



"KEEP YOUR TOUGUE FROM EVIL, AND YOUR LIPS FROM SPEAKING GUILE.
TURN FROM EVIL, AND DO GOOD; SEEK PEACE, AND PURSUE IT." - PSALM 34:13-14

Hagan Ace Hardware Celebrates 60th Anniversary

Dawn S. West

Sixty years is a long time to be in business! While many businesses seem to come and go, Hagan Ace Hardware is celebrating their 60th Anniversary this year. Each of their nine stores, soon to be 11, will be holding a Celebration Sale this weekend! We are so fortunate to have the very first Hagan Ace Hardware located right here in Hilliard. If you haven't visited the store, this weekend would be a great time to check them out.



Shown (l to r) are Jacob, Don and Bill Hagan.

I had the great opportunity to spend a little time with Don, Bill and Jacob Hagan. Yes, three generations of Hagans. Let's go back a few years and learn a little more history about the Hagan family and how Hagan Ace Hardware became a well-known business throughout Northeast Florida. The story goes back to Brandies Ace Hardware, located in Callahan. Just two years ago, Brandies Ace celebrated



Blanding Location 1988

their 75th Anniversary. The store was owned by Cliff and Lucille Brandies. The Brandies' had three daughters, Patricia (Fachko), Ann (Hagan) and Kay (Stokes Coleman). During high school, Don Hagan, whose father owned a farm, started working at Brandies after school. Once he was finished working, he walked three miles to his home.

Following graduation from Callahan High School in 1951, Don received a basketball scholarship (which was the first awarded from the school) to Jacksonville University. He attended college and then joined the US Army. He served two years, mostly in Korea and then Hawaii. Upon his return, he continued his schooling and working with Mr. Cliff at Brandies. He also continued his courtship with Ann. While working at Brandies, Don learned more than he ever expected. "I was driving to Jacksonville to pick up supplies, helping people with plumbing and electrical things," said Don. "It was then that I realized how much I enjoyed listening to people and trying to help them

with the problems they were having at their homes. I would try my hardest to help them get it fixed quickly."

In 1955, he and Ann were married.

In those days, they didn't get deliveries every day. In fact, it was rare. All the bookkeeping was done by hand and everything was written down, even the inventory. It was quite a chore. In 1962, the opportunity was presented for Don to possibly buy the Thompson Hardware Store in Hilliard, owned by Mr. Jack Thompson of Hilliard. The purchase was completed and Hagan Ace Hardware began. The store was located where Pope Racing now resides. At this time, Don and Ann were the parents of two children: Bill and Peggy. Ann ran the Hilliard store six days a week, with the help of Mr. Bulford. Don continued working at Brandies until 1973. "I would work until 3 p.m. then head to Jacksonville to pick up supplies and take them to Hilliard," added Don. "Thinking back, I'm not sure how we did it all and made it work." Don retired in 1990 but still



Cliff Brandies

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Don Hagan

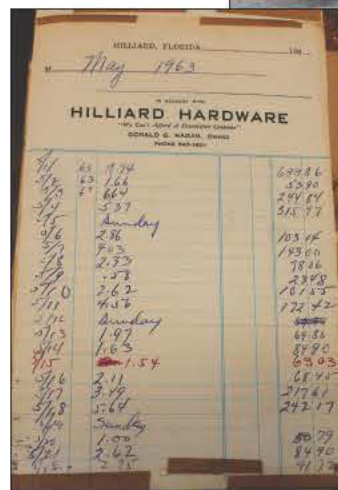
enjoys visiting the stores and talking with the employees and the customers!

Don's son, Bill, a 1975 West Nassau graduate, followed closely in his father's footsteps. He also, spent many long hours after school and summers working at Brandies. "I worked in the days that we hand unloaded train boxcars

of gravel, lumber, etc.," said Bill. "It's a wonder I wanted to continue my career doing this. It just shows I truly have a love for the business! I used to meet people at the store for emergencies and I'd try my best to help them out. I was sold on the business when I saw the finished product of fixing something and it worked! It brought me joy!"

Bill began managing his own store at 20 years old. Of course, things began to change as for deliveries, equipment and technology. All orders could be phoned in and later emailed, deliveries set up weekly and forklifts to unload merchandise. The new Hilliard store,

See 'Hagan Ace' on page 2



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Hagan Ace

the current building, was built in 1993. Under the direction and management of Bill, Hagan Ace Hardware opened these stores: Blanding 1980; Mandarin 1986 (which is one of the largest Ace Hardware stores in Florida); Glen St. Mary 1999; US 1 in St. Augustine 2003; Palatka 2003; Anastasia 2003; Green Cove Springs 2016; Yulee 2020; and Orange Park (later this year 2022). Currently, land preparation has begun on the new Hagan Ace Hardware in Callahan located on the lot behind Popeye's and Zaxby's.

Jacob Hagan, Bill's son, has been working with Hagan Ace for 17 years. I remember seeing him many times in Hilliard at Hagan Ace loading trucks for people. This is one more difference that sets the Hagans apart from others. They are hardworking, family people, nothing more nothing less. They, like



Ann and Don Hagan

Continued from page 1

all employees, have worked their way up through the ranks. "That is the only way you can learn the business is by doing it," said Jacob. "You have to talk with people and see how you can help."

Hagan Ace has the motto: 'We're not in the hardware business... we're in the people business.' You can see that anytime you walk into the stores. You are greeted immediately! Jacob is currently the Director of Store Operations. He visits the stores and works with the managers on any problems or issues. "I try to be a strong encourager because you need encouraging as a manager. I've been there!" said Jacob. "We talk over strategic goals for the store and I help out in any way I can."

Congratulations to the Hagan Ace Hardware family for 60 years of service to our community!

In the Kitchen...

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Drain pineapple. Mix juice with pudding. (Disregard instructions on box.) Stir in pineapple, marshmallows and pecans. Mix well. Fold in whipped topping and chill.

