches with no affiliation. This makes me ponder, could this be a movement to the one world religion?

I most definitely have more questions than answers, however I do know that this is the time of year to Praise the birth of our Savior. It is time to reflect on our past and earnestly pray for our future. We should concentrate less on the commercialization of Christmas and focus more on the birth of Jesus, for it is He that is the real reason for this season.

I pray that everyone has a blessed Christmas, I pray for our nation, I pray for our President and most of all I pray that if you do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ that you would receive him as your Lord and Savior.

Merry Christmas! And yes, it's still...just my opinion!

## EVENTS AROUND TOWN

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

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

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

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

Updates and Additions for our Monthly Calendar may be emailed to: [news@westsidejournal.net](mailto:news@westsidejournal.net)

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# A Warm Christmas Winter

Pastor Ted Heglund, First Alliance Church, Hilliard



When our children were young, we lived on the tropical island of Papua, Indonesia. The only snow they had seen was flying by the glacier on top of Pupua's 16,024 foot mountain, Puncak Jaya. However, our mission leader and his wife were from Canada and had made the statement that they missed the snowy Christmas.

So Scott and Denise, our children, decided to give the Worsleys a white Christmas. They cut out snowflakes, made a big cardboard snowman, painted a wintery snow scene on a white sheet, etc. Very early Christmas morning we drove down the hill with all the props and started hanging the snowflakes and stretching the snow scene between the pillars on the front porch. They did a great job transforming the front of the house to "winter." We worked quietly but did have to explain to the guards at the head of the army's home next door what we were doing before sunrise!

Since our kids were the only MKs (missionary kids) in the city at the time, it did not take long for the Worsleys to figure out who did it. The decorations were still all up when we went for Christmas dinner at their home. It was a lot of fun but it was lacking substance for it was not cold and snowy but hot and humid in the 90s.

Often do you feel like things around you are lacking substance and meaning? Everything is like fake snowflakes and backdrops! Stop and look at your schedule. You are busy with work, taking the kids here and there, putting up Christmas decorations and finding time for some shopping, etc. In the midst of all this do you have the peace and joy of Christmas?

True joy is not found in the things we do or the things we buy. Peace is not achieved with a certain amount in the bank or the security of the job you have. True joy and peace are found in a person. That person is the one whose birth we are remembering at Christmas. The writer wrote in Luke 2:10-11 (NIV), "But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.'"

Today it is by faith in Jesus that you and I have forgiveness of sin and the "great joy" and peace we seek. Take time to sit down alone and then with your family and read the true story of Christmas. Teach them the truth of Christmas. The true meaning of Christmas is not found in make-believe flying reindeer and a man in a red suit, nor is it the pretty lights and presents. The true meaning is knowing and believing in the Son of God, the person Jesus Christ. If Christ is not in your Christmas you have nothing real.

This Sunday take your family to church and learn more about the Christ of Christmas. Read in the Bible Christ's birth-Christmas: Isaiah 9:6-7; Matthew 1:18-2:12; Luke 1:5-2:56. Merry Christmas!

# Hilliard First Assembly to present The King Has Come

Jesus is the reason for the season. From His birth to His resurrection, is the greatest miracle of all. Much is said, when you experience the Love of a Savior who willingly gave His life to the sinner; who was born with a purpose to the fulfillment of a sacrifice. His blood is atonement for the world in which He loves so much. We can never fully understand the love He has for the creation of our Heavenly Father.



This Christmas, come celebrate with us the birth of our risen Savior, Jesus Christ, Sunday, December 22 at 10 a.m. at Hilliard First Assembly of God, 550920 US Highway 1 in Hilliard, about 1/4 mile south of the flashing light at Eastwood Road and Henry Smith. The King Has Come. Pastor Johns invites everyone to come and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

# Hilliard Library Book Club Discusses Dickens at Holiday Luncheon

Nancy Bell

On December 12, Chris Twiggs, Professor of English from Amelia Island, joined members of the Hilliard Library Book Club to discuss Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol." For several members, it was the first time actually reading the Dickens classic and the way



it differed from the many movies and musicals made for a good discussion. The luncheon was held in the library's Community Room and was one of several community events celebrating the upcoming holiday season. Librarian Susan Stanley provided the main course

and members contributed sides and beverages.

The Hilliard Book Club meets the second Thursday of each month at 12 noon at the library. For more information please call 904-530-6500 option 4.

## CHURCH NEWS

Gateway to Life Ministries will have a Food Giveaway Saturday, December 21 for families in need from 10 a.m. - noon. The church is located at 37837 Eastwood Rd., Hilliard.

*Attend the church of your choice this Sunday.*

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## 2020 Principal of the Year and 2020 Assistant Principal of the Year



**Lee Ann Jackson, HES Principal**

The Nassau County School District principals, assistant principals and district leaders have selected Mrs. Lee Ann Jackson as Principal of the Year; and Mrs. Melissa Johnson as Assistant Principal of the Year. Each has also been nominated for recognition at the state level.

Lee Ann Jackson, Principal at Hilliard Elementary School, has been an educator for 36 years, 28 of which have been in the role of school principal. She is a strong instructional leader who is committed to promoting student growth and achievement. Under Mrs. Jackson's tenure, Hilliard Elementary School has ranked in the top 5% of all elementary schools in the state of Florida. Additionally, for the past three years, the school has also been recognized as a School of Excellence for its consistent high student growth and achievement. Mrs. Jackson has exemplified herself



**Melissa Johnson, CES Asst. Principal**

as an exceptional leader and continues to make a positive impact on Nassau County's students, teachers, leaders and community.

Melissa Johnson has been an educator for the past 13 years, currently serving as the Assistant Principal at Callahan Elementary School. She began her educational career as a 4th grade teacher at Hilliard Elementary School where she was recognized as a leader amongst her peers. As a result, she was selected as the 2012 Teacher of the Year for Hilliard Elementary School and in 2013 as Nassau County's Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Johnson is regarded as an effective school leader who strives to promote growth in others.

We are excited to have Mrs. Jackson and Mrs. Johnson represent the Nassau County School District as outstanding leaders for 2020!

## County Officer Offers Veterans Service

*Candy Bowen*

Bob Sullivan never thought he would work with the military all of his life, but he did think he would stay with aviation forever. After 20 plus years in the U.S. Navy, Sullivan retired as a Jet Engine Air Craft Chief and had even earned his private pilot's license at 40.

But as life would have it, his duty to the military was not over. In 2018, Sullivan became the Veterans Service Officer for Nassau County.

