

"HOWEVER, I CONSIDER MY LIFE WORTH NOTHING TO ME; MY ONLY AIM IS TO FINISH THE RACE AND COMPLETE THE TASK THE LORD JESUS HAS GIVEN ME - THE TASK OF TESTIFYING TO THE GOOD NEWS OF GOD'S GRACE." - ACTS 20:24

West Nassau Key Club Induction Ceremony Held



Lacey Libby, Key Club President

The West Nassau High School Key Club was first chartered on November 8, 2019 with 40 members. It is a student led organization that focuses on the community around us and growing into effective leaders in society. We are an internationally recognized club that any student who wants to be involved with their community is able to join. West Nassau's Key Club is sponsored by the Kiwanis Clubs of Westside of Jacksonville and Fernandina Beach. We have begun partnering with local organizations and cannot wait to continue our journey in serving the Callahan and Nassau County communities.

On Tuesday, February 18, 2020, we held our first night of inductions where all members on the original charter were officially inducted into the club.

Callahan Charter Changes Discussion Continues

Dawn S. West

The Callahan Town Council met Monday night for their first meeting of March and it was a long one with a lot of discussion on one subject. The first order of business was a proclamation read by Mayor Marty Fontes. The proclamation was for the Take Stock in Children Program, which has been in Nassau County for 23 years. Through those years, they have given scholarships to 611 students from the program. This innovative and transformative program is a life-changing opportunity for students who would likely not graduate from high school and go to higher education. Currently, the organization is mentoring 114 Nassau County students that are enrolled in the program. Each student must sign a contract committing to abide by the program's fundamental rules: stay in school, maintain good grades, attend weekly mentor meetings, remain drug and crime free and exhibit good citizenship. Mayor Fontes presented the proclamation to TSIC



Board of Directors Secretary Dotti Williams and TSIC College Success Coach for Callahan and Hilliard, Johnnie Green.

Business items discussed were the approval of Resolution 2020-R03 which concerned signing and completing the State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan preparation. This is a portion of a grant the town received in the form of a loan.

Councilwoman Janet Shaw advised the council that she would like to see Mahoney Lane, Brown Street and also Robinwood Circle be paved.

Mayor Fontes advised Shaw to get RFP bids (3) and include each street to be considered on each in hopes that we

(town) can get them done while school is out.

The next agenda item concerned setting their joint meeting with the Nassau County School Board. The council agreed to meet Monday, March 30 at 7 p.m. at the Fire Station conference room.

The discussion concerning Town Charter changes continued. The discussion concerns two issues: hiring a Town Manager and not having a mayor; and changing the Town Clerk position to a hired employee versus an elected official. Mayor Fontes began the discussion by asking the council if they were all in to do this or not? "If you are not 100% wanting to make the changes then we need to move on and forget it," said Fontes.

The Charter currently includes the town with an elected Mayor and elected Town Clerk. The council and mayor are considering stripping the Mayor of his title (Chief Executive Officer and Chief Administrative Officer) and

relinquishing those titles and duties to the Town Manager, which is currently Mike Williams. The council would still remain with five council persons; within those five persons a (ceremonial) mayor can be voted on to serve. A ceremonial mayor would present awards, read proclamations, represent the town at functions, appearances at different places, etc. However, the mayor in this position would also have a vote, whereas the current mayor cannot vote.

The other charter change the council is considering is the Town Clerk position which is now elected. They propose to change it to a hired employee position. Any Charter changes that are proposed must be voted on by the Callahan city limit residents.

After much conversation, Town Attorney Jeb Branham advised the council and mayor that he would draft a few different examples of ordinances for the council to review.

The next meeting of the council will be Monday, March 16 at 7 p.m.

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WILD WEST TRAIN RIDES

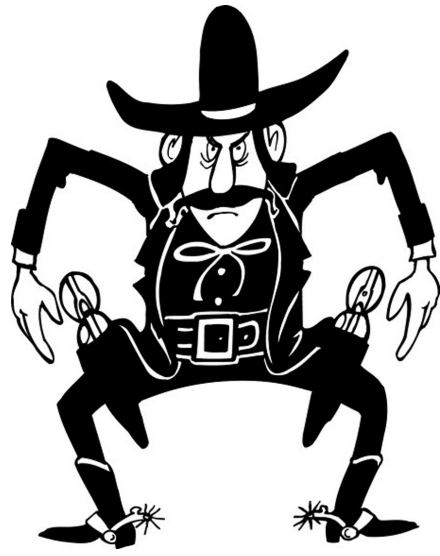
Since the launch of the St. Marys Express in 2013, one of the most popular train excursions has been the Wild West Express which returns to St. Marys on March 7 and 14. Each Saturday, the first train rolls out at 10 a.m. with other departures at noon, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Both Saturdays feature Wild West characters aboard each train and a showdown shoot-out at Frontier Land.

Before and after the train rides, passengers will be able to tour the St. Marys Railroad Museum and watch model trains make their way around the landscape.

The Wild West Express is the first St. Marys Express excursions of 2020, and entertainment director Barbara Ryan said the Wild West theme was brought back by popular demand.

"This is our 7th year running the Wild West Express, and every year, tickets sell out earlier," Ryan said. "All ages enjoy the excitement of the Wild West. It's a real adventure and a great escape from the stresses of modern day life."

For the March 7 and 14 events, St. Marys Express continues to offer the popular "At The Throttle" experience whereby people (16 or older) get to



actually run the diesel locomotive.

To ride the Wild West Express open air cars, tickets are \$20 for adults and \$14 for children 12 and under; children 2 and under ride free on laps. Rides in the diesel locomotive are available for \$50 per person, and the At The Throttle experience is \$150 per person.

Tickets to the Wild West Express must be purchased ahead of time at www.stmarysrailroad.com or by calling 912-200-5235. Groups of ten or more can get a discount code by calling 912-729-1103. At The Throttle experiences can be reserved by calling 912-729-1103 as well.

Passport Awareness Day!

The Fernandina Beach Library has another reason to love your local library; we are celebrating National Passport Awareness Day! The Fernandina Beach Library will have extended hours for passport application processing Saturday, March 7 from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Appointments are strongly encouraged, but walk-ins are welcome!

For adults we can process first time applications, and renewals for passports if issued over 15 years ago. For minors under 15, we process first time and all renewals. We process all applications for those 16 & 17 years old as well. Has your passport been lost or stolen? Did you have a name change? We can do these also. Don't forget, now you can get a passport card in addition to the book!

Getting your passport is easy and can be done quickly, if you are prepared!

You will need to bring three items: 1) evidence of your identification such as your FL driver's license; 2) evidence of your citizenship, typically your birth certificate. The birth certificate must be the original or a certified copy and 3) two checks for payment. We are happy to take the photographs for you! Photos are \$10. We have all forms available at the library, stop in before-hand to pick up yours.

Phone lines too busy? Try our new online appointment calendar!

Please check the library's website for details www.nassaureads.com; or visit travel.state.gov. New! A dedicated line is available for appointments, 904-530-6508. Refreshments provided by Friends of the Fernandina Beach Library.