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A Word From the Publisher

The recent events from the tragedy in Texas have us all thinking about how crazy this world is that we live in. Sometimes I've caught myself thinking...Am I really in America? How broken our country, our world is. There have been many 'reasons' people have come up with for why did this happen. Crime in America is rampant. There seems to be no end and no rhyme or reason.

There is one reason, sin. Satan is having a great time because everything is upside down and people are doing their own thing. Good or bad, wrong or right and only thinking of themselves. We have become a very bitter, evil, hateful people. The Bible clearly states, "But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people." 2 Timothy 3:1-17.

Does any of that sound or look familiar? This 18 year old boy from Texas, the shooter, first went to his grandmother's house (where he also lived) and shot her in the face. Who does that? I can't even imagine thinking of that. Then, goes to the school and shoots the children and teachers. They were precious little children that had done nothing wrong. He is completely

filled with the devil. The devil was completely happy with the outcome of his efforts. It was such a tragic, sad, chain of events.

The day following, I was to attend our two youngest granddaughters (ages 9-10) awards at school. Each of our Nassau County schools has a single entry point. You have to enter at the front office. The schools are all fenced off with locks on the gates. Employees have a badge to get in. I'm thankful for the safety precautions at our schools. Once I entered the school, I could hardly wait to wrap my arms around our girls and tell them I loved them.

Parents kiss your children every day no matter how old they are and let them know how much you love them. We can all put a bubble around them but the most important thing you can do for your child is to share the Lord with them. Jesus is the only for sure answer in this world. When you repent of your sins and ask Jesus into your heart and truly make a change in your life, you will receive the peace of God and an eternity spent with Him. There is no day like today to make that happen. Our days are numbered and none of us are guaranteed tomorrow. Jesus is the only answer for a broken world.

Our continued prayers are for those who were impacted by the events at the Texas school. May God protect and guide us through these dark times.

Have a blessed week!

Dawn S. West

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Veterans4VeteransNassau a Resounding Success

The Veterans4VeteransNassau gathering, sponsored by the Veterans Council of Nassau County, has been dubbed a resounding success. Veterans from all over Nassau County gathered at West Nassau High School to network, listen to guest speakers, and to visit the booths staffed by representatives of veteran and veteran service organizations based in the county. The keynote speaker was FOAR from Home, a team of veterans who rowed across the Atlantic Ocean to raise awareness of veteran suicide and the programs offered to prevent it. Coffee to fuel the day was provided by Southern Donut Company. Firewatch, a veteran suicide prevention program, sponsored lunch catered by Callahan Barbeque.



Shown (l to r) are: Paul Lore from FOAR from Home; Mike Doran, Chairman of the Veterans Council of Nassau County; Fred Blaz, Veterans4Veterans Executive Director; Nassau County Commissioner John Martin, Mentor Coordinator for Veterans Treatment Court; and Cameron Hansen and "Hupp" Huppmann, who are both members of FOAR from Home.

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JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

First let me say, if you haven't read Dawn's column in this week's edition of the Westside Journal you owe it to yourself to do so. It is truth we all should adhere to.

I am almost embarrassed at how naïve I was concerning the trial of Michael Sussmann. Why would I even think that a fair and impartial judge and jury would be found in a Washington D.C. Courtroom? Sussmann, a former campaign lawyer for failed presidential candidate and former first lady Hillary Clinton, was involved in the creation of the Trump-Russia conspiracy theory was acquitted last Tuesday on a charge of lying to the FBI. The judge who presided over the trial is a Barack Obama appointed liberal. The jury included three Hillary Clinton donors, an AOC donor and a woman whose daughter was on the same sports team as Sussmann's daughter. What could go wrong? In a Politico article it states that Judge Cooper's decision to limit evidence and testimony prosecutors could offer against Sussmann spared the Clinton camp. The swamp is viler than any of us can begin to imagine. The one positive thing is we all know that Hillary approved the misinformation and the DNC was also aware. No conviction as of yet, but trust me, Clinton is squirming.

Why all of a sudden are we having so many mass murders occurring in America? Dawn's column explains it well; it's all about evil vs. good. The masses of the democratic regime (not individual registered democrats) have sold their souls to the devil. They are

following exactly what Hitler did in Germany and a vast number of Americans are blindly following. Hitler promised hope and free health care, less than a month later Germany's capitol building was set on fire. Evidence pointed straight to Hitler's supporters but Hitler blamed his political opponents. He utilized the Brownshirts to organize protests and street riots (BLM/Antifa) smashing windows, blocking traffic, setting fires, vandalizing and beating innocent bystanders. This was to create fear and panic. Of course, when Hitler secured his power, he had the Gestapo kill the Brownshirts to eliminate any competition. Hitler then confiscated the weapons from law-abiding citizens and the rest is history.

Don't be fooled by the left and their desire to ban and restrict American citizens from owning guns. It has nothing to do with mass shootings and everything to do with control. As Thomas Paine stated years and years ago, "When the government fears the people, it is liberty. When the people fear the government, it is tyranny." That's truth to the core! Our government is lying to us all, about everything. It's never been about green energy. It's never been about climate change. It's never been about safety. It was never about "slowing the spread." It's always been about CONTROL. (copied) The civil war is raging in America and it's only going to get worse. I sure miss those mean tweets, two dollar a gallon gasoline, a secure IRA along with many other things.

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



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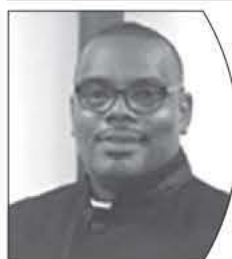
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Don't Be Refused Admission into Heaven

Pastor Walter Cooper, He Changed My Mind Ministries, Callahan



We often don't think about being refused admission to a concert or sporting event. When we purchase our ticket, we're confident nothing will stop us from arriving on time. We deal with heavy traffic and large crowds but never being refused entry. The only thing on our minds is spending time with family and friends, making lifelong memories and not being turned away at the door.

