

WESTSIDE JOURNAL

VOLUME XVI ISSUE 42

HOMETOWN PEOPLE...HOMETOWN NEWS

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2020

"BE ANXIOUS FOR NOTHING, BUT IN EVERYTHING, BY PRAYER AND PETITION, WITH THANKSGIVING, MAKE YOUR REQUESTS KNOWN TO GOD." - PHILIPPIANS 4:6

BOCC Discusses Beach Opening



Sabrina Robertson

The Board of County Commissioners held a Special Meeting last Wednesday, April 22, which included a discussion related to the beaches in the unincorporated area (Peters Point south to the State Park).

During the meeting, each member of the Board expressed a desire to have the beach opened as soon as possible to provide residents with additional outdoor space to enjoy and to stimulate the local economy. Many individuals have suggested that the beach just be opened to county residents. However, legal counsel has advised that the Board cannot legally open the beach to some and not others. As a tourist destination, opening the beach will increase tourists to the area and there are still concerns about individuals coming here from areas where COVID-19 is widespread.

After some discussion, the Board determined that they will re-open portions of County beaches beginning Wednesday, May 6, 2020, from 6 a.m. - noon to allow for activities such as walking, running, exercising and fishing. No stationary activities such as sunbathing and sitting will be allowed at this time. The May 6th date was selected to coordinate with the State (Ft. Clinch and south Amelia Island) and

the City of Fernandina Beach as to their opening. The County will coordinate with both and install signage with the rules that have been implemented and coordinate deputies needed to monitor activities on the beach.

Additionally, the City of Fernandina Beach has been unable to begin lifeguard training due to social distancing requirements. They have indicated that they can begin training right away and are optimistic that the training will be completed by May 4. The City provides lifeguards for County beaches through an inter-local agreement that is in place.

The Board indicated that they would like to see all beaches on the island open simultaneously. Should the City of Fernandina or the State open their beaches prior to May 6th, the Board will consider opening their beaches sooner as well. It's important to note that should beaches open prior to the lifeguard training being finished, water activities such as swimming and surfing will not be permitted immediately.

The Board realizes that many residents were hoping for a full opening of beaches right away, however they believe that a systematic opening is important to ensure we don't have a surge of visitors and that social distancing is maintained until COVID-19 cases begin to decline. They trust that having a date set will give residents confidence that things will return to normal soon.

Honoring Healthcare Workers at Baptist Nassau



Last Thursday, a parade was held in front of Baptist Hospital Nassau and then through the parking lot of the Emergency Room to honor the healthcare workers. The parade was to show appreciation for what the workers do in our community everyday but especially during this pandemic. Included in the parade of vehicles were: the Nassau County Sheriff's Office, Fernandina Beach Police Department,

Nassau County Fire-Rescue and the Fernandina Beach Fire-Rescue Department. The roads leading to the hospital were lined with residents waving American flags as the parade vehicles passed by. Each side of the road in front of the hospital was also lined with numerous healthcare workers all in their scrubs and masks. Such a special tribute for a special group of people!



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What a special weekend we had! Despite all the distancing, masks, not eating out, etc. we had a fun weekend. Both Roger and I celebrated our parent's birthdays: my dad and his mother. Their birthdays are two days apart so April is always a special month for us!

We celebrated my sweet Daddy's birthday Saturday at our house. Daddy was born April 26, 1932 in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Now everyone is reminded of why he is a die-hard Razorback fan! Daddy loved his 'Hogs' well...a lot! He is really suffering with no sports going on at this time. He knew when his 'Hogs' were playing every sport they did; swimming, gymnastics, baseball, and oh yeah track! I mean everything. I think it is pretty amazing that at 88 he still keeps up with their schedules.

