

# WESTSIDE JOURNAL

VOLUME XVI ISSUE 48

HOMETOWN PEOPLE...HOMETOWN NEWS

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2020

"OUR GOD, WILL YOU NOT JUDGE THEM? FOR WE HAVE NO POWER TO FACE THIS VAST ARMY THAT IS ATTACKING US. WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO, BUT OUR EYES ARE ON YOU." - 2 CHRONICLES 20:12

## Blessed During Trying Times

*A Special Word from the Publisher*

Since mid-March, we, as a small business have struggled. April came along and I truly thought it would never end. News of the pandemic was non-stop and the world stopped. Each day I brought my struggles to the Lord, the only one that could help. I continued to ask God for guidance and strength. Our business, was suffering and I was trying hard to keep everything going. I am so thankful for our regular advertisers as they never quit. Most were still working which made it better but it also made me realize how blessed I am to have such great advertisers! The news stopped...not really but I refused to write every page about the "virus." I felt like we had already read, watched and heard way enough about that entire issue. Each day before work, I spent time with the Lord in my devotions but now it was like His words were piercing my heart.

I sat down and made a list of interesting stories I could work on and some I could follow up on. I got my feelings off of my shoulders and got serious. I was determined to survive! One day I received a payment from a customer to pre-pay his bill for a month or two. My eyes filled with tears so thankful for this special gift. When God shows up you better be ready! About two weeks later, I had a visit from a pastor that dropped by to give us (Westside Journal) a love offering. Here came the tears again! The church took up a special offering for the small businesses during this time and we were on the list. Thank you Jesus! This is another great example of God showing up: I was talking with Roger about my struggles one evening. We discussed what options we had. So...I came up with a 'plan' to help us and Roger agreed. Happily I went to work on a Monday morning ready to put 'my plan' in action. As the day went on, our classified ads began coming in and also extra display ads. Real quick I felt the Lord smack me on the back of the head reminding me...He is in control, not me. He has a plan, not me. Since that day, I have tried to relinquish control and give it God! You know, life

is so much better when He is in control. I'm so thankful to have Jesus as my Savior because He has truly saved me!

I just felt that this was a good time to say an earnest 'Thank You' to all of our advertisers that have been so faithful and supported us through this crazy time. I know you also were having some tough times but you supported us anyway. These have been days that none of us expected nor really knew how to handle. I'm thankful we were able to lean on each other for support! Again, I plea with our readers to support our advertisers! They, not me, are the reason that we are able to publish this great paper! We have some amazing businesses and business owners, from the smallest to the largest, they all support us! So, we in turn need to support them!

To the special people that dropped by to say hello, and yes, give us a hug,

*Thank You*

it was much needed and appreciated. To Mrs. Maggie & Mr. Bob dropping by on Thursdays, receiving a card in the mail or the sweet phone calls...you always bring a smile to our faces! I guess I'm getting old or finally getting a little wiser. These past months I have learned to Fully Rely On God (F.R.O.G.)!

As these days seem to have moved from one disaster to another we must remember that God is in control and not get wrapped up in all of it. We have recently been told what to do, when to do it and where to go. Remember that God gave us all a brain and common sense and He expects us to use it. We know how to think, nobody has to tell us! I'm pretty frustrated with the people of the world right now. As one pastor put it, "We don't have a people problem, we have a sin problem!" If we would all look to Jesus and live like Jesus...life would be so much better! Now is the time for all of us to pray earnestly every day, all the time, for our country and our people to turn to Jesus.

Have a blessed week!

*Dawn S. West*



## Official United States Flag Retirement Ceremony

*US Government Sanctioned - 36 USC 176(k)*

Sunday, June 14 at 7:30 p.m. at Callahan Speedway

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Veterans of Foreign Wars, Blank Check Society of America, the American Legion and Callahan Speedway cordially invite you to attend this Flag Retirement Ceremony. Please bring your old, tethered United States Flags for proper disposal.

## TPO Information from Callahan Council Meeting

*Dawn S. West*

At the last Callahan Town Council meeting, Mr. Milton Locklear, representing the Florida Transportation Planning Organization (TPO), was unable to make his presentation. Locklear sent in his presentation for the council and mayor to look over. Below are some of the projects to be coming in the near future as for road and highway improvements. The TPO had their meeting to vote on these issues on June 11, 2020.

### Transportation Improvement Program for fiscal years 2020/21 -2024/25:

- **CR 108 from Middle Road to US 17:** This safety project updated pavement and signage markings, improved the roadway at curves, upgraded railroad crossing markings, and other safety improvements.
  - Fund Source – ACSS Advance Construction Safety
  - Construction Phase 2020/21
  - Lead Agency – FDOT
  - Cost: \$5,000.00
- **CR 108 from Bay Road to Middle Road:** This project is to widen and resurface the existing lanes – No additional lanes.
  - Fund Source – ACSS Advance Construction Safety
  - Construction Phase 2020/21
  - Lead Agency – Nassau County, with funding via FDOT
  - Cost: \$3,541,225.00
- **River Road from CR 121 to US 1:** This project involves improving and pave shoulders along River Road.
  - Fund Source – ACSS Advance Construction Safety
  - Construction Phase 2021/22
  - Lead Agency – Nassau County, with funding via FDOT
  - Cost: \$189,807.00

See 'TPO Information' on page 2

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## Leadership or Gamesmanship During Crisis

*Stewart E. Nazzaro, Member of Citizens for a Better Nassau County*

The immediate need for courageous leadership at all levels of government is essential for our country and community to rebound from the coronavirus pandemic. "Business-as-usual" has become an elusive memory to many of us who have been affected during this challenging time. However, it appears that business-as-usual has an entirely different meaning to our Nassau County Board of County Commissioners (NCBOCC) who, on April 13, voted to proceed with a highly questionable \$875,000 land purchase for an aspirational park in a remote part of West Nassau County using recreational impact fees for District 4.

