

"FINALLY, BE STRONG IN THE LORD AND IN HIS MIGHTY POWER. PUT ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD, SO THAT YOU CAN TAKE YOUR STAND AGAINST THE DEVIL'S SCHEMES." - EPHESIANS 6:10-11

Callahan Approves Top Hat Billiards

Dawn S. West

The Callahan Town Council met Monday night for their first meeting of February. Marilyn Armstrong approached the podium to address the council requesting an exception to place a billboard within the town limits. "On August 24, 2020 I submitted an application to Callahan Town Hall with one of the clerks for a billboard with the location and size. On August 28, 2020 I received approval and charged for a permit of \$80.98," said Armstrong. "We entered a contract with the landowner and also contacted a company for construction of the billboard. I contacted Town Hall January 14, 2021 to see if building permits were needed and was told Callahan does not allow billboards in the city limits and the money would be returned. We have not received any money back at this time. I'm asking the council to consider an exception for this sign."

Town Manager Mike Williams advised the council that the permit was given but when it was brought to his attention, the matter was given to the former Attorney Jeb Branham that emailed a letter to the Armstrongs about the matter and that a check would be mailed to them. "The email on the application was not correct but has since been corrected," said Williams. "The check for the refund has already been processed and mailed, as the town code does not allow billboards in the city limits."

In other business, Ms. Shirley James addressed the council concerning some issues on her property. "I purchased the property on Evelyn Street and have had nothing but issues since I did it. There is a waterline next to the box (which



Future Top Hat Billiards

is the town's) that needs to be fixed," said James. "I don't want to mess with it as I don't want to be responsible for messing up something of the town's. Also, there is a manhole on my property that is not maintained by anyone and I think the town should maintain it. It is really nasty and a mess. I just need someone to check it out."

"If the council advises us (public works) to fix it, we can. It would only take about 1 1/2 hours," said Williams. "The manhole issue, we will look at it and see what can be done."

The council approved donating \$500 to Episcopal Children's Services, as they do each year.

John Hendricks, representing the West Nassau Historical Society addressed the council concerning the upcoming Railroad Day Festival. "I just want to let the mayor and new members of the council know a little about the Historical Society," said Hendricks. "We are an all-volunteer 501c3 non-profit organization whose mission is two-fold: First, to highlight and preserve the rich and diverse history and culture that is Nassau County, focusing on the

western half of the county. Second, to maintain the historic 1881 Callahan Train Depot, which has become an icon of our community. We hope we can count on the town's support of \$1,000 donation for the Railroad Day Festival, not as a donation but as an investment."

See 'Callahan' on page 2

Drag Strip Planned at Callahan Speedway



Dawn S. West

The longtime vision for Callahan Speedway continues for Callahan businessman David Hicken. Getting approval to add a Drag Strip at the speedway from the Nassau County Conditional Use and Variance Board last Thursday was another step in the right direction. Hicken had a dream of making his property a place that friends and family could go to for fun and enjoyment. His go-kart track is always going on Saturday nights and normally packed. He has been able to add outlaw sprint karts and also motorcycle racing for special events. Last year, his RC (remote control) track opened and has been a hit by big time RC racers. RC racing is a big deal as the racers are in a circuit and race for points. It's quite entertaining if you have never watched them. They have their own area and track to race on separate from the

regular go-kart track.

Another addition was the idea to build and operate a Drag Strip. The drag strip will be 1/8 mile 2-lane strip on the south side of the current speedway. The public hearing was held Thursday night with a packed house of mostly support for the new addition to the track. There were a couple of people not really opposing but they are neighbors to the speedway with questions and comments. Even the neighbors commented to the board that Hicken is a great person and tries to make things the best for the neighbors.

Several people spoke before the board in support saying, "This would be a great thing for Callahan and the surrounding area for businesses and the youth. Teens love to race their vehicles and why not have a safe environment for them to do that?"

"We all used to do this when we
See 'Drag Strip' on page 3

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Callahan

The council approved donating \$1,000 to the West Nassau Historical Society.

Heather Hagan, representing Top Hat Billiards, addressed the council concerning the completion of her application for the Alcohol Vendor's license. Hagan has purchased the old Bingo Hall property, north of town, and plans to make it a billiard/pool hall. She was requesting approval for a beer and wine license. The council approved the request and application.

The council set a date to have a joint meeting with the Nassau County School Board on Monday, March 15 at 6 p.m. prior to their regular council meeting at 7 p.m. The joint meeting will be held in the fire station meeting room; and the council meeting will move back to council chambers for the regular meeting.

In closing comments, Councilwoman Ashton Bishop-Vargas advised the council that she has received information from FDOT concerning adding additional traffic lights. "The report stated that a traffic light at US 301 & Mickler Street would not be done as it is less than a half mile from another light," said Vargas. "A traffic light at the intersection of SR 200 and Stratton Road may still be a consideration at some point."

Councilwoman Jacquelyn Fleming advised the council that she would like the council to consider having bi-weekly

Continued from page 1

operational briefings on the opposite weeks of meetings. "These would be emails sent out to everyone about any events that may have happened to keep us up to date with what's going on in town," said Fleming. "Not all of us are able to be at town hall all week and sometimes miss things. Just something to think about."

Town Clerk Stephanie Knagge added, "We have talked about purchasing I-Pads for everyone and maybe this is a good time to consider it again?"

Councilwoman Janet Shaw advised the council that she has received three bids on surveillance cameras and will receive another one on Friday.

Williams advised the council that he had been in contact with the Town of Hilliard concerning joining together for fireworks. "Hilliard is on board for joining together and having it at the fairgrounds but they want to continue to have them July 4th. That is up to you to make that decision," said Williams. "Also, you (council) need to vote as to whether you want Attorney Christian Waugh to continue to act as Interim Attorney until we hire someone."

The council voted to make Attorney Christian Waugh Interim Attorney until an attorney is hired.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, February 16 at 7 p.m. due to the President's Day holiday on Monday.

Letters to the Editor



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.