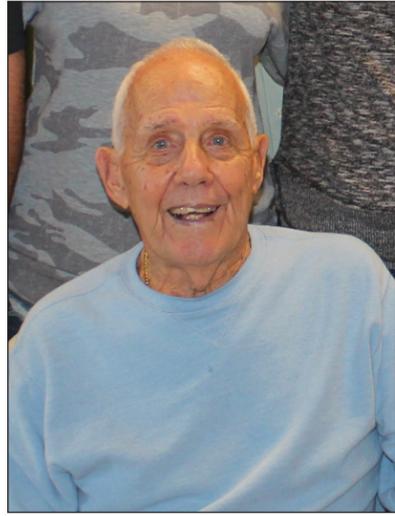
How blessed I am to have the Daddy I do! I know most everyone loves their fathers but I think mine is super special. Mom and Dad moved to Kingsland about 18 years ago. They are members of Kingsland First Baptist Church. Daddy teaches an adult men's class (70 years old and up). He has 25 members in his class and most are 80 and up. This COVID-19 issue has certainly put a damper on his class. Obviously, the

class is not meeting at this time but that has not stopped Daddy. He calls each member of his class to check on them and see if they need anything. Many of them are widowers however he cares deeply for all of them. His concern is precious. Even before the virus came to our country, Daddy would teach his class on Sunday.

Come Monday, he is calling the ones that weren't in class to check on them. This is why he averages 20 men every Sunday (when things are normal). They have such a brotherhood in the class that is just amazing. They all care for each other.

Of course, Daddy has always been that way. When he was a coach, it wasn't about the win it was about being

A Word From the Publisher



a better person and building character. While teaching, he never 'gave' anyone a grade, they earned it (worked for it). Many parents do not understand that theory but it's a good one. Daddy built a respect among his students and players. He is still admired today from students he taught some 60 years ago. He is still invited to school reunions because of his respect.

Finally, you don't find many men as grounded in the Lord as Daddy. He loves the Lord with everything he has and has taught his children about the Lord. He and Mom read devotionals every morning while drinking their coffee. "After that, we talk about our children and grandchildren," he shared with me. "Oh my...I'd like to be a fly on the wall for that. Y'all must sit there for hours!" I replied. They are both serious about their time with the Lord and praying for their entire family every day and for that, I am thankful.

We celebrated Daddy's birthday at



our house. My sister Marci (Dave) and our brother Gus (Christie) joined us for many laughs. I think we were all ready to see each other and have some fun. For the most part, we sat around, talked and laughed. Daddy and I did enjoy playing a little cornhole. I'm thankful for anytime to spend time with family! We are all reminded of how quickly things can change, so every opportunity is a special one!

Thank you, Daddy, for the man you are and for being my Daddy. I treasure our many times together and am looking forward to many more when things get back to normal! I love you with all my heart even if you did nickname me Brat! Have a blessed week!

Dawn S. West

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,

Just My Opinion, April 16, 2020, was excellent! You are very courageous to expose evil in your article. I did notice one shady character missing from the article...the woman doctor who wears the scarves! Keep it up!

Thank you,
William C. Cantrell

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Crispy Taco Chicken

4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
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Fish Talk

Fernandina Inshore Fishing Report

Chris Cockerham, Reel Habit

Let's talk about water movement and clarity for a minute. What's the best tide? Do you look for clear or cloudy water? Do you like moving or a dead slack tide? First off, the answer depends on the area you're fishing for all of the questions mentioned at the beginning. What works in one location for me may be completely opposite in the next area for others. Tidal movement is huge for many reasons. The biggest is that its usually fits the natural pattern for which fish feed. Why? Well the best way to explain that is like this, most fish are lazy like us, true story, right? Unless they're trying to hide from predators, they let the tide do the work by bringing the bait to them. We've all seen this at some point if any time has been spent on the water. It's kind of like being served in a restaurant, just wait at the table, see the humor? On a serious note, for me, the first of the outgoing and the last of the incoming has been the absolute best. I will also try to plan these tides around the early morning hours and late evening. Why? Because that's when there's less traffic, less pressure and the best times to catch those larger fish. As far as clarity, I would choose clear water over dirty. Fish tend to feed better when there's no restriction for oxygen.

Moving on to the fish, Trout are the hot subject as of right now: Top water early and late, subsurface once the sun peaks and move on to the typical grubs late to midday. Live shrimp on balsa rigs are the most consistent live baits at the moment but mud minnows on a jig head pitched into docks are bringing out some mighty fine fish. As mentioned above, early morning and late evenings are producing best.