The county has long admitted they have a huge park deficit, and citizens countywide are clamoring for ball fields and lighting for those fields to address this deficiency. Yet, the stated purpose of this park is boat access to the St. Mary's River and trails. Why doesn't the county use the park and recreation impact fees to build a regional park closer to Hilliard which has a greater need? And why did they only consider this particular 36-acre parcel that has such a high per-acre price?

While recreational impact fees would be used for the purchase of this park, it would benefit everyone

to understand the NCBOCC's logic to proceed with this 36-acre rural land purchase along the St. Mary's River that has a staggering \$24,305-per-acre price tag with the total coming in at \$875,000 just for the land acquisition. This is in contrast to pre-coronavirus comparable market land values in the area, which are in the \$7,000-\$10,000 per-acre range. Where would the construction and maintenance dollars come from to construct the trails and whatever boat ramp and facilities the county has contemplated? These dollars would most likely end up coming from property taxes, which we've already seen skyrocket two years in a row.

If the county were to buy any recreational land, we believe they should do a thorough analysis of competing needs and locations, comparing the projects and even other possible needs and the best locations for each. Then, after this analysis, they should have a public review of the results where citizens can decide how these community investments are made, as they will be the ones utilizing them.

Not to mention, all of this has occurred in the face of a global pandemic, which has had a severe economic impact with unemployment rolls in Nassau County, and elsewhere, spiking. County income, along with many households, will almost assuredly

experience a significant decline this year and possibly for years to come. Vast uncertainty also continues to whip financial and real estate markets nationwide.

One feels incredulous that the NCBOCC would actually enter into a 120-day due diligence period on this one property for a questionable purpose given all the uncertainty swirling around our county at this time. We strongly believe the NCBOCC should reconsider this financial decision, take more seriously the crisis we are all enduring now and better prioritize expenditures to meet the greater public good, which, in this case, is athletic fields. They should also consider additional properties to ensure taxpayers only pay market rates

for acreage acquired. A future District 4 park should be closer to Hilliard to make the park more easily accessible to a greater number of individuals.

The illusion that future impact fees will fully cover capital purchases, construction and maintenance of projects of this magnitude is laughable in light of current circumstances. All of us are being forced to do a careful rethink about how we go about our daily lives. It is in the public's best interest for the NCBOCC to evaluate our county's needs for what they might become in the future, not what they might have been in the past. After all, isn't that what leadership is about – doing what needs to be done during uncertain times?

## TPO Information

*Continued from page 1*

• **SR 200 from Stratton Road to Griffin Road:** This is a 6.13 mile resurfacing project.

- Fund Source – DS Primarily DS Statewide Intra/Interstate
- Construction Phase 2021/22
- Lead Agency – FDOT
- Cost: \$12,135,251.00

• **US 301 at Crawford Road:** This project is for Right of Way acquisition of a new Interchange

- Fund Source – DS State Primarily Highways and PTO
- ROW Phase only 200/21
- Lead Agency – FDOT
- Cost: \$161,749.00

• **US 1 from south of Rhoden Lane to north of Pratt Siding Road:** This preliminary engineering (PE) project will be investigating lighting needs for this section of US1. Needs, locations, types, etc.

- Fund Source – ACSS Advance Construction Safety
- PE Phase funding only
- Lead Agency – FDOT
- Cost: \$479,650.00

### In the Kitchen...

1 - 18 1/4 oz. pkg. angel food cake mix  
2/3 cup sweetened flaked coconut

In a medium bowl, stir dry cake mix, coconut and pie filling just until blended. Pour into an ungreased 15"x10" jelly-roll pan. Bake at 350° for 20 - 30 minutes or until center is firm. Sprinkle with powdered sugar; cut into squares.

### Lemon-Coconut Bars

1 - 14 1/2 oz. can lemon pie filling  
Garnish: powdered sugar

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WESTSIDE JOURNAL STAFF

Dawn West ..... Publisher  
Roger West ..... Owner/Reporter  
Jessie Pickett ..... Graphic Designer

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# JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

Oh the many things we learn in life. I didn't know until last week that I am a Fascist and a Bigot. Actually that's what one person wrote about me. Of course I am neither and the person who thinks that doesn't even know me. That is his opinion and he has all rights to have and voice his opinion. Monday I received an email from a great friend, a bit of satire which fit right in to my comments above, so I thought I would share.

I KNOW YOU DIDN'T ASK BUT THIS IS PRETTY MUCH HOW I FEEL...

I used to think I was pretty much just a regular person, but...I was born white, into a two-parent household which now, whether I like it or not, makes me privileged, a racist and responsible for slavery. I am a fiscal and moral conservative, which by today's standards, makes me a fascist because I plan, budget and support myself. I went to high school, college and have always held a job. But I now find out that I am not here because I earned it, but because I was "advantaged." I am not a Muslim so that makes me an infidel. I believe in the 2nd Amendment, which makes me a de facto member of the "vast NRA gun lobby" (which I am a member). I am 65, making me a useless eater who doesn't much understand Facebook, Instagram or Snapchat. I think and I reason, and I doubt most of

what the media tells me, which makes me a "right-wing conspiracy nut." I am proud of my heritage and our inclusive American culture, making me a xenophobe. I believe in hard work, fair play and fair compensation according to each individual's merits, which today makes me an anti-socialist. I believe our system guarantees freedom of effort - not freedom of outcome or subsidies, which must make me a borderline sociopath. I believe in the defense and protection of America for and by all citizens, now making me a militant.

I am proud of our flag, what it stands for and the many who died to let it fly and I stand and salute during our National Anthem - so I must be a racist. Please help me come to terms with the new me because I'm just not sure who I am anymore!

Funny - it all took place over the last 10 to 15 years! If all this nonsense wasn't enough to deal with, now I don't even know which restroom to use... and I gotta go a lot more FREQUENTLY!