In Response

Dear Editor,

I wish to offer support for Mr. Corbin's Letter to the Editor of the 28th of January of the Westside Journal. In addition to the current administration's stance on climate change, there are many other issues of concern - a faithless population, aggressive socialistic government, a denial of free speech and constitutional rights, abortion, immigration just to name a few. If your thought process is conservative, you are currently living in a surreal world. Just a thought, when the British were defeated at Yorktown, the British band under Lord Cornwallis' direction played "The World Turned Upside Down," sound familiar? In my humble opinion, this president has little idea what he is signing, he is simply doing what he is told, where to sign and what to say.

The country is now being directed by children who have not read history, do not understand that God placed and inspired Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, Franklin, Hamilton and others in the right time and in the right place to form this Democratic Republic; not perfect men, but not one of us is without sin. Of all other countries, in all the death and destruction at this time throughout this fallen world, each of us live in near safety, peace and the possibility of great wealth in the United States. We have the freedom in this country to pursue our dreams and look into the heavens and wonder the possibilities. "Wonder the possibilities" is what God has put into our minds and makes us separate from all His creation.

It is true we have been a very sinful nation, our greatest sin is abortion. In 1996 in this country we murdered approximately 1,300,000 children and every year since similar numbers murdered, probably 24,000,000 children from 1996 to date, for what reason I ask, for what reason? God's retribution is what we should really fear. I humbly suggest prayer, men and women of faith in a living God should come together in prayer that God will forgive us for our sinfulness and pray for His providence in this our present situation.

Spotswood B. Watkins

Thank You!

Dear Editor,

The year 2020 came to a close on a good note for 197 economically disadvantaged kids from 80 families in the Nassau County community. Santa did find his way to each of them for Christmas! And we at Joy to the Children were glad to assist. After 25 years of hosting a Christmas Day celebration including Christmas dinner and gifts of clothing, bedding, books, school supplies, hygiene products and toys, Covid made us change our ways. We couldn't safely congregate at the Yulee Middle School all under one roof for 4 or 5 hours; so we offered a Curbside Christmas instead.

With the help of our very generous community, we were able to see to it that all of the above-mentioned gifts were still available for each child, along with fresh fruit and essential food items with which families could prepare dinner. It took a lot of careful planning to make this transition, and a lot of help, for which we at Joy are most thankful!

With Journey Church offering us the use of their facilities, we had a home base. Many of our local restaurants once again pitched in with prepared foods to complement what we received through a very successful Food Drive.

Donations this year topped previous years by a large margin, and we were blessed with an abundance of Volunteers to help with everything from clothing and toy shopping to driving gifts to homes of people who couldn't make it to Curbside Christmas.

The guests who did come, drove alongside our seven tents and left with cars and trucks overflowing with bags of food and gifts.

It was a joyful, heartening occasion for all involved, and we at Joy to the Children are most grateful to everyone who helped make it happen.

Please visit our Facebook page to see what it was like to be there and to scan through our Thank You list - it goes on for pages!

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Fish Talk

Time for some Spec Fishing!

Chris Cockerham, Reel Habit

There's always a bunch of discussion as to which freshwater pan fish is the best table fare. You can argue that with old timers but the answers still the same. People up north know them as crappie and white perch...around here we call them Specks. You'll know when the bite's hot. There'll be droves of people headed south pulling Jon boats. It's almost as if the fishermen were migrating with our birds.

With that being said, speck season is here. They usually spawn in Florida from February to April. It's not uncommon for them to spawn year round especially if our winter isn't too harsh. You can find them congregating in depths of 3-8 feet of water. The big fish can sometimes be found in deeper depths. Literally a foot of water may make all the difference, so switch up.

Best tackle? Well, B "n" M makes a great rod called Sam's super sensitive. It's actually an 11' rod but, with that length, it allows you to get out past your trolling motor. You can fit that with a B "n" M pro-staff spinning reel. Overall, it's a great combination for these thin mouthed fish and it'll work in a variety of scenarios. While you're at it, spool your reel with a 6lb. to 8lb. test gamma line. Rig it with an 1/8 ounce jig and a Southern pro stinger skirt. Keep in mind that you may need to adjust for depth, current, if any, and wind. If you have no results with artificial, just tip it with minnows and use a cork to help find the depth where they're suspended. Just like most fish, minor adjustments could be the difference between catching fish and getting skunked. Adjustments can be as minor as colors, weights or even presentation.

As far as locations, there have been great reports between Lake Woodruff and in Palatka, Lake George and everything south of the St. John's River is firing off. Find some Lilly pads and make some holes to drop down in. Give it a little time to produce and if nothing big comes from it, move on. Numbers don't mean anything if the fish aren't very big. If the pads aren't producing you can simply find old lay downs and focus on the deeper points. As I've already mentioned, the difference between catching fish and not could be affected by minor depth adjustments. Always keep that in mind if things aren't very productive. As we move closer to spring, look for those fish to get bigger while the females move in!

I hope you all have a great weekend and as always, I look forward to seeing you on the water!

Drag Strip

were kids. I raced at the Jacksonville Speedway until it closed. I'd still like to do it," said a 67-year-old Jacksonville man. "Drag racing draws a big crowd and a variety of people and ages!"

Hicken is following all the rules and regulations to make his venue a safe and fun place for people to come and enjoy. "I'm really excited about this. I think it is something lots of people would like to come and watch or participate," said

Continued from page 1

Hicken. "I really don't have a timeline to get this done as everything costs money. I'll take it one step at a time until it's complete. I just want to thank all those people that came out to support this. I really appreciate it!"

Make sure to keep watching for details and pictures as the drag strip begins to take form! Congratulations David and thank you for adding great things to our community!

JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

Welcome to Obama 3.0. Biden is wearing out the pen budget signing so many executive orders in his first few weeks as president-in-thief. As of last Friday, he has signed 43 executive orders, the most ever signed by a president in such a short period of time. Basically he is working overtime to undo everything that President Trump accomplished while making America Great Again, hence the Obama 3.0 reference. We are right back to the deplorable policies of Obama and a decline of our Republic. Biden proudly boasts that "America First" is a thing of the past and he is living up to his words. He is already selling us out to the wicked world organizations and failed Obama agreements.