We can have this real problem one day if we don't choose to accept Jesus Christ as our Savior. Standing at heaven's door and not being allowed entirely. In Psalms 24, David gives us a clear version of what can increase our chances of entering heaven. *"Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands and a pure heart; Who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, Nor sworn deceitfully."* Psalm 24:3-4

When we accept that Jesus Christ is the son of God, receiving the gift of his shed blood, asking forgiveness of sins, we begin to walk in the right direction. In this Psalm, David pondered who could go into the presence of such a sovereign Lord, to the tabernacle on the hill of the Lord and its holy place. The answer is we can. The one whose conduct is pure and pleasing to the Lord and whose worship is faithful may do so, believing by faith. We know that Satan is on every corner trying to stop us from going to heaven and remaining there. Glory to Jesus; he's paid it all.

Today, we are in the preparation room for where we will spend Eternity. The only way to gain access to heaven is through Jesus. Jesus is the "Way" because He is the "Truth" and the "Life." As the Father is Truth and Life, Jesus is the embodiment of God, so we can gain access through him that one day we will see the Father. By His words, No one comes to the Father except through Jesus Christ. Jesus stressed that salvation, contrary to what many people think, is not obtainable in many ways. Only one path exists. Jesus is the only access to the Father because He is the son of God the Father. *"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."* John 14:6

The Bible tells us there is a Heaven. And to go there, we must do it God's way. *"For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, and through him, God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross."* Colossians 1:19-20

Jesus warned that not very many would find their way and prepare themselves to live in the kingdom of heaven. He said, *"Enter ye in at the strait gate...Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."* Matthew 7:13-14

Many, according to Jesus, will be misled and deceived by false teachers and false prophets, and some will desire to follow the ways of the world and will destroy their divine opportunity to enter into the kingdom of heaven. We must stay in prayer and continue reading his word, spending time with Jesus every day.

Let's be intentional about seeing Jesus at the gate One day. It will be an excellent time filled with unspeakable joy, love and peace. Just as we prepared for concerts and sporting events, let's prepare for heaven. Don't be refused admission into heaven. Grace and peace, Amen.

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Keep Nassau Beautiful Announces Annual Board Recruitment Campaign



Keep Nassau Beautiful today announced opening its summer board recruitment campaign running from June 1 through June 30. Keep Nassau Beautiful, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, is seeking new board members who bring diversity, fresh energy and a passion for community service. These newest board members will join our team's 2-year board member rotation. In addition to attending five or more bimonthly meetings, board members are expected to join Keep Nassau Beautiful, attend two or more volunteer events per year, and actively participate in one of the organization's standing committees. "When I moved to Nassau County in 2019, I learned about Keep Nassau Beautiful and

reached out. I'm so glad that I did. It's been a wonderful way to meet new people, participate in great events, and to make a positive contribution to my community," says Kelley McCarter, a second term KNB Board Member from Yulee.

New board members are eligible to seek officer positions after one year of satisfactory service. Directors find that they gain valuable experience while making a positive impact throughout Nassau County communities. While board members serve in a volunteer capacity, they are provided liability insurance with respect to their roles on the board.

To obtain a copy of the full roles and responsibilities of Keep Nassau Beautiful board members and the board member application form, <https://keepnassaubeautiful.org/about-us/#join> or contact the Nominating Committee Chair at knb@keepnassaubeautiful.org.

VFW Fishing for Backpacks

VFW Auxiliary 10095 in Hilliard is hosting a Fishing for Backpacks Fish Fry this Saturday, June 11 from 2 p.m. until the dinners are gone. The VFW is collecting School Supplies and backpacks to donate to the Hilliard schools. The Fish Fry will be held at the post at 37965 Eastwood Road, Hilliard, directly across from the Hilliard Airpark. Meal includes: Fried Fish, cheese grits and baked beans, \$10 donation. If you bring a backpack to donate and you can get your dinner for \$5. There will also be a water bounce house; 50/50 Raffle, gift cards, and raffle basket.



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Barnabas Welcomes Nicola



Barnabas Chief Development Officer.

Barnabas is honored and delighted to welcome, Nicola Barnack, Certified Fundraising Executive with over 16 years of experience as our newest member of the Development team as Director of Development. Nicola has been a long-time resident of Nassau County with her children being proud students in the Nassau County School system. "Nicola brings to the Barnabas Center a wealth of knowledge and success in fundraising and marketing for local and national nonprofits along with a passion for serving others," said Tania Yount

Art Classes for Children

The West Nassau Historical Society is pleased to announce the offering of a series of Children's Art Classes to be held this summer at the historic Callahan Train Depot, 45383 Dixie Avenue. Art supplies will be provided by the Historical Society. A signed parental/guardian permission form and nominal fee are required for each child attending the classes.



The classes being offered are:

Saturday, July 9, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Ages 8 - 12 - \$12 fee
Saturday, July 9, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Ages 13 - 17 - \$15 fee
Wednesday, July 13, 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Ages 5 - 7 - \$12 fee
A \$2 handling fee will be added to credit card payments.

Classes on Saturday, July 9 will be taught by retired Nassau County educator Erica Dodge. With 21+ years experience in art education, Ms. Dodge specializes in fiber art and enjoys incorporating unusual materials into her art. The Wednesday, July 13, class will be taught by Historical Society director Elizabeth Karoly, a retired instructor of art from the New York state school system. Ms. Karoly earned her Master of Fine Arts degree from Long Island University in NY.

Class sizes are limited to 12 students so pre-registration is required by visiting www.wnhsfl.org or by calling 879-3406. The childrens' artwork will be exhibited at the West Nassau Historical Society Ice Cream Social/exhibition on Friday, July 15 at 6:30 p.m. These classes are funded in part by Arts and Culture Nassau, an advocacy for art and culture throughout Nassau County.