EVENTS AROUND TOWN

The West Nassau High School Advisory Council monthly meeting will be held Thursday, March 12 in the media center at 4 p.m.

Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church, located at 541668 US Highway 1, Callahan, is having a St. Patrick's Day Fundraiser Dinner on Saturday, March 14 at 6:30 p.m. Traditional Irish food will be served. Tickets are \$15/adult; and \$7/children ages 13 and up; \$30/family (2 adults and children 12 and under). For more information, call 904-879-3662.

The Callahan First Baptist Food Pantry will be distributing non-perishable food from the Gym Food Pantry on Thurs., March 5, from 10 a.m. to noon; and Thurs., March 19, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Call the church office at 904-879-2172 with questions.

The Callahan Library (450077 SR 200, Ste. 15) will host Dungeons & Dragons Tuesday, March 10 at 5:30 p.m. for ages 12 - 17. A session for ages 18+ will take place Tues., March 24 at 5:30 p.m. Character creation help and no experience needed. RSVP (904) 530-6500, option 3.

The Bryceville Community Club will have US Rep. John Rutherford as guest speaker at the Tues., March 17 meeting at 11 a.m. at Bryceville Baptist Church, US 301, in the Fellowship Hall. The location changed due to elections being held at the community building. The public is invited to attend and bring a covered dish to stay for the meal.

In the Kitchen...

- | | |
|--|--|
| 8 oz. spaghetti | 2 (10.75 oz.) cans condensed cream of chicken soup |
| 2 (8 oz.) cans mushrooms, drained | 1 (16 oz.) container sour cream |
| ½ cup butter | 2 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese |
| 4 boneless chicken breast halves, cooked | |

Break spaghetti into 1 inch pieces. Cook according to package directions. Drain. Saute mushrooms in butter or margarine. Cut chicken into large pieces, and mix with mushrooms. Stir in sour cream and condensed soup. Fold in noodles. Turn into a buttered casserole dish, and sprinkle with the Parmesan cheese. Bake at 300° for 40 minutes.

Chicken Tetrazzini

Let's Play Ball! Callahan Little League OPENING DAY! Saturday, March 7

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Fish Talk

Sheepshead and the El' Cheapo

Chris Cockerham, Reel Habit

Sheepshead have been very spotty over the last two weeks. With that said, no one has really been able to get out due to the weather. This weekend is not looking any different at the moment but that can quickly change. If you do decide to give these pesky convicts a shot. Grab yourself a few Reel Habit Sheepshead Jigs or just use your favorite Carolina rig and get out there. If you're interested, the El' Cheapo Sheepshead Tournament out of Mayport is this weekend. Hopefully by now if you're participating, you have secured your bait. It's been a nasty year with all this crazy weather and our bait shops haven't been able to keep fiddlers with any consistency. As most of you know, the El' Cheapo is the largest family-oriented sheepshead tournament in the world and it's not too late to get registered. Sign up to fish at the meeting this Friday or just show up for the raffles and enjoy the family atmosphere.

Look for sheepshead to be spread out inshore as the warm winter has kept them scattered out. Try quartered crab near oyster beds as well as vertical jigging with fiddler crabs over deep structure. One of the most common practices over the years have been setting up parallel with the jetties and dropping down on top of the rocks. Both the river and even the ocean side at times can be very productive. The biggest thing will be to find the safest spot to anchor. Chum when you can to give yourself a huge advantage. Medium weight rod and reels with 20 to 30 pound power pro as your main line will provide you the best sensitivity in my opinion. If you are tying straight to a jig head, use a 20 pound fluorocarbon leader. Up size or downsizing leaders will depend on water clarity. For instance, if the water is cloudy, I'm using a minimum of 20 pound leader line. If the water is very clean, I'm downsizing my tackle to keep the fish from spotting my line. Weighs will be determined by tidal flow and water depth. Keep in mind you want the lightest weight that can be used, as long as I can feel bottom or the structure I'm fishing.

With sheepshead come the black drum and whiting. They're all starting to show up all over our region. Look for the deeper holes on the falling tides to be holding our bigger fish. You can use a variety of cut baits and tackle. To be more productive, use the quartered blue crab, fresh clams and fresh shrimp. Tip them on your favorite fish finder rig or jig head. Again, sheepshead is still spread out inshore so keep that in mind for this weekend. If the weather permits, offshore reefs are probably going to be the absolute most productive areas to target. If you choose to do so, please pay attention to the wind. It really can turn a lake into a nasty washboard. Good luck and I hope you all have a great weekend. Remember, take a kid fishing! Tight lines everyone...

 Look for us on Facebook!

JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

First, I want to give a shout-out to Brandy Branch Baptist Church. This past Sunday they held a Law Enforcement and First-Responders Appreciation Day. They recognized their support and offered prayers toward all who serve or has served in these jobs. A gift was given to each attending LEO and First-Responder. Pastor Adkison gave a powerful sermon and then a feast was provided by the church members, and I mean a feast! Thank you Brandy Branch Baptist Church!

As we as a world are facing the unknowns of the Corona Virus, it is easy to become misguided by the news agencies. Is there a threat here locally? Is there a chance of a world-wide pandemic? Is there a chance of a global economic disaster? In all three questions I would respond with yes. There is a chance this all could happen but I earnestly pray that it will not come to fruition. If we approach this threat with common sense and our political leaders here and abroad will put politics aside and focus on the pharmaceutical side, the quarantine side, travel bans and border control, this deadly virus can be stopped.

There lies the largest problem; politicians are going to grandstand in an attempt to degrade their opponents and boost their platform. Already, Democrat Pocahontas Warren is calling to divert funds from the securing of the southern border to agencies dealing with the virus. Silly at best is her idea. We must shut-off any and every avenue

that exists to prevent people infected from entering our country. It may sound cruel, but its times like these that we must put Americans first. Airports and seaports must be on the priority list as a battle front to stop infected people from coming into our nation and spreading this virus. If this interrupts someone's travel plans, I'm sorry, our citizens must come first.

Back to securing our southern border, last week three Chinese Nationals were apprehended crossing the southern border. All three had flu-like symptoms. This is unacceptable to any common-sense person. However, there lies another problem. Common-sense does not exist very much anywhere and especially in the liberal political realm. Of course the left are already calling President Trump as being inadequately prepared even though he has already appropriated billions of dollars to begin our fight against the spread. Then you have idiots like Bill Maher who is hoping the economy will collapse just to make President Trump look bad in the up-coming election and Jimmy Kimmel mocking Vice President Pence's Christian values as he heads the national fight against the virus. How low will they go?

Our biggest defense right now is avoiding crowded places if possible, wash your hand frequently and do not touch your face with your hands and of course prayers! Be smart, be safe and we will get through this crisis.

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

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It's Time to PRAY

Pastor Marty Paparo, Friendship Alliance Church, Callahan



That's a silly title, isn't it? Isn't it always time to pray? Especially when we consider the following verses: "Continue steadfastly in prayer..." Colossians 4:2; "Pray without ceasing." 1 Thessalonians 5:17. It would seem the Bible is instructing us to pray all the time. Yet, quite often, we don't.