Back in 2020, Obummer was on the Stephen Colbert show. He told Colbert about how he could've possibly extended his tenure. Obama stated, "I

used to say if I can make an arrangement where I had a stand-in or front-man or front-woman and they had an earpiece in and I was just in my basement in my sweats looking through the stuff, I could sort of deliver the lines while someone was doing all the talking and ceremony. I'd be fine with that because I found the work fascinating." I think he got his wish, once again, welcome Obama 3.0. Now I have to ask myself, what is this fetish with basements these liberals possess?

Just a sad little note about Kamala, it must really suck being the first Indian-American, African-American, Jamaican-American female to hold the office of vice-president-in-thief and can't brag upon it because liberal democrats do not recognize gender.

Pray for our nation, for God is truly our only hope of survival.

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

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Church Shopping

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Ever been church shopping? This event usually happens when you move into a new town or if you have left a church you previously attended. It's the act of going to different churches to see which one you will begin to attend.

Many years ago my wife and I were church shopping. We had finished an assignment in the city we were in and knew we would be there 7 more months. In our search, we may not have been looking for all the right things. We were interested in a place that had sound Biblical theology, good contemporary worship and something engaging for our kids.

We visited a Bible Chapel and found all those things and more.

After the service, the man sitting in front of us welcomed us and shook our hands. We mentioned that we were in the process of moving. That afternoon, he and his buddy were at our house helping us load and unload boxes all afternoon. This guy was not a pastor or on staff at the church. He was just a regular church-goer who desired to love God and others and he did so. We knew this was the place for us and shopped no further.

How do you evaluate a worship service? We've all heard the question "How did church go this morning?" The way we answer that question tells us a whole lot. Often, we measure the church service by what it did for us. We might ask: "Did we feel the presence of God in our spirit? Did we come away feeling good? Did others say or do what we hoped for? Did we have the opportunity to do or to say what we wanted? Did anyone come and help me move furniture after?" Many times, self-indulgence becomes a motive or a goal even in our worship. We worship in hope of what we will get. This is a very dangerous goal.

Instead of self-indulgence, we should be pursuing self-sacrifice at the core of everything we do as Christians, including worship. The question we should be asking to evaluate our worship is, "What did I give up, and what did God gain?" All too often we worship expecting God to give and for ourselves to gain. Throughout 1 Corinthians, we see Paul calling the church to sacrifice for their fellow-believers might gain, so that they might be built-up. Self-sacrifice was missing in Corinth, as it is often missing in our worship today.

When you are in church this Sunday, even if it is your first time there, ask God what he asking you to give over to him. This has been the most profitable question I have asked God. "What do you want me to do?", but only when I follow his instruction after asking.

When it comes to self-sacrifice, we are given the ultimate example in Jesus. He showed us what it looks like to sacrifice Himself as instructed by the Father and for our benefit: "Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." Philippians 2:5-8 ESV

What is God calling you to stop indulging and begin sacrificing?

Library Read-In Online Event

The Nassau County Public Library System in partnership with the Association for the Study & Preservation of African American History in Nassau County and sponsored by the Friends of the Fernandina Beach Library will hold a virtual Read-In on Thursday, February 11 from 6-8 p.m. Citizens countywide are invited to participate in the online Read-In program in celebration of Black History Month. We ask that each volunteer read a 2-minute or less selection from their favorite poem, novel, speech, or quote from an African American author. To attend the program, visit the Library's website, www.nassaureads.com on February 11 at 6 pm and click on the Read-In link. Readers will be asked

to identify the author and title of their reading. The program will be recorded and posted on the library website. Community leader and president of the Historical Society, Neil Frink and Library Director, Dawn Bostwick will cohost the event. This year's special guest reader is Dr. Johnnetta Cole. Dr. Cole is a scholar and author who served as the Presidential Distinguished Professor of Anthropology, Women's Studies and Afro-American Studies at Emory University, past director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American Art and past president of Bennett College and Spelman College. Dr. Cole will speak at an additional presentation for the library on Feb. 18.

Rayna Lee Chosen as Top New Director in Mary Kay

Congratulations to Hilliard resident and business woman Rayna Lee on being chosen the number 1 Unit of All New Directors having 1 year or less in the Mary Kay industry. Rayna is director to over 50 people in her unit and has done so in less than a year. Rayna is so encouraging to all her representatives by pushing them to go the extra mile. She prays with her reps and most of all continues to follow God's leading in her life and business.



CHURCH NEWS

Lifeline Concerts presents the Kingdom Heirs from Dollywood, Sat., Feb. 6 at 2 p.m. at Old Plank Baptist Church, Jacksonville, admission \$10. Pre-concert at 1:30 p.m. with The Duncans.

KIDZ Jam Adventure! Friendship Alliance Church, Callahan! Wednesday nights through March 10, 6:30 - 8 p.m. All children ages 5 and up are welcome! For more information call 879-1907 or email Kidz@FriendshipCMA.org.

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TOWN OF CALLAHAN, FL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Town of Callahan Town Council will have a Public Hearing for a Site Plan Review for Callahan First Baptist Church
PARCEL #29-2N-25-3120-0079-0000

Tuesday, February 16th at 7 p.m. at Callahan Town Hall
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Individuals with disabilities needing a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in the program or activity should contact the office of the Town Clerk at (904) 879-3801 or clerk@townofcallahan-fl.gov at least seventy-two hours in advance to request such accommodation.

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

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Thank You Michael!

Congratulations to Michael Taylor, of Hilliard, for being an awesome person and worker! A friendly Facebook message was posted from a patron of R & R Wings in Hilliard giving accolades for the nice person and exceptional employee that Michael was! She stated, "She was going to take up a collection and present it to Michael to 'thank him' for being a great person."



be anonymous, as lots of people contributed), met at R & R Wings to present the gift to Michael. He was very surprised and shocked that anyone would do that for him! "I am really surprised and speechless. I'm not that way very often but I really don't know what to say," said Michael. "I've been working since I was 20 years old and I love what I do. Working with the public is hard but I try to be a positive light every day. I ask the Lord to prepare me for each day and to be a blessing to others. Thank you so much!"