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Official Flag Retirement Ceremony to be Held Next Tuesday

Mike Mekara

The Red, White and Blue did not just happen by accident. The founding fathers wanted the colors to have meaning, not just look visually pleasing. Red symbolizes hardiness and valor; White symbolizes purity and innocence; and Blue represents vigilance, perseverance and justice.



Today, our flag remains a vibrant symbol of the American principles of democracy, justice and freedom, and of course the everlasting memory of those who have sacrificed their lives defending these intrinsic principles of the United States of America.

When and how to retire the US Flag? 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. US Flags are properly inspected to ensure they are unserviceable and ready for retirement. Numerous veteran/patriotic

organizations and the Westside Journal accept US Flags to be properly retired. The American Legion Post 401 in Hilliard has started a program titled, "Flags Across Nassau." When you drop off a 3' x 5' flag, the American Legion Post 401 will reimburse you with a new flag.

A few years ago, members of the Blank Check Society of America (BCS) and the Hilliard VFW were inspecting flags, ensuring they were unserviceable. They came across a still serviceable flag that had an inscription on the side panel, detailing the location where it flew proudly in Afghanistan. This flag is proudly displayed in the museum at VFW Post 10095 in Hilliard.

Every year, on Flag Day, many patriotic organizations perform a flag retirement ceremony. I encourage everyone to attend and witness the ultimate respect afforded to our national emblem.

There will be a Flag Retirement Ceremony held next Tuesday, June 14 at Callahan Speedway, located across from the NE FL Fairgrounds. The ceremony will commence at 7:30 p.m. and the public is encouraged to attend the free but informational event. Thank you for your patriotic support and please try to attend the Flag Retirement Ceremony.

We encourage the community to stay afterwards as we officially retire over a thousand flags. And, if anyone has questions or concerns, please ask one of our many participants and volunteers.

In closing, remember this about our national emblem: "Our Flag does not fly because the wind moves it. It flies with the last breath of each soldier who died protecting it."





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Washington Honors the Life of Deputy Josh Moyers

Yvette Outler

It has been eight months since Josh Moyers was killed in the line of duty. There is not a day that goes by that The Moyers family, Ivy Carter or Cami Wildes does not think about him.

The Moyers family, Ivy Carter and Cami Wildes (Ivy's mother) were guests of "Concerns of Police Survivors," along with the families of over 600 officers killed in the line of duty from all around the country. They were invited to Washington, DC to be a part of National Police Week's memorial and dedication activities:

On May 12, The Police Unity Tour Bike Arrival and The Law Enforcement United Tour took place. These groups are made up of law enforcement officers (active and retired) and survivors who have made it their mission to honor the fallen and support their survivors. These men and women ride their bicycles 250+ miles into Washington, D.C.

On May 13, a Candlelight Vigil sponsored by The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund took place. During the Candlelight Vigil, fallen officers whose names were engraved on the Memorial Wall in 2022 are formally dedicated. Joshua J. Moyers and Deputy Jack Gwynes names were added to the wall. They were the two honored from The Nassau County Sheriff's Office. The Candlelight Vigil, held on the



National Mall, includes the lighting of candles, reading of names and remarks by dignitaries, and musical tributes performed to honor the memory of these fallen officers.

On May 15, the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service, which is organized by the Fraternal Order of Police and its Auxiliary, recognized those officers who are to be honored in 2022. Nassau County Sheriff's Office had two officers recognized: Joshua J. Moyers and Deputy Jack Gwynes. Deputy Jack Gwynes' family was also invited and at the memorial. The Gwynes family and The Moyers family spent time together during this week.

What is one thing you want people to know about Josh's life that may not have been said so far?

Cami replied, "I tend to talk about Josh a lot. I want people to know the man behind that big cheesy grin that everyone saw on television. When my children were young, I prayed for their future spouses. Having a daughter, I wanted to see her with someone who loved Jesus first so he could love her right. And he gave us Josh. I say "us," because he was not only a partner for Ivy, but a brother to my son, and a second son for me. You could not help but love him. If you were having a bad day, Josh would

immediately be cutting a joke to try and cheer you up. He lived out his faith. He believed in the power of prayer. I cannot tell you how many times he asked for prayer for something because he knew it worked. He believed that what he had chosen to do as a profession with his life mattered. He believed he was making a difference. He was



Cami Wildes and Ivy Carter

never unsure of himself because he knew God had carried him through so much and would continue to do so. He was rarely in a bad mood. He loved his people, those by birth and those he chose to adopt. I am thankful that we were part of his story. I would not trade that time for anything."

What was the most remarkable thing you learned about this organization that sponsored the memorial? "The care and support that they give the families of the officers," added Cami.

What were your thoughts and feelings during your trip?

"My thoughts were on the reality of many of the families we met having the same experience that we just went through," said Cami. "I saw so many young spouses, parents, children, brothers, and sisters of law enforcement officers who went to work one day and did not come home. So many stories. It was overwhelming really."

How was it meeting the other people who walked in your shoes? Anyone that stands out that you remember, their story in brief? "I knew of only one other story other than Josh's. It was of a young officer who was shot and killed in much the same manner as Josh not even two weeks after Josh's incident," she added. "When we were being transported from the airport to the hotel, I saw a family enter the bus with the same type of t-shirts that we were all wearing in memoriam. It had his name on the t-shirts and I knew immediately it was his family. He was only 26 years old and had a 6-month-old baby. I saw his young wife and felt the impact once again of how lives could be shattered in a moment."