In reflecting on his first anniversary on the job and the recent 100th observance of U.S.

Veterans last month, Sullivan thinks about the Nassau County families who all share the bond of their service to the military and how much they have in common. "It's rewarding meeting veterans from all eras and their families and knowing I've been put in place to make their lives a little easier," said Sullivan.

Sullivan's job is to offer benefit claims counseling and referral assistance to the Florida and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Benefits. He helps file and follows up on claims, seek financial aid and gives assistance on insurance and rehabilitation programs. His office falls within the Nassau Clerk of Court and Comptroller Office and is located in the Robert M. Foster Justice Center in Yulee.

In the past year, he has seen his responsibilities grow. Calls to his office are up 65 percent and average more than 200 per month. "And that's just the

calls for appointments," added Sullivan. "We take walk-ins and do not count the random questions and emails."

With nearly 9,000 veterans living in the county, according to estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau, Sullivan expects even more growth to come. Sullivan estimates the top reasons



people call him are for survivor pension and aid and attendance. Next would be veteran claims for disabilities for all ages - including the 30 percent who are under the age of 40.

J.D. Hunnicutt, a US Navy Veteran who lives

between Callahan and Hilliard, falls in the category of older veterans. The 85-year-old said he contacted the Veterans Service office recently after hearing about the services at his Vietnam Veterans meeting in Yulee. "I served in the Navy 20 years and worked at the naval base for another 23 years and still didn't know about some of the benefits available. Bob got the ball rolling," said Hunnicutt. "I couldn't ask for better services."

"This is a service we offer to those who have made sacrifices to our country," said John A. Crawford, Nassau Clerk of Court. "We want to be advocates for veterans. Trying to navigate through the military bureaucracy can be daunting. We just want veterans here to know they don't have to do it alone."

The Nassau County Veterans Service Officer, Bob Sullivan, can be reached at 904-548-4670 or 800-958-3496.

### RETIRED FLAG REMINDER

The holiday season is here! What better time to replace your tattered American flag with a new one! Retired flags may be brought to the Westside Journal office for proper disposal.

### HOLIDAY CHEER RECIPE

Combine loads of good wishes, a heart full of love and armfuls of hugs. Sprinkle with laughter and garnish with mistletoe.

Wishing our Nassau County customers holiday greetings from your friendly garbage men and women!

**HOLIDAY SERVICE ALERT:** Collection schedules will be pushed back one day following Christmas and New Year's Day holidays.

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## 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Dayspring Village SECRET SANTA

### WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Dayspring Village is seeking volunteers to help share the gift of Christmas with the mentally ill residents. Often the holidays are the toughest time of the year for the mentally ill and each year the gift of the giver makes a life changing impact on the lives of these individuals.

**How to get Involved:**

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!

www.dayspringvillage.org **Call today! 845-7501**

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## Glory to Whom Glory is Due

Pastor Steve Walgamott,  
Live Oak Baptist Church

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. (Luke 2:13-14); And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honor, and power, unto the Lord our God: Revelation 19:1



From eternity past God in his divine wisdom and determination knew that he would send himself, his son the Lord Jesus Christ to the earth. He would be born as a human being, the God man. The Bible tells us in Galatians chapter 4: 4, that when the time was just right God sent Jesus into the world. God had determined that the announcement of the birth would not be to the rich, the politicians, or the popular. God chose to give the first announcement of the child being born to some lonely shepherds keeping watch over their flocks by night. God would use his Herald Angels to bring this message Of Good News.

The Bible tells us that the angels came and appeared, frightfully so, to the shepherds. The announcement had been made. The shepherds had been told of this great thing that had come to pass. At first, there was just one angel, the herald angel, who brought the glorious message of the birth of the Messiah but then suddenly the heavens were filled with an uncountable number of angels and the whole multitude of angels burst forth into glorifying praise and honor to the God of heaven and the creator of all things, Glory to God in the highest.

As the shepherds stood looking into

the infinite depths of space, seeing the beauty and light of the angels of heaven, their hearts were filled with wonder and awe and they cried out, "we've got to go see this thing that has come to pass." Surely, they thought, the whole countryside must have heard the angelic announcement and they were not going to wait. There was no questioning. There was no doubting. The shepherds heard and saw the glorification and picked up and went. After they had seen the Christ, confirming the things they had been told was true, they left praising God and giving glory to the one who made such a wonderful thing come to pass.

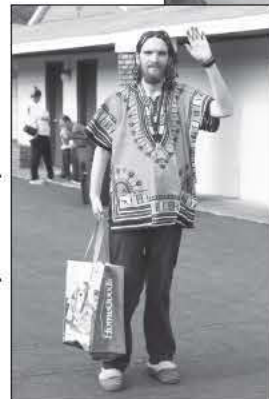
When the angels shouted Glory their first praise was to God. He is the one that is worthy of all praise and honor and power. No one else, nothing else, is worthy to receive the praise that belongs solely to our God. Too often we have the tendency to praise the individual for a job well done and we glorify the popular one, a singer or actor, as if he or she were worthy of all praise.

But, there is coming a day when all mankind and all creation will burst for in heavenly praise, "Glory to God in the highest; Alleluia; Salvation and glory, and honor, and power, unto the Lord our God: The Bible also says that whether mankind wants to or not, every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord; God who gave us Himself, His Son, to save us, to heal us and to keep us for eternity.

That's what Christmas is all about! Sing and shout your praises to God Almighty and to His son the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

## Dayspring Village Welcomes Shoe Party

The tradition started over 29 years ago with a conversation that began with the words, "How can we help?" "For many, a new pair of shoes is about dignity, self-esteem and health. Many times we forget when we are young to care for our feet and as we get older we realize our feet and shoes play an important role in our balance. The average life expectancy for a person with Schizophrenia is 58 to 64. We know that 25% of adults with Schizophrenia will attempt to take their own life during the course of illness and 10% will succeed in that act," said Douglas Adkins, Executive Director of Dayspring Village. "Improving the outlook and self-esteem of a person at risk for suicide is a building block to recovery and without question the NAMI support efforts contribute to that goal."



Padgett and Kerrie Albert (and children) were the core team to help bring the pizza party and wings and then the extraordinary gift bags and the wonderful shoes that help bring the compassion that is at the heart of the Christmas season.

"We are grateful to the many local citizens who donate to the NAMI projects, especially the shoe donations. The impact of a new pair of shoes has a significant impact on a person's outlook. Many times the only time these people get a new pair of shoes is when NAMI shows up at Christmas. This is a unique program in terms of the many years of caring but also the impact it has had on the over 4000 adults with Schizophrenia we have served in the last 29 years at Dayspring Village," added Adkins.