Flounder haven't really showed in numbers like they have in the St. Johns River and further south. With that being said, I expect a change any day now with all the rain. We are finding the best results with a jig head that's tipped with mud minnows. Fan casting grass lines and creek mouths are a must. Lastly Red fish, I guess the better question would be where aren't they? All of our Intracoastal waters are holding good numbers of fish. Quartered crab, fresh shrimp and mud minnows you can't go wrong. Pinch points in creeks and the deep side of the oyster beds are really holding great fish. Wait for the water to recede the grass and focus on these natural funnels. Simpson Creek and Saw Pit are fantastic locations to start. Check your weather, take a look at your tides and make a game plan. So again, check the tides, find that moving water and make sure that water looks just right.

In closing, please be safe out there ladies and gents, we look forward to seeing you on the water!

Visit us anytime at: www.mywestsidejournal.com

or
 Look for us on Facebook!

JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

According to Colleen O'Dell of Psychology Today, "There is absolutely nothing funny about what we are all going through. The world as we know it has changed, possibly, forever. The daily news reports are filled with information about soaring rates of the virus, the mounting deaths, and the plunging stock market. People are anxious, fearful and grieving. We worry about our children, our family, our friends, and having enough food. Loneliness itself is becoming a pandemic. So what is there to laugh about? It is because of all these dreadful, horrible things that we need to find laughter in our lives. Even if it is something that just makes us smile for a moment or gives us a brief laugh. We need it to sustain us for the sake of our sanity and our physical well-being."

There is nothing wrong with finding humor to help place current events into perspective. First responders and other professionals have used humor for years to help cope with the multitude of bad things they have had to deal with. Laughter not only helps us physically but it benefits us emotionally as well. If you want a real good laugh, you could watch CNN for a few moments, and only a few moments because the laughter may become anger. There are many ways to find smiles and laughter in our new routines. It may be just watching the children, our pets, nature,

jokes or a lot of times we can laugh at ourselves. The late comedian Milton Berle once said, "Laughter is an instant vacation." I think we could all use one right now.

A minister, a priest and a rabbi went for a hike one day. It was very hot. They were sweating and exhausted when they came upon a small lake. Since it was fairly secluded, they took off all their clothes and jumped in the water. Feeling refreshed, the trio decided to pick a few berries while enjoying their "freedom." As they men were crossing an open area, who should come along, but a group of ladies from town. Unable to get to their clothes in time, the minister and the priest covered their privates and the rabbi covered his face while they ran for cover. After the ladies had left and the men got their clothes back on, the minister and the priest asked the rabbi why he covered his face rather than his privates. The rabbi replied, "I don't know about you, but in MY congregation, it's my face they would recognize."

I continue to believe this COVID-19 fiasco is being orchestrated to move the world into a One World Order. We must stay vigilant and resist the mounting push for vaccine certificates and tech implants. So let's laugh and pray and enjoy all the good God has given us.

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

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Considering my Condition

Pastor Steve Wolgamott, Live Oak Baptist Church



According to Scripture, since the beginning of time man and woman in their folly made the conscious decision to disobey God and to become sinners. Eve did not have to listen to the serpent, she could have walked away. Adam did not have to listen to Eve, he too could have walked away.

God had given Adam and Eve the best of everything and gave them to live in a perfect environment where nothing could hurt them or cause them problems. God gave Adam and Eve the ability to choose. Even though God knew from eternity past what Adam and Eve would do he

still gave them the opportunity to make the decision. Adam and Eve had no reason to distrust God or to think that God was holding back on them. As was their custom it seems as though that at the end of everyday Adam and Eve and God walked together in the cool of the garden. I am sure that Adam and Eve talked with God about all the things that they had seen and done during that day. It was a time of sweet fellowship, of love, and of appreciation.

Then came that fateful day when the one thing that God had asked them not to do was presented to them by a beautiful creature who had nothing but their failure and destruction in mind. That old serpent, the devil, the deceiver, that old Dragon convinced Eve that God really did not mean what he said concerning death and that if she would but do what he suggested she would become like a God. For any cursory student of the Bible you know how all this turned out. Eve got Adam to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Both of them had their eyes opened to be able to see the awfulness of the sin they had committed. Both of them tried to cover the visual manifestation of their sin with plants but that was not enough. When God came into the garden for his evening walk with them, he found them hiding and afraid, afraid of that kind and loving voice that they had experienced for so long. In considering their nakedness God had to cover it with something that would endure and would last. He killed one of his precious creations, took the skins and made clothes for them. Both Adam and Eve entered into blame shifting, Eve blaming the serpent, Adam blaming Eve and in essence, both blaming God for trying to hold out on them.