Was there a special moment that overwhelmed you? She replied, "We had an officer stationed at every hotel. They would answer questions about the agenda of what was going on every day. On one of these days, the officer stationed at the help desk saw Ivy and my t-shirt and read out, Nassau County. Then he replied, 1205. Ivy looked at him with a surprised look. That was Josh's badge number. The officer then told us he had just read about Josh and that his story had reached as far up as the D.C. area. We were both amazed because quite frankly there are SO MANY stories."

Do you think that this memorial helped your grief?

She said, "Honestly, I do not think anything helps with grief other than God Himself. Knowing Josh was saved, knowing he had trusted Jesus with his life, that gives me comfort. I know I will see Josh again. Every memorial is so very emotional. I know most people do not get the kind of sendoff that Josh did. He had a hero's welcome into Heaven. But knowing Josh, he would have backed away from the publicity of it all. He would have pointed out that every officer would need recognition for the job that they do. He died doing what he loved."



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Homeschoolers Give Back!

We wanted to share with our local newspaper and let you know that our children, the Jones family, are part of a small homeschool group. We have children from 6th grade down to Pre-K. Since February the children created their own photo booth out of pallet boards that they decorate monthly. They advertise on Facebook and in their neighborhood groups, as well as the local community groups. The children have received some monetary donations from families who have stopped by to snap a picture with their cell phones and cameras. The donations have all been given away.

The students gave donations to Nassau County Animal Services in Yulee; and to a 2nd grade school teacher, so that every child in her class could purchase books from the Book Fair. They are currently taking donations to give to a school employee to help with classroom necessities for the upcoming school year so



that she can purchase items for every child on the spectrum.

The children are so excited when people stop by and then either text or message us their family photos that were taken at the photo booth. They get such a thrill knowing that people are taking pride in what they have created. They do not ask for donations, but donations were left around the decorations. The children finally decided to leave a jar for donations and they have generously given to those in need.

We are so proud of the hard work of these children. The children in our homeschool group are: James Jones (12), Avery Jones (10), Sawyer Jones (4), Liam Dunemann (10), Landon Dunemann (12), Lila Dunemann (5), Emma Overstreet (7) and Cody Overstreet (3). Their mothers are Cameron Jones, Stephanie Dunemann and Ashley Overstreet. Great job students and parents!



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ALVIN EARL EPPERLY



Alvin Earl Epperly, 42, of Callahan, passed away May 23, 2022. He was born on August 10, 1979 in Jacksonville, Florida to Kathy and Frank Alvin Epperly. He is preceded in death by his grandparents; Willie and Bernice Odom, Alice and Marvin Siebert and Emory Epperly; brother Lucky Epperly; and Uncle Carl Siebert.

Alvin is survived by his parents Kathy and Frank Epperly; ex-wife Cynthia Epperly; children Destiny (Lloyd) West, Haley (Richie) Colson, Sean Epperly, Austin Kitchens and Hannah Epperly; and grandchildren Ryleigh Southerlin, Logan West and Ashley West.

A celebration of Alvin's life service was held Friday, June 3 at Nassau Funeral Home.

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

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

OBITUARIES

was Santa Claus because of his long, white beard. He would always play along and say "Ho Ho Ho." James had the biggest heart and loved everyone.

James leaves behind his children, James (Debra) Ford, Michael Ford and Julia Ford (Bobby) Burchfield; grandchildren Sarah Ford, Susie Ford, Amelia Siegel, Kaylynn Burchfield, Chyanne Burchfield, Cameron Burchfield and Hunter Burchfield; and siblings Julia Ford (Kenny) Brock and Timmy (Megan) Ford.

A private celebration of James's life will be held at a later date by his loving family.

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

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

Audrey (Pete) Lauramore and Latrelle (Mose) Jewell; grandchildren Kara (Josh) Toney, Jordan Hicks, Logan Hicks, Baylie Hill and Cayden Hill; great-grandchildren Blake Toney and twin boys due in November.

The family received friends Thursday, June 2 at Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home. The funeral service was held Friday, June 3 at St. George Church of God with Grady Albritton and Sarah Team officiating. Burial followed at Boones Creek Cemetery in St. George.

Condolences may be expressed at www.shepardfh.com.

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, Folkston.

and Jordan (Kari) Messer; six grandchildren Amery, Jacie, Noah, Annelisa, Levi and Addy; one great-grandson Desmond; siblings, Juanita (Dana) Guinn, Bob (Hazel) Messer, Alan (Angie) Messer and Mark (Chris) Messer; special family member Rhena Messer Hodge; and a number of nieces, nephews and friends.

A celebration of life service was held Monday, June 6 at North Jacksonville Baptist Church with Rev. Jordan Messer and Pastor Bob Messer, officiating. His family received friends prior to the service. A graveside service was held Tuesday, June 7 at Green Pine Cemetery in Yulee.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Gideons International <https://gideons.org/donate>.

Peoples Funeral Home is serving the Messer Family.

DENISE HICKS HILL



Denise Hicks Hill, 64, of Bryceville, passed away Monday, May 30, 2022. She was born in Folkston, Georgia April 27, 1958 to the late Lewis Eddie Hicks and Shirley Margaret Hicks. Denise was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and sister. In addition to her parents; she is preceded in death by her brother Wade Lewis Hicks.

She is survived by her husband of 45 years, Buddy Hill; her children Rev. Mike (Niki) Hicks and Travis Hill; two sisters

CURTIS RAY MESSER



Curtis Ray Messer, 68, transitioned to Heaven Thursday, June 2, 2022. Ray was born on January 5, 1954 in Columbus, Ohio and son of the late Raymond and Minnie Marcum Messer. He and his family moved to Jacksonville when he was in the 10th grade and he graduated in 1972 from Andrew Jackson High School.

Ray began his career with St. Regis in 1972 and worked 46 years. He retired in 2018. He met the love of his life, Joyce Parsley and they married on April 22, 1974. He was a member of North Jacksonville Baptist Church. He loved to fish, "tinkering with anything" and spending time with his family. He is preceded in death by his parents; and three brothers Roy, Ronnie and James Messer.