I really don't know what to say," said Michael. "I've been working since I was 20 years old and I love what I do. Working with the public is hard but I try to be a positive light every day. I ask the Lord to prepare me for each day and to be a blessing to others. Thank you so much!"

Little did she know several other people stepped up and wanted to also donate to the collection, as they also felt his service was excellent! Last Friday, a small group of people (they wish to

Genealogy Tidbits

Claude Arpen

Five hundred years ago (1521) Ponce de Leon brought the first cattle to Florida, as stated in the book Florida Cowman, a History of Florida Cattle Raising, by Joe A. Akerman, Jr. By the mid 1600's there were Spanish ranches scattered over much of northern Florida. Later the Alachua Seminole Chiefs, Cowkeeper and Micanopy of Paynes Prairie became large cattle ranchers.

After the Spanish left Florida in 1821, Americans, mostly from Georgia, traveled down the Old Woodpecker Trail into Mid-Florida. Some family names of these early cattlemen are Chaires, Hardee, Summerlin, Parker, Alderman, Lykes, Widden, Carlton and Hendry. After the Seminole Wars many of these families relocated to central and south Florida. Today many of these families still remain active in cattle ranching.

Our meetings have been postponed indefinitely due to the virus. Hopefully, we will return to our normal scheduled meetings soon. Pray for our country, be safe and don't forget to support your local businesses.

Our normal meetings of the West Nassau Genealogical Society is the second Monday of each month at 10:30 a.m. at the Callahan Lions Club, located on US 1 north of the fairgrounds. Visitors are always welcomed!

Hilliard Parks & Recreation News

Gabe Whittenburg
Director Parks & Recreation

Greetings from Hilliard Parks & Recreation! It is hard to believe but we are already into the month of February. If your life is like mine, the days tend to run together. I hope you are able to find some time to decompress from the rat race that is life. With that said, I wanted to take some time to update you on what we have going on at Hilliard Parks & Recreation.

We are beginning to wind down our basketball season with only two more weeks to go. I have enjoyed seeing the kids on the court and the hearing the cheers of the parents from the stands. It really has been an exciting season so far. Thank you again for joining us! Right now we are beginning to transition from basketball into our Spring Soccer and Gymnastics seasons. We have received many calls and questions regarding each and are hopeful you will join us for those seasons as well. Signups for both run through the middle of February.

For all of you adults out there who are looking to get in better shape, we have

something exciting for you. Saturday, February 27 is our 1st Annual Love the Run You're With 5K. I am excited about this event because it is my first attempt at organizing an event primarily geared toward adults. I have spoken with many of our Fitness Center members and have been encouraged by their feedback. Cost to participate in our 5K is \$25 until



February 12. After this date, cost will be \$35. The event is open to runners of all ages, children and adults. I really am hopeful many of you will come and participate. I feel as though it is a great way to promote community and fitness at the same time.

To close, I would encourage all of you to come and visit us at Hilliard Parks & Recreation. I am passionate about our town and what we offer. We have a 24-hour fitness center here for you. We are in the process of making many upgrades that I will be sharing at a later date. During the summer months you'll be able to come cool off at our pool. We also have parks for walking, various playgrounds around town, a gym for basketball and more! We hope to see you soon!

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by visiting our Facebook page: Callahan Soccer Club (Click 'Sign Up' Button)

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For questions or more information, message us on Facebook, email CallahanSoccerClub2017@gmail.com or call LeAnne Martinez at 904-294-8201.

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New Beginnings and Milestones

Ashley Nicole West



Lloyd and Destiny West, of Callahan, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Ashley Nicole West. Ashley was born January 9, 2021 at 1:32 a.m. at St. Vincent's Hospital in Jacksonville. She weighed 8 pounds 8 ounces and measured 20 inches.

Paternal grandparents are Paul and Diane West of Callahan.

Maternal grandparents are Alvin Epperly of Callahan; and Cyndi Epperly of Tallahassee.

Ashley was welcomed home by her proud big brother Logan!

Happy First Birthday Jace Andrew Hoden

Jace Andrew Hoden celebrated his first birthday January 27, 2021. He celebrated his special day with a party held in his honor with big brother Grant and lots of family and friends joining in the fun! His proud parents are Ben and Kelby Hoden of Bryceville.

Proud grandparents are Kimberly and Wade Harrison; and Dawn and Scott Hoden, all of Jacksonville.



WN AFJROTC Awards Presented



Sarah Lucovsky

West Nassau's AFJROTC held their first award ceremony of 2021 recently. The cadets gathered in their class flights as a unit. Over 600 awards were given to the cadets including some special awards. The award Honor Flight was given to Bravo Flight this year. The Outstanding Cadet, given to one person for each class for demonstrating outstanding qualities went to: Freshman Class Nolan McKelvy, Sophomore Class Elizabeth Robinson, Junior Class Ethan Nipper, and Senior Class Abigail Vienneau. The AEF Academic Badge, for junior or senior cadets who maintained a 3.3 GPA and have never had a C on their transcript, went to Abigail Fahlgren.

The next special award is the AFJROTC Varsity Letter. This is given to Cadets who have met all the criteria and has been in ROTC for 2

years. The cadets who received this award are Abigail Vienneau, Drayven Hill, Kaedyn Weyburn, Destiny Rose, Ethan Nipper, Carter Lundquist, Tala Mellecker and Allen Register.

The final special award, Distinguished Cadet Badge, is the highest award that can be earned. To receive this award, the cadet must (be excellent in everything they do) and have already previously earned the Achievement Ribbon, Leadership Ribbon, Superior Performance Ribbon, Academic Ribbon, the Leadership Development Requirements Ribbon, and the Service Ribbon. The recipients of this Badge were Dravyn Hill, Alyssa Hibbs, Tala Mellecker and Ricardo Ruiz.

Congratulations to all of our AFJROTC Cadets and keep up the good work!

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www.mywestsidejournal.com

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Winners of the 9th Annual NACD Art Show Announced



Painting/Drawing: 1st place, Barb Wylie; 2nd place, Ginger Bender; 3rd place, Carol Kish; People's Choice Award, Ginger Bender.