Since that day, every generation of human being that has been born sinners, destined to die physically, and spiritually and not be able to share in the relationship with a loving God forever in heaven. Something had to change. Because God commanded it, man began to offer a sacrifice of atonement, praise and worship to seek to wash away their sins by the blood of the sacrificial animal. After thousands of years of sacrifices, blood being spilt and animals being burnt on an altar the final sacrifice came into the world. All the sacrifices offered from the time of Cain and Abel right on up to the crucifixion of Jesus Christ were offered in anticipation and a Messiah coming, the Lamb of God. When Jesus, according to the Scriptures and to the will of God came to this earth to manifest the Father, he made it possible to take everyone to heaven with him if they would but believe on Him and what he was doing. Jesus, called the Lamb of God by his father, went to the altar of the cross with a heart and soul pure and holy with all the qualifications to die for the sins of mankind. When Jesus died, the dividing veil between the holy place in the holy of holies was ripped into from top to bottom once it was open anyone could look in and see that holy place, that mercy seat where the blood had been spilt for generations upon generations and now it was done once for all by Jesus Christ on the cross.

Since that event, the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, man has an eternal cure for his condition, the condition of sin. He can be saved, cured for eternity. So, considering my (your) condition and the condition of the world and life around us, please be saved today.

National Day of Prayer Observance

Thursday, May 7th

The Town of Callahan will be recognizing the Annual National Day of Prayer Ceremony Thursday, May 7. Because of the current "Safer at Home" guidelines this will not be a live event, but it will be a virtual program with the pre-recorded prayers compiled into a video that will be available on many websites and Facebook pages.

Prayer leaders who have already committed include: Clay Bass, a West Nassau High School Senior praying for his class; Jon Egan, Youth Pastor Callahan First Baptist Church; Pastor Dwight Allen, Senior Pastor, The Anchor Church; Greg Foster, Director Nassau

County Emergency Management; Business Leaders Paul Schwend and Jonathan Petree; Reverend Marva Mitchell, Bethel AME; Pastor Byron Ramseur of True Believers COGBF; civic leader and educator Dr. Tyrone Blue; and many other great members of the community of churches.

We will miss the fellowship of a live event and the music of the Citywide Male Chorus, but we will have much prayer and spiritual uplifting on the program.

For more information or to participate call (904) 775-1711.

Food Giveaway Next Thursday!



Do you know someone struggling with food insecurity during this difficult time? Callahan First Baptist Food Pantry's next drive-thru food distribution will be on Thursday, May 7. Food will be given out from 10 a.m. to Noon outside the church gym.

What's New at the Library?

The Nassau County Public Library System has launched an e-newsletter, Library Connect. Each month, Library Connect will arrive in your email packed with news of new projects, programs and services happening at your Library System. We hope that you will enjoy this informative newsletter and encourage your friends to sign up. It is easy to get on the list. If the Library already has your email address, you are automatically signed up. If you wish to view the newsletter, go to the website, www.nassaureads.com and view it under the News tab. To subscribe, click on the link at the bottom of the page.

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To Our Patient Family,

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Dr. Marks is still available for red eyes, sudden vision changes, injuries and other urgent issues for patients. During the hours listed above, please call the office at 904-879-2020.

If you have glasses or contacts ordered or ready for pickup, please call and we will arrange to meet you outside to dispense to you and make any adjustments necessary. Call the office with any questions.

As always, we are here for you if you need us and if you have any questions about your specific situation, feel free to call.

Stay safe and healthy!

Thank you!

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Hannah Avis



Skye Black



Rebecca Bowen



Josh Cicero



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New Beginnings and Milestones

Rosalie West Celebrates 93rd Birthday



Mrs. Rosalie McAllister West, of Bryceville, celebrated her 93rd birthday April 28. She was born April 28, 1927 in Terre Haute, Indiana. She is one incredible lady. She loves sitting on her porch in the breeze and spending time with God. Her heart is huge and she has a passion to help everyone. She is a prayer warrior for her family, church and country and loves the Lord with all her heart! She loves to go riding and looking at new places and loves to eat out (when we can again)! She has eaten at more different restaurants than most of her children! She is a faithful member of Callahan First Baptist Church.