We know it's important. Jesus tells us: "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened." Matthew 7:7-8. James tell us: "... You do not have, because you do not ask." James 4:2-3

In another Gospel book, Jesus tells us certain things will not happen except by prayer: "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer." Mark 9:29. Paul even tells us that we can move past our worries and into God's peace through prayer: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7

In our country today, in our community today, we see so many things that we wish were different and God is telling us if we would pray He would intervene: "If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14 ESV

It is time to pray. I can tell you a group of pastors are meeting together, weekly, to pray for our country and our community. We know that we must pray individually and we must pray corporately. In the verse above, 2 Chronicles 7:14, God tells us who He wants to be praying. He says, His people who are called by His name. Does that define you today? Are you a Christ follower? If so, it is time to pray.

CHURCH NEWS

FREE Chicken Dinners and Gospel Singing ALL DAY long at Lannie Road Baptist Church this Sat., March 7 from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Guest Groups are: Eternal Vision from Knoxville and The Gibbs Family from Titusville. The church is located at 5998 Lannie Rd. Jacksonville. For information call 904-924-8240.

Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church, located at 541668 US Hwy. 1, Callahan, is having a St. Patrick's Day Fundraiser Dinner on Sat., March 14 at 6:30 p.m. Traditional Irish food will be served. Tickets are \$15/adult; and \$7/children ages 13 and up; \$30/family (2 adults and children 12 and under). For more information, call 904-879-3662.

Day Out on the Ranch Retreat, Sat. March 14, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.! Hosted by Crossbow Ranch, 11990 Old Kings Rd., Jacksonville. Come and enjoy art, music, dance, bass fishing, gun safety course and visit with traveling missionaries Philip & Sharon Buss. Wear: jeans, t-shirt & closed shoes. Fun for the entire family \$5 per person with 2 meals included. Register at www.ranchretreat.eventbrite.com.

Going Beyond Simulcast with Priscilla Shirer (The War Room & Overcomers), Sat., April 25 at **True Believers Church of God by Faith**, 45083 White Road, Callahan. \$20 per person, lunch provided. Call 904-742-6942 to register.

Assistant County Manager Taco Pope Appointed to FACT Board of Trustees

Assistant County Manager, Taco Pope, was recently appointed to the Florida Association of Counties Trust (FACT) Board of Trustees. As a member of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Pope will serve beside other professionals to review claims and provide risk management services for FACT's twenty-three (23) member counties.



Trustees and look forward to using the knowledge gained to reduce liabilities against the County".

Mr. Pope stated, "The Florida Association of Counties Trust is a fantastic organization that serves Florida Counties and their residents well. I am humbled to have been selected to serve on the FACT Board of

The Florida Association of Counties Trust (FACT) was established in 1989 as a not-for-profit public entity risk pool. The organization is governed by a Board of Trustees comprised of representatives from the participating members, promoting local self-government and best serving the needs of Florida's Counties. All insurance programs are not-for-profit and are operated in the public interest.

Genealogy Tidbits

Claude Arpen

In 1834 a young David Ogilvie (1819-1881) came to Northeast Florida from Edinburgh, Scotland. He married Elizabeth Braddock in 1845 and had two sons David and William. After Elizabeth's death, he married Louranah Geiger in 1857. They had nine children: David Jr., William, Edwin, Steven, Morgan, Thomas, Margaret, Janet and Elizabeth.

The Ogilvies were in the timber and cattle business in northern Duval County. The original homestead was located near the present day Jacksonville Airport. David is buried in the Ogilvie Cemetery located at the end of Hargett Road off Lannie Road in northern Duval County. Lannie Road is named after Lannie Ogilvie (1880-1961) a grandson of David. Many descendants of this family still live in the area today.

Sources: Florida State Archives and Pioneers of Florida's First Coast.

Our program for the Monday, March 9th meeting will be presented by genealogist Linda Ellwood. The program is entitled, "When Have you Really Reached a Brick Wall?"

To learn more, come and join us at the West Nassau Genealogical Society meetings, 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 welcome!

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Quilts of Valor Topic of Quilt Guild Meeting

Sara Aicher

The monthly meeting of the Country Star Quilt Guild will be held Monday, March 9 at the First Baptist Church of Hilliard beginning with social time at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. Special guest Patsy Barr from Quilts of Valor will speak on the Foundation's history; how to become an individual member; the guidelines for donating a quilt and how to request

a Quilt of Valor. She will also talk about the pattern library that is available for inspiration.

All those interested in Quilts of Valor and/or the art of making quilts are welcome to attend this Guild meeting. The Guild meets on the second Monday of each month. More information about the Guild can be found at www.CountryStarQuilters.org.

Tragic Accident on US 301

Last Thursday evening, February 27, a fatal accident occurred on US 301 near Jane's Lane. At around 6:45 p.m. a Toyota 4 Runner driven by Callahan resident Kenneth Roden was heading south on US 301 when his vehicle struck two horses that were standing in the southbound travel lanes. A local woman driving a Hyundai was following behind the 4 Runner and witnessed the accident. Mellisa Nault, 38, pulled over and exited her vehicle to render aid to the occupants of the vehicle that struck the horses. As she exited her car, a Kia Forte driven by

Middleburg resident, Alton Branning struck one of the horses that were lying in the roadway. This caused the Kia to overturn and strike the rear of the Hyundai and Mellisa Nault as she was walking next to her car.



Nault sustained fatal injuries as a result of the collision. Nault's daughter, who was still in the car, sustained non-life threatening injuries. The driver of the overturned vehicle only sustained minor injuries and the driver and passenger of the first vehicle that struck the two horses were not injured. The two horses sustained fatal injuries.

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United States Census 2020

The 2020 Census is coming soon and there is a huge need for census takers. The pay is \$17.50 per hour plus .58 cents per mile (travel expense). It's a no-brainer if you are in need of a job and a great pay for the job. It can serve as an extra income as there are flexible hours; weekly pay and also paid training! To find out more, apply online at: 2020.census.gov/jobs.

For more information or if you need help applying, call 1-855-JOB-2020. The U.S. Census Bureau is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Drake Announced as New Director of Secondary Education

The Nassau County School District is happy to announce that Mrs. Natasha Drake has been selected as the District's Director of Secondary Education.

Mrs. Drake is a graduate of the University of North Florida with a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership. Over the past 25 years she has served as a Language Arts teacher, Assistant Principal and currently serves as the Principal of Yulee High School.



Chili Cook-Off Benefit for Marvin Sloan

Longtime Callahan residents Marvin and Cheryl Sloan have had some difficult times lately. Marvin had a serious stroke and their home is in need of remodeling to accommodate his needs. The Sloans have been longtime members of the First United Methodist Church in Callahan. They have always been on the other end of the helping and assisting others. It's time for us to step up and assist them in their time of need!

The Methodist Church is hosting a Chili Cook-Off for the Sloans. The entry is \$10 and \$5 to judge. Dinner will follow the cook-off for \$10. For more information, call 904-766-9996.

Chili Cook-Off Saturday, March 7 3 p.m.

First United Methodist Church

US 301 • Callahan

\$10 Entry • \$5 to Judge

Call 904-766-9996 to Enter!