The three winning paintings/drawings and top photography winner from the adult division will be on display at the Nassau County Courthouse in Yulee from February 1-5; Amelia Island Welcome Center in Fernandina Beach February 6-12; Vystar Callahan Branch February 13-19; and Southeastern Bank Hilliard Branch February 20-26.

We would like to thank renowned Florida landscape artist Allison Watson for judging our art competition and for all the artists who participated. The West Nassau Historical Society would also like to thank the following: Arts and Culture Nassau, a county-wide arts advocacy group that supports cultural events such as NACD; CSX



The West Nassau Historical Society would like to thank everyone who attended the 9th Annual Nassau Art at the Callahan Depot Art Show and sale held Saturday. Over 100 visitors attended the annual judged event held with COVID guidelines in place inside the historic 1881 train station. Fourteen Nassau County artists displayed their various paintings, photographs and 3-D art while some local artists also made scores of their works available for sale in our outdoor Art Shop. While the exhibition was being judged, historical society members and friends with support from Callahan Subway served a delicious outdoor luncheon for the artists.

The winners of the competition are: 3-D art: 1st place, Linda Vacca; 2nd place, Linda Vacca; 3rd place, Christine Elsesser. Photography/CGI: 1st place, Shari Bickford; 2nd place, Shari Bickford; 3rd place, Evelyn McDonald.



Transportation; Callahan Subway and the NACD art show committee (Marge Powel, Emily Baumgartner,

John Hendricks, Elizabeth Karoly, Liz Mobley and Jerry Peterson). Special thanks to: Home Depot in-kind donation and a Community Foundation Respond Adapt Recover grant for help with sanitizing and disinfectant supplies to keep our artists, guests and members safe during these trying times.

For more pictures of all the art show entries like our Facebook page or visit www.wnhsfl.org and for more information on our all-volunteer 501c3 nonprofit group and upcoming events.

Lee-Jackson Celebration Held

Kim Hoffecker

On a recent Sunday evening, members of Kirby-Smith Camp #1209, Sons of Confederate Veterans, along with family and friends gathered for their annual Lee-Jackson Celebration, honoring the memories of Robert E. Lee and Thomas Jonathan 'Stonewall' Jackson. This is a yearly event that all S.C.V. camps are encouraged to participate in to celebrate the birthdates of Lee (January 19, 1807) and Jackson (January 21, 1824). After enjoying a wonderful meal at Maggiano's Little Italy, the group was treated to a presentation by local historian Larry Skinner of Bryceville.

Mr. Skinner spoke about the skirmish at Cedar Creek and Camp Mooney Cemetery. The skirmish occurred on March 1, 1864, ten days after the Battle of Olustee and took place near present day Lane and Lenox Avenues on Jacksonville's westside. As a



result, the Union losses were one killed, four wounded and five captured with the Confederates losing seven killed and twelve wounded. Among those killed was Captain Winston Stephens of the 2nd Florida Calvary.

Shown are two attendees that won wooden replicas of the Confederate Battle Flag and General Lee's Headquarters Flag. Following the program, Camp Commander Calvin Hart presented Mr. Skinner with a commemorative plate in appreciation of his time and historical knowledge.



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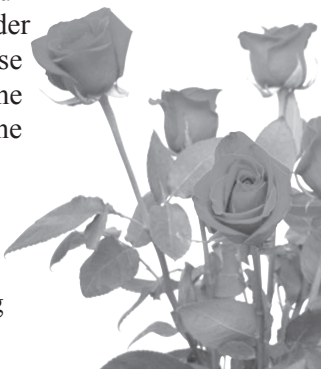


Callahan Garden Club News

The Callahan Garden Club will resume their regular monthly meetings Wednesday, March 3 at 10 a.m. at the Club House, 45251 Fourth Avenue, Callahan.

A guest speaker is planned along with informative seasonal garden tips and a shared luncheon. Please wear a mask and we will practice safe health recommendations. Visitors are always welcome to attend our meetings and we encourage those in the Callahan community interested in gardening, horticulture and the environment to consider joining our Garden Club. For more information, please contact our president, Janet Shaw at 904-707-1561. The Callahan Garden Club is an Affiliated Garden Club of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs.

Winter garden tips: These cold winter months are a good time to plant bare root and burlap wrapped plants. Be sure to keep them well watered. February is the time to prune roses. Do not prune spring blooming plants such as dogwoods or azaleas.



Barnabas Upcoming Food Distributions



As the major safety net organization for Nassau County residents in need, Barnabas Center is on the front line of helping residents in need during the COVID-19 crisis. Services offered to Nassau County residents with low to moderate incomes include food assistance, financial assistance, and medical and dental care.

Food Assistance: We provide about a 3-day supply of food per household that may include produce, dairy, meat and nonperishable items. For more information about our food programs, visit www.BarnabasNassau.org.

Upcoming Food Distributions:

• **February 15th** – First Baptist Church, Hilliard (15850 CR 108, Hilliard, FL 32046) 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. (In partnership with Feeding Northeast Florida, Bryceville First Baptist Church, and River Road Baptist Church)

• **February 20th** – Greater Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church (45031 Historical Ln, Callahan, FL 32011) 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

• **February 25th** – Mt. Olive Baptist Church (49167 Mt. Olive Road, Kings Ferry, FL 32046) 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. (In partnership with Mt. Horeb Baptist Church, St. James Baptist Church and Hisbon Baptist Church)

For information about available assistance and eligibility, contact Barnabas at (904) 261-7000, visit www.BarnabasNassau.org, or follow our Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/BarnabasNassau. For your safety and others during the pandemic, please call Barnabas for a telephone pre-screening for financial assistance, food stamp and/or Medicaid applications before visiting the 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.