Surviving family include his wife of 48 years, Joyce Messer; three children Tammy Smallwood, Jessica (Sonny) Winebarger

ELAINE NAPIER STOKES

Elaine Napier Stokes, 75, of Boone, North Carolina, passed away peacefully Thursday, June 2, 2022 at her home with her husband and caregiver, John, by her side. She was born in Thomasville, Georgia October 26, 1946 to the late William Delmas Napier and Della May Plymail Napier. Elaine retired from Bell South after 35 years of service. She was a lifetime member of Telephone Pioneers. She was a very talented artist that loved to paint scenes on rocks. She also enjoyed camping, riding bicycles and motorcycles, bluegrass music and attending bluegrass festivals with her husband. Elaine was a very sweet lady that was loved by her all of her family and friends. She always had a sweet smile on her face.

She is survived by her husband John R. Stokes, Jr.; and a step-son Allen DeWayne Stokes.

A graveside service will be held Friday, June 10 at 1 p.m. at Oakwood Cemetery in Hilliard.

Condolences may be expressed at www.shepardfh.com.

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, Folkston.

JAMES MICHAEL FORD



James Michael Ford, 65, of Hilliard, passed away on June 1, 2022. He was born on October 14, 1956 in Newport, North Carolina to Robert Earl Ford and Ursula Louise Lawrence Ford. James was a dedicated father and grandfather. He was at every event and never broke a promise and was a true man of his word. Many children would think he

Mizell Family Thank You

Thank you to the community for your love and friendship. We appreciate all the prayers, food, cards, calls and flowers we have received following the passing of our loved one, Jean Hodges Mizell. So many of you took the time to attend the visitation and funeral. Your kind expressions of sympathy meant so much to our family. The Bible tells us in Proverbs that a friend loves at all times. It was heart-warming for us to see just how many friends we have. What a blessing! Thank you again.

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OBITUARIES

JANET MARIE TOWNSEND



Mrs. Janet Marie Townsend, 78, of Callahan, passed away Wednesday, June 1, 2022. Born in Minnesota to the late Grover Henry and Marcella Jacobsen. Mrs. Townsend was a 42-year Callahan resident. She was a homemaker who lovingly cared for her family. A Master Gardener, she enjoyed tending her garden and canning her harvest. She also enjoyed cooking, sewing, and Stampin' Up!

She is survived by her husband of 54 years, Willie Townsend of Callahan; children Amy (Kenney) Wagner of

Middleburg and Hank Townsend of Callahan; grandchildren Devin (Jamie) Sheffield and Dillon Sheffield, all of Hilliard, Brandon Townsend of California, Breonna Townsend of Ft. Walton, Ethan Townsend of Jacksonville and Susan (Jay) Taylor of Macclenny; great-grandchildren Landon Sheffield, Pierson Taylor and Jaiden Townsend; and sisters Rosann (Mac) McFarland and Lyn (Lynn) Sorensen.

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

Please leave online condolences at www.warrenfuneralservices.com

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR WALTER TILLMAN

A memorial service will be held Saturday, June 11 at 11 a.m. at the Hal Keene residence, off Lake Hampton Road, Hilliard. For more information call Elizabeth Phillips at (904) 707-9832.

THANK YOU

Thank you for sharing in the celebration of Marcus L. Blackshear's life. Our entire family appreciates the generosity and support. Nothing is more difficult than saying goodbye to a loved one, but the support shown through monetary donations, food, flowers, music, cleaning, prayers, condolences, and any other types of fellowship, helped our family persevere through this difficult time. For that, we can't express our gratitude enough. *"For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer."* 1 Timothy 4: 4-5

Blessings,
The Walker, Blackshear and Melton Families

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His Answer: Destroy More

Douglas C. Pearson Sr.

President Biden, during his most recent visit to Uvalde, Texas, demonstrated that fact after his shameful exhibition of fake emotions. His first response to the situation was to "destroy" the campus where that mentally ill person decided to murder the most innocent of our communities. Then he invoked "God" into the subject, whom he turned away from a long time ago.

To identify the suspect in any other way, than mentally ill, is to ignore him and blame the gun, the school, the staff, law enforcement and, yes, the parents. All of those have been attacked, and yet not the person who did the actual deed. How do we know he was mentally ill? Only a very sick person could possibly do such a thing, as there is no plausible explanation otherwise for such an action.

But it all goes hand in hand with this president's misguided efforts to "Build Back Better." On his very first day in office, he destroyed our Oil Independence and economy, with his ludicrous executive orders. Unable to recognize his own stupidity, he continues to stumble into more complex situations and try to, after the fact, make corrections with his "Common Sense" orders and actions. Amazing, because this guy hasn't got the common sense to come in out of the rain. If he looked up at the sky he would drown, because he wouldn't know enough to close his mouth.

By taking those actions he's responsible for the destruction of the nation's economy, supply chain and poor employment figures. A direct result has been his inability to provide sufficient numbers in the workforce, as he pushes the blame off on anyone, other than himself or his stupidity.

He has also completely destroyed the once high moral amongst the men and women of our armed forces with his insane directives to use these fine people as social experiments. The Navy, alone, is experiencing its highest rate of deserters to date. He gets excited when the unemployment numbers come out under 5%, but ignorant of the fact that he has driven over 10,000,000 people from the workforce,

that aren't even counted, just since being in office. Now people can't even afford to drive to work, even if they wanted to.

You disagree? My chosen profession required me to retire at a young age, as that was "The Law." We knew that so we planned properly. We had been very comfortable for the first 18 years of retirement. But since this mentally challenged president was sworn in his attempts to "Build Back Better" has rendered about \$38,000 dollars of my retirement savings useless, with his domino affect inflation. While we have been able to keep on saving a little each month, from our now fixed incomes, the inflation rate has seen those values cut in half. Our future ability to continue to save is being destroyed by Uncle Joe's dementia.