Please continue to pray for our President and our country, they both need us.

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

P.S. If you or someone you know lost some tools in the cul-de-sac on Lorena Drive, they were found. Call the Westside Journal at 879-4180 to describe the tools and retrieve them.

## Barnabas Thanks the Community

As the major safety net organization for Nassau County, Barnabas Center has been on the front lines to meet the escalating needs of our neighbors who are struggling during this pandemic. The support of our local community and funders has been remarkable, demonstrating once again that we are a community that cares about our neighbors in distress and unites to address the needs of our most vulnerable residents.

The most immediate need was for food assistance to help individuals and families who suddenly lost their jobs and stable income. The Florida First Coast Relief Fund and the Fernandina Beach City Commission quickly made significant grants to enable Barnabas to purchase the volume of food required to meet the overwhelming need. To address safety and social distancing concerns, Barnabas pivoted from a traditional food pantry to operating numerous mobile food distributions throughout Nassau County. Through partnerships with churches, civic groups and schools, almost 3,000 households have been helped with food assistance through our weekly food distributions; this represents more than a 300% increase in people helped prior to the pandemic.

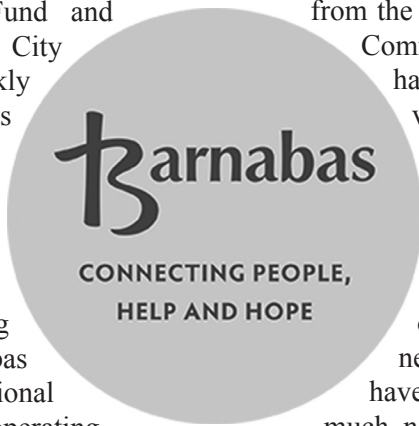
In addition to struggling with food insecurity, many of our neighbors have been unable to meet their monthly living expenses. In collaboration with Barnabas, the Nassau County Chamber of Commerce initiated a program for individuals who have lost jobs or income and need short-term financial assistance. With grants from the Amelia Island Convention & Visitors Bureau and the Nassau Board of County Commissioners, Barnabas has been able to provide more than 100 individuals and families with \$101,600 in financial assistance for rent, mortgage and utility payments to help stabilize them during

this crisis; 87% of those we helped work in the local hospitality industry. This represents more than a 300% increase in the numbers of households helped prior to the pandemic.

Through our ongoing partnership with Baptist Medical Center and Baptist Health, Barnabas has also continued to provide urgent medical and dental services to those in need, as well as provide telemedicine services to our patients with chronic diseases. With the enormous stress, anxiety and fear experienced by so many, one of the most critical needs has been mental health counseling. With a grant from the Fernandina Beach City Commission, Barnabas has been able to provide virtual counseling services at no cost to our patients to ensure their emotional stability.

In order to sustain our efforts over the next several months, we have been working to raise much needed funds. Barnabas appreciates our friends and donors who established a \$145,000 "Emergency Match Challenge Fund" when the pandemic hit, which matched 1:1 every dollar donated. This was a very generous effort in which individuals, churches, organizations and businesses quickly stepped up to meet the challenge.

We have had the opportunity to speak with dozens of those donors and are struck by their thoughtfulness and empathy for those suffering during this crisis. Many were first time donors; some made multiple gifts; and several contributed their stimulus checks, noting that others needed it more than they. This is an extraordinary community and together we are making an impact. We are grateful to all our supporters and partners that are helping us meet the basic needs of our neighbors. We will continue to ensure that they are healthy and financially stable during these unprecedented times.



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## The Master Link

*Pastor Arlie Johns, Hilliard First Assembly of God*



Several weeks ago, while I was walking one morning I saw what looked to be a master link to a bicycle chain on the sidewalk. I didn't give it much thought at the time and passed it by. Almost every day as I passed that same spot on the sidewalk that one piece of chain would draw my attention. I guess I stepped over that link for more than three weeks. Then one day last week, I felt like the Lord told me to stop and pick it up because he wanted me to use it as an illustration. When I bent over to pick up that master link, all of a sudden, I saw the other half of that link laying there for the first time. I had found a completed master link. I guess someone must have been riding their bike along the sidewalk and it fell off causing the chain to come off the bike. Without that master link that bicycle became powerless. It wouldn't matter how fast they tried to push those peddles on the bike, it wasn't going anywhere without that chain in place.

When I picked up that master link, it began to make me think about the many people in our world today that have been peddling for years trying to move along in life, but they are actually going nowhere. Many of them have the feeling that the chain has come off of their life and they can't go any further. The problem is that they are missing the Master Link in their life. Jesus is the Master Link. He is the Link that holds us together when we are going through difficult times. Without Jesus holding our life together you can get off track. When that happens, you can become overwhelmed and want to give up. But, if you are linked to Jesus through a personal relationship with Him by repenting of your sins and making Him the Lord of your life, you can have a hope and a future. The Bible tells us in Romans 10:9-10, "If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."

When Jesus is Lord of your life you can say like the apostle Paul in Philippians 4:13, "I can do everything through him who gives me strength." God wants to give you strength so that you too can see victory in your life.

Why don't you invite Jesus to be the Master Link in your life? He's the one that can get your life back on track again. Jesus is the missing link!

## Revival with Rev. Rick Coram

Bryceville First Baptist Church will host a Revival with Reverend Rick Coram, Evangelist as the guest speaker. Rev. Coram entered fulltime Vocational Evangelist in 1988. In the past 28 years, the Ministry has averaged 45 Revival/Crusade meetings a year. The ministry holds two conferences during the summer months. PowerLife Student Camp was started in 1989 with 125 and has grown to two weeks since 1996 with over 1,200 attending yearly. Lives have been changed and souls saved each year. PowerLife Adult Bible Conference started in 1989 with 65 and has grown to over 450 in attendance in recent years.



host two services, 11 a.m.; and 6 p.m. with music by Amanda Dillyhon. Monday services will be held at 7 p.m. with music by The Hines Family; Tuesday services, 7 p.m., with music by Boulougne Baptist Church; and Wednesday at 7 p.m. with Harry and Julie Pickett.

