

WESTSIDE JOURNAL



Groundhog Day
Thursday, February 2

VOLUME XIX ISSUE 27

HOMETOWN PEOPLE...HOMETOWN NEWS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2023

“LET US THEN APPROACH GOD’S THRONE OF GRACE WITH CONFIDENCE, SO THAT WE MAY RECEIVE MERCY AND FIND GRACE TO HELP US IN OUR TIME OF NEED.” - HEBREWS 4:16

Nassau County Teacher of the Year Mrs. Amanda Sauls



The Nassau County School District Teacher of the Year was announced Friday night at the Nassau Education Foundation’s Teacher of the Year Gala held at the Ritz Carlton in Fernandina Beach. The Nassau County Teacher of the Year is Mrs. Amanda Sauls, a 4th Grade Teacher at Callahan Intermediate School. Amanda teaches Math, Science and Social Studies and has been a teacher for 16 years. She will go on to compete at the state level for Florida State Teacher of the Year, which will be announced later this summer. “It is

a great honor and privilege to recognize Mrs. Amanda Sauls, as Nassau County’s 2024 Teacher of the Year. Thank you for investing in the hearts and minds of students. Thank you for inspiring and igniting a love for learning,” said Nassau County Superintendent Kathy Burns. “Teaching is clearly your passion and calling! Thank you for making a difference every day!”

When asked why she teaches, Amanda replied, “I teach to make a difference. As each new year begins, you are entrusted with a new class of

students and their families. Through teaching, I have the privilege of investing in my students’ hearts and minds daily. Whether I am supporting their social, emotional, or academic needs, they know I am there to encourage them each step of the way. Each day brings forth a new opportunity to create life-long learners and build relationships with students, their families, our community, and my teammates. I can make an immense impact by doing exactly what I have been called to do and am truly passionate about.”

Andrew Huber Announced as the Nassau County 2023 Sunshine State Scholar

The Nassau County School District is proud to recognize this year’s Nassau County Sunshine State Scholar, Andrew Huber. Andrew is a junior at Hilliard Middle-Senior High School and has a weighted GPA of 4.755 and an unweighted GPA of 3.980. He is on track to earn the Bright Futures – Florida Academic Scholars Award and currently has a composite score of 30 on the ACT. He has earned credit in both Dual Enrollment and AP courses, scoring a level 4 on the AP Computer Science test. He has 89 hours of community service with his local church in addition to service hours with Sr. Beta and the National Honor Society. Andrew plans to pursue a career in the aeronautical



engineering field. Andrew received his award before the Nassau County School Board at their January 26th meeting. Andrew was joined by his parents, Kathy and Michael Huber and HMSHS Principal Mr. John Crawford.

Each of Florida’s school districts selects their top 11th grade students in the areas of

Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics (STEM). Each district scholar, along with their parents, will travel to Orlando for an extraordinary program designed to bring together scholars from around the state, connect them with employers that specialize in the STEM fields, and create a networking opportunity between the scholars and schools from Florida’s College and State University System.

Patricia V. Williams
Chapter of The
Concerned Citizens
of Nassau County

**8th Annual
Dr. MLK
Scholarship
Breakfast**

Saturday, February 4 at 9 a.m.
Greater Mt. Pleasant Missionary
Baptist Church
45031 Historical Lane, Callahan
Host Pastor:
Rev. Dr. Reginald Edwards
Donation: \$10.00
Guest Speaker: Pastor Dwight Allen
The Anchor Church of God

**1st Scholarship
Gospel Festival**

Saturday, February 4 at 6 p.m.
True Believers Church
of God By Faith
45083 White Road, Callahan
Host Pastor: Pastor Byron Ramseur
Guest Speaker: Dr. Eugene Diamond,
Pastor of Abyssinia Baptist Church

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A Word From the Publisher

Not really sure how we got to February already but...here we are! Just a reminder that life is short and time passes so very quickly. Each year as we began a new year of the 'Journal' I joke with Jessie as I'm looking through the files that the fair will be here before we know it. She gives me that 'look' but she too realizes time really does fly.

We were challenged with an internet 'issue' this week. It started first thing Monday morning with no internet. No internet for us means no emails at all. Quickly, a Monday turned into a real Monday. I'm so thankful that this is truly the first time in forever that we have had to deal with a problem like this. Turns out it was completely a mistake on their end, not something we did. We thought about holding the tech hostage when he came Tuesday morning but he was so nice to help get this issue corrected as soon as possible. I'm pretty sure he could see the frustration in our faces. He worked tirelessly to get the problem resolved to get us up and running. I was quickly reminded that he was helping us to fix the problem. He was doing his best to resolve the problem and so apologetic the entire time. After all, it wasn't his fault. This 'issue' was done in the main office not anything he or I did.

How many times do I tend to attack at the sign of trouble? More times than none I'm afraid. Things happen and most of the time it's not a good time. Not sure there is a good time for trouble. That's a thought for another day. I've

tried to remember the old saying, "What Would Jesus Do?" That saying came out when my children were in school and I love it. It still comes to mind at times. Sad to say I don't think of it as often as I should. It can certainly fit in my every day life and yours. It's really very easy to think about What Would Jesus Do in any and everything we do. I know in my life, many times I wish I would have thought that simple thought before acting.

As we continue to live and work in this crazy world, thinking of Jesus and praying is the best way to handle each day. I long ago realized that no matter how hard I try to fix and control things...God is completely in control of everything. I don't know why it has taken me so long to get it. Recently, I've finally learned to take one day at a time. I'm trying each day to start my day with Jesus and soaking in all of His grace and mercy. It truly makes my day wonderful even through trying times. I know that it's only through the power of Jesus that I make it through each day. Let's not forget to count our many blessings for each day, for there are many. God allowed me to wake up this morning! What a blessing it is to have Jesus as my Lord and Savior. He makes life worth living!