Dinner following \$10

50/50 Raffle • Cake Auction



Partial Highlight Package: Includes 12-15 Foils, Shampoo, Cut & Blow Dry
Short Hair \$75 Medium Length \$85 Long Hair \$95

ADDITIONAL 50% OFF Receive an additional 25% OFF COUPON at time of service.
LIMIT 1 PER CLIENT MUST PRESENT AD AT TIME OF SERVICE. Expires May 15, 2020

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904-418-1664

CALLAHAN SPEEDWAY
Across from the Northeast Florida Fairgrounds • US 1

RACING THIS WEEKEND!
Saturday, March 7th at 7 p.m.
Admission - \$10 (6 years & Under FREE)
Practice - Thursdays 6 - 9 p.m.

Cart Racing Every Saturday Night at 6 p.m. For more information, call 904-254-7085

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Callahan COMMUNITY FARMERS MARKET

Local Farmers, Bakers & Makers
Seasonal, Local Produce
Baked Goods ★ Handmade Items
Great Selection of Gifts & Goodies!

SATURDAY, MARCH 7TH
Winter Hours: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Callahan Depot - 45383 Dixie Avenue
CallahanMarket@comcast.net for vendor information.

2020 SWPA LOGGING & TRUCKING EXPO

MARCH 5 - 7, THURSDAY - SATURDAY
OKEFENOKEE FAIRGROUNDS & EXCHANGE CLUB
2401 KNIGHT AVENUE • WAYCROSS, GEORGIA

THURSDAY, MARCH 5
11 am Golf Tournament*
Proceeds go to "Log A Load for Kid's Charity"
6 pm Welcome Reception

FRIDAY, MARCH 6
9 am-1 pm CLE - Continuing Logger Education*
Both FL Master Logger Renewal Update and GA Master Timber Harvester credits available.
1 pm-6 pm Registration Desk • Raffle • Silent Auction
Vendors/EXPO Areas Open - FREE Admission
3 pm-5 pm Loader Competition* Minimum age of 18 to participate
6:30 pm SWPA Members and Sponsors Supper

SATURDAY, MARCH 7
8 am-1 pm Registration Desk • Raffle • Silent Auction
Vendors/EXPO Areas Open - FREE Admission
9 am-12 pm Chainsaw Carving
9 am-12 pm Loader Competition* \$\$ Prize! Minimum age of 18 to participate
9 am-12 pm Truck Rodeo* \$\$ Prize! Minimum age of 18 to participate
9 am-12 pm Face Painting
12 pm-1 pm Raffle Drawings and Silent Auction Wrap-Up

LOADER COMPETITION TRUCK RODEO VENDORS & STATIC DISPLAYS!

FREE GENERAL ADMISSION (STARRED EVENTS * FEES MAY APPLY)
A FAMILY FUN EVENT! FUN FOR EVERYONE!
VISIT WWW.SWPA.AG OR CALL 904-845-7133 FOR MORE DETAILS.

New Beginnings and Milestones

Truett Lee Nelms



Johnny and Amber Nelms, of Callahan, are proud to announce the birth of their son Truett Lee Nelms. Truett was born February 12, 2020 at 8:56 p.m. at Baptist Hospital Jacksonville. He weighed 6 pounds 8 ounces and measured 19 1/2 inches.

Paternal grandparents are John and Melanie Nelms of Jacksonville.

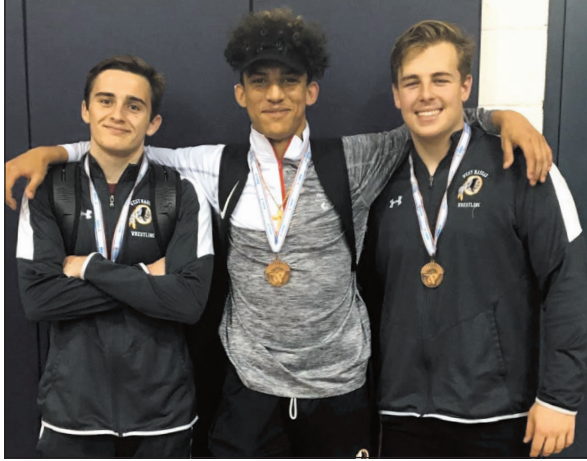
Maternal grandparents are Keith and Cindy Russ of Callahan.

Truett was welcomed home by his big sister Marlee!

Congratulations West Nassau Wrestlers



Three West Nassau High School wrestlers are headed to the state meet. This is the first time West Nassau Wrestling has had three state qualifiers. They are Bradley Hulett, Requan Works and Jackson Rowell! Good luck Warriors!



RED DOT PROJECT COLLECTION

Harley Miller, of Callahan, is collecting small cosmetic bags with teen feminine products. The Red Dot Project solely depends on donations of teen feminine products such as pads, panty liners, tampons, panties, individually wrapped feminine wipes and small cosmetic bags (Ipsy bags). Donations may be brought to the Westside Journal office, 450034 SR 200 (across from Dollar General) Callahan, 879-4180. The care packages are distributed to our middle schools and are available as needed in the nurse's office.



Country Financial Credit Union Adds New Branch in Callahan

Country Financial Credit Union will soon expand to serve the financial needs of the West Nassau County area. The credit union, which has served the Macclenny area and surrounding communities for more than 50 years, is in the process of building a new, state-of-the-art branch at 450027 Old Dixie Highway in Callahan.

On Monday, March 9, the credit union will begin operating out of a temporary branch in an existing building on the same property.

"We are eager to begin serving our members and neighbors in Callahan," said Anita Crews, President/CEO of Country Financial Credit Union. "I'm

excited to see this growth in our credit union. It is a direct result of our members' trust in us to help them meet their financial goals."

The temporary Callahan branch will be open Mondays through Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.; and Fridays from 8:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.

Construction on the permanent location – which will feature three drive-thru lanes, a drive-up ATM and a night deposit box – is expected to finish by year end. All of the employees at Country Financials' newest location are long-term, local residents. Susan Patterson, a veteran in the financial services industry, will manage the Callahan Branch.

"I have been in banking for more than 30 years with very strong ties to folks in this area," Patterson said. "I am excited to be returning to Callahan as the branch manager for the credit union. I look forward to being able to promote the credit union difference and make available all the wonderful services we offer to members."

Country Financial Credit Union currently employs 33 full-time employees and serves 6,815 members who enjoy a full suite of financial products and services.

"We are delighted to make Callahan a part of our expanding family," Crews said.



About Country Financial Credit Union: Country Financial Credit Union was originally founded as Baker County Credit Union in 1967 and expanded in 1996 to include Baldwin and the surrounding area. In 2018, Country Financial became a state-chartered credit union, gaining Nassau County as part of its field of membership.

Today, Country Financial Credit Union serves 6,815 members. Country FCU is committed to encouraging savings among its members and from these funds providing a source of credit at reasonable rates of interest. For more information or to become a member, visit countryfcu.com.