The NAMI Shoe Party this year was joined with the singers from the Boulounge Baptist Church who also came to share Christmas songs with the residents.

Local NAMI Volunteers led by Tracy Fuglestad, Nellie Ramos, Sue Whitman, Naomi Allen, Annie Yankus, Jane



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# THE HEART OF CHRISTMAS

## FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY



Mike Harris, Trinity River Band

As the Christmas season drew ever nearer for 2019 and our touring to the far corners of the country finally slowed, my family and I found ourselves again wishing, as we have repeatedly over the past few years, for the opportunity to do something special in our hometown. We wanted to do something that would allow us to communicate our appreciation of being home for the holidays with the rest of our family. We want to celebrate and lift up our neighbors and friends with a special show, from our heart to yours, about the two things at the very center of Christmas: the name of Jesus Christ and family! We are excited to announce a wish come true! On December 20, 21 and 22, at Crossroads Church the Trinity River Band will present "The Heart of Christmas!" Everyone is invited!

This will be a show unlike any other Trinity River Band has ever done. Think part concert, part Broadway play, part movie and part Lawrence Welk

Show! The music will range from acapella renditions of favorite classics to full orchestral versions of emotionally moving arias. There will also be a healthy dose of original music, such as Sarah Harris-Hall's critically acclaimed and award-winning, "This Christmas", classic Christian songs "Oh Come all ye Faithful" and even movie and television tunes such as "White Christmas" and "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer!" Did I mention comedy? Of course, throughout the show run the twin themes of the birth of Christ and the celebration of family. Bring your entire family and come enjoy an evening with the Trinity River Band! Together we can ignite some old-fashioned, down-home, family-friendly Christmas Spirit!

Four performances will be held over three days to give everyone who wishes to attend a chance to fit into their hectic holiday schedules. On Friday, December 20 at 7 p.m.; Saturday, December 21 at 7 p.m.; and Sunday, December 22 at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. at Crossroads Church next door to the Callahan Town Hall. During show times a nursery will be provided. Also, a coffee and hot chocolate bar will be open inside the lobby.

Although the show is free to attend, a love offering to defray the expenses will be taken at each performance. For more information call 904-879-5206.

# Come and See the Hilliard Lights!



For over 10 years, Hilliard Lights has been a fun filled family event. Hilliard Lights is a Musically Animated Lighting Show which broadcast your Christmas favorites on 95.7FM. This year the show features over 100,000 lights run by over 2,000 computer controlled channels. The show runs: 6-10 p.m. Sunday - Thursday; and 6-11 p.m. Friday and Saturday (weather permitting). The show will run thru December 31.

Directions are:  
From the South: Following US 1 North into Hilliard. At the stop light turn

left follow the signs remaining straight on West 2nd Avenue until it Dead-Ends at Georgia Street. Turn Right: Hilliard Lights is on the Corner of Georgia & 9th Avenue.

From the North: Following US 1 South into Hilliard. At the stop light turn right follow the signs remaining straight on West 2nd Avenue until it Dead-Ends at Georgia Street. Turn Right: Hilliard Lights is on the Corner of Georgia & 9th Avenue.

For more information visit: [www.HilliardLights.com](http://www.HilliardLights.com)

## Santa Phone Calls Available!

What better way to keep the holiday magic alive for your little ones than for them to receive a personal phone call from Santa or one of Santa's elves? This personalized can make the anticipation even greater for Christmas morning and also have lots to talk about!

This is a fundraiser for the Relay for Life of West Nassau County and the cost is \$10 per phone call! All proceeds will go to the relay. All you have to do is call Wanda Nichols at (904) 294-2088 and request a form to be emailed to you. Once the form is completed, email it to [wandanich1@gmail.com](mailto:wandanich1@gmail.com). For more information call Wanda at (904) 294-2088. Deadline to return forms is December 23 by noon!



# HOUSTON'S MEATS

Check us out! You never know what Great Deals Santa Claus has left!

Lee Whole Smoked Hams \$1.99 lb.

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2 1/2 lb. Bag Celery Stalks \$1.00

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Merry Christmas from all of us at Houston's!



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## Hilliard Elementary DARE Graduates



Last Friday, Hilliard Elementary School graduated their 2019 DARE class of 5th graders! Deputy Lisa McCumber has worked with the students this past semester to help them Define, Assess, Respond and Evaluate in daily situations they will face in middle school. Sheriff Leeper was on hand to give the students some words of

wisdom, along with two players from the Nassau Pride basketball team!

A few students shared experiences where their decision making skills have already come in handy. The graduation ceremony ended with a special appearance from Daren the DARE Lion! Congratulations!

### Fun Run at HES

Hilliard Elementary School's Fun Run was a huge success! Inclement weather forced our Fun Run indoors but that did not compromise the fun we had. Students collected pledges for the laps they walked, skipped, hopped and danced around our indoor track. HES wants to thank all our parents, grandparents and friends who supported our Fun Run.



### HES Celebrates Pioneer Day

Students stepped back in time during Hilliard Elementary's Pioneer Day. The day was filled with activities including grinding corn, washing clothes on a wash board, square dancing and writing with quill pens. Students were also treated to presentations on soap making, early Florida cattle drives, horse shoeing and folk music. Everyone made a pioneer craft to take home which included clay pots, weaved baskets or dipped candles to commemorate the day.



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# Festive School Buses!

Christy Potzer (Bus #403)

I'm a Callahan School bus driver and I just wanted to recognize some of my bus family and their efforts to make these holidays as memorable as possible for all of our children. Each driver is given a choice to decorate for the holidays. Most drivers begin weeks before each holiday and must also do this with their own time and expense



as well. My heart is touched each time I see the smiles on our children's faces and I hope each one of you can be touched as you read this as well!

Happy Holidays to our bus children and their families and all the people I've

come to know in this little town of Callahan!

A special thank you to Brad Underhill, Nassau County Transportation Director, for allowing us to be involved with our children during this festive season of the year!



# New Beginnings and Milestones

## Tanner Lee King

Travis King and Elisha Padgett, of Hilliard, are proud to announce the birth of their son Tanner Lee King. Tanner was born December 2, 2019 at Baptist Nassau Hospital in Fernandina Beach. He weighed 9 pounds 11 ounces and measured 21 inches.

Paternal grandparents are Latasha King; and William Pierce.

Maternal grandparents are Carmen Rodgers; and Paul Statzer.