Have a blessed week!

Dawn S. West

Thought of the week...

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

Advertisement Deadline: Monday at 5 p.m.

Classified Deadline: Tuesday at 12 p.m.

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CES Warriors of the Month



Shown are the Warriors of the Month for the month of December at Callahan Elementary School. Our character trait for the month of December was COMPASSION. Students were chosen for being compassionate towards their classmates. Great job!



Shown are the Warriors of the Month for the month of November at Callahan Elementary School. Our character trait for the month of November was GRATITUDE. Students were chosen for being showing gratitude. Great job!



Shown are the Warriors of the Month for the month of October at Callahan Elementary School. Our character trait for the month of October was COOPERATION. Students were chosen for being cooperative in the classroom.

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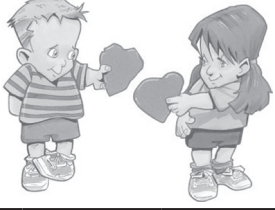
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FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>February is</i> BLACK HISTORY MONTH</p>			<p>1 PAL 6 p.m. Hilliard Library Callahan Garden Club 10 a.m. Free Community Dinner 5 p.m. Callahan Methodist Church NAMI Support 12-1:30 p.m. Hilliard Journey Church</p>	<p>2 Hilliard Town Meeting 7 p.m. Food Giveaway @Callahan First Baptist 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.</p>	<p>3 NAMI Support 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Fernandina Council on Aging</p>	<p>4</p>
			<p>5</p>	<p>6 Callahan Town 7 p.m. Crafty Christians 1 - 3 p.m. Callahan Methodist Church</p>	<p>7 Exchange Club 11:30 a.m. Fernandina Golf Club NAMI Family Support 6:30 - 8 p.m. Alachua Club, Fern. Beh.</p>	<p>8 Free Community Dinner 5 p.m. Callahan Methodist Church Parents of Addicted Loved Ones (PAL) 6 p.m. Hilliard Library</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>13 WN Genealogical Society 10:30 a.m. Lions Club Crafty Christians 1 - 3 p.m. Callahan Methodist Church Country Star Quilt Guild 6:30 pm @ The Anchor Ch. 154 Order of Eastern Star 7:30 pm @ Masonic Lodge</p>	<p>14 Callahan Lions Club 7 p.m. <i>Happy Valentine's Day</i></p>	<p>15 Free Community Dinner 5 p.m. Callahan Methodist Church PAL 6 p.m. Hilliard Library</p>	<p>16 Hilliard Town Meeting 7 p.m. Food Giveaway @Callahan First Baptist 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>17 NAMI Support 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Fernandina Council on Aging</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19</p>	<p>20 Westside Optimists 7 p.m. Lions Club Sons of Confederate Veterans 7 p.m. The Pig Crafty Christians 1 - 3 p.m. Callahan Methodist Church Presidents' Day</p>	<p>21 NARFE 11 a.m. The Pig NAMI Family 6:30 - 8 p.m. Alachua Club, Fern. Beh. Callahan Town 7 p.m.</p>	<p>22 Free Community Dinner 5 p.m. Callahan Methodist Church PAL 6 p.m. Hilliard Library</p>	<p>23 Historical Society 6:30 p.m. @ Depot</p>	<p>24 NAMI Support 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Fernandina Council on Aging</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p>	<p>27 Crafty Christians 1 - 3 p.m. Callahan Methodist Church NC Beekeepers Association 7 p.m. Multipurpose Building Ch. 154 Order of Eastern Star 7:30 pm @ Masonic Lodge</p>	<p>28 Callahan Lions Club 7 p.m.</p>	<p><i>Happy Valentine's Day!</i></p> 			

JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

I am sure most have now watched all or at least a portion of the video released by the Memphis Police Department concerning the death of Tyre Nichols. Personally, I have never watched something as heinous in my entire life. There is no doubt in my mind that the five police officers are guilty of murdering Tyre Nichols. What started as a traffic stop for supposed reckless driving turned brutal immediately by the police officers. Tyre was never given the opportunity to obey the commands being shouted at him. There were multiple commands by multiple officers, some commands were actually impossible for the victim to obey, such as commands to put his hands behind his back all the while the officers had hold of his hands. In fact, these police thugs issued over 71 commands in a 13-minute time frame. There is no excuse for any human to be treated in this manner. These five police officers reminded me of a pack of angry bulldogs attacking; they were totally out of control.

For the record I am not pro defund the police, I am not pro total restructuring of law enforcement. However, law enforcement officers on a daily basis have become tyrants. Let me clarify, not all officers fall into this category by any means, but it is a growing problem throughout the country. One can watch YouTube videos all day of police abusing their power while violating the Constitution that each swore to uphold. There have always been a few bad apples in law enforcement but in today's time there seems to be more of them. This could very well be due to the increased threat they perceive from the violent world we all live in. It takes a special type of person to be a good law enforcement officer; we are blessed in Nassau County to have such a large majority of good officers.

Way too often a bad outcome with the interaction with law enforcement rests solely on the back of the subject. Just obey and comply will normally prevent the escalation of the encounter. In the case with Tyre Nichols, he was never given the opportunity to obey and comply. The officers had already escalated the situation themselves and continued escalating throughout the entire episode.