It is well recognized that about two thirds of the nation lives from paycheck to paycheck, with no savings in the event of lost income. Roughly, that equates to over 200,000,000 people that don't have enough to make it, should their income stop. It is also well recognized that around 80% of the populace doesn't have any savings and could not financially survive 6 months, if unforeseen major expenses hit their lives. Slowly, but surely, a recession is being acknowledged as likely. I'll take that one step further and advise that if things don't get turned around quickly, the "D" word is very likely. Remember the cartoons from the late 1920s? People needed bags of money just to buy a loaf of bread! Start studying your receipts folks, as you are already spending about 40% more for the basic needs today than you were two years ago.

This president has violated his oath of office and he needs to be removed and charged with treason. He has destroyed our ability to have freedom of speech, freedom of religion and is rapidly working on our right to bear arms. He is single-handedly destroying what was once that shining light on the hill. Mr. President, you swore to defend the constitution, not to destroy it.

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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.

Thursday, May 26

Michael Anthony Roe, 67, 37063 W. Fifth Street, Hilliard: Possession of Methamphetamine

William Alan Petree, Jr., 38, 39244 Silver Trace, Hilliard: Possession of Methamphetamine; Possession of Marijuana less than 20 grams; Possession of Drug Paraphernalia with Residue

Friday, May 27

Anderson Jerome Holland, IV, 41, Homeless, Callahan: Theft

Saturday, May 28

Jason Wayne Smith, 18, 451557 Old Dixie Highway, Callahan: Possession Schedule 1-5 Substance; Possession of Marijuana less than 20 grams

Jimmy Lee Grubbs, 18, 37605 W. First Street, Hilliard: Utter Forged/Counterfeit Bill; Resist without Violence

Sunday, May 29

Kelvin Lenard Jordan, 50, 2125 Lambert Street, Hilliard: Possession of Methamphetamine; Possession of Drug Paraphernalia with Residue; Loitering and Prowling

Danny Joe Stalnaker, 25, 44340 Woodland Circle, Callahan: Aggravated Flee/Elude High Speed; Open Carry of Weapons; Reckless Driving; Driving While License Suspended or Revoked (No Prior Forcible Felony)

Monday, May 30

Kenneth Allen Sims, Jr., 34, 3799 Joy Lane, Hilliard: Possession of Schedule 1-5 Substance

Kaylee Adelle Valentine, 24, 34315 Hathaway Drive, Callahan: Identity Theft; Obtain Credit Card Fraudulently

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Georgia Street Project Nears Completion

Dawn S. West

The Hilliard Town Council met Thursday night for their first meeting of June. The first order of business was discussion and update on the CDBG Water Main & Lift Station Generator issues off of Georgia Street. "I just wanted to update the council and residents concerning the Water Main project off of Georgia Street. We have had nothing but issues with the company on this project. This CDBG project, which is a grant was not completed on time (May 27)," said Councilman Jared Wollitz. "It's been a bad deal for the town and residents. They've been an absentee contractor. We've had several complaints from citizens and we have or will address all of them. The current schedule is to be finished and all 80 plus customers back in service by the end of next week."

"I want to do right for the city. We've been stretched thin for employees but that's no excuse," said Dalton, representing DB Civil Construction, who is handling the project. "My goal is to have all customers hooked in by the end of next week. I'm bringing a crew up from Orlando tomorrow (Friday) to work all weekend to get this project done."

The following item was for the Town Council approval of the Final Plat Application for the Pine Street Estates Subdivision. After much conversation, the council approved the application.

The next agenda item concerned approval of the process for approving Infrastructure Improvements for the Town of Hilliard. After a very long discussion of back and forth with the council and Land Use Administrator Janis Fleet, the item was tabled so the issue could be discussed in a workshop.

Following, a joint workshop was scheduled for Monday, June 13 at 6 p.m.

to discuss the proposed amendments to the Zoning and Land Development Regulations.

Public Works Director Ritchie Rowe requested approval of a Capital Budgeted Walker Street Drainage and Paving Project to request an amendment to increase the cost from \$30,000 to \$45,000 due to increase cost of materials. The council approved the request.

The next agenda item concerned a change order for the Pool re-plaster (marcite) project with an increase of \$3,122 in price to install 8 new light niches; install torque lock staples to repair crack in the pool; and request a Capital Budget amendment to increase from \$90,000 to \$91,551. The council approved the request.

The council approved the payment of \$8,750 to Dixon Tree and Lawn Service for Mowing of Town Right of Ways through May 16.

The council also approved the final payments to Superior Design Pools and Spas, Inc. \$8,843 and also the change order cost of \$3,122, for the Town Swimming Pool Marcite Project.

The final item was an emergency item concerning daycares in the Commercial District. Due to a Zoning Code approved back in 1986-1987, that only allowed daycares in the residential districts, the council was questioned about the code. The only daycare that currently attends to babies is closing. The Hilliard Planning & Zoning Board had already noticed this and have an amendment to the code to be approved by the council. The council approved to expedite this change of the P & Z approved code amendment to be permissible by August 4, 2022.

The next meeting of the council will be Thursday, June 16 at 7 p.m.

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Callahan Council Recognizes Pastor Dan Search

Dawn S. West

The Callahan Town Council met Monday night for their first meeting of June. There were two people wishing to address the council. First, Mrs. Jenny Singley of Callahan approached the podium. "My husband Jason and I are the new swim coaches at West Nassau High School. I wanted to ask the council two things. Currently, the swim team travels to Hilliard to practice. I along with numerous other people would like to have a pool here in Callahan," said Jenny. "I would be more than happy to help with finding some grant money or talking with the schools about it. Also, we would appreciate any monetary help the town could give to the team to help with expenses."