Proud great-grandmother is Betty Paradero.

Tanner was welcomed home by his siblings Landen, Layden and Audrie King!



## Madelyn Mae Lowe

Adam and Taylor Lowe, of Hilliard, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Madelyn 'Madi' Mae Lowe. Madi was born December 6, 2019 at 7:23 a.m. at UF Health North in Jacksonville. She weighed 8 pounds 7 ounces and measured 20.5 inches.

Paternal grandparents are Bryant and Kathy Lowe of Somerset, Kentucky.

Maternal grandparents are Victor Eibach of Jacksonville; and Janet Elliott of Hilliard.

Proud great-grandparents are Billy and Dora Lee Butler of Albany, Kentucky; Darlene Gibson of Yulee; and Arthur and Paula Elliott of Hilliard.

Madi was welcomed home by her siblings Kylie Brooke and Conor Gregory Lowe!

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# NCSO Swears in New Employees



Sheriff Bill Leeper swore in several new employees with the Nassau County Sheriff's Office on December 10, 2019. Shown front row (l to r) are: Paralegal Michelle Van Deren; Communications Officer Anita "Peggy" Watters. Back row (l to r) are: Deputies Aaron Stevenson, Tyler Clements, Mark Nassar, Brian Fitzpatrick, Gabrielle Rocheleau and Richard Weigle.

## NCSO Receives DEA Check



In December 2017, Nassau County Sheriff's Office, working with the Federal Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) and other law enforcement agencies, obtained information about individuals transporting kilos of cocaine from South Florida to New York.

After further investigation a traffic

stop was made in Nassau County on an individual who was bringing back a large sum of cash from the sale of these illegal drugs. The cash (over \$300,000) was seized by DEA. On December 10, 2019, DEA ASAC Mike Dubet, Group Supervisor Mike

Mayer and Asset Forfeiture Coordinator Kathryn Wallace presented Sheriff Bill Leeper a check to NCSO for their assistance in the case in the amount of \$18,550.20. These funds can be used to purchase needed equipment utilized by the sheriff's office.

# 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, December 9

Tamar Landon Way, 36, 54024 Turning Leaf Drive, Callahan: Possession Schedule 1-5 Substance; Possession of Cocaine

Randy Noah Johns, 50, 45018 Vera Avenue Lot 5, Callahan: Violation of Probation Felony; Possession of Controlled Substance

### Wednesday, December 11

Brittany Danielle Rushing, 39, 27385 W. First Avenue Apartment 14, Hilliard: Failure to Appear Uttering Forged Bills

Amanda Lynn Goss, 32, 37209 Cody Circle, K1, Hilliard: Duval County Warrant Violation of Probation Use or Possess with Intent to Use Drug Paraphernalia; Battery Causing Bodily Harm

### Thursday, December 12

Melissa Sue Gilliard, 39, 54055 Debra Lane, Callahan: Possession of Methamphetamine

Aaron Trent Devereaux, 30, 61544 River Road, Callahan: Violation of Probation Dealing in Stolen Property; Burglary of Structure Conveyance; Grand Theft

### Friday, December 13

Lenzi Corene Maggart, 26, 10132 Mulberry Landing Road, Hilliard: Violation of Probation DUI

## Arrest Made in Another Arcade Robbery

After further investigation, Nassau County Sheriff's Office detectives have charged two of the suspects involved in the Tracks Arcade armed robbery that occurred on Sunday, December 8, 2019 with the armed robbery that occurred on Friday, December 6, 2019 at the Beach House Arcade located at 850785 US Highway 17 in Yulee.



Ebony Lashay Hixon



Josiah Taron Smith

Josiah Taron Smith, 20, from Jacksonville, was charged with Robbery with a Firearm and Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon. Ebony Lashay Hixon, 29, from Jacksonville, was charged with Robbery with a Firearm and Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon. Both were charged on Wednesday, December 11, 2019 while they remain in the Nassau County Jail.

On Friday, December 6, 2019, around 2 p.m., NCSO was notified of an armed robbery that occurred at the Beach House Arcade in Yulee. The investigation revealed that shortly before 2 p.m. two males wearing dark clothing and masks carrying a handgun and a large can of "mace" entered the business and ordered the patrons on the floor threatening them with the

gun and mace. The employee of the business was forced to empty the cash register and give them all the money. The two suspects then fled the business, ran across US-17 into the Yulee Villas Apartment Complex located on the eastside of US-17.

Further investigation determined that a female driving a burgundy colored Chevrolet (who had been in the Beach House Arcade several times on this date prior to the robbery and was identified to be Ebony Lashay Hixon) dropped the two masked suspects off just north of the arcade and drove into the apartment complex and parked. After the robbery the two suspects ran into the apartment complex and jumped into the burgundy colored Chevrolet and fled the area.

The investigation is continuing and other arrests are expected.

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**MOVING SALE! ATTENTION CABINET MAKERS:** Friday, Dec. 21 & Sat., Dec. 22, 9 a.m. until? 44199 Oselola Way, Callahan. 13" Thickness planer; airless sprayer; 6 1/2" Bench joiner/planer; 10" Stationary Radial Arm Saw; many hand tools!

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*Happy Holidays!*

To give our team members time with family and friends, there will be **NO GARBAGE SERVICE** on Wednesday, December 25 and Wednesday, January 1. Collection will be delayed the rest of the week by one day. Our office will also be closed, but will reopen for normal business hours the next day.