Now the political side of this grizzly murder is perplexing. Tyre was black, but also, all five police officers were black. This throws a monkey wrench in the normal ranting from the left. They would much prefer that the officers were white, which would enhance their agenda. The left isn't going to let this totally ruin their agenda though. Don Lemmon, a former Obama Administration Official and now CNN contributor along with Al Sharpton, are still blaming this crime as being racially motivated. You heard it right... five black police officers kill a black man and it is all due to racism. Lemmon says the white racism has infiltrated the mind of blacks which cause them to think black lives do not matter. I cannot comprehend such a stupid explanation. The left is so out of touch with reality that it's really scary. According to Lemmon's way of thinking, the out-of-control black on black violence as witnessed daily in Jacksonville, Chicago, New York and on and on is caused by white racism that has taken control of black minds. How sick and demented can one be? Why can't they just admit that five bad police officers killed a man? Color of skin should not be in the equation! A life was taken unnecessarily, period. My heart and prayers are for God's comfort to the Nichols family.

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

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Rejoice Or Risk Ruin

Pastor Marty Paparo, Friendship Alliance Church, Callahan



Whenever I'm preparing a sermon or a teaching, I start by reading the passage at different times throughout the week. After I feel like I understand the passage, I turn to a commentary or teaching outline to see if I'm going in the right direction or if I'm way off. One of my favorites is Dallas Theological Seminary graduate, Bob Deffinbaugh. He always reveals things that I didn't see in the text. This month's passage is no different. Philippians 3:1 ESV: *"Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you."*

A few obvious and simple observations. Note that the command is to rejoice. But there is a specific how to the whole thing "in the Lord." Our true rejoicing takes place in Jesus Christ. Second, Paul tells us it's no trouble for him to repeat this. Paul already said this earlier in Philippians and now he says it again. Lastly, Paul tells us that rejoicing is a safe guard for the Philippians.

Our theologian, Bob Deffinbaugh asks, "Could it be that the path to disobedience begins with discontentment?" If we are discontent about something in our lives, who are we really discontent with? Isn't it God we are discontent with? Aren't we really upset that God has us in this place at this point in our lives?

Bob also points out that discontentment is contagious. When we grumble and complain we invite and tempt others to join us in our grumbling. This Sunday, you could be sitting in your church service listening to your pastor thinking his microphone is too loud. And you could share that with the person sitting next to you. That person may never have given it another thought but now it's a problem for them as well. Hebrews agrees: *"Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled,"* Hebrews 12:14-15 ESV.

So, this week, where do you need to rejoice? What area are you discontent where a little rejoicing may give a new perspective? What is God speaking to you about rejoicing?

CHURCH NEWS

North Hilliard Baptist Church, 552823 US Hwy. 1, would like to invite all men to our Men's Prayer meeting held the first Monday of each month, Feb. 6 at 6 p.m.

Attend the church of your choice this Sunday.

Visit us anytime at:

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Hilliard First Assembly Welcomes Evangelist Mayhan

Hilliard First Assembly of God, located at 550920 US 1 South in Hilliard, is excited to welcome Evangelist Gerald Mayhan to speak Sunday, February 4 at 10 a.m. Evangelist Gerald Mayhan, a graduate of Teen Challenge, and his wife Phyllis, invites everyone to hear their testimony of the miracle working power of Jesus Christ in their lives and in their marriage. You will see how God transformed a drug addict who had lost everything including his marriage into a powerful man of God. Have you hit rock bottom? Come and see how God can lift you out and transform your life.



Crafty Christians Crafting Class

Do you enjoy making or learning crafts? There is a place for you...Crafty Christians! Come join us every Monday from 1-3 p.m. at the Callahan Methodist Church Social Hall at 449648 US Highway 301. The class is Free and just a fun time for people to get together and enjoy learning something new!

The group will also have a new Crafty Christians Night Class to be held the second Thursday (February 9) of each month, also in the church social hall, from 6-8 p.m. Come and join us at all or one of these great classes for crafting, fellowship and fun!

FSCJ to Host Kids Dental Event



Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ) is hosting the Jacksonville Dental Society's annual Give Kids a Smile Day dental wellness event, where free dental services will be provided for children ages 4 to 18. Services include fillings, cleanings and primary tooth extractions. The event will be held Saturday, February 11 from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. at FSCJ North Campus, 4501 Capper Road, Building A-Dental Clinic, Jacksonville.

All children must be pre-screened for eligibility to receive an appointment during the Saturday event. Screenings will be offered by appointment on Thursday, February 9 from 5-8 p.m. at the FSCJ North Campus Dental Clinic. The screening will consist of a review of the child's medical history, a brief oral exam and a limited treatment plan for the Saturday event. To request a screening appointment, complete the request form at: shorturl.at/bdUZ9. Parents or legal guardians must be present at the pre-screening and Give Kids a Smile Day for their child to receive care. To learn more, visit fscj.edu/events.

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Annual Barnabas Fashion Show

February 27

This year's 2nd Annual Barnabas Center Fashion Show Honoring Hometown Heroes will be held Monday, February 27 from 5-8 p.m. at Host Sponsor Mocama Beer Company. The event features a fashion show with Nassau County Hometown Heroes as models walking the runway during a narration of how the hero impacts lives.

The 2023 Fashion Show showcases an evening of gratitude, Honoring Hometown Heroes for a Healthy Community. These heroes work tirelessly to help provide the healthy community enjoyed in Nassau County. They serve in our schools, healthcare settings, essential and social services, and, most importantly, as our first responders. This evening acknowledges their commitment to Nassau County and celebrates their dedication to making Nassau County a healthier place to live. Proceeds from the event benefit ALL of Barnabas' programs that contribute to a HEALTHY Nassau County. Jamie Reynolds, Barnabas Center President & CEO, said, "It is exciting to see how many hometown heroes come together to support those who need us the most, our neighbors. Barnabas is one part of the community that delivers hope." She



continued, "Look around, from the first responders, educators, the healthcare community, grocery stores and our neighbors themselves, Nassau County is filled with hometown heroes."