Due to the current status of our country with COVID-19, the family had to be a little creative with decisions concerning her birthday. She celebrated her special day Sunday with a large family gathering in her yard. Children and grandchildren pulled in her yard and most had colorful signs for her to see and read. She was driven around the yard in her golf cart by her daughter Rhonda! Right before they began their drive, Nassau County Sheriff Bill Leeper walked up to her golf cart and introduced himself. "I'm here to make you an Honorary Deputy. I've heard you keep a close watch on your neighborhood!" said the Sheriff. "Well, I try!" she responded. Following that, four NCSO Deputies drove into the yard with their lights flashing and the entire group began singing Happy Birthday to her! It was truly a special day and one that all of us won't soon forget!

She has five children: Richard (deceased) and Jeanette West, Regina and Phil Phillips, Rhonda Bennett, Roger and Dawn West, and Ray and Donna Gail West; 12 grandchildren; and 21 great-grandchildren.



Mr. and Mrs. James McGee Celebrate 70th Anniversary



James and Gladys McGee, of Hilliard, celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary April 29. They were joined in marriage on April 29, 1950. Through the years they have worked together to spread the gospel, with James McGee having pastored 41 years with the support of his loving wife.

They have seven children together and one adopted son, along with numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. They believe the secret to a happy marriage is to put God first and truly love each other, because true love can weather every storm. Their family and friends would like to wish them a Happy Anniversary! They celebrated their special milestone with their family and plan to have a grand celebration when the pandemic has passed. Congratulations!

Gladys McGee Celebrates 93rd Birthday

Gladys McGee, of Callahan, was born April 28, 1928 in South Carolina. She is a mother, grandmother, as well as a great-grandmother and enjoys spending time with her family. As a woman of faith she remains very active in the Christian community and believes the secret to a long life is to, in her words, "live right and spit white." In her spare time she likes to play piano, sew, and sing. Her family and friends describe her as a person who could bring peace to any situation and would like to wish her a very happy birthday!



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Operation Senior Signs

Connie Daughtry, NCSB

The Class of 2020 could never have anticipated what the final weeks of this school year would bring. Seniors who were excited about Grad Bash, prom, college visits, spring athletics, school programs and graduation, had to adjust to the COVID-19 life. We've all learned to "do school and life differently," but it hasn't been without its disappointments.

On Wednesday, April 22, over 100 volunteers participated in "Operation

Senior Sign." Prepared with maps, signs, names and excitement, our teachers, principals, support staff and friends from each high school made some very special deliveries! Yard signs displaying the senior's name, school, and Class of 2020 were distributed to the homes of Nassau's seniors.

"Operation Senior Sign" was just a small way of letting our seniors know that we're proud of them. Congratulations Class of 2020!



FIRST RESPONDERS APPRECIATION DAY

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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

C & C LAND PROS, is offering Tree & Debris Removal with their dump trailer. They also offer extreme bush hogging and stump grinding. Call (904) 518-0349. tfn

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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

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FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC: Nassau County has three openings for Firefighter/Paramedic in the Fire Rescue Department at \$12.2597 hourly plus \$1.3736 paramedic pay (in accordance with CBA) plus benefits. Applications will be accepted until filled. To apply please visit: www.nassaucountyfl.com or for additional information contact the Human Resources Department located at 96135 Nassau Place, Suite 5, Yulee, Florida 32097, Telephone (904) 530-6075 or Fax (904) 321-5797. Drug Free Workplace. This position is eligible for Veterans' Preference in accordance with applicable laws. 43020

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Barnabas Provides Food and Financial Aid

As the 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 programs, financial assistance for housing and utility payments, and urgent medical and dental care.

Currently, the most pressing community need is food. Many of our neighbors are being disproportionately affected by this crisis, especially those who are lower income, disabled, elderly, or unable to work due to business closures or layoffs. Most jobs in our county are in the service, hospitality and tourist industries, and more than 2,000 local workers have recently lost their jobs. We know that families with reduced or no income and no savings are unable to put food on their tables



and are now facing rent, mortgage and utility bills that they will be unable to pay. Barnabas is needed more than ever to help our neighbors in distress.