From our family to yours, we wish you a joyous holiday and a

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Crews (Kuwait), Charles 'CJ' Cribbs, III (Washington, DC), Dennis L. Davis II (Alabama), Joshua M. Davis (New York), Shannon Davis (Nevada), Benjamin DeVille (Afghanistan), Johanna Diaz (Nevada), Clif Dixon (Iraq), Robert Dodson (Arkansas), Devin Michael Dowling (Kansas), Christopher Downs (Arizona), William Clay Dryden (Kansas), James Dale Evans (Baghdad), David Farhat (Kuwait), Christen Fernandez, Clinton Fouraker (Virginia), Jeremy Francisco (Mayport), Jennifer D. Frederick (Colorado), Kevin J. Gahr (United Arab Emirates), Michael E. Garcia (Afghanistan), Marcus Gee (Iraq), Samantha Gee (Korea), Tabetha Gee (Korea), Chadrick Gibson (Iraq), Charles Gibson, Darrell Goodwyne, Jr. (Iraq), Brandon Graham (Georgia), Sgt. Daniel Graves, Jr. (North Carolina), Eric Greene (Georgia), Branden R. Griffis (Florida), Wendy Griffis (Afghanistan), Phaylyn Griffith (California), Kandis Guyton (California), Hunter C. Guzman (Georgia), Michael Hall, Michael Hallman (Key West), Ronnie Hammer (Virginia), Todd W. Hanner, Jr. (Texas), Andy Harper, Mark Harris (Virginia), Harley Henderson (Texas), Nathan Hess (Japan), Jeff Higgs (Spain), SPC Hodge (Iraq), Josh Hoyle (California), AT2 Brian Hughes (Bahrain), Bryan K. Jeffers II (Iraq), Wyoming Jefferies (Ohio), Jacob Jensen (Middle East), Cameron Johns (North Dakota), Aaron L. Johnson (Colorado), Carlus Johnson (Texas), Donald Johnson (North Carolina), Jamaal Jones (Hawaii), Bradley Justice, Brian J. Kerns (Virginia), Joseph A. Kidd, IV (Iraq), Kayla King (Germany), Scott Kirkland (California), Joshua Knight, PO3 Travis E. Kornacki (North Carolina), Jordan Kriner (Italy), Victoria LaMontagne (Florida), Tyler Landreville (Florida), John C. Larkin (Iraq), Chase M. Lewis (North Carolina), Katelyn Lewis (Japan), Nicholas Louese (Spain), Jason Lovejoy (Colorado), Patrick Lynagh (Nevada), Gatlin Mackie (Virginia), Kevin Marshall (Kentucky), Canisha Martin (Georgia), Tony Martin (Georgia), Anthony Mastrogiovanni (Georgia), Stacey McDaniel (Virginia), Noah E. McKinnon (Iraq), Michael McQuaiz, Matthew McRae (North Carolina), Russell Mellroy (Afghanistan), Ivory Melton, Jr. (Kuwait), Brian Middleton (Afghanistan), Steven Miner (Germany), Britt Mizell (South Carolina), Dillon Mock (Florida), Joshua Monds (Virginia), Anthony Moore (Afghanistan), Anthony Moore (South Carolina), Roland Moore (Iraq), Chris Morehead (North Carolina), Sgt. Travis Morris, Climart 'CJ' Moses (Afghanistan), Michael Murphy (Iraq), Aaron Musgrove (Afghanistan), Stephen Myers (Korea), Jonathan Neeve (Texas), Gary Nelson (Kuwait), Michael Nelson (Florida), Michael Nettles (Iraq), Lee Nickola (Iraq), Ryan Norton (North Carolina), Jesse O'Berry (England), Daniel O'Dell, Shannon O'Dell, Steven A. Oxforth (Connecticut), Walter Oxforth (New Mexico), Chase Parden (Kansas), Michael Park (South Korea), Danielle Parker (North Carolina), Jeremy Pelkey (Georgia), Christopher Phelan (Virginia), Darren Phelan (Washington State), Linn Phillips, III (Italy), Kyle Pipkins (South Carolina), Joshua Poirier (Georgia), Austin Potochnik (Japan), Dusty Price (Iraq), Michael Price (Germany), Kenneth Pullum (Washington, DC), Kyle Pullum (Louisiana), Robert W. Pyles (North Carolina), Jeffery Rapadas (Kuwait), Justin Reed (North Carolina), Kasie Richardson (North Carolina), Jeffrey Rigdon (Kentucky), Aaron Roberts (Florida), Camilla Roberts (Alaska), David Roberts (South Carolina), Sydney A. Robinette (Florida), Michael Robinson (Alabama), Jason Rodgers (Texas), Douglas Raymond Roth, Marc Rowe (Georgia), Brian M. Sartain, Jr. (Pensacola), James Sanders (Germany), Tressie Scott (Afghanistan), James Scully (Kansas), Donald Shaw (Iraq), Michael Shearer (Illinois), Jesse D. Silcox (Bahrain), Tayib A. Simmons (San Diego), Daniel Singley, Corey Slayton (California), Christopher E. Smith (Iraq), James A. Smith (North Carolina), Michael J. Smith (North Carolina), David Stallings (Kuwait), Bill Starling (Iraq), Larry V. Starratt, III (Korea), Scott M. Stephens (Hawaii), Caleb & Jordan Stoner (North Carolina), James 'Mike' Stringer (Iraq), Joseph R. Taylor (Texas), Luke Thomas (Germany), Michael Thomas (North Carolina), Crystal Thompson (Iraq), Terry Thompson (North Carolina), Tiffany Thompson (Washington), Sarah Tindell (North Carolina), Andrew N. Turner (Alaska), Corey M. Turner (Texas), William Varner (California), Shawn W. Vickers (California), Daniel Vroman (North Carolina), Jonathan Vroman (California), Brett Wade (Florida), Jeff Walters (Iraq), Shawn Ward (Texas), Brian Waring (Iraq), Daniel Waters, David Watkins (California), James D. Whitman, Earl Youman, Jr. (Virginia)

# OBITUARIES

## ROGER EDGAR CONNELL

Roger Edgar Connell, 77, of the West Berrien Community, passed away Sunday, December 8, 2019 at the SGM-C-Berrien Campus. He was born May 24, 1942, in Cook County to the late Walter Edgar Connell and the late Lethel Chaney Connell. He was a retired building contractor and a member of the Nashville First Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife Kathryn 'Kathy' Carter Connell of West Berrien; daughter Kathryn Yvonne (Myron) Thomas of Callahan; two sons Roger Dane Connell and Robert (Christy) Connell, all of Jacksonville; six grandchildren Kenton, Konnor, Cassidy, Carsen, Hannah and Carter; four great-grandchildren Kade, Karver, Bly and Ace.

The family received friends Tuesday, December 10 at the funeral home. Funeral services were held Wednesday, December 11 in the Chapel of Lovein Funeral Home with Rev. Keith Stewart officiating. Interment followed in the Vickers Cemetery.

two sisters Marion Clark and Nola Edwards; a brother Paul Canaday; six grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and six great-great-grandchildren.

The family received friends Tuesday, December 17 at New Life Baptist Church in St. George. The funeral service was held Wednesday, December 18 at New Life Baptist Church with Rev. Larry Finley and Rev. James Conner officiating. Burial followed in Boones Creek Cemetery.

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

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home in Folkston.