Opportunities exist for the community to get involved and express gratitude to our hometown heroes by attending the fashion show, supporting our models, donating silent auction items or providing new clothing for the models to wear. If you would like to participate, to learn more, or to reserve tickets for \$25 each, contact Renee Stoffel at RStoffel@barnabasnassau.org.

Event proceeds help Barnabas achieve its ongoing mission to provide help and hope to individuals and families in need throughout Nassau County, to improve their stability, health and well-being. For more information, visit <https://barnabasnassau.org/events/2nd-annual-fashion-show-honoring-hometown-heroes/>.

Living Financially Free

Being Thrifty Is Nifty!

Yvette Outler

I have been a serious thrift-er for 20 years. What began out of necessity has evolved into a normal way of shopping for me. Thrift stores, estate sales, consignment shops have one thing in common: Savings! I have outfitted my closet and parts of our home with some cool, recycled stuff. My recent household purchase was a hutch to go on top of my already adorable white buffet. Found it on Facebook marketplace for \$150. Regarding clothing, the best shoe finds ever were a pair of gently used Coach and Marc Jacobs shoes for \$2 each. Both retail \$150-\$200. Both found at an Estate Sale in Georgia.

Here are a couple of new-to-me places in Jacksonville that were fun that I would like to tell you about:

Fifi's Fine Resale Apparel of San Marco: Fifi's has a reputation for carrying high-end (boutique) merchandise for an affordable price. Fifi's did not disappoint! It was very well organized. Their team is very friendly and helpful. Every day they have tags that are marked 25 percent, 50 percent, and 75 percent off. Their goal is to move merchandise. It's a great business model that is a win-win for the shopper. Off course I was dumpster diving for the 75% off and found several cute things, such as an adorable Michael Kors sweater with a leather pocket, Worthington pencil skirt with a gold zipper down the front and a Chocolate Aigner bag. My stack of clothes was huge! My spree was under \$200. Pro tip: Bring a shopping bag



because they don't have carts.

City Thrift on Edgewood Avenue: They have everything under the sun: Houseware, furniture, electronics, shoes, and clothes. I scored 3 adorable summer tops for a total of \$5. Every Monday they offer a senior discount of 20 percent off your purchase for folks over 50. The store's footprint is very large. Give yourself plenty of time to look around and to sift through the clothing section. My friend, who re-sells on Poshmark, found several boutique pairs of shoes and a few tops with the tags still on them.

If you have never shopped at a thrift store for clothing, I would recommend Fifi's. Their inventory is top quality, not to mention the store is organized. It's the perfect segue from regular retail to thrift. You'll pay a fraction of the price and walk away with a boatload of name brand merchandise!

Happy Shopping and Savings! Don't forget that "Being Thrifty Is Nifty!"

Yvette Outler is a Dave Ramsey's Solution Master Financial Coach. If you are in over your head in debt and need hope and help, contact her at Fiscallyfree7@gmail.com.



Baby Donations needed!

The Nest, A Women's Center, is in dire need of new or gently used Baby Items.

Diapers (mostly size 3 and 4); Pacifiers; Bottles; and any kind of Baby Formula

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Senior Citizens Art Classes Coming

The West Nassau Historical Society is pleased to announce the offering of two art classes for senior citizens age 55 and over to be held this March. Each class will be held at the historic Callahan Train Depot Annex at 45383 Dixie Avenue. Art supplies will be provided by the Historical Society. A signed entry form and nominal fee are required for each participant to attend the classes.

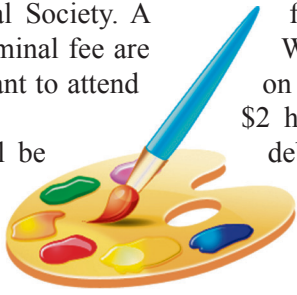
These two classes will be held Tuesday, March 7 and Thursday, March 9 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. and will be taught by talented Nassau County artist and instructor Ed Mosher. Ed began painting as a young child and has been sharing his impressions of nature through art ever since. He and his wife have resided on Amelia Island for over 30 years and Ed is an active part of the Plantation Artists' Guild and Gallery since its early beginnings. Class fees are \$15 for

one class or \$25 for both classes.

Class sizes are limited so preregistration is required. A registration form is available from the West Nassau Historical Society website: www.wnhsfl.org or by calling 904-879-3406. Mail the completed form with payment to the West Nassau Historical Society on the address on the form. A \$2 handling fee will be added to debit and credit card payments.

The finished artwork will be exhibited during the Wearing of the Green Ice Cream Social on Friday, March 10 at the Callahan Train Depot.

The West Nassau Historical Society is an all-volunteer nonprofit dedicated to the promotion of history and culture in Nassau County, Florida. Funds for these classes are made possible in part from a grant from Arts and Culture Nassau, an advocacy group for the arts and cultural events county-wide.



Community Pinewood Derby Races

Invites you to get your race on!

Come out and race Pinewood Derby Cars!



When: Saturday, February 4 at 5 p.m.

Where: First United Methodist Church of Callahan

Registration Fee: \$5 at the door

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UPDATED CSX Railroad Crossing Closures

On behalf of CSX, the Nassau County Road Department is issuing a Notice of Intent to Begin Construction on the following railroad crossing due to repairs needed. They will be working as hard as possible to have the one way in and out crossings accessible within 24-hour period (or less). Other crossings will be closed between 2 to 5 days, varying on repairs needed.