Tuesday, January 26

Mason Edward Guthrie, 43, 37029 W. Fourth Street, Hilliard: Walton County Georgia Warrant Failure to Appear Possession of Methamphetamine

Wednesday, January 27

Amber Lynn Mencner, 30, 281072 Franklin Road, Hilliard: Possession of Weapon by Convicted Felon; Possession of Methamphetamine

Randall Alan Lamp, 53, 44155 Bryce Lane, Callahan: Sexual Offender Failure to Register; Sexual Offender or Predator Residency Violation

Thursday, January 28

Justin Tyler Billington, 28, 28112 Charity Lane, Hilliard: Failure to Appear Violation of Probation 4 Counts of Uttering

Saturday, January 30

Kayla Marie Rittenhouse, 19, 56105 Nassau Oaks Drive, Callahan: Possession of Methamphetamine; Possession of Schedule 1-5 Substance

Sunday, January 31

Donna Lynn Hendrix, 51, 27301 Kara Circle, Hilliard: Battery Domestic Violence

Greg Smith

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GLADYS DELORES BRAY



Gladys Delores Moxley Bray, 90, of Callahan, passed away January 28, 2021. She was born on June 4, 1930 in Creston, Kentucky to Bland N. and Viola Powers Moxley. Gladys was a member of Friendship Alliance Church of Callahan for 47 years. She retired as a school bus driver from the Nassau County School Board. She was preceded in death by her husband, Curtis W. Bray, Sr.; son Larry James Latham; brothers, Arville B. Moxley and Vernie 'Buck' Moxley; sisters, Cleo Moxley Bandy and Vivian Moxley Crews.

Gladys is survived by her daughter Lois Latham (Ken) Isley; sons Curtis W. Bray, Jr. and David Joe (Robin) Latham; grandchildren, Kenneth Isley, Jr., Wesley Bray, Amanda Bray, Dustin Latham, Sierra Latham, Kelcey Corum, Dustin Corum and Haley Barber; great-grandchildren, Serenity Latham, Emily Kate Latham, David Latham, Alice Agnew, Pria Clark, Ember Clark and Ansley Clark; nine nieces and five nephews.

Pallbearers will be Kenneth Isley, Dustin Latham, Dennis Crews, Robbie Conner, Ronald Rogers and Stanley Barber.

A Celebration of Gladys' life was held Wednesday, February 3 at Nassau Funeral Home. Interment followed at Oakwood Cemetery. The family received friends prior to the service.

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

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

ROBERT MICHAEL DYAL



On the evening of January 27, 2021, Mr. Robert Michael 'Mike' Dyal, 64, of Baldwin, went to be with the Lord in the comfort of his home surrounded by his family. Mike was born in Baxley, Georgia to Theodos Anderson. He spent years traveling the United States operating cranes, making lifelong friends and memories along his way. In February of 1996, he married his wife, Della and together they built a loving family. Mike was an avid football fan. He earned the nickname 'Bulldawg' as a testament to his love and dedication to the Georgia Bulldogs. He was known for his hilarious sense of humor and wit. Wherever Mike went, contagious laughter always followed. When he was not working or watching his favorite

OBITUARIES

football team, he enjoyed being at home and spending time with his beloved family and friends. He is survived by his wife of 26 years, Della Dyal; children Jason (Natasha) Dyal of St. Augustine, Renee Clark (Eddie) McDowell and James (Autumn) Dyal, all of Macclenny; mother Theodos Anderson; grandchildren Jacob Dyal, Valorie Dyal, Ashley Myers, Makinzie Holloway, Terry Olin Jeffers and James Michael Dyal, Jr.; great-grandchildren Raelan and Henley Myers.

Mike was preceded in death by his grandparents Elmer and Louisa Myers Dyal; and his first wife Margie Williams Dyal.

A celebration of his life was held Saturday, January 30 in the chapel of Warren Funeral Services of Baldwin with Brother Gene Hodges officiating. The family received friends prior to the service.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Mike's favorite charity, Shriners Children's Hospital at www.donate.lovetotherescue.org.

Please leave condolences at www.warrenfuneralservices.com.

Warren Funeral Services of Baldwin is honored to serve the Dyal family.

KIMBERLY MICHEL HAMILTON



Kimberly Michel Hamilton, 38, of Hilliard, passed away January 22, 2021. She was born May 21, 1982 in Jacksonville, to Anthony Joseph and Barbara Ann Hamilton. Kimberly thoroughly enjoyed her career as a CNA at the Nassau County Council on Aging. She took pride in caring for her patients and especially loved taking care of Mr. Bob Deveraux. Kimberly was also a fur mom and loved animals. She was preceded in death by her mother; and grandparents.

Kimberly is survived by her father Joe Hamilton; aunts, uncles, cousins, extended family and longtime boyfriend, Dan Nicastro.

A graveside service was held Friday, January 29 at Jones Cemetery. The family received friends Thursday, January 28 at Nassau Funeral Home.

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

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

WALTER H. HYGEMA, SR.



Walter H. Hygema, Sr., 83, of Callahan, passed away January 28, 2021 following a short illness. Mr. Hygema was born on October 25, 1937 in Beards Fork, West Virginia to Ralph and Carolyn (McKinney) Hygema. He was a devoted and beloved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He was the owner of Sherwood Hardware and had served his country proudly in the United States Navy.

He is survived by his loving wife, Judith (Sarrells) Hygema; daughter Wendy (J.R.) Barnard; sons Walt (Wendy) Hygema and Wesley (Carrie) Hygema; sister Betty Lou White; brothers Guy Hygema, Paul Hygema, Johnny Hygema and Curtis (Alice) Hygema; eight grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; several nieces, nephews, cousins and a host of friends.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, February 2 at Dinsmore Baptist Church, Jacksonville with Dr. Winson Butler officiating. The family received friends prior to the service. Interment, with Military Honors, followed at Jacksonville National Cemetery.

Condolences may be expressed at www.corey-kerlin.com.

Arrangements by Corey-Kerlin Funeral Home, Jacksonville, (904)768-2596.

JAMES ERVIN MCGEE



Bishop James Ervin McGee, 92, of Callahan, passed away January 25, 2021. He was born on October 1, 1928 in Andrews, South Carolina, to James Edward McGee and Francis Estelle Sauls. In 1953, James moved to Florida and started a family business, McGee & Son's Roofing. In 1987, James retired and passed down the family business. In September 2019, James retired from his life calling of being a Bishop at First Pentecostal Apostolic Church. James loved spending time with his family and church family, and above all loved serving the Lord. He was preceded in death by his parents; sons Mitchell Dunn, James McGee, Jr. and Robert 'Bobby' McGee, Sr.; and daughter Judy Taylor.