## MARJORIE CARTER CREWS



Marjorie Elaine Carter Crews, 70, passed away Sunday, December 1, 2019. She was born April 18, 1949 in Charlton County Georgia to the late Alton John Baptist Carter and Lorene Beatrice Crews Carter. She received her Education Specialist Degree from Valdosta State University. She retired from the Bacon County Primary School as a first grade teacher after 25 years of service. After retirement, she continued as a substitute teacher. She attended Sand Hill Baptist Church

Along with her parents; she was preceded in death by a sister Althea Starling; and a brother Jackie Carter.

She is survived by her husband of 50 years, Jake Crews; children Jason (Brandy) Crews and Angie Crews; sister Etheleene (Lamar) Kitchings; brothers Buddy (Faye) Carter, Tommy (Sheila) Carter and Timmy (Vicki) Carter; five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren; and a number of nieces, nephews, cousins and other relatives.

## MARGIE CANADAY CREWS



Margie Deloris Canaday Crews, 90, of St. George, Georgia, passed away Saturday, December 14 in Jacksonville. She was born June 14, 1929 in Moniac, Georgia to the late Willie Montoe Canaday and Nellie Stokes Canaday. She was a member of the First Baptist Church in St. George. Along with her parents; she was preceded in death by her husband Clarence Hardy Crews; two daughters Marie Crews and Janice Gainey; two sons Clarence Ray Crews and Frankie Crews; five brothers Arnell Canaday, Monroe Canaday, Joe Canaday, Guy Canaday and Frank Canaday.

She is survived by her children Diane (Rex) Murray and Kenneth (Betty) Crews;

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The family received friends Thursday, December 5 at Shepard Roberson Funeral Home. The funeral service was held Friday, December 6 at Sand Hill Baptist Church, Folkston, with Rev. Trent Long officiating. Burial followed at Racepond Cemetery at Sand Hill Baptist Church.

Pallbearers were Zack Carter, Quinton Carter, Arliss Carter, Jeff Highsmith, Randy Kitchings, P.J. Pruitt and Jonathon Hipp. Honorary pallbearers were Sand Hill Baptist Church and D. Ray James Maintenance Department employees.

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

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, Folkston, 912-496-7388.

**SUSAN E. KOZIERACKI**

Susan Elizabeth Kozieracki passed away unexpectedly on December 2, 2019 in Jacksonville. She was born on July 8, 1959 in West Point, New York. During her childhood, while her father served in the U.S. Air Force, her family moved around the world and lived in many places including Georgia, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Utah, North Dakota, and Germany. In 1975, Susan married Bruce Fettig and gave birth to her first child, Carrie Fettig of Fernandina Beach. Susan married her second husband Byron Taylor, in 1995, whom she met while they both worked at White Oak Plantation, Yulee. Together they had a son Travis Taylor of Hilliard. Susan has been married to Tony Kozieracki for 18 years and they resided together in Jacksonville.

She was loved and will be deeply missed by many. She was a kind and gentle soul who was always ready to greet loved ones with a smile. She enjoyed spending time with those close to her, traveling through the mountains, tending to her many plants and flowers and watching Investigation Discovery, aka ID network. She made friends easily and was always willing to

**OBITUARIES**

help out whenever needed. Although she left us far too soon, those who knew her will treasure having known her. To know Susan was to love her and to know Susan was a gift.

Survivors include her husband Tony Kozieracki; daughter Carrie Fettig; son Travis Taylor; ; stepson Justin Kozieracki; grandsons Zachariah Tipton and Matthew Tipton; granddaughter Reanna Tipton; mother Rosalie Day; father Clay Day; her brothers Thomas (Eve) Day, Joey (Sachiko) Day, Eric (Lisa) Day, Darby (Yongson) Day and Daniel Day; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A funeral service was held Sunday, December 8 at True Faith Christian Fellowship in Callahan. Interment followed in Brickyard Cemetery.

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

Arrangements by Callahan Funeral Home.

**HELEN REGINA LUMBO**

Ms. Helen Regina Lumbo, 87, of Baldwin, passed away Sunday, December 15, 2019. Ms. Lumbo was born in Virginia to the late Andrew L. and Margaret V. Kelly Simons. A military wife and mother, she made a loving home for her family wherever duty called and eventually settled in Baldwin 43 years ago. After her children were grown, she became a private caregiver and was also employed at Southern States Nursery in Macclenny for some time. Ms. Lumbo enjoyed bowling, playing bingo and being at home with her family. She will be remembered for her infectious belly laughs, care for others and unconditional love for family.



**CALEB MATTHEW STREET**



Caleb Matthew Street went home to be with the Lord on Sunday, December 15, 2019. He was born October 10, 1992, in Fernandina Beach to Matthew Street and Kimberly A. Collins. He was an old soul with a heart of gold. Many would say he was too good for this world.

He is survived by his father Matthew; mother Kimberly; stepmother Sandra; stepfather Donnie; brothers Aaron, Kristopher (Allison), Peter, Benjamin, Ethan and Luke; sisters Sara (James), Anna, Brooke and Crystal; and nieces Deborah, Amelia and Marley. He is predeceased by his paternal grandparents Jerry (Jr.) and Faye; maternal grandparents Ronnie, Joan and Manuelito.

The funeral service will be held Saturday, December 21 at 12 p.m. in the chapel of Cedar Bay Funeral Home, 405 New Berlin Road, Jacksonville. The family will receive friends Saturday, December 21 from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Ms. Lumbo is survived by her children Harvey Bentley of Jacksonville, Debra Bentley and Reynaldo Lumbo, both of Baldwin; grandchildren Ashley and Derek J. Bentley and Holly R. Bentley; great-grandchildren Leah Bentley, Lily Bentley and Annabella Bentley; brother William Simons; sister Margaret Hoffman; and numerous other family members and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband Rufino D.C. Lumbo; sons Rufino S. "Rue" Lumbo and Dane E. Bentley; and several siblings.

A graveside funeral service will be held Saturday, December 21 at 1 p.m. at Woodlawn Cemetery in Macclenny with Reverend Chris Drum officiating. Ms. Lumbo's family will receive friends Saturday, December 21 at 10 a.m. in the chapel of Warren Funeral Services of Baldwin.

Arrangements entrusted to Warren Funeral Services of Baldwin.

Please leave condolences for the family at [www.warrenfuneralservices.com](http://www.warrenfuneralservices.com).

**Obituaries are published free of charge. They may be emailed to [news@westsidejournal.net](mailto:news@westsidejournal.net). For more information, call 904-879-4180.**

**MILTON FAMILY THANK YOU**

Thank you to everyone who shared their love for our daddy, Alvah Milton, passing. We would like to thank those who provided the food, flowers, cards and calls from friends and family. Also, a special 'thanks' to Cathy Burch, Tammy Nye and Heartland Hospice Services for all the great help they provided for our family.