Old Kay Town Road (Private), Bryceville

Feb. 8 at 8 a.m. to Feb. 9 at 8 a.m., one way in and out

Church Avenue (Private), Bryceville

Feb. 8 at 8 a.m. to Feb. 9 at 8 a.m., one way in and out

CR119, Bryceville

Feb. 8 at 8 a.m. to Feb 13 at 8 a.m.

Proposed Detour: US 301 South to US 90 west to CR 121 north to CR 119

Country Lane (Private), Bryceville

Feb. 9 at 8 a.m. to Feb 10 at 8 a.m., one way in and out

Hambone (Private), Bryceville

Feb. 13 at 8 a.m. to Feb. 14 at 8 a.m., one way in and out

Poder Place (Private), Bryceville

Feb. 13 at 8 a.m. to Feb. 14 at 8 a.m., one way in and out

Brooks Road, Bryceville

Feb. 13 at 8 a.m. to Feb. 14 at 8 a.m., one way in and out

Janes Lane (Private), Callahan

Feb. 14 at 8 a.m. to Feb. 15 at 8 a.m., one way in and out

Crawford Road, Callahan

Feb. 15 at 8 a.m. to Feb. 20 at 8 a.m. Proposed Detour: US 301 to US 1 to Brandies Ave./River Rd. to CR 121 to Crawford Road

Sandy Ford Road, Callahan

Feb. 15 at 8 a.m. to Feb. 15 at 8 a.m., details pending

Bellamy (Private), Callahan

Feb. 16 at 8 a.m. to Feb. 17 at 8 a.m., one way in and out

Please note that any/all dates are subject to change due to weather and/or other conditions. For additional information, please contact Erika Nickell at Southern Commercial Development 1-229-262-4394.

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Freezing Temperatures make Citrus Drive a Success



Record-breaking freezes in Nassau County did not stop volunteers and homeowners from providing fresh citrus to neighbors in need. Over 15 generous homeowners invited 23 volunteers to pick surplus and fallen fruit from their trees to benefit the Barnabas nutrition programs. “We felt blessed to pick 375 pounds of oranges, grapefruits and tangerines and donate to Barnabas!” said Justin Rimondi, Memorial United Methodist Church’s youth director. “We consider this year’s citrus drive a success despite the freezes this month.”

Rimondi had learned about citrus drives while participating in a Feeding Northeast Florida event in Jacksonville, which sent teams of volunteers into the community to pick unwanted fruit from residential properties. “Bringing this opportunity to Amelia Island is such a benefit for our community. It helps the donors and the mission of Barnabas and prevents waste,” said Remondi. “We are honored to collaborate with St. Peters Episcopal Church and Barnabas for this bountiful gift.”

For the second year, Memorial United Methodist Church and St. Peters Episcopal Church worked together to

sign up the homeowners who had citrus trees and the volunteers who wanted to pick the fruit. The teams of volunteers included individuals of all ages from singles to couples to families who had a range of experiences picking fruit. Jamie Reynolds, Barnabas President/CEO said, “We are so humbled by the support and partnerships we have with both Memorial United Methodist Church and St. Peters Episcopal Church. This citrus drive is one example of many neighbors helping neighbors to provide help and hope.”

Barnabas is Nassau County’s only comprehensive service center to help our neighbors in crisis so that they can become healthy, productive citizens. Through our partnerships, we reach even more people and maximize resources. We address critical issues facing our community, such as hunger, affordable health care, and homelessness prevention.

The Barnabas mission is to provide help and hope to individuals and families in need throughout Nassau County, to improve their stability, health, and well-being. For more information, please visit: www.BarnabasNassau.org

OREMC Storytime Launches to Support Early Childhood Literacy

Get ready. Get set. Read! Okefenokee REMC is pleased to announce the launch of its virtual OREMC Storytime, in partnership with Ferst Readers. Each Sunday at 1 p.m., a new story will be posted on OREMC’s Facebook page and YouTube channel. Books will be read by OREMC employees, board directors/trustees and/or community members targeting the co-op’s littlest members. “It was an idea born during the COVID lockdowns when very few were going very far,” explains OREMC Communications/Marketing Coordinator Michele Hutchins. “With schools closed, and many parents working at home, the idea of a children’s story time flickered as a way to share the magic of books virtually, given kids couldn’t gather for story time in their classrooms.”

It wasn’t until employees returned to more normal schedules that planning and logistics began to fall into place. OREMC was already a major supporter of early childhood literacy through its partnership with Ferst Readers, where families can sign up their child to receive an age-appropriate book a month from birth to five years old, at no cost to them. “Ferst Readers is a program our General Manager John Middleton heard about and thought fit very well with our founding principles of supporting and promoting education in our communities,” explained OREMC Members Services Manager Dewayne Johns. “Working with Michelle Maddox at Ferst Readers, the co-op has been instrumental in helping



to launch several Ferst Readers chapters in our service area including Baker and Nassau counties in Florida, and Brantley, Charlton, and Glynn counties in Georgia.”

To strengthen the partnership and further promote early childhood literacy, OREMC Storytime has been launched. Some of the books being read were provided by Ferst Readers, while others have been chosen by the readers themselves. “Many of our employees have young children and have selected current favorites to read, while others have chosen some classic favorites to share,” Hutchins explains. “One employee’s grandmother wrote a couple of books, and she is reading those, and one of our linemen is a native Spanish speaker and he will be reading in Spanish. So, there will be a wide variety of stories over the next six months.”