James is survived by his loving wife of 70 years, Gladys McGee; daughters, Michele Dunn and Mary Sydnes; sons Thomas McGee and Edward (Edith) McGee; adopted sons Gary (Melissa) DiAngelo and Robert (Molly) McGee, Jr.; sisters, Nell

Glisson and Libby Judson; a very special granddaughter and caregiver April (Bubba) Glisson; as well as many nieces, nephews, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and many other extended relatives.

A memorial service for Bishop James McGee will be held at a later date.

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

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

JACQUELINE ANITA NABERS



Jacqueline 'Jackie' Anita Wiggins Nabers, 79, passed away peacefully Sunday, January 31, 2021, in her Callahan home, after a long and difficult battle with her health. Jackie was born January 9, 1942 in Valdosta, Georgia, the third born of seven children. She moved to Jacksonville, as a child, where she met her husband, Frank Nabers. Jackie and Frankie wed on June 3, 1968 and together they raised four boys, Donald, Russell, Clifford and Randell. Jackie enjoyed simplicity and took pleasure in the small things...chocolate, sitting on a porch swing on a nice day, flower gardens and made-for-TV movies. She was dedicated to her family and was a beloved sister, aunt, wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She was preceded in death by her father Lamar Wiggins; her mother, Amy Wiggins; and her brothers Billy, Dale, Jerry and Tony.

Jackie leaves behind her husband of 52 years, Frankie; her four sons, Donnie, Russell, Cliff and Randell; her four grandchildren Summer, Colby, Amber and Ethan; her many great-grandchildren; and her siblings, Laverne and Diane. She also leaves many other family members and friends who will sadly miss her. The many years of companionship, wisdom and love she provided to her family will be forever cherished.

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

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

GERALD ELDERAGE PADGETT



Gerald Elderage Padgett, 71, of Hilliard, passed away Sunday, January 31, 2021 in Jacksonville, following a lengthy illness. He was born September 23, 1949 in Brooker, Florida, to the late A. Z. Padgett and Myrtice Tillman Padgett. He proudly served his country in the US Army. He was

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a truck driver for a number of years until his health forced his retirement. In addition to his parents; he was preceded in death by his siblings Marcia Fletcher, Patricia Crews and Edward Padgett.


He is survived by his wife Melody Powell Padgett of Hilliard; children Elaine (Gary) Starling and Lori Royal, all of Macclenny, Kayla Padgett and Gerald Padgett of Hilliard; siblings Azie Lee Allhart, Norma Lee Finley, Miriam Padgett, Linda (Darrell) Hall and Larry (Louise) Padgett; three grandchildren; a number of great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

The family will receive friends Friday, February 5 at 10 a.m. prior to the funeral service at 11 a.m. in the Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Gerald Wollitz officiating. Burial will follow at Buford Grove Cemetery with Military Honors.

Condolences may be expressed at www.shepardfh.com.

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, Folkston.

GEORGE D. POWELL, SR.

 George D. Powell, Sr. of Hawkes Bay, New Zealand, formerly of Jacksonville, Austin, Texas and Hinsdale, Illinois, passed away on January 26, 2021. He was 100 years old.

He is survived by his wife of 22 years, Joyce Tickner Powell; and his seven children by his first wife, Ruth Eleanor Powell (nee Majerski) (d. 1991): Marge Powell (Tom Palven) of Callahan, Ruth Ann (Wallace) Atwell of Atlantic Beach, George, Jr. (Vauna) of Austin, Texas, Thomas and Martin, both of Laughlin, Nevada, Jeffrey (Linda) of Minnesota and Kathryn 'Katy' (Steve) Engels of Sun City West, Arizona; 12 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild; three sisters, Orlena Klawitter, Connie Tincher and Carol Crow; two sisters-in-law Janet Hoog and Mary Ann Couture; and stepsons Malcolm Tibbles (Jay Cattanaach) and Gavin (Angela) Tibbles; as well as Gavin's son and two daughters; and Malcolm's son and two daughters. He is pre-deceased by his parents Audie Powell and Mae Mary Hoog (nee Martin); his first wife Ruth Powell; stepfather John Hoog, Sr.; brothers Jim Shugrue, John Hoog, Jr., Carl Hoog and Bill Hoog; sister Madaline Baker (nee Hoog); grandson Nathan Powell; and Joyce's son Wayne Tibbles.

George was born on May 19, 1920 in Big Point, Mississippi in the U.S. and spent his youth in Bloomington, Illinois. He joined the U.S. Navy in 1941 and served actively during World War II. He continued his service with the U.S. Navy as an active reservist until 1967. His work life was centered on the then-nascent nuclear-power industry, working on prototypical power plants at the Argonne National Laboratory

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and later at the Fermi Laboratory in the U.S. At Fermi Lab he was the technician on the team that first photographed the neutrino. George and Ruth spent many years volunteering together as Unit and District Commissioners with the West Suburban Council, Boy Scouts of America in La Grange, Illinois. George was awarded the Silver Beaver which is the highest award given to a volunteer. George was also a 4th Degree Knight in the Knights of Columbus and enjoyed serving his parish in Jacksonville. Retiring from the work life in 1982, he and Ruth spent the next 9 years traveling the U.S. visiting children, grandchildren and being actively involved in trailer-camping organizations. In 1986, he and Ruth moved in Austin, Texas. After Ruth's death in 1991, George continued to travel the U.S. and also traveled to England three times and to Australia to where one of his grandsons had migrated.

It was after his Australian trip that he met Joyce. In 1998, they were married in Austin, Texas. In 1999 George and Joyce relocated to Jacksonville, to be closer to his daughters Margaret and Ruth Ann. During their residency in Florida, George and Joyce made frequent extended visits to New Zealand to visit Joyce's sons Gavin and Malcolm and their families in the Hawkes Bay area. In 2013, they relocated permanently to New Zealand, residing in Hawkes Bay until George was admitted to Mary Doyle Nursing Home in August 2018.