Bryceville First Baptist Church is located at 7732 US 301, Bryceville. For more information call the church office at 904-266-4169.

Bryceville First Baptist Church invites you to attend the services on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Sunday will



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## Scholarship Recipients Announced

The Patricia V. Williams Chapter of the Concerned Citizens of Nassau County is happy to congratulate scholarship recipients Aliyana Scott of Callahan and Faith Nevins of Yulee. These young ladies are being recognized for their accomplishments over their high school academic years.



Aliyana Scott



Faith Nevins

The members of the PVWCC of Nassau County continues to provide and promote educational opportunities to those wishing to pursue higher learning. The group grants three scholarships each year to deserving students of our community.

We wish them much success and encourage these students to 'Dream Big.' The Patricia V. Williams Chapter of the Concerned Citizens of Nassau County thank the leadership of Pastor Tyrone Blue, Chairman; and Pastor Walter Cooper, Co-Chair for their unwavering encouragement to stand firm in our service to our community.

An appropriate public recognition will take place at a later date.

## Virtual 4-H Summer Camps

Each summer many families throughout Nassau County partake in 4-H's day and overnight camping programs. This year, in response to COVID-19, Florida 4-H has postponed all in-person 4-H events, which includes these time-honored camps. We know that this will undoubtedly sadden many, however summer just isn't the same without some kind of 4-H experience!

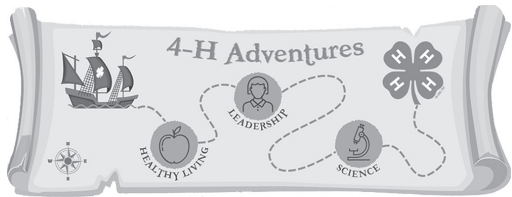
This year we are offering 4-H Adventures, a fully virtual

summer camp. There are more than 45 camps to choose from on subjects from everything from robotics, animal science, arts, gardening, cooking, and

so on. Camps are divided into age categories so your children ages 5-18 have opportunities to be engaged with 4-H camp. These camps are either free or extremely low cost and can be completed safely at home!

To register for camp, visit: [http://florida4h.org/programsandevents\\_/4-h-adventures/](http://florida4h.org/programsandevents_/4-h-adventures/) where you can search "4-H Adventures." You can also call 904-530-6353 and we can assist you.

We know this year has been full of changes, adaptations and challenges but we hope that these camps will give your family something to look forward to and enjoy this summer.



## Hilliard Town News

Dawn S. West

The Hilliard Town Council met Thursday night for their first meeting of June. The first order of business was the approval of Resolution 2020-11 which concerned amending the personnel policy as it relates to timekeeping. There have been constant problems with the time clocks, causing many times that the employees have to write in their time on the time cards.

In other business, Town Clerk Lisa Purvis requested approval to hire Macie Franzese as regular fulltime Administrative Assistant. The council approved the request.

A joint workshop with the Planning & Zoning Board was also set for Monday, June 29 at 6 p.m. to discuss the DEO Planning Grant Comprehensive Plan Draft.

Public Works Director Ritchie Rowe



advised the council of an emergency purchase for pump #2 at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. The cost of the pump was \$5,500 and purchased from Southeast Pump Specialist. The council approved the repair and purchase, of course, and thanked Rowe for handling the problem in such a timely fashion.

Parks & Recreation Director Kyle Malucci requested approval to refund \$20 per player for the Youth Soccer. "The teams only played about two games before we (council) had to suspend the season," said Malucci. "I've looked over the costs and refunding this amount (\$20 per player) will still allow the town to have made a small profit on the season." The council approved the request.

The next council meeting will be held Thursday, June 18 at 7 p.m.



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# New Beginnings and Milestones

## Mr. and Mrs. Ted Heglund to Celebrate 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



Rev. Ted and Mrs. Judith Heglund will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on June 12. At the time they met, Ted had graduated from Toccoa Falls Bible College and was pastor of the Leesburg (FL) Alliance Church. Judith, as a registered nurse, was completing her Missions for Nurses degree at Toccoa Falls Bible College. When their friendship began, both were appointed as missionaries with The Christian and Missionary Alliance but to different countries! When the Lord turned friendship into love, they were reassigned to Papua, Indonesia where they enjoyed 24 years of ministry in that beautiful country.

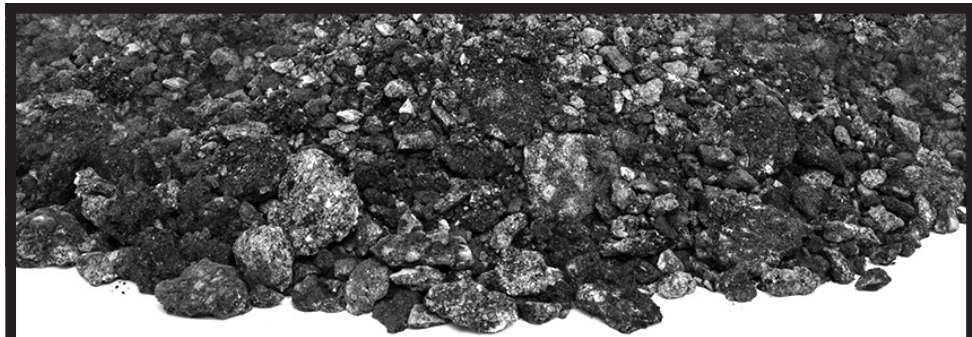
They served in a variety of capacities. While living in remote village areas Judith used her nursing skills and Ted worked with the national church.