For more information about Ferst Readers and OREMC’s partnership, listen to our Plugged In podcast on Amazon, Apple, Google, Spotify or online at <https://radiopublic.com/plugged-in-Wa1LqD/s1!085a5>. You can also visit <https://ferstreaders.org/>.

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VFW Post 10095 YARD SALE, Saturday, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., across from the Hilliard Airpark on Eastwood Road. \$5 BAG SALE! New donations! Help Support our Veterans!

INDOOR YARD SALE, Friday & Saturday, from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., North Hilliard Baptist Church, 552823 US Hwy. 1.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Northeast Florida Community Action Agency, a non-profit Florida corporation is soliciting proposals for an **Energy Auditor/Pre-Inspector** for Weatherization Assistance Program. Bids are due no later than February 3, 2023. A bid package may be obtained on the Agency's website <https://nfcaa.org/> under "News and Press" or by email request to kmarino@nfcaa.org.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Northeast Florida Community Action Agency, a non-profit Florida corporation is soliciting proposals for a **General Contractor** for Weatherization Assistance Program. Bids are due no later than February 3, 2023. A bid package may be obtained on the Agency's website <https://nfcaa.org/> under "News and Press" or by email request to kmarino@nfcaa.org.

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The Time is Now!

Douglas C. Pearson, Sr.

We've all suffered through the revelations that have come to light from the January 6th demonstrations, and they were nothing more than that, which brought to the attention of everyone how corrupt and devious "The Swamp" has become. One person was killed during those demonstrations and that was an un-armed woman who was shot by a partisan Capital Police Officer, who has been wrongly exonerated of his crime and is still armed and on staff on the Capital grounds.

Now, after the targeted persecution of a former President, we find that the sitting president has demonstrated nothing but ignorance with his careless custody of classified documents. Not only in one place, but three different places that do not meet the requirements for securing such documents. Also, we find that when these documents were taken there was absolutely no provisions that would have permitted this man to have custody of said documents. All this coming to light after the current president criticized the former president for his "irresponsible" actions.

It has also been discovered that the first batch was found in a place called the "PennBidenCenter," described as a Joe Biden "Think Tank" at the University of Pennsylvania. How ironic as thinking is one action this president can't be said to have done yet. Even the boxes containing subsequently discovered classified documents, later found in the garage of his home, were identified as "Personal Papers."

The big question remains why, when they were removed from offices in the White House over six years ago, they were never noticed as being gone? Custodial papers have to exist as to who signed for these documents, along with the fact that they were never returned

to their secured location. That is how the system is supposed to work, or at least that is how it worked when I had a security clearance.

The former president had more security than the sitting president before his election, purely by the fact that his location was secured, the documents were under lock and key that was requested by the national archives, and under Secret Service Protection. Far better than in a cardboard box, next to a car, in a garage of a private residence! (Remember, the Wilmington, DE, home was only a private home without any security or secret service protection until Mr. Biden was elected President.)

Right now, Mr. President, you need to come forth and get straight with the people. Stop reading prepared statements, like you were in kindergarten trying to recite the stories of "Dick and Jane." State the obvious, that you are not mentally capable of holding the office that you occupy, and exit as gracefully as possible. But before you do that, you need to "Fire" the Vice-President for her comparable inability to comprehend the magnitude of her position and leave the avenue open for Kevin McCarthy to progress to the White House.

That is how bad the crisis is, that YOU have created, in the National Security of The United States of America. You are an embarrassment, unable to think for yourself and cannot do the job that you now hold. Failing to do so will complete the process, that you began, which will find us under the socialistic thumb of China and Russia. Everything you have done has made this country so weak it is unable to defend itself and/or survive. You need to do it NOW, as you have lost the confidence of the American People. You remember them? "We the People..."

An Evening with the Stars Tickets on Sale

St. Marys Little Theatre will open its 4th production of "An Evening with the Stars" on March 3 with a performance that begins a two-weekend run at Theatre by the Trax in St. Marys. Audiences who experienced the 2022 Evening with the Stars performances demanded a comeback, so Writer and Director Barbara Ryan re-invented the show to be hosted by a Liza Minelli personality this year.

This original variety show features 26 new celebrity appearances by some of the entertainment world's most popular stars performing their most popular hits or acts. Look and sound-alikes from St. Marys Little Theatre's impressive pool of talent will take the stage for four evening and two matinee performances. "We've mixed some comedy in with several music genres from country to pop to rock," said Barbara Ryan, who is also founder and

chair of St. Marys Little Theatre.

In addition to Liza Minelli, each show will feature acts that include Elvis, The Blues Brothers, Whitney Houston, Billie Holiday and more. "There is something for everyone in the 'Evening with the Stars' lineup," Ryan said. "This will be a fast-paced show that will take some people down memory lane and inspire others to explore the music that America loves."

Performances of "An Evening with the Stars" are Fridays & Saturdays, March 3, 4, 10 and 11 at 7 p.m.; and Sundays, March 5 and 12 at 2 pm. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for kids 12 and under. Groups of ten or more get a discount. Tickets can be purchased online at www.stmaryslittletheatre.com or in downtown St. Marys at Once Upon a Bookseller. Call 912-729-1103 for more information.