Spring CLEARANCE EVENT

Saturday, March 7

8 A.M. - 6 P.M.
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HHS Basketball Team State Bound!



Hilliard Middle-Senior High School's varsity boys basketball team received quite the send-off Tuesday morning as they headed to Lakeland. The Flashes defeated Madison County last week to move on to Final 4. Tuesday morning, the student body lined the sidewalks of the school sending the team off with cheers and high-fives. On hand to celebrate were former players representing the 1963 State Championship team, Bobby Bray, Danny Conner, Norval Conner and William Howard as well as Sam Coachman of the 1979 State Championship team.

The Flashes were scheduled to play Vernon at 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 4. If they advance, they will play again on Friday, March 6.

Good luck and Go Flashes!



WNHS Football Signs Five



Last Wednesday, five West Nassau High School football players signed their letter of intent for college. The players and their colleges are: Bryce Morris, Faulker University in Montgomery, Alabama; Bryson Williams, University of the Cumberland in Williamsburg, Kentucky; Eli Canode, Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne; Zorian Stanton, Palmeto Prep in Columbia, South Carolina; and Chaz Hirschman, University of Mount Union in Alliance, Ohio. Congratulations!

MARCH FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS

- Callahan: Thursday, March 5 • 10 a.m. - Noon • Callahan First Baptist Church
- Callahan: Monday, March 9 • Noon • NE FL Fairgrounds (Barnabas)
- Hilliard: Monday, March 16 • 10:30 a.m. • Hilliard First Baptist Church (Barnabas)
- Callahan: Thursday, March 19 • 4:30-6:30 p.m. • Callahan First Baptist Church
- Hilliard: Saturday, March 21 • 10 a.m. - noon • Gateway to Life Ministries
- Callahan: Monday, March 23 • Noon NE FL Fairgrounds (Barnabas)

Fundraiser for Trenton Fort Family

We are devastated by the heartache our small town is experiencing with the loss of Trenton. It's obvious that he touched so many lives and was the reason of many smiles of those in our community. A Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser has been organized in his honor.

Friday, March 6 • 5-10 p.m.
Callahan Country Kitchen

\$11 donation includes: Spaghetti, Garlic Bread & side salad
Your dinner can be made to go or enjoy your plate in the company of friends inside. Proceeds from the fundraiser will be donated directly to Trenton's family. Small Town Rags Boutique in Callahan has also offered to MATCH the donation amount to give to the family!

Please make sure to RSVP online at <https://forms.gle/HqKSKmqjGYhtgF5k8>. We are all Warriors and we are all #FOREVER21.



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MARCH 8 AT 11:00AM

- youth turkey calling contest
- door prizes and giveaways
- axe throwing

* must be present to win prizes
* those under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult
* any firearms awarded are subject to federal background checks

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Please join with us for food, activities, fellowship, and a Bible message. Hurricane Dorian washed out our last scheduled outing, but we anticipate a great day as families gather to celebrate God's creation.

fun for the whole family!

free admission & free BBQ lunch

MARCH 8 AT 11:00AM
Sportsman's Sunday
LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH

...Ye must be born again." John 3:7

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PAVERS, CONCRETE AND MORE! Remove/install driveways, walkways, patios, sidewalks, slabs and more! FREE Estimates! Licensed and Insured, 20 years experience. Call 904-651-5593. tfn

TREE SERVICE & STUMP GRINDING! Tree trimming, tree removal. Leonard's Tractor Service, (904) 813-9514 or (904) 562-9231. FREE estimates!

DEBRIS REMOVAL, tree removal & demolition. Call Frank at 759-3900. tfn

AIR POWER HEATING & AIR: Installation and Service. Serving Nassau County. Mention this ad to receive 10% OFF. Call (904) 314-8892. CAC1815504

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CALLAHAN ANIMAL HOSPITAL, Hours M-F, 9:30A - 6P; Saturday, 9:30A - 4P; Sunday, Noon-4P. Online pharmacy, digital x-rays, laser therapy, and lower prices. 879-3775, www.callahanvet.com. tfn

HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING. Repairs, FREE Estimates on New Installations. Licensed & Insured. Owner Timothy Reeves, Reeves Climate Control (904) 238-8492. tfn

THE MOWER & SAW SHOP! Lawn equipment repairs both 2 and 4 cycle. Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Call (904) 472-0600. tfn

SUPERIOR STUMP GRINDING: Professional, affordable, dependable, licensed & insured. Self-propelled grinder can fit through a 36" gate opening to access your yard. Any size stump. Call Robert at (904) 699-8957. tfn

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CLASSIFIEDS

Classified Deadline is Tuesdays at Noon
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SERVICES CONT.

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E-Z REPAIRS! Home repairs: Full remodels, decks, plumbing, roofing, flooring, siding, interior/exterior painting, etc. 25 years experience. FREE estimates! Call Tom at (904) 586-5078. 43020

MOBILE HOME bathroom remodeling or repairs including vinyl soffit and siding. All types of mobile home and deck repairs. Call 879-9631. tfn

ANIMALS

PROFESSIONAL PET GROOMING! Folkston, Georgia, Highway 252. Call for directions and appointments, 912-390-2881. tfn

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LOOKING FOR unwanted horses, cows and goats. FREE pick-up. Call 904-222-5054. 30520

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FILL DIRT, SAND, TOP SOIL, CHEAP! 18-yard load, Callahan/Hilliard area. Tree removal available. Call 416-6082. tfn

DIRT CHEAP! Fill dirt, sand, top soil, rock and hard pan, 18-yard bed, land clearing and tree removal. Call Dirt Pro at 755-1341. tfn

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CALLAHAN: 3BR/2BA HOME, living room, dining room, equipped kitchen, close to schools, shopping and churches. Call First Coast Realty, Inc., 904-879-1008. For more photos visit our Facebook page: First Coast Realty of Nassau County. 31220



YARD SALES

ESTATE SALE: FRIDAY, March 27 & SATURDAY, March 28, 8 a.m. until 6:14766 River Road, Callahan. Antiques, furniture, clothing, bedding, towels, small appliances, medical equipment, hospital bed, home décor, table decorations and so much more! 32620

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HILLIARD, 3BR/2BA home, with garage, no pets, \$1350/month; \$1000/deposit. Available in March, call 904-813-3154. tfn

LARGE 1BR APARTMENT, Callahan, all utilities furnished (includes Wifi & Dish) with swimming pool, \$1000/month. Call 904-955-4889. tfn

2BR/2BA, very spacious 1,700sf downstairs apartment with separate office, washer/dryer hookups, downtown Callahan. Call 904-527-0084, leave message. 3520

FAMILY ORIENTED 3BR/2BA and 2BR/2BA mobile home in Hilliard; walk to store, park and school. Call 904-845-3939. 30520

COMMERCIAL BUILDING for rent on US 1, 2 miles north of Hilliard, 2200sf with plenty of parking. Call 904-945-0040. 32620

SMALL BARBERSHOP: one washing station, mirrored walls, well lit, located in Callahan; or 1 room efficiency apartment. Call 904-879-1803. 30520

Classified Deadline is Tuesdays at noon.