In January of 2001, the Heglunds felt the call of God to return to full time pastoral ministries. God provided the opportunity to come to Hilliard as pastor of the First Alliance Church. They enjoy being part of the community. Ted finds it a privilege to serve as a chaplain with the Nassau County Sheriff's Office. He also writes monthly for the Westside Journal. Ted and Judith are amazed as they look back to see how faithful the Lord has been to them and their family. They are thankful God has given them 50 years together and look forward to what the Lord has for the future. God is good, all the time.

They have two children, Scott and Emily Heglund of Texas and Denise and Charles Weiland of Pennsylvania. They also have four grandchildren Aubrey Heglund and Alyssa, Hannah and Buddy Weiland.

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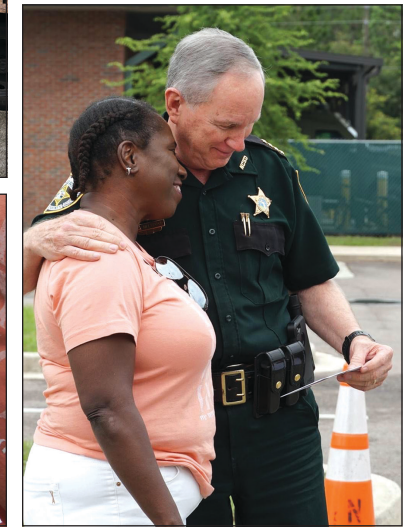


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# Indulge Food Truck Feeds Sheriff's Office Employees!

On Thursday, June 4, the Indulge Food Truck came out to the Nassau County Sheriff's Office, courtesy of the Journey Church, to feed NCSO employees. We are thankful for living in such a wonderful community and by the way, the food was great!





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## Sims Accepts Assistant Principal Position at HES

Ms. Jacquelin Sims is looking forward to starting another great chapter at Hilliard Elementary School. She has proudly accepted the position of Assistant Principal for the 2020-2021 school year. She is a passionate educator who is eager to work with staff members, parents and the community to support students.



Since childhood Ms. Sims always knew that her dreams were rooted in education but she had no idea the roots of Hilliard Elementary School would also hold her wings. In 2011, Ms. Sims graduated from Florida State College at Jacksonville with a Bachelor's Degree in early childhood education and accepted her first teaching position at Hilliard Elementary where she taught alongside many of the teachers who gave her such a solid foundation 9 years earlier

when she attended HES as a student. While teaching 3rd and 4th grade her desire to support students and fellow teachers ignited a fire that led her to pursue a degree in Educational Leadership. This spring she graduated from the University of North Florida with a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership and is ecstatic to lead in the same school that taught her what it truly means to love kids first.

For almost a decade Ms. Sims has worked diligently to collaborate with peers, establish lasting relationships with students and their families and support her community. She is thrilled to continue her career at Hilliard Elementary and looks forward to a wonderful year leading alongside Mrs. Loudermilk.

## Planting Nassau's Future



Keep Nassau Beautiful (KNB) applauds Nassau County residents' efforts in exceeding Planting Nassau's Future initial first project goal. The first project, Adopt-A-Tree, set forth a stretch goal to enable the planting of 300 trees across all areas of Nassau County. Residents overwhelmingly responded and surpassed that goal, planting 348 trees in four months.

Planting Nassau's Future and the Adopt-A-Tree project, kicked off in December 2019 with a privately donated 100-gallon live oak tree planted in Central Park in Fernandina Beach. Adopt-A-Tree was planned as an actionable and positive response to the loss of tree canopy in Nassau County due to development, weather events and age.

"What differentiates Planting Nassau's Future Adopt-A-Tree project is the required educational element so everyone would know how to plant and care for the trees," said Lynda Bell, Keep Nassau Beautiful Executive Director. "And the opportunity for residents to select tree species based on the right

tree for the planting location added to the personal feeling of ownership and contribution to the program mission."

The Adopt-A-Tree project ended April 30, 2020. The location of each tree adopted has been mapped in a GIS layer for historical tracking of the success of the Adopt-A-Tree project. Together we are Planting Nassau's Future and look forward to future projects.

For additional information or questions, contact Lynda Bell, Keep Nassau Beautiful, 904-261-0165, knb@keepnassabeautiful.org or visit our website www.keepnassabeautiful.org.



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## Sheriff Leeper Responds

We join the Florida Sheriff's Association in condemning the actions and as important, the inactions of the officers of the Minneapolis Police Department that were involved in the horrific death of Mr. George Floyd. We offer our condolences to Mr. Floyd's family, friends and to his community.



deputies in Florida or the law enforcement profession, and the actions are inconsistent with law enforcement policies and training. As leaders, it is imperative that we demand accountability in order to maintain trust in the communities we serve and we stand with others in seeking that accountability.

The actions and inactions of these officers in Minneapolis are unacceptable for any human beings to engage in and especially for our law enforcement officers who are entrusted with authority by our communities and are rightfully held to a higher level and standard of responsibility and accountability.

What the police officer did made no sense and can't be justified no matter what. The officer used deadly force in a situation where there was no justification. The other officers present should have intervened. These officers' actions are not representative of sheriff's

In Nassau County we strive to develop community-wide partnerships and to always be exploring ways to improve so that our community can thrive and everyone can call Nassau County a great and safe place.

I constantly remind our employees to always do what is right and to be courteous, honest, ethical, trustworthy, professional, as well as follow our policies, procedures and the law. And to never do anything that brings disrespect to them, their family or our agency.

Law enforcement and our entire community must always work together to make Nassau County a better place for everyone.

## Shooting Incident in Yulee

On June 3, around midnight, Nassau County Sheriff's Office deputies responded to 85019 Radio Avenue, Yulee (Freebird Tattoo) in reference to a person being shot. When deputies arrived they found the victim lying on the sidewalk with a gunshot wound to his torso and left wrist. He stated after the shooting he ran next door to hide at Celebration Assembly Church and then came back. He was transported to UF Health in Jacksonville.