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OBITUARIES

CARRIE REVELS MCCOY



Carrie Ophelia Revels McCoy, 67, of Jacksonville, went home to be with the Lord January 21, 2023. Carrie was born on June 28, 1955 and lived in Jacksonville most of her life. She grew up in Marietta, Georgia and attended Ed White Senior High. To know Carrie was to love her. She may have been small in stature but she was mighty in personality. Her smile and laugh were undeniably contagious. In her spare time Carrie loved to craft and decorate! She also loved watching her "shows" Buffy, Angel and the Golden Girls, just to name a few. She loved shopping especially for all the newest makeup and she loved all things Elvis. To her children - she was "momma." If you needed a good laugh or if you needed a good cry - they called "momma." Carrie will be missed immeasurably and loved for all eternity. "Til we meet again, may God bless you. Adios." - Elvis Presley 1977.

Carrie's last message to her children: "To all my babies. I'm going to be watching over each one of you. I'm not far, you just won't see me. I love all of y'all with all my heart. Your ever grateful Momma."

She is preceded in rest by her father Charles "Charlie" Revels; twin sister Laura Mae Burnett; and grandson Owen Reed McCoy.

She is survived by her children Clinton McCoy, Christopher (Lisa) McCoy and Robert (Shelby) McCoy and Ashley (Rusty) Butler; grandchildren Stephen, Summer, Jack, Lillian, "liddle" Rusty, Arabella and Tommy.

JAMES "JIM" MORGAN



James "Jim" Morgan, 83, of Bryceville, passed away on December 15, 2022. He was born June 22, 1939, in Clements, Maryland to William Morgan and Pearl Hagan Morgan.

Jim settled down with his wife, Joyce and son John in Bryceville, which became their forever home. Jim, Joyce and John's relationship was inseparable and very special. He was a wonderful husband and father that was a true gentleman who led by example. Jim's word was his bond, and it was as good as gold. Although Jim was a sociable person through his career at Independent Life Insurance Company, he was a homebody and liked his privacy. When Jim wasn't working on projects with John, he enjoyed fishing and spending time with John and his grandson, Garrett on their boat. He also enjoyed and appreciated classic cars. More than anything, Jim was a simple man who thoroughly enjoyed life. Jim will be dearly missed by all who knew him. Jim is preceded in death by his son John Morgan.

Jim leaves behind his loving wife of 63 years, Joyce Morgan; grandson Garrett Morgan. The family would like to acknowledge a few friends that became family over the years and held a special place in Jim's heart, Myrna Taylor, Sheri (Jeff) Bentley, Tricia (Dan) Delgross and Billy (Connie) Curtis.

A celebration of Jim's life will be held privately by the family at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family would like donations made to a local Hospice Center or a charity of your choice.

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

Visit www.nassauffh.com to sign the family's guest book.

Obituaries are published free of charge.

Email: news@westsidejournal.net.

Art Show Winners Announced



The West Nassau Historical Society hosted the 11th annual Nassau Art at the Callahan Depot art show and shop held last Saturday inside the historic Callahan Train Depot. Over 150 guests visited the 1881 train station to view 55 pieces of art created by 19 Nassau County artists. After the 2+ hour show ended at 12:30 p.m., the artists were treated to a delicious luncheon inside the depot annex.

Fifth generation Floridian and renowned nature and landscape painting Allison Watson of Jacksonville judged the show. The winners from the three categories of painting, photography and 3-D art were announced: Painting: 1st Place, Ginger Bender; 2nd Place, Barb Wylie; 3rd Place, Ann Wamack; 3D Art: 1st Place, Mary Jury; 2nd Place, Elizabeth Weigel; 3rd Place, Savannah Harrison; Photography: 1st Place, Evelyn McDonald; 2nd Place, Brandy Meredith; 3rd Place, Evelyn McDonald; People's Choice Award: Ginger Bender's The Marina.



Six of the winning artworks will be on display at four locations around Nassau County. The venues and dates are: Nassau County Courthouse Yulee, January 30 - February 2; Amelia Island Museum of History, February 2 - 10; Southeastern Bank, Hilliard Branch, February 10-17; Vystar Credit Union, Callahan Branch, February 17-24. These dates are subject to change without notice.

The West Nassau Historical Society is an all-volunteer nonprofit dedicated to the discovery and promotion of the rich and diverse history and culture of Nassau County. The group is also members of Arts and Culture Nassau, an county-wide advocacy group for the arts. The historical society is always looking for new members and volunteers so visit www.wnhsfl.org, download a membership form and join us today. Like our Facebook page for more photos of the art show as well as info on history and upcoming events.

Have you ever considered pre-planning your own final arrangements?

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Several plans and payment options are available to fit every need. If you would like to discuss arrangements or have any questions, we encourage you to contact us.

Dana Forbes, Preneed Agent/Office Manager

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County Earns Three Awards from the Florida Planning & Zoning Association

During the most recent Florida Planning & Zoning Association's Awards Banquet, the Board of County Commissioners won a total of 3 awards for several Nassau County projects and initiatives, further demonstrating the County's commitment to building a resilient, sustainable, and people-centric future that prioritizes quality of life and quality of place.

The First Coast Chapter of the Florida Planning & Zoning Association (FPZA) is a fourteen-member board of directors that annually nominates specific awards throughout the Northeast Florida region. Board member, Sarah King, stated, "Every year, an award chairman and a four-person committee are selected to review and verify that all the nominated projects meet the specific award criteria. With several projects being reviewed, the committee is responsible for selecting and nominating the award winners for each category to the full board of directors for final approval. This process is vetted to the entire board and not every submittal is guaranteed the award. FPZA is proud to present three outstanding Nassau County projects at our annual awards ceremony."

The first award was an Outstanding Public Participation Award for the American Beach Cultural Heritage Experience Enhancement Initiative which was designed to capture the essence, protect the sense of plan, honor the rich cultural heritage of the community, and authentically tell the story of American Beach through the built and natural environment.