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**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!**  
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Postal Service

Dear Editor,  
I read Mr. Pearson's letter last week in the Westside Journal with great interest. In late November, I posted the following comment on Facebook. So obviously, although I am not having the exact same problems, I agree with him.

My Facebook comment of November 23rd: I have lived in Hilliard, at the same house with my rural mailbox located in the same place for 50 years. Recently, the new mail carrier on my route complained that the easement by my mailbox was damaging her car. Since the county is responsible for 3 feet of the roadside, we contacted our County Commissioner and they did some work, which STILL did not satisfy the PO so the county came out again and re-enforced the ditches. Yesterday, I received a notice from the postmaster that if I didn't move my box closer to the road, they would discontinue delivery of my mail. Apparently, the new dirt that was put there MAY WASH OUT if we get a lot of rain. What? Why can't we wait until it happens to address that issue? My patience is exhausted. A new mail carrier and suddenly nothing suits them!

P.S. Yesterday, the carrier again asked us nicely to move the box closer to the road because she was afraid she would go in the ditch. We think it will be a danger to passing vehicles if moved and we're not happy, but apparently we have no choice. I will also be documenting and sending letters to the addressees provided in Mr. Pearson's letter.

Jeannie Sasser  
Hilliard

Letters to the Editor

Another Opinion

Dear Editor,  
First: After 993 days in office, he has lied to or misled the public an average of 14 times a day – 22 during this investigation. Second: Says he passed the biggest tax break in history but it's only 0.9% of G.D.P., 8th largest in 100 years. And third: Says the economy is the best in history. Actually it's not as good as Grant, Eisenhower or even LBJ.

These are only a few facts I researched. Anybody can do it and see who believes what or who is right. He calls our allied leaders names like a 4th grader; likes Putin & Kim Jong-Un the most while they play him like a bluegrass fiddle; undermines our military leaders while he has no knowledge of the system. Never served and not one recent family member has served. He had bone spurs...really?

But the worst is calling a 16-year-old child names because she's on a magazine cover and he's not. This is who I want my kids and grandkids to look up to. What a great guy.

The Dems are wasting the country's time and Reps have no guts to stand up to him. I voted for a write in. Neither he nor Clinton are good for our country. I wrote in Roy Rogers because a dead man by proxy was a better choice. That's my opinion.

But for Christmas, can you give us an opinion on anything else but politics; dogs, cars, food, vegetables, etc? Anything would be a nice change. Merry Christmas!

Steve Simpson, USN RET

Progress?

Dear Editor,  
Progress is fine, but where does it end? I am opposed to bringing the city to the country. Why does Bryceville need any corporate business, such as Dollar General? What is wrong with a family owned general store? Why move to the country if you are going to bring the city with you? If you want a Quicke Mart, go live in Baldwin or Callahan.

In my opinion, Bryceville is just fine the way it is. Bryceville gives people a place to go to get away from the city and see the woods, with little to no crime. If we start letting corporations in, we will lose who we are (country life).

Chris Book

Thank you!

Dear Editor,  
We at The Pinky Promise Foundation would like to thank the many people that made donations or contributions to our organization this year. Your donations will help to put a smile on a sweet lady who has just been diagnosed with cancer. The ladies at the Pinky Promise thank you sincerely!

Sybil Purvis

In Response

Dear Editor,  
In regards to the US Post Office in Hilliard, I have experienced nothing but excellent service from both the counter and my carrier. I go to the post office almost every day and they have been busy yet courteous, efficient and polite.

Jerry Barthelemy

Stealing Santa's Money

Dear Editor,  
Last week, I went to the Marathon Gas Station in Hilliard to get a sandwich. When I purchased my sandwich I went to the restroom and left my wallet on the counter. I left and went to Waycross and stopped in Walmart. I reached for my wallet and realized I didn't have it. I called Marathon and asked if they had a wallet there. They replied, "They did have the wallet."

I went back to Marathon and picked up my wallet went through it. All my credit cards and driver's license were there. However, I had from \$260- \$300 in the wallet and it was gone.

I just wanted to thank the thief and hope they are happy because they stole Santa Claus money from my grandbabies Christmas. How low can you be?

Sharon Rowe

**Letters to the Editor may be emailed to news@westsidejournal.net but must include a complete name. Letters should be no longer than 300 words.**

Keep Nassau Beautiful Announces Planting Nassau's Future

Over a five-month period beginning December 2019 and running through April 30, 2020, Keep Nassau Beautiful (KNB) volunteers, partner organizations, and community residents will plant up to 300 trees in Nassau County.

The Adopt-A-Tree project is launched in response to the loss of trees in Nassau County due to development, weather events and age. Trees may be adopted by individuals, businesses, and organizations, and will be planted on

private and public property as approved for the tree species. A limited number of legacy trees will be available for those wishing to donate funds for the planting of a larger tree on public property, and if desired, the donor will receive public recognition. Educational support for the Adopt-A-Tree project is being provided by University of Florida's Nassau County Cooperative Extension Service. The project is being generously funded through dedicated grants, fundraising

activities and private donations. "Trees are essential to reversing climate change, maintaining wildlife habitat, retaining property values and providing aesthetic beauty," said Kelley McCarter, KNB Board Secretary and Project Chair, "that is why Keep Nassau Beautiful is introducing Adopt-A-Tree as the first project of its newest program, Planting Nassau's Future." For more information on Planting Nassau's Future and Adopt-A-Tree or to

donate a legacy tree call 904-261-0165. Keep Nassau Beautiful, Inc. is working to inspire, educate, and equip individuals, groups, businesses and governments to take action to make Nassau County a place where residents, visitors and wildlife can thrive and experience the beauty of Nassau County. To learn more about Keep Nassau Beautiful or to make a donation visit: www.keepnassaubeautiful.org/donate/.