While on scene NCSO deputies received word that a juvenile male had arrived at Baptist Hospital in Jacksonville with a gunshot wound, which had apparently been related to this incident.

Witnesses stated that the adult male victim was closing up his business (Freebird Tattoo). There had apparently been an ongoing feud with several individuals, both adults and juveniles. A vehicle drove into the parking lot at the business and five people got out (two adults and three juveniles). When the victim observed them, he went back into the business and retrieved a gun. The victim and an adult male who got out of the vehicle started to exchange gunfire. As the individuals who got out of the vehicle ran back to the car, one of the juveniles was struck in the left leg.

The alleged shooter in the vehicle was dropped off at an unknown location in the Fernandina area and the driver took the juvenile who was shot to Baptist Hospital in Jacksonville.

The shooting is still under investigation and NCSO Detectives are looking for two persons of interest who may have information about this incident: Ashley Blair Morgan, 36, from Fernandina Beach; and John Michael Kite, 37, from Fernandina Beach.

On Monday, June 8, both persons of interest came forward and were interviewed by NCSO Detectives at the Sheriff's Office. After the interview both were arrested.

John Michael Kite was charged with Attempted Murder, Possession of a Weapon by a Convicted Felon and Child Neglect. Ashley Blair Morgan was charged with Attempted Murder and Child Neglect. The incident remains under investigation at this time.

## Barnabas Continues to Help

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

### Food Assistance:

- Weekly Food Assistance: Hilliard - Every Wednesday - 2-3 p.m. - First Baptist Church (15850 CR 108, Hilliard)
- Weekly Food Assistance: Callahan - Every Wednesday - 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. - First Baptist Church (45090 Green Avenue, Callahan)
- Bi-Weekly Food Assistance: Bryceville - Second and fourth Friday (June 12 & 26) each month - 12-2 p.m. - Bryceville Community Club (7280 Motes Road)
- Hilliard Food Distribution - 3rd Monday each month - drive through style - Next distribution June 15th - Arrive no earlier than 1:30 p.m. - First Baptist Church (15850 CR 108, Hilliard)

### Financial Assistance:

- Short-term payment assistance with rent, mortgage & utilities payments (electric, water, gas)
- Assistance in applying for public benefits programs, i.e. food stamps and Medicaid

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# OBITUARIES

## JAMES 'WAYNE' ASPINWALL



James 'Wayne' Aspinwall, 62, of Callahan, passed away on May 31, 2020. He was born on November 22, 1957 in Jacksonville, to James and Shirley Aspinwall. Wayne was a fun-loving guy who enjoyed playing the guitar. He also loved to hunt and fish. He is preceded in death by his father.

Wayne is survived by his mother Shirley Aspinwall of Baxley, Georgia; sons Jesse (Meghan) Aspinwall and James Aspinwall (Brittany Short), all of Callahan; brother Donald (Sherry) Aspinwall of Callahan; sister Glenda (Pete) Wright of Baxley, Georgia; grandchildren Jace Aspinwall, Cole Aspinwall, Destiny Aspinwall and Bentley Short.

A Celebration of Wayne's life will be held at a later date.

Arrangements by Nassau Funeral Home, 541720 US-1, Callahan, 904-879-1770.

Visit [www.nassaufh.com](http://www.nassaufh.com) to sign the family's guest book.

## ARCHIE DAVID CARROLL, II



Archie David Carroll, II, 67, of Callahan, passed away at his residence June 2, 2020. He was born January 5, 1953 in Callahan, to the late Archie

David Carroll, Sr. and Edna Henderson Pickard. He proudly served his country in the US Army during the Vietnam Conflict. Archie was a devoted father and grandfather who found great joy in spending time with his children and grandchildren. He loved hunting and fishing and UF Florida football. Archie loved people and enjoyed making people laugh. His absence will be deeply felt.

He is survived by his children Archie David "Bubba" Carroll, III, Ashley Pollock, Joshua (Kim) Carroll, Talia Carroll and Brittney Carroll; four grandchildren Kenedi Carroll, Connor Pollock, James McCormick and Jacob Dodd; his siblings Clay Kemp, Tina Kemp and Janet (Michael) Kelley.

Graveside funeral services were held Saturday, June 6 at Buford Grove Cemetery.

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

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home in Folkston.

## DAVID DUANE FARREN



David Duane Farren, 80, of Callahan, passed away May 26, 2020 at home. He was born June 12, 1939 in California to Arthur and Stella Farren. He

proudly served his country in the US Navy, retiring after 20 years of service as a Senior Master Chief Petty Officer E8. David was married to Sharon K. Farren on February 14, 2005. He will be truly missed by his wife, family and all that knew him.

He is survived by his wife of 15 years, Sharon; their blended four daughters: Toni Mace, Laura Legge, Penni Nelson and Shawna Roberts, and their families; eight grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Sunday, May 31 at the Anchor Church in Callahan. A private memorial service will be held Tuesday, June 16 at the Jacksonville National Cemetery.

## JOHN JAMES GORE



John James Gore, 88, of Jacksonville, went home to be with his Lord on Thursday, June 4, 2020 at his residence.

He was born in his childhood home in Tabor City, North Carolina on June 6, 1931. Mr. Gore married his soul mate Flora Belle Gore on June 28, 1953 in Tabor City, North Carolina at Old Zion Methodist Church. They had lived in Jacksonville since 1959. He was the son of the late Roland Roundtree "Buck" Gore and Susan Frances Long Gore. Mr. Gore was a beloved husband, dad, brother, uncle, grandpa and Pa John. He attended Guideway School in Tabor City as well as Armstrong Community College in Columbia, SC where he earned a degree in Business Administration.