In response to the need in Nassau County due to this pandemic, Barnabas is operating weekly mobile food distributions through a mobile van at the First Baptist Church locations in Hilliard, Callahan and Fernandina Beach. A mobile food distribution with Feeding Northeast Florida is still scheduled once per month at the First Baptist Church Hilliard. Barnabas also continues to operate a drive-through service distribution three days per week of pre-bagged food items at our main office (1303 Jasmine Street, Fernandina Beach).

Over the past month, Barnabas has provided food to almost 800

households, consisting of over 1,800 family members. The number of households provided food assistance has more than doubled in the past 2 1/2 weeks as the economic effect of the pandemic increases. Barnabas continues to receive fresh produce, dairy and meats from Feeding Northeast Florida and has established a partnership with a farmers' co-op in the Hastings & Palatka area through the "Farmers and You" initiative to receive fresh produce

from local farmers. For information about Barnabas food distributions, call our office at (904) 261-7000 or visit www.BarnabasNassau.org.

Major financial supporters have stepped up to help our neighbors in need during this crisis, including the City of Fernandina Beach City Commission, the Florida First Coast Relief Fund through United Way of



Northeast Florida, the Nassau County Board of County Commissioners, the Amelia Island Convention and Visitors Bureau, Bank of America, WestRock and Rayonier Advanced Materials. We are grateful to all our supporters and community partners that are helping us meet the needs of our neighbors during these extraordinary times.

For information about available assistance and eligibility, contact Barnabas at (904) 261-7000, or visit www.BarnabasNassau.org. For your safety and others, please call us for a telephone pre-screening for crisis assistance, food stamp and/or Medicaid applications before visiting our 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, April 21

Michael Keith Bowen, 23, 19298 CR 121, Hilliard: Theft of a Motor Vehicle; Possession of Alprazolam

Saturday, April 25

James Benney Miller, 41, 26655 Sundberg Road, Hilliard: DUI with Property Damage Injury; Possession of Marijuana less than 20 grams

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NANCY LEWIS BOSWELL

Nancy Lewis Boswell, 83, passed away April 11, 2020 in her home in Orange Park. She was born April 26, 1936 in Danville, Virginia to Walter and Clyde Lewis. She is predeceased by her parents; siblings; and one son Timothy Lynn Boswell.

She is survived by her children Ron E. (Miriam) Boswell, Jr., Laura Hess and Mike (Debbie) Boswell; 10 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Due to these unforeseen times, a Celebration of Life will be held at a later date and time to be determined. Arrangements by Callahan Funeral Home, 879-2336.

THOMAS K. CARTER



Thomas "Tommy" K. Carter, 73, passed away April 19, 2020 at his Kingsland, Georgia residence. Tommy was born in Fernandina Beach

and was a life-long resident of the area before moving to Kingsland in January of this year. He was a veteran of the US Army. He was a member of Legacy Baptist church where he assisted with security. Tommy retired from Rayonier where he worked as a millwright and was employed for 43 years. He was a devoted husband, father and grandfather and loved his church. He enjoyed fishing and traveling and loved to play card tricks.

Tommy was predeceased by his first wife, Brenda Bell Carter; his father Joseph Carter; and a brother Wayne Carter.

Survivors include his wife of 20 years, Deborah Carter of Kingsland; a son Joey (Stacy) Carter of Fernandina Beach; daughter Misty Sherwood of Fernandina Beach; step-son Rick Oliver of Kingsland; two step-daughters Stacy (Kevin) Dietz of Hilliard and Jaime (David) Hatch of Yulee; his mother Alberta Carter of Fernandina Beach; a brother Michael (Sheila) Carter of Jacksonville; two sisters Gail (Jack) Sikes and Faye Carter, both of Fernandina Beach; two grandchildren Elijah Sherwood

OBITUARIES

and Josiah Sherwood; and six step-grandchildren Courtney Dietz, Savannah (Colt) Pickren, Billie Jo Dietz, Lyndsey Hatch, Jacob Hatch and Rylee Hatch.

A private ceremony celebrating Tommy's life will be held at Green Pine Funeral Home with military honors and Pastor Aaron Bell officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the family prefers that memorial donations be made to the Brenda Bell Carter Foundation www.brendaliveson.org.

Condolences may be expressed at: www.greenpinefuneral.com.