EMPLOYMENT

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES now available at LIFE CARE CENTER OF HILLIARD- Now Hiring FL Licensed CNAs-Great starting pay rate! We offer a team-oriented environment along with a great benefit package. Please apply in person at 3756 West 3rd Street, Hilliard, (904)845-3988 or fax resume to (904) 845-4456. tfn

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

SEEKING EXPERIENCED LAWN TECHNICIAN, must have clean valid driver's license, transportation and be dependable. Call (904) 879-6709 for an interview. tfn

Bert Norman's Plumbing is looking to hire a **PLUMBING TECH & PLUMBING HELPER,** 1-3 years experience; must have clean driving record, pass drug screening and background check. Email resume with 3 references to: normansplumbing@bellsouth.net or call 904-225-5888. 32620

The **TOWN OF HILLIARD** is seeking a highly motivated, qualified individual to serve as an **ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** to perform specialized administrative work under the general direction of the Town Clerk. Qualified applicant will assist with professional and administrative work such as: customer service, cash collections, ability to proofread and edit, effective oral and written communication skills, ability to complete assignments within stringent deadlines, excellent follow-up skills, ability to be sensitive to political issues, responding to citizen inquiries regarding official actions; knowledge of Public Information and Records Laws, and have the ability to take on additional municipal duties as required. High School Diploma required, Associates Degree in Business preferred and at the least two years' experience in the public sector or equivalent work experience. Individual must be proficient in Windows XP, Microsoft Office, Word & Excel computer programs and have knowledge of Florida Statutes. Salary will depend on qualifications. The Town of Hilliard is an Equal Opportunity Employer and a Drug Free Workplace. Post-offer physical required. Applications may be picked up at Town Hall located at 15859 West County Road 108, Hilliard, Florida from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, or downloaded from www.townofhilliard.com. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. 30520

TURNER'S CUT ABOVE LLC Lawn Business is HIRING; must have transportation, phone and valid driver's license. Fulltime hours (40) Mon.-Fri., phone stipend paid. Call Jim at 904-710-3919 for a phone interview or email resume to: turnerscutabove@comcast.net. 31920

IMMEDIATE OPENING! Experienced Lawn Technicians/Drivers (Northside Jax) needed. Clean, Valid, Driver's License: Responsible for basic lawn maintenance duties including mowing, trimming, edging, blowing down walkways, pick up debris, etc. Start \$11-\$14 per hour, based on job performance and proven abilities. Please call 904-813-9727 today! 32619

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Railroad Day Festival Scheduled for April 18

The West Nassau Historical Society has selected Saturday, April 18, 2020 for their signature fundraising Railroad Day Festival. The all-volunteer nonprofit's 15th annual celebration is an all-day event held in and around the historic 1881 Callahan Train Depot and adjoining 1856 Florida Railroad bed. This year's celebration will include an exhibit of the history of the FAA center in Nassau County. Other photos and maps of interest will be on display inside the museum of local history section of the 139-year old wooden train station.

There will be arts and crafts vendors and food vendors and a kids' area with a bouncy house; Joel Pace hands-on music zoo and Hobo scavenger hunt. Kids' games will center on the fabled "Hobos" and their green-friendly Recycle and ReUse skills they used while riding the rails. Local live entertainment will perform on the main depot stage.

Callahan Cruisers and AB&B Auto Parts along with Cochrane's Collision Center next door to the depot will host a Classic Car Show. Various citizens and sponsors will be honored and car show and contest winners announced during

the festivities. Antique engines, tractors, and scaled trains will be exhibited outside the depot while model train layouts will be on display inside the Depot Annex. This is an outdoor event so please bring your lawn chairs.

The West Nassau Historical Society is an all-volunteer non-profit, tax exempt organization dedicated to the preservation of Nassau County's rich and diverse history and entrusted with the upkeep of the historic Callahan Train Depot. Donations to the 501c3 organization are tax deductible in accordance to current IRS rules. Sponsors and volunteers are needed to help make this year's festival a success. For additional information on the 2020 Railroad Day Festival visit www.wnhsfl.org or if you are interested in becoming a volunteer, vendor, sponsor, member, or donor call festival co-chairs John Hendricks or Emily Baumgartner at 904-879-3406.



POLICE REPORTS

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

Monday, February 24

Richard Paul Horton, 28, 7293 Horseshoe Circle, Bryceville: Burglary; Felony Battery

Tuesday, February 25

Danielle Judy Nicole Jackson, 33, 3777 Finch Drive, Hilliard: Felony Habitual Traffic Offender

Dominic Dvaughn Webb, 28, 37188 W. Seventh Street, Hilliard: Violation of Probation Domestic Strangulation

James Frank Faircloth, 48, 37063 W. Sixth Street, Hilliard: Loitering and Prowling; Possession of Drug Paraphernalia with Residue

Thursday, February 27

Debra Paige Cason, 63, 45388 Pickett Street, Callahan: Baker County Warrant Larceny valued at \$750 or more but less than \$5,000

Winter Grazing & Wildlife Food Plots Workshop

Would you like to know how to better manage your pastures and wildlife food plots? Attend this afternoon workshop hosted by UF/IFAS Nassau County Extension. We'll cover cool-season forages for your pasture and wildlife forages for your food plots. Topics discussed will be establishment, weed and disease identification and lastly, we'll view the demonstration forage plot being grown at the Extension office. The workshop will be held Saturday, March 21 from 1-3:30 p.m. at the NE Florida Fairgrounds Multi-Use Facility, 543350 US Highway 1, Callahan.

The workshop is free but please RSVP so we can plan appropriately. Please RSVP to 904-530-6353 or at www.forageplots.eventbrite.com.



PROM DRESS DRIVE

The Westside Journal is accepting donations of new or gently used formals, pageant or prom dresses through Tuesday, March 31. Donations may be dropped off at our office, 450034 State Road 200, Callahan (across from Dollar General). All donations will go to PACE Center for Girls.

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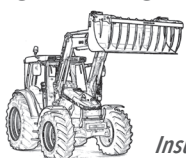
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TRENTON LASHAWN FORT



Trenton LaShawn Fort, 16, of Callahan, tragically passed away Monday, February 24, 2020. Trenton was born on October 8, 2003 in Jacksonville. Trent was a student at West Nassau High School and a football player for the West Nassau Warriors. Trent had a passion for football and dreams to make it to the NFL. He had an infectious smile and a personality that was larger than life. Trent loved to dance and joke around and make everyone laugh.

Trent is survived by his mother Paige Hall of Callahan; father Thareus Fort of Jacksonville; brothers Anthony Colon of Callahan, Romeo Fort and Jordyn Williams, both of Jacksonville; sisters Lillie Coleman of Callahan, Mariya and Amaya Fort, both of Jacksonville; grandparents David and Dee Dee Garner of Callahan and George Fort of Jacksonville; great-grandparents Bob and Christine Watkins of Jacksonville; and several aunts, uncles, cousins and friends that he loved so much. #Forever21

A candlelight vigil was held Thursday, February 27 at West Nassau High School at the football stadium.

The family received friends Friday, February 28 at The Anchor Church of God in Callahan. The funeral service was held Saturday, February 29 at First Baptist Church of Callahan with Pastor Jeff Carter officiating. Burial followed in Jones Cemetery.

Condolences may be expressed at www.nassaufh.com.

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

OBITUARIES

ROBERT GEORGE GORMAN, JR.