In 1950, Mr. Gore joined the U.S. Air Force, retiring in 1961. He then joined the Florida Air National Guard retiring in 1985. It was during this time that Mr. and Mrs. Gore opened a plant nursery in 1978, Gore's Nursery. Mr. Gore was a board member of Florida Farm Bureau, Dinsmore United Methodist Church and The First Church of the Nazarene. He attended both The Church of the Nazarene and Dinsmore Methodist Church where he taught Sunday school. Mr. Gore loved to sing. His favorite hymn was Blessed Assurance Jesus is Mine. His favorite Bible verse, and one that he lived by, was Romans 8:28, "And we know that all things work together for the good of them that love the Lord."

Mr. Gore was predeceased by his beautiful wife of 63 years, Flora Belle; two brothers Owen Andrews and Tom Gore; three sisters Carrie Gore, Mary Carlisle and Myrtle Long.

He is survived by son Johnny and his wife Chery; grandchildren Joshua (Stepheny) and Carissa; his favorite companion, his cat, Blue, all of Jacksonville; a very special niece Sylvia (Duane) Harrelson, their daughter, Amanda (Tommy) Templeton; great-niece and nephew Savannah and Jacob, all of Statesville, NC.

A memorial service will be held Monday,

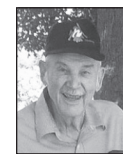
June 15 at 10:30 a.m. at The Isaac Gore Cemetery in Tabor City, North Carolina.

In lieu of flowers, please make contributions in Mr. Gore's name to Bethel United Methodist Church, c/o Elizabeth McLain, 9278 Checkerberry Square, Calabash, NC, 28467.

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

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

## GEORGE ANTON VARTTI



George Anton Vartti, 94, of Hilliard, was called home to be with the Lord and Savior on June 2, 2020. He was born February 23, 1926 in Eben

Junction, Michigan. George enlisted into the Army Air Corps, which later became the US Air Force, upon graduation from high school. He served for 20 years retiring with the rank of Master Sergeant. He joined NASA after retirement from the Military in 1966. From there he moved to Hilliard, where he was employed at the Federal Aviation Administration's Control Center, where he retired as Systems Supervisor Airway Facilities Sector in 1984. He was an avid fisherman and loved the outdoors and tinkering in his shop. He was known for his story telling and infectious smile.

He is preceded in death by his parents Isacc and Marie Vartti; along with his 11 brothers and sisters; as well as his loving wife of 57 years, Viola Womble Vartti.

He is survived by his children Victor Vartti and Crystal (Lee) Draper; grandchildren Eric (Brandi) Vartti, Brittney (Jordan) Farrell and Jordan (Ashley) Draper; great-grandchildren Hannah and Lucas Vartti, Liam and Landon Farrell and Presleigh Draper.

The family received friends prior to the funeral service held Tuesday, June 9 at Callahan First Baptist, 45090 Green Ave. Callahan. Interment followed in Jones Cemetery, Callahan.

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

Arrangements by Callahan Funeral Home, Inc., 879-2336.

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## US Flag Moments in History

Mike Mekara, BCS Pres/Chaplain

On Flag Day, Veteran Members of our community will gather at the Callahan Speedway at 7:30 p.m. to proudly retire numerous American Flags. The community is encouraged to attend this ceremony and to bring any torn or tattered American Flag that is no longer serviceable.

As we, proud citizens of the United States of America, celebrate Flag Day let's remember some important moments in history of "Old Glory."

**First Flag Sewn:** Betsy Ross sews the First Stars and Stripes American Flag. While documented history is not totally clear, legend has it that a well-known seamstress in Philadelphia, Betsy Ross, was enlisted by George Washington to sew the first stars and stripes American Flag.

**13 Stripes Becomes Standard:** Up until this time, the tradition had been to add a new stripe and a new star for every new state that entered the union. However, on April 4, 1818, after five more states had gained admittance, Congress passed legislation fixing the number of stripes at 13 and requiring that the number of stars equal the number of states.

**Adoption of Flag Day:** On May 30, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation that officially established June 14 as Flag Day, the same day in 1777 that Congress originally adopted the stars and stripes as the United States' national flag. The flag is expected to be flown on all government buildings and United States' citizens are encouraged to fly the flag on this day as well.

**Raising the Flag Over Iwo-Jima:** One of the most popular American flag images in American history, Raising the Flag Over Iwo Jima, taken in 1945 is the only photo to ever win the Pulitzer Prize for Photography in the same year as its publication. The image was captured during the Battle of Iwo Jima in WWII. Six men raised the flag, three of which were later killed. The other three became celebrities after the war

because of the picture.

**Half-Staff Proclamation:** Many people probably don't know that there was an actual proclamation issued by President Dwight D. Eisenhower on March 1, 1954, which standardized the dates and time periods for flying the flag at half-staff. These dates and times include; Memorial Day, Peace Officers Day, for 30 days after the death of a president or former president and for 10 days following the death of a vice president, Supreme Court chief justice/retired chief justice, or speaker of the House of Representatives.

**Adoption of 50-Star Flag:** Following the admission of the State of Hawaii to the United States, the 50-star flag of the United States was officially flown over Philadelphia. This occurred under the Executive Order of President Eisenhower.

**World Trade Center Collapse:** Following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 and the collapse of the World Trade Center buildings, firefighters hoisted a flag above the rubble. A similar image to that of the Raising the Flag Over Iwo-Jima, the World Trade Center photo has become equally as famous.

**The Pledge of Allegiance:** Received official recognition by Congress in an Act approved on June 22, 1942. However, the pledge was first published in 1892 in the Youth's Companion magazine in Boston, Massachusetts to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the discovery of America, and was first used in public schools to celebrate Columbus Day on October 12, 1892.

**The United States Flag Code:** The Flag Code establishes advisory rules for display and care of the national flag of the United States of America. On June 22, 1942, the code became Public Law 77-623; chapter 435. Little had changed in the code since the Flag Day 1923 Conference. Under 36 U.S.C. 176 (k), the flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.