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<p><b>\$30 OFF COMPLETE PAIR OF GLASSES</b></p> <p>Excludes Insurance.</p> <p><b>VAL-Uvision</b></p> <p>Valid only with coupon. Not valid with other offers. Expires 1-29-20</p>	<p><b>KID'S SPECIAL</b></p> <p>Metal Frames &amp; Polycarbonate Lenses</p> <p><b>\$119</b></p> <p>Eye Exam Included</p> <p>Frames from Select Group Single Vision Plastic Lenses</p> <p><b>VAL-Uvision</b></p> <p>Valid only with coupon. Not valid with other offers. Expires 1-29-20</p>	<p><b>FREE LENSES</b></p> <p>With purchase of any designer frame.</p> <p>Frames start as low as...</p> <p><b>\$120</b></p> <p>Single vision plastic clear lenses. Add \$30 per pair for FT.28 bifocals. Stronger prescription additional fee.</p> <p><b>VAL-Uvision</b></p> <p>Valid only with coupon. Not valid with other offers. Expires 1-29-20</p>

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# Garden Talk

Rebecca Jordi, UF/IFAS Nassau County Horticultural Extension Agent is a University of Florida faculty member. Mail questions to: Garden Talk, c/o Rebecca Jordi, Nassau County Extension, 543350 US Hwy. 1, Callahan, FL 32011 or email [rjordi@ufl.edu](mailto:rjordi@ufl.edu)

**Q: What can you tell me if this plant is native? SM**

**A:** Thanks for sending me photos of your plant, which always makes it easier to identify. I believe the plant is one of the native saltbushes which belong to the genus *Baccharis*. This time of year (fall), they can be very showy with their white flowers and seed head in many areas along the roadside. Saltbush is dioecious, meaning the plants are either male or female, with both plants capable of producing many small flowers in the fall. The female saltbush has the showy white flowers remaining on the tree for weeks; the male plants have a more yellow bloom. Saltbush, also called groundsel tree, false-willow or sea myrtle. It is sometimes it is considered a weed. I believe it is most likely underutilized in the landscape. It would make a very nice backdrop dwarf shrubs or flowering perennials. It would make a nice hedge plant too. It is often found growing in the same areas as Southern Wax Myrtle. Saltbush is very tolerant of most any soil type and can tolerate some occasional wet soils but adapt well to no irrigation once established. It can grow to heights of 8-10 feet tall with a 5-6 feet spread. In South Florida, it is considered an evergreen, but it is deciduous in the more northern areas of Florida. Saltbush is a terrific pollinator attractant for adult butterflies (monarchs) and native bees. Be aware, if you have allergies, the pollen of this tree can cause problems. The seeds of saltbush are poisonous if eaten.



**A:** I appreciate your photos, especially the close-ups of the leaves which made identification much easier. The weeds found in your lawn are most likely Heartleaf Drymary, *Drymaria cordata*, also called West Indian Chickweed. This weed is weak-stemmed which means it breaks easily and therefore the seeds can effortlessly spread to other areas. It is an annual and therefore can only reproduce by seed. The seeds and fruit will stick to shoes, socks and clothing as well as pet fur and distribute to other areas of the yard. Heartleaf Drymary prefers moist to



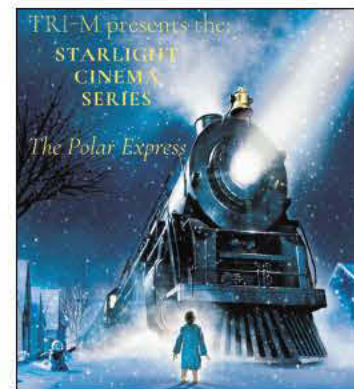
wet soils and this can mean the area where this weed is located might be receiving too much water or the area is not well drained. Heartleaf Drymary can be found in all parts of Georgia, Louisiana and Florida. India and Sri Lanka use it as erosion control, especially on tea plantations. Heartleaf Drymary is also commonly found under coffee trees in Ethiopia and East Africa. It does have one redeeming quality - the leaves are edible and can be used in salads. Best method of control is to use a pre-emergent in fall and spring. You should also check the amount of water the grass is receiving in this area. Remember apply 1/2 to 3/4 of an inch of water to the lawn if it is in full sun, shady areas receive less water and fertilizer. St. Augustinegrass prefers to be watered deeply but less often. Shallow, frequent irrigation produces short roots. Long roots (4"-6") help grass survive. Hand pulling weeds is always an option, especially for annuals and the sooner the better. As soon as the plant starts producing flowers and seeds, it is too late for chemical control.

**Q: What is the name of this weed?**  
DB

## Movie Night at Warrior Field Friday!

The West Nassau High School Tri-M (Band Honor Society) will host the movie *Polar Express* on the football field this Friday, December 20 at 6 p.m. Please bring your own blanket or chair and enjoy a night watching a movie on the field Under the Stars.

Popcorn and hot chocolate will be on sale in the concession stand. The cost is \$5 per person; \$8 for a couple; or \$12 for a family! Proceeds will benefit the Tri-M Club! Fun for the whole family!



## Women's Softball World Series Champions

A former West Nassau High School graduate, Brianna Durden, is a top player on Team 4, a women's major slow pitch softball team. Brianna, 32, has just been a part of winning the 2019 USSSA Women's Major Team World Series for the second year in a row! The team also won the 2018 World Series. The players are all women who have fulltime jobs but devote most of their weekends to compete in softball tournaments with their team throughout the year. They play from 12-15 tournaments all over the country. The recent championship game was held in Viera, Florida. Brianna is the daughter of Mike and Lynette Durden of Callahan.



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## Local Children Enjoy Shopping with a Cop!



Christmas will be merrier for 325 Nassau County youngsters who participated in Shop with a Cop on December 5th and 12th at the Yulee Wal-Mart with deputies from the Nassau County Sheriff's Office, troopers from the Florida Highway Patrol and officers from the Department of Agriculture.

Shop with a Cop pairs the officers with children from low-income families with officers who treat them to a spirited day of shopping. The program creates a positive bond between the kids and officers.

"Nothing embraces the Christmas spirit more than watching children select the toys and books on their wish lists and making sure they have clothes and other necessities," said Sheriff Bill Leeper. "We look forward to participating in this event every year and I am very proud of the officers and civilian employees who volunteer their time to make this day special for these children."

Each child is allotted \$100, half of which they must spend on necessities like clothing, shoes, school supplies and other needs. The other half is reserved for toys, movies and other fun items.

The event is made possible by the support of NCSO Charities, Inc. (which holds fundraising events throughout the year), Amelia Island Concours d' Elegance Foundation, Inc., Wal-Mart, the Everett P. Pope Marine Corps League of Nassau County and many individual donors.

NCSO Charities, Inc. is a Florida Not For Profit Corporation established to organize, promote, and sponsor charitable missions and events in Nassau County. The mission of NCSO Charities, Inc. is summarized

in its slogan: Nurturing Community Safety through Outreach. To donate to Shop with a Cop please contact Lawanna Ware, Treasurer, at (904) 548-4018. All donations are tax deductible.



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