Robert 'Bobby' George Gorman, Jr., SFC U. S. Army and National Guard, Ret., 53, of Callahan, passed away Tuesday, February 25, 2020.

Mr. Gorman has made his home in Callahan for over 25 years. He was a member of the American Legion and was retired from the US Army & National Guard. He was a highly decorated Veteran serving in numerous campaigns including Afghanistan. He was Special Forces and was a Freefall Jumpmaster among various other skills. He loved all types of auto racing and was a die-hard Ford Man. He was an avid fisherman and enjoyed boating and the great outdoors. Mr. Gorman loved to ride motorcycles and was extremely knowledgeable of automotive care. He was predeceased by his daughter Jessica Gorman; his father Robert George Gorman, Sr.; and his grandfather John W. Seay, Sr.

Survivors include his wife Michelle Gorman of Callahan; a son Robert George Gorman, III of Jacksonville; two daughters Christine Gorman and Jennifer Gorman, both of Jacksonville; his mother Linda Johnson of Starke; a brother Billy Johnson, of Gainesville; sister Tonia Garver of Gainesville; and three grandchildren Sophie Gorman, Isabella Gorman and Robert George Gorman, IV.

The family received friends Friday, February 28 at Green Pine Funeral Home. The funeral service was held Saturday,

February 29 at Blackrock Baptist Church, Yulee. Interment followed in Green Pine Cemetery with full Military Honors.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial donations be made to your favorite children's charity in his memory.

Arrangements by Green Pine Funeral Home, Yulee.

JOSEPH ALLEN MORGAN



Joseph Allen Morgan, 55, of Jacksonville, passed away on February 16, 2020. He was born on May 23, 1964, in Live Oak, to Raymond Morgan and Shirley Ellis.

Joseph is preceded in death by his father Raymond Morgan, Sr.; mother Shirley Morgan; brothers Raymond Morgan, Jr., Jonathan Morgan and James Morgan; and a sister Sherry Demmick.

Joseph is survived by his wife June Morgan; son Joshua Lingebach; daughter Shayna Lingebach; granddaughter Hailey Lingebach; and his niece and nephews.

A Celebration of Life service was held on Sunday, March 1 at the American Legion, 5443 San Juan Ave., Jacksonville.

Condolences may be expressed at www.nassaufh.com.

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

RAY AUSTIN ROTH



Mr. Ray Austin Roth, 63, of Callahan, passed away Monday, March 2, 2020 at Governors Creek Health in Green Cove Springs. He was born July 1, 1956 in Jacksonville, to the late Clarence Hamilton and Vera Louise Selphe Roth. Mr. Roth moved to Callahan from Jacksonville in 2005. He was a member of Marietta Church of God, an avid University of Florida Gator fan and mostly enjoyed spending time with his friends and family.

He is predeceased by his parents; sisters Shirley Manning and Sandra Gresham; niece Regina Ramey.

Survivors include his nieces and nephews Sherry (Kimbal) Hutchinson, Lynn Pack, David (Melissa) Manning and Nancy Manning; and many great nieces and nephews.

A Celebration service for Mr. Roth will be held Thursday March 5 at 2 p.m. in the chapel of Nassau Funeral Home with Pastor William Wooten of Marietta Church of God officiating. The family will receive friends an hour before service. Interment will follow in Jones Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to his church Marietta Church of God Jacksonville.

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

Please visit www.nassaufh.com to sign the online guestbook.

Wright Family Thank You

The family of Joan Wright with a grateful heart acknowledges all acts of kindness and concern extended to us during our time of bereavement. God bless and keep each of you.

WILSON FAMILY THANK YOU

We want to thank everyone for your prayers, love, encouragement and kindness during the passing of our loved one, Homer Wilson. We are grateful for the food, cards, flowers, visits and kindness shown to us all. It meant the world to us seeing the outpouring of love and compassion by so many. Please keep us in your prayers. We are thankful for the love shown to our husband, father, Papa and friend of 65 years. To Terri and her staff at Nassau Funeral Home, who made it easier for us, our love to you Terri.

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ROBERT A. SALLETTE, SR.



Robert A. Sallette, Sr., 93, passed away on Wednesday, February 26, 2020 at his home. Mr. Sallette was a native of Jacksonville and was the son of the late Willie Fred Sallette and Leona Creech Sallette. He was a WWII Veteran, Seaman 1st Class of the US Navy. He retired in 1968 from JEA after 27 years of service and was a member of Dinsmore Baptist Church. Mr. Sallette enjoyed hunting, fishing and farming.

He was preceded in death by his parents; three sisters Ruth (Bob) Foye, Hautense (Coburn) Eason and Lil (Hubert) Burns; and a brother Bully (EvaLee) Sallette.

He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Ann Sallette; son Robbie (Linda) Sallette, Jr.; three grandchildren Brian (Spring) Sallette, Andrew (Sommer) Sallette and Mark (Dondée) Sallette; six great-grandchildren Addie, Harlee, Riley, Harper, Blake and Emma; and numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

The funeral service was held Monday, March 2 at Dinsmore Baptist Church, 10500 Old Kings Road, with Dr. E. Winson Butler officiating. The family received friends prior to the service.

Burial followed Tuesday, March 3 at Bosque Belle Cemetery in Fernandina Beach with full military honors.

Peebles Family Funeral Home is serving the Sallette Family.

OBITUARIES

IDELLA 'LORI' THOMAS



Mrs. Idella Elora 'Lori' Thomas, 63, of St. George, Georgia passed away Saturday, February 29, 2020 at her home following a long illness. She was born in Gainesville, Florida and lived in Jacksonville before moving to St. George 17 years ago. She worked as an Ultra Sound Tech for Ed Fraser Hospital in Macclenny for many years. Mrs. Thomas loved the river, photography, fireworks, the color purple, horses, having family gatherings, kayaking and other water activities and going to the beach. She was a loyal person and a great role model to her friends and family. She is preceded in death by her brother, Gil Ravan, Jr.; sister-in-law Andrea Ravan; mother-in-law Colline Merritt Thomas; father-in-law Hal J. Thomas; and brother-in-law Bruce Merritt.

She is survived by her loving husband of 36 years, Jeff Thomas of St. George; son Deron 'Andy' Thomas; father Jack (Flora) Carter of Callahan; and mother Louise (Roy) Reeves; her dad Gil (Vicky) Ravan of Montana; two sisters Julie (Tom) Apromollo and Jackie Carter; three half-sisters Sandy (Ronnie) Eason of Callahan, Estelle Carter and Tia (Mark) Kalina; a brother-in-law Leonard Dale Thomas; two sisters-in-law

Gloria White Thomas and Julie Thomas.

A memorial service to honor her life was held Wednesday, March 4 in the Chapel of Guerry Funeral Home. Final disposition will be by cremation. Visitation and gathering with the family was held prior to the service. The family and friends gathered at Moose Loyal Order, 150 S. Lowder St., Macclenny after the service.

Guerry Funeral Home, Macclenny, handled arrangements.