## Remember to Pray for Our Troops

**The Westside Journal would like to pay tribute to all the brave servicemen and women. Please take time to remember each of these service members in your daily prayers.**



Jewel Rene Barron (Virginia), Timothy Beasley (Cuba), Cody Beaver (Virginia), Jessica Bell (Hawaii), Chad E. Black (South Carolina), Kevin & Brooke Blanton (Georgia), Sgt. Caleb Bohannon (Oklahoma), Israel Marcos Bonilla (Missouri), Derek Borden, Benjamin Black (Iraq), Hunter Brannon (North Carolina), Conrad Braawn (Afghanistan), Ryan Brooks (Connecticut), John Brookshire (North Carolina), Aaron Brown (Japan), Branden Brown (USS Nimitz), Anthony Broekema (Virginia), Ethan Bulford (Virginia), Aaron Burnette (Arizona), Calen Burnette (North Carolina), Thomas W. Burnette (Middle East), Ahmad Butler (Japan), Brayden Lamar Carroll (North Carolina), Allen L. Carter (Alaska), John Coltrane (NAS Jax), Scott Cooper, Dustin Corum (California), Trevor Corum (Nebraska), Charlie I. D. Cox (South Korea), Quinn Coxwell (New Mexico), Gavin Crews (Washington State), Tison J. Crews (Kuwait), Charles 'CJ' Cribbs, III (Washington, DC), Dennis L. Davis II (Alabama), Joshua M. Davis (New York), Shannon Davis (Nevada), Benjamin DeVille (Afghanistan), Johanna Diaz (Nevada), Clif Dixon (Iraq), Robert Dodson (Florida), Devin Michael Dowling (Kansas), Christopher Downs (Arizona), William Clay Dryden (South Korea), James Dale Evans (Baghdad), David Farhat (Kuwait), Christen Fernandez, Clinton Fouraker (Virginia), Jeremy Francisco (Mayport), Jennifer D. Frederick (Colorado), Kevin J. Gahris (United Arab Emirates), Michael E. Garcia (Afghanistan), Marcus Gee (Iraq), Samantha Gee (Korea), Tabetha Gee (Korea), Chadrick Gibson (Iraq), Charles Gibson, Darrell Goodwyne, Jr. (Iraq), Brandon Graham (Georgia), Sgt. Daniel Graves, Jr. (North Carolina), Eric Greene (Georgia), Branden R. Griffis (Florida), Wendy Griffis (Afghanistan), Phaylyn Griffith (California), Kandis Guyton (California), Hunter C. Guzman (Georgia), Michael Hall, Michael Hallman (Key West), Ronnie Hammer (Colorado), Todd W. 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It is our honor to recognize our local Armed Service members. We would like to update our 'Pray for our Troops' list, adding those who have recently joined our Armed Services or removing those who no longer serve. Please read over the list. If you need to make a correction, addition or deletion, just give us a call, 879-4180. You may also email changes to [news@westsidejournal.net](mailto:news@westsidejournal.net).

**God Bless our Troops!**

**Q: What is this insect? I found several on my wildflowers. LB**

**A:** The insect is the margined leatherwing, *Chauliognathus marginatus*. It is a type of soldier beetle which are not considered pests. Predatory species sometimes reduce pest populations (especially aphids) and are considered beneficial. Adult feeds on pollen and nectar which is why you noticed them on the wildflowers. Larva is predatory, known to attack corn earworm, aphids and corn borer. Like all beetles, Soldier Beetles (family Cantharidae) have chewing mouthparts and hardened front wings (elytra) meeting in a straight line down the back of the abdomen when closed. They look similar to lightningbugs (Family Lampyridae), but soldier beetles are unusual among beetles because their elytra, while more hardened than the wings of most insects, are much softer than the elytra of most other beetles. Soldier beetles have long, straight antennae. The larvae of many soldier beetle species are predators feeding on small insects, worms, slugs, and snails. They hunt in leaf litter and



in other damp locations close to the soil. A few species hunt under loose bark. The larvae of other soldier beetles are herbivores that feed on potato, celery and other garden plants.

Soldier beetles and their larvae are a food source for other animals. Birds, bats, and spiders feed on the adults. Spiders, beetles, and other soil-dwelling predators feed on the larvae.

# 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](mailto:rljordi@ufl.edu)

**Q: Can you identify this plant for me?**

**A:** Thanks for bringing samples into the office of this plant as it makes it so much easier to identify. The plant is called coral ardisia, *Ardisia crenata*. It is a non-native, invasive plant which is generally found in clumps and goes by the common name of Christmas berry. It used to be sold in nurseries but now Coral ardisia is classified as an invasive and I know of no legitimate nurseries who would sell it.



from spreading to other areas. Hand pulling smaller seedlings works well too. However, Coral ardisia has the potential to reach heights up to 6 feet; it is too difficult to pull tall specimens. We appreciate your interest in getting rid of this pesky, invasive plant from your landscape.

**Q: What are these tiny gray dots on my grass leaves? AD**

**A:** This is a type of slime mold. It does not harm the grass and will disappear when weather is drier. You could wash it off the leaf blades with a garden hose. Slime mold is caused by the small round fruiting bodies of a special type of fungi, called Myxomycetes, which are regularly present in the soil. It usually appears on warm humid days in late spring or early summer after extended periods of rain.



**Q: I have lumps on my tomato stems. What causes it? PD**

**A:** Lumps are caused by several things: internal injury, irregular cell growth, high humidity, overly wet weather, over-watering, poor drainage, in very occasional cases, disease (fusarium wilt or verticillium wilt, for example), or it might be fungi, bacteria or a virus. There is no chemical recommendation to correct this. However, there are several things you can control: over-watering or poor drainage. These lumps should not damage your fruit, it should remain edible.



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