Green Pine Funeral Home, Yulee, was in charge of arrangements.

your days. Although he will be missed he has gained the ultimate gift of eternal life with his Lord and savior Jesus Christ.

Howard is survived by his loving wife of 36 years, Linda Gail Pearce; sons Rick Pearce, Rodney Pearce, Reese (Luanna) Pearce and Daniel (Kendra) Pinkston; six grandchildren Roderick Pearce, Hayley Pearce, Ivan Pinkston, Madison Pinkston, Emma Pinkston and Trent Pinkston.

A celebration of Howard's life was held Wednesday, April 29 at Buford Grove Baptist Church in Hilliard with Pastor Curtis Harrington officiating.

Arrangements by Callahan Funeral Home, (904) 879-2336.

HOWARD O. PEARCE

Howard O. Pearce, 76, of Hilliard, was called home to be with the Lord on April 25, 2020. He was born on December 8, 1943 in Louisburg, North Carolina to Rupert and Lillian Pearce. Howard grew up in North Carolina and spent his early years on the family farm and was proud to be a share cropper's son.

He later logged many miles as an over the road truck driver, eventually retiring from Ryder Truck Lines and settling in Hilliard. He enjoyed fishing, gardening, traveling and spending time with his family and friends. Howard was a member of Buford Grove Baptist Church, where his love for God was evident. His proudest days were spent as the church bus driver, carrying the Lord's "most precious cargo" to various church functions. He and his wife also enjoyed working with the Primetimers Senior adult ministries for many years. Howard loved to sing and could be found alongside his wife Gail, singing in the church choir. Howard enjoyed meeting new people and he never met a stranger. He had a firm handshake, loving smile, caring heart and genuine personality that could brighten

KIMBERLY DEANNE REYNOLDS



Kimberly DeAnne Reynolds, 49, of Callahan, passed away on April 23, 2020. She was born on January 27, 1971 in Folkston, Georgia to

Larry Lee and Jaunell Hickox Lee. She enjoyed coloring books, her dog Tinker and spending time with her family. She especially enjoyed spending time with her son DJ and her grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her husband Robert Wingate; and father Larry Lee.

Kimberly is survived by her mother Jaunell Lee; son David Reynolds (Gabby Pervis) of Callahan; step-son Woody Wingate of Callahan; brothers Jessie Lee and Allen Lee, both of Callahan; sister Regina (Bryan) Gilley of Callahan; nephew James Anderson; niece Keira Lee; and grandchildren Harley Lynn Reynolds and Theo Archer Reynolds.

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

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

TAMMY JO SULLIVAN



Tammy Jo Sullivan, 60, of Callahan, passed away Friday, April 17, 2020, surrounded by her family and loved ones. She was born August 19, 1959. Tammy enjoyed spending her time barbecuing and spending time with her family. She also enjoyed fishing and camping on beautiful days. Tammy was predeceased by her loving parents, Lamar and Gloria Thompson; and brother-in-law Norman Meeks.

She is survived by her three sisters Gail Meeks, Laura Thompson and Lisa Curry (Jason Gordon); her daughter and son-in-law Selena and Nicholas Ratliff; grandson Gavin Ratliff; her nieces Amanda Curry (Joshua Mercer), Ashley Curry (Michael Dubose), Taylor Spedaliere, Miranda Sava, Anna Gordon, Laila Mercer and Aubrey Dubose; and nephews Colton Vaughn and Braiden Jones; as well as her close friends Karen Kratz and Jerry Theiss.

The family received friends Monday, April 27 at Nassau Funeral Home. A graveside service was held Tuesday, April 28 at Boones Creek Cemetery in St. George, Georgia. A reception to celebrate Tammy's life followed the service.

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

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

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Heroes During the Crisis



Stephanie Jerrell-Estep, Nassau P3
Last week NP3 Public-Private Partnership defined a Hero. We want to honor a group of heroes. Meet your Florida National Guard - FLNG. Who are these folks? Where do they come from? What exactly do they do for us Floridians or even us as a nation?

The following pictures are from a Miami testing site where these Soldiers are serving our state for the COVID-19 response. FLNG Soldiers and Airman opened South Florida's second COVID-19 drive-thru Community Based Testing Site at the Hard Rock Stadium March 23 in support of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Sgt. Leia Tascarini, 107th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, wrote the following on March 23, 2020. "Units from all over Florida, from the panhandle to nearby units in Miami, are supporting Florida Governor Ron DeSantis' request.