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

JOAN WHITE WRIGHT



Ms. Joan White Wright, 74, of Callahan, slept away on Tuesday, February 25, 2020, leaving behind a smile that will light up Callahan forever. She was born on June 17, 1945 in Callahan to Willie and Leola White. Joan was a graduate of Pine Forest Community School in Callahan and a member of Second Baptist Church for 60 years. She was married to Joseph Wright, Jr. for 37

years. She worked as a cashier at O'Steens Pharmacy and (Eckerd's) CVS Pharmacy for 30 years. Joan enjoyed crocheting, gardening, puzzles and people.

She was preceded in death by her parents; sisters, Pauline, Juanita, Lillie, Ruth, Dorothy and Pearl; and brothers Sylvester, Willie and Paul.

She is survived by her children, Craig E. Busbee, Paula (Charles) Raysor, Joseph Wright, III (Jayson Force), Damien Wright and Michael (Shelly) Wright; grandchildren Charles Henry Rayson, Jr., Marcus Crowley, Markea Crowley, Jaquaria Wright, Mikayla Wright, Amelia Wright, Kai Wright and Kaiori Bradley; great-granddaughter Aaliyah Ivy Raysor; siblings JoAnn (twin), Elizabeth and Lois Ann; in-laws Kate White, Thomas Adams, Herbert Wright, Johnnie Mae Killings, Rosa and Debbie; and special friends Yogi (Sharblie) Melton, Lisa Simmons, Gini and Clarence Roberson and Tyrone Blue.

The family will receive friends Friday, March 6 from 4:30-7 p.m. at Second Baptist Church, 45019 Johnson Road, Callahan.

The Celebration of Life Service will be held Saturday, March 7 at 1 p.m. at True Believers Church of God by Faith, 45083 White Road, Callahan. Interment will follow at Callahan Community Cemetery. Repast will be held at the fairgrounds.

Obituaries are published free of charge.
They may be emailed to news@westsidejournal.net.

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Garden Talk

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

Q: What can you tell me about the star magnolia? SD

A: Star magnolia, *Magnolia kobus* var. *stellata*, is the hardiest of the magnolias. It is a small tree or large shrub, 15 to 20 feet tall with a 10 to 15-foot spread. This tree commonly forms multi-stems like a crape myrtle. Star Magnolia makes a wonderful patio, lawn specimen or accent tree. Lower foliage can be removed to show off the trunk and to create more of a tree-form. I believe it would be beautiful as a smaller tree. Otherwise, the persistent lower branches and oval to round form lend a "large bush" look to the plant. The white to cream colored flowers are produced in spring before the leaves appear, even on young plants. Flowers are usually not as sensitive to cold as Saucer Magnolia, but they can still be injured if cold weather arrives during flowering. It should be grown in cold-hardiness zones 5-8b (Callahan, Hilliard and Bryceville areas).



It requires little pruning except for removing some lower limbs if turning it into a more tree shape. Star magnolia tolerates most any type of soil and light conditions. There are a few cultivars: Centennial - some pink in petals; Jane Platt - new, superior type with many pink petals when opening; Keiskei' - flowers purplish on the outside; Rosea (Pink Star Magnolia) - pale pink flowers; Rubra (Red Star Magnolia) - pale pink flowers, darker than Rosea; Waterlily - pink flower buds, white flowers, flowers larger with narrower petals. The "Little Girl Hybrids" have an upright habit and flower later than the species, thus avoiding frost injury in most

years. They include Ann, Betty, Jane, Judy Randy, Ricki and Susan.

Q: What are some good fig varieties for our area?

A: Common types are recommended for Florida because they do not require pollinators to produce fruit. Desirable characteristics include a closed eye to prevent insect and water entry, a long fruit stem allowing fruit droop which prevents moisture entering through eye, green skin color results in less bird damage and nematode-resistant rootstocks.

Some potential choices are: 'Celeste', 'Brown Turkey' and Green Ischia. "Celeste" is also called Celestial, Blue Celeste, Little Brown, or Sugar. This variety is widely grown in the South. Celeste produces small, purplish-bronze to light brown fruit with closed eye, which ripening from mid-July to mid-August. 'Brown Turkey' is often sold as Everbearing, Harrison, Ramsey, Lee's Perpetual, Eastern Brown Turkey, or Brunswick. 'Brown Turkey' rivals 'Celeste' in popularity. It produces moderate size fruit of bronze color with medium eye opening, which ripens in late July until late fall and will fruit following severe freeze damage. 'Green Ischia' is sold as Ischia Green, White Ischia, Ischia Verte. 'Green Ischia' is not widely grown but green color and closed eye make it desirable. Fruit ripens late July to early August, but it does not fruit following a severe freeze. For more complete information on growing figs, read this UF/IFAS publication: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FILES/MG/MG21400.pdf>



Sportsman's Sunday this Weekend!

Last September, the pastor and members of Liberty Baptist Church planned and prepared for their Sportsman's Sunday. Little did they know the hurricane (Dorian) or threat of it coming to Callahan, changed their plans drastically. They had to cancel their event at the last minute. That didn't dim their spirits as they just decided to plan it earlier this year.



The Sportsman's Sunday at Liberty Baptist Church will be held this Sunday, March 8 at 11 a.m. If you've never attended this event...you need to make plans to attend! The event is held outside under huge tents. Wear your jeans and boots and come ready to celebrate God's creation with some wonderful

people. They will have a youth Turkey calling contest, lots of door prizes and giveaways. This year axe throwing has been added to the long list of things to see and do. And, well of course, there will be a barbeque lunch for everyone to enjoy! It is a free event and every one, young and old are encouraged to attend!

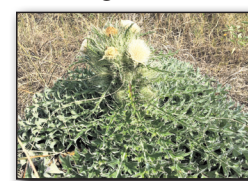
If you don't have a church home and have been looking around, Sunday is a great day to see what Liberty Baptist has to offer. It is truly a fun and enjoyable time in the Lord!

The church is located at 55045 Mt. Olive Road, Callahan; east on SR 200 to Mt. Olive Road on the left. You will be directed from there!

Q: I see this large, scary, thorny plant all over Northside beach here in Fernandina Beach. What is it? JK

A: It is blooming now, so it is easier to identify. It is probably the yellow thistle, *Cirsium horridulum*. The genus *Cirsium* means prickly herb in the composite family, in Latin, *horridulum* means rough or unadorned. These definitions certainly tell you the yellow thistle is not the most attractive of plants, but I was fascinated with it as I went out to Northside beach to see it. Yellow thistle is quite large, probably 1 foot or more across and at least as tall. It had several native pollinators visiting it although I am not sure my phone photos did justice to it. Yellow thistle is a native wildflower for most of the Southeastern United States. It can be problematic in pastures and for this reason, it is considered a weed to farmers and ranchers. There are some states where

it is listed as an endangered or threatened species: Connecticut, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island. There are three varieties of the species in the United States - vars. *horridulum*, *vittatum*, and *megacanthum*. Variety *horridulum* is



the only one with yellow flowers, but it can also have red to purple flowers. If you look closely, you can see a slight purple color around the edges of the white flower. The other remarkable thing about this thistle is it hosts the little Metalmark butterfly. I will have to visit occasionally to see if I can discover this caterpillar and maybe the adult butterfly. We take so much for granted, we just need to stop and look at the flowers more often - I think it will bring a smile to your face.

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