George was fond of reflecting on the fact that his life had spanned the time from when man first flew in airplanes to man's arrival on the moon and the age of the international space station. When asked about his advanced age, he would quip, "The first hundred years are the roughest!" Indeed, his life was a series of struggles and hardships overcome. As he approached his own retirement, he lamented the fact that he knew very little of his forebearers and became an enthusiast of genealogy, tracing his ancestors back as far as records would allow him. This interest in genealogy and the paltry amount of information on his ancestors led him to research and publish his own autobiography as a resource for future generations to better understand him and his times.

It is a tribute to his spirit of adventure that he leaves behind many friends and relatives on three continents and one very large island in the south Pacific.

The Powell family would like to thank the New Zealand members of the Tibbles family as well as the compassionate and devoted staff at Mary Doyle Nursing Home for the care and devotion they showed our father at a time when we were unable to travel to be with him in New Zealand.

A celebration of life will be planned at a later date.

PATRICIA ANN POWERS



Patricia Ann Powers, 69, passed away January 30, 2021. She was born on June 24, 1951 in Ethel, West Virginia to Bernard Kenton and Ruby Elizabeth Holton. Patricia was raised in Jacksonville. She was a loving wife and mother that will be missed dearly.

Patricia leaves behind her husband of 37 years, Kenneth 'Wayne' Powers; children Jack Holton, Stephanie Powers, Lisa Powers and Deborah Powers; grandchildren, Cecilia Flores, Christian Durham, Angel Walker and Liam Lyons; great-grandchildren Jackson Barbee, Aubrey Durham and Tucker Cunningham.

A memorial service for Patricia will be held Wednesday, February 3 from 5-7 p.m. at Nassau Funeral Home.

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

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

CARROLL A. PROVOST, JR.



Carroll Arthur 'Buzz' Provost, Jr., 76, of Callahan, was welcomed into the arms of Jesus, January 25, 2021, following a valiant struggle with cancer. Buzz was born January 26, 1944 in Jacksonville to Carroll and Ernestine Provost. He loved his Lord, his family and his community. Buzz did not fear death because he said he trusted in God and knew where he was going. He graduated from Bishop Kenny High School in 1962. He spent years of Sundays driving the children's church bus and working summer Bible camps for Gray Gables Baptist Church in Callahan.

He is survived by his loving wife of 41 years, Patty Johnson Provost; his daughter Laura (Keith) Gunter of Alachua; son Michael (Jason) Provost of Yulee; two grandchildren Rebecca Hare and Dillyn Canterbury; two great-grandchildren;

two stepdaughters Trina (Tim) Younger of North Dakota an Cheryl Abernathy of Texas; sisters Pat (Carole) Harris and Laura Jo (Drew) Brunson of Jacksonville; several nieces, nephews, cousins and in-laws.

The family wishes to thank the many friends, neighbors and Hospice staff who provided loving kindness and support during Buzz's illness.

A memorial service was held Friday, January 29 at the First Baptist Church of Gray Gables, Callahan.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations made to Community Hospice & Palliative Care Foundation, 4266 Sunbeam Road, Jacksonville, FL 32257 or online www.communityhospice.com/give.

JAMES REAMER RENFROE



James 'Jim' Reamer Renfroe, 88, of Callahan, passed away January 28, 2021. He was born on November 18, 1932 in Alachua County, Florida, to Thomas Paul and Loca Pearl Renfroe. He and his wife, Mildred, moved to Callahan from Jacksonville in 1973. James retired from the Coca Cola Company in 1989, after nearly 40 years of service. He was a faithful follower of Christ and served his Lord through the dedicated teaching of His word for over 50 years and through service as a deacon at both Melson Avenue Baptist Church and the First Baptist Church of Callahan.

Jim is survived by his loving wife Mildred Renfroe; son-in-law Donald Mitchell; grandchildren Lacey Mitchell and Chase (Katie) Mitchell; great-grandchildren James Reamer Mitchell and Charlotte Kate Mitchell; and countless friends and family. He was preceded in death by his daughter and only child, Kim Mitchell.

A Celebration of Jim's life was held Monday, February 1 at Callahan First Baptist Church with Pastor Todd Carr officiating. The family received friends prior to the service. Interment followed at Jones Cemetery.

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

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

Happy Birthday my precious baby girl!


Taylor Michelle Overby

FEBRUARY 6, 1992 - FEBRUARY 21, 2018

I miss you every minute of every day and wish you were here to celebrate your day.

The pain NEVER goes away and NEVER gets better.

I love you,
your Nannie Ceal



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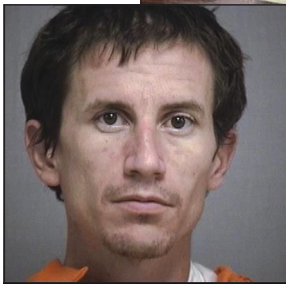
Drug House Closed for Business



Jeffery Blake Kimball was arrested and charged with: Place where Controlled Substances Kept, Sold or Used Declared a Public Nuisance; Possession of



On Friday, January 29, 2021, the Nassau County Sheriff's Office Narcotics Task Force and Special Response Team served a search warrant at 1889 Drury Road, Fernandina Beach as a result of past drug activity and sale of Fentanyl. Upon entering the home a spoon with Fentanyl was found on the kitchen stove burner, which was on. Numerous other items within the residence contained illegal drug residue, exposed needles, used syringes, as well as baggies of illegal drugs.



Corey Dean French

Corey Dean French was arrested and charged with: Possession of Methamphetamine; Possession of Heroin; Possession of Drug Paraphernalia with Residue; Possession of Marijuana; Sale of Controlled Substance. Items seized were \$336.00 in U.S. Currency, 3.3 grams of Methamphetamine, 19.5 grams of Fentanyl, .4 grams of Marijuana.



Jeffery Blake Kimball

a Weapon by a Convicted Felon; Possession of Drug Paraphernalia with Residue; Possession of Marijuana; Trafficking in Methamphetamine; Trafficking in Fentanyl; Sale of Controlled Substance; Sale of Methamphetamine. Items seized were \$4004.00 in US currency, 57.3 grams of Methamphetamine, 19.5 grams of Fentanyl, 6.1 grams of Marijuana, .22 caliber handgun revolver.

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