Soldiers that play in the Army Band are directing traffic, while soldiers from transportation units are scribing patient test information, as well as distributing patient test supplies to other service members."

Their Mission? "...to provide assistance and aide to the citizens of Miami," said Spc. Shanika Naine, with the 1218th Transportation Company,



West Palm Beach. Simply put: Service; service to their fellow Americans as we battle the crisis that has challenged our nation.

Now that you know the Who, What

and Where aspects of your Florida National Guard, take the time to Thank a Soldier! He or she is truly serving in the trenches restoring stability and seeking normalcy for all of us who have been impacted by COVID-19. To all of our Florida National Guard: We Thank You! You are our Heroes!



Lunch Giveaway Held Saturday



The Hilliard's Helping Hands group (just a group of people that like to help others in times of distress) worked extremely hard to put together a Chicken Dinner giveaway! The event was held Saturday in the Hilliard Town Hall driveway. The group gave out approximately 1,200 barbecued chicken dinners with two sides, a roll and dessert. Residents were able to drive up in their vehicles, get the amount of dinners they needed, and go enjoy it. Many volunteers prepared ahead of time to be ready for the large crowd and they handled it perfectly. Several meals were also delivered to homebound residents.

While preparing the plates, Hilliard residents Linda Clineman

and her granddaughter Abigail Wood stopped by and dropped off several handmade masks for the entire group!

Thank you to this great group of people to take their time to serve others! That's what it's all about, right?



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TRAINING STUDENTS...KARATE STYLE!

Dawn S. West

How many adults have ever taken a lesson in karate? Perhaps you may have done it when you were younger and there are many young students that were taking it prior to the pandemic. Prior to this insane pandemic infiltrating our country, a 'free' karate class was offered to students of all ages. And yes, they plan to resume once things are back to normal. A few years ago, Sensei Bruce Coppen had his own karate school here in Callahan, Coppen's Karate. Bruce has been a karate instructor for well over 30 years. "I never had intended to be an instructor but I'm thankful I have been," said Bruce. "I just wonder what my health had been if I hadn't done this. God had a plan for my life and what a blessing it has been. I enjoy it as much now as when I first started."

When Bruce 'retired' he actually turned his facility into apartments. After having numerous people ask him about karate lessons, where they could go, how much their children missed it, Bruce went on the hunt to find somewhere to begin teaching again. He visited several of the local churches (because they were the only ones that had large enough facilities)



expressing his 'ministry' to teach children and adults the art of karate. The First United Methodist Church in Callahan welcomed him. From there his mission only grew. The classes meet every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon



at 5 p.m. (once they begin again). Bruce does not charge anything for his classes but students and/or guardians are told that normal cost of a class is \$80 per month. All money collected is donated directly back to the church. What a great ministry for the church and students!

Bruce has two retired men, James Otinger and Howie Riner, both black belts that assist him with the classes. When I visited one of the classes it was amazing to see the discipline of all the students. One or two of the small ones maybe looked at me but for the most part they were focused on what Sensei Bruce was teaching. There were young and old. "Most parents, grandparents or guardians hang around for the classes. Some asked me if they could join in the class?" said Bruce. "Well, of course you can. So we do have a few parents that are also taking. It's a great bonding time for a family. We teach discipline which

is lacking in many of our homes today."

Each class begins with a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance and each class ends with the creed: Seek perfection of Character; Be Faithful; Endeavor; Respect Others; and Refrain from Violent Behavior. Oh my, I think that is a great creed to live by that we could all take a dose of! Bruce organizes each class with the beginners to the front and the more advanced to the rear. Students are still able to advance in the class to grow with each belt color. Of course, the black belt being the best! Bruce is in prayer that this pandemic will soon pass and classes can resume. When they do, classes will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5-6 p.m. for beginners; 6-7 p.m. for advanced; but students can attend all if they wish. Bruce and his assistants volunteer their time however any donations go directly to the church.

The Callahan Methodist Church is located on US 301 direct beside Callahan Elementary School. The classes meet in the Fellowship Hall. We (Westside Journal) will also let everyone know when the classes are up and running again, hopefully in the very near future!



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