The project began with a survey of existing conditions of the street network, utilities, tree canopy, parks and beaches. This effort was followed by hundreds of hours of community engagement including telephone interviews, online surveys, public



workshops, and meetings at American Beach for the purpose of obtaining input from the residents on future enhancement projects that reflect the community's values. The result was the creation of a long-term visioning plan that provides for public infrastructure enhancements, installation of public water and sewer, paving of roadways, street lighting, installation of historical markers, expansion of the A.L. Lewis Museum, park improvements and resource protection.

The second award was an Outstanding Public Impact Award for the Westside Regional Park. This park is located off US 1 between Callahan and Hilliard and will serve as a centrally accessible park amenity that retains the visceral beauty of the natural environment. The site's varying ecosystems include pine flatwoods, a freshwater marsh, and hardwood hydric forests which function together as a diverse yet cohesive setting. Spreading over 110 acres, Westside Regional Park will feature a variety of recreational opportunities for residents to enjoy including, but not limited to, outdoor event/green space, community playground, restrooms, multi-use trails, outdoor fitness stations, a fishing pond and multi-purpose fields. The conceptual plan for this park was derived from community input collected through a series of citizen surveys and public outreach

events. The Westside Regional Park is currently in the final stages of engineering for Phase One with construction anticipated to begin in the fall of 2023. Upon completion, the Westside Regional Park will be a world-class destination unlike anything Nassau County has ever seen.

The third and final award from the Florida Planning & Zoning Association was an Environmental/Natural Resources Award for the County's Conservation Land Acquisition and Management (CLAM) Program adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on January 25, 2021. The purpose of the CLAM was to preserve and conserve the County's natural, historic, and working lands resources by identifying, ranking and accessing conservation lands for acquisition and management. An essential tool of the CLAM Program is to create, analyze and manipulate geographic information, known as data layers. These data layers are maps of resources which can be displayed as they overlap and interact, and where different statistical and analytical

processes can be applied to better understand a landscape filled with multiple interacting resources. Nineteen different data layers were selected for consideration, representing different potential conservation resources. The different data layers all relate to one of the four most common considerations for acquiring conservation land: Water Issues, Habitat and Species Protections, Working Lands, and Outdoor Recreation/Quality of Life. This map is used to analyze properties being considered for acquisition. By having a CLAM Program in place, the County will increase its ability to further preserve our natural environment and enhance quality of life for our residents. County Manager, Taco Pope, stated, "I am extremely proud of all the hard work and effort put into these initiatives and for being selected for these three prestigious awards. As Nassau County continues to grow, it is imperative that we have plans in place to accommodate current and future residents while protecting the County's unique history, culture and natural environment. I feel fortunate to be a part of these initiatives which will benefit the community for many years to come."



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Explorer Unit 2023



The Nassau County Sheriff's Office Explorer Unit has begun 2023 with a lot of exciting benchmark training! We began with introduction into criminal law and firearms safety. The explorers became certified in CPR/first aid and then received training in 911 communications and portable radio usage.

This is just some of the training offered to our youth through the explorer program. The year has just begun and so have our training opportunities. We look forward to scenario based, practical, and competitive training as well as hands on community service activities.

Investing in our youth offers hope and positive growth in our communities. If you are interested in law enforcement career training contact Nassau County Sheriff's Office at 904-548-4012 or visit: www.nassauso.com/programs/explorer-program/.



CCDF Meeting Next Thursday

Join us for dinner and learn about important things that are taking place in Nassau County. Hear from our Nassau Executive Director, Jack Knocke and Division Leaders on our staff and our newest District 4 County Commissioner Alyson McCullough. We are training Nassau County Citizens to recognize the problems and take action - with facts, backed by the law, with a respectful and Biblical approach. Hear from Alyson McCullough concerning current projects and how you can get involved and make a difference locally.



Now it is time to get to work on several key projects in 2023. CCDF (County Citizens Defending Freedom) Nassau County is opening the year strong with a team of active volunteers engaged in several important projects, but we need more help. Attend to find out more about the projects we are working on or just starting.

CCDF-Nassau - West side February meeting

Speaker: Alyson McCullough, Nassau County Commissioner
Thursday, February 9, The Pig Barbeque, Callahan; 5:30-7 p.m.

We are also having private meetings at homes or businesses for groups who want to find out more about CCDF-Nassau - the organization, the approach, the mission. Find out how you can SHINE LOCAL LIGHT and TAKE LOCAL ACTION to protect freedoms and promote transparency. It is easier than you think to get involved and make a difference. Join our email list by signing up on our NEW CCDFUSA Nassau County webpage at <https://ccdfusa.com/fl-nassau/>. For more information, email ccdfnassau@gmail.com.

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New Listings YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS!

45824 Pickett St. • Callahan

Acreage! This 3 bedroom, 1 bathroom home is set on 2.31 acres of high and dry property. There is plenty of space for gardening or adding covered storage with an additional driveway provided. This home boasts beautiful original wood floors, a large kitchen with plenty of space for a dining table and much more. There is an additional well and septic from a previous mobile home that was on the property. Buyer to verify with county, but may have potential for an additional dwelling. No HOA or CDD fees and nearby schools are rated "A".



44320 Caties Way • Callahan



This beautiful brick, 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom home has been fully renovated. Featuring vinyl plank flooring in the kitchen, dining room and bathrooms. All new stainless steel appliances, new exterior doors, faucets, sinks, countertops and fixtures. Includes new roof installed in 2021, water heater in 2022, and a new HVAC system. Located in the desirable Green Meadows subdivision with low HOA fees. Nearby schools are rated "A". Just a short drive to Jacksonville, Yulee and Fernandina.



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