"On your first question, we have talked about a pool before and talked with the school board about a pool at one of the schools. The school board quickly answered not at this time," said Council President Ken Bass. "As for a donation, we (council) would have to do a resolution for that. We could have one prepared at the next meeting."

Callahan resident Melissa Barber advised the council that she wanted to see about having her water bill adjusted due to a leaking toilet.

"Because the toilet was leaking, the water went to the sewer so that doesn't qualify for an adjustment," said Councilwoman Jacquelyn Fleming. "You need to talk with your landlord to get an adjustment on your rent."

Following, Council President Bass read a proclamation honoring Pastor Dan Search. Pastor Search has been serving as pastor of the Callahan First United Methodist Church and is retiring. His last Sunday in Callahan will be Sunday, June 19. The proclamation included: Pastor Dan began serving at the First United Methodist Church in Callahan on July 1, 2018; he developed an affiliation



with the Barnabas Center, brought them to the west side of Nassau County providing a facility and later became a board member; He led by example through his caring way and involvement in our community; and opened his church fellowship hall for Wednesday community dinners; among many other things.

Carol Saviak, North Florida External Affairs Manager, Florida Power & Light Company addressed the council. Ms. Saviak shared a Power Delivery and Storm Preparedness Guide with the council. "FPL is committed to delivering America's best energy value. FPL is consistently one of the cleanest electric utilities in the United States and the most reliable electric utility in the U.S.," said Saviak. "Our service area poses some unique challenges: FPL covers more than half of Florida; Electrical facilities are exposed to salt spray environment; More thunderstorms and lightning than any other U.S. region; Higher probability of a hurricane strike; and one of the fastest growing states in the U.S. Last but not least,



we partner with Nassau County Emergency Operation Center (EOC). Once the EOC is activated, FPL has two representatives at the EOC before, during and after the emergency."

Saviak then requested Council President Bass to come to the podium. "FPL would like to present this check of \$1,000 to assist with your upcoming Fireworks Display," said Saviak.

"Thank you so much. We really appreciate this," said Bass.

The next presentation was from Jamie Reynolds, President and CEO of the Barnabas Center. Reynolds shared a video presentation of testimonials from people that have been helped by Barnabas. "The need is real and more and more people and families are reaching out to us. We have a presence in Callahan but need to do more and we're asking for your (Town Council) help," said Reynolds.

"We're looking for critical funding to help the citizens of Callahan. There are so many that need medical and dental assistance," said Tania Yount, Barnabas Chief Development Officer. "Following the pandemic there are still so many needs. We're asking for the Town of Callahan to make a strategic investment in the Barnabas Center. We need technical upgrades for strict HIPAA laws; would like to have 2 Nurse Practitioners, etc. We are looking at a need of \$126,000."

"I would like to have a dollar amount of what you think the tech upgrades would be when you get a chance," said Town Manager Mike Williams.

"I'll make sure and send it to you when I have it," added Yount.

In other business, the council approved the Voluntary Annexation of 2.5 acres located by the Car Wash north of Callahan on US Highway 1.

The next agenda item concerned an equipment purchase. "We currently have three mowers in the town: a 2005 Dixie Chopper (broke down); a 2007 Cub Cadet; and a 2015 Dixie Chopper. I'm requesting to purchase a 2022 Dixie Chopper using a state contract for a cost of \$7,691.04," requested Williams. "The mower is located in Lake City." The council approved the purchase.

In closing comments, Bass advised the council that he has had several requests from residents asking about abandoned homes in town. We need to do something.

"We have discussed this many times. We need to get the ball rolling and take care of this," said Fleming.

"I'll have our building inspector look at the list we have and see where we go from there," said Williams.

"Let's put this on the July 5 agenda to start the process," added Fleming.

The next meeting will be held Monday, June 20 at 7 p.m.

CALLAHAN SPEEDWAY

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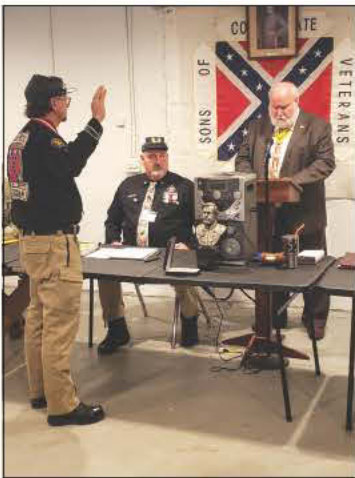
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S.C.V. Florida Division Reunion Held



The Florida Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans, recently held its 52nd annual State Reunion in Trenton, FL. Keynote speakers were former Florida Lt. Governor Jeff Kottkamp and current State Senator Dennis Baxley. Kirby-Smith Camp 1209 had twelve members attend.

This was an election year and the following Kirby-Smith members were elected to the following offices at the Florida Division level: Commander Calvin Hart; Adjutant Rick Roberts; Treasurer Mark Sizemore; Northeast Lt. Commander Chris Bunton and 6th Brigade Commander Hal Schemer. The Florida Division of the S.C.V. is composed of over 1,200 members in 44 camps throughout the state.



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The next Session will be held Tuesday, June 14.

Stay in touch by phone or emails. Sign in between 5:30 - 5:45 p.m. Jeans and collared shirts required for boy and modest dressed for girls. Court begins promptly at 6 p.m. and is over by 7 p.m. Three hours of community service for each Court Session! We are always seeking new students to serve as Attorneys in Court. Anyone wishing to learn and serve in this position, just serve on the jury and speak to the coordinator about joining the team. The Court meets at the Robert M. Foster Judicial Center in Yulee. Simply show up, sign up and serve on the Jury. Call Nancy Beasley, Coordinator at 904-548-4520 or email: nbeasley@nassaucountyfl.com.



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Saturday, June 11th • 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Apply and interview on the spot!

Start your career with us! Entry level positions and on the job training with **starting pay at \$15.75**. We are committed to training and growing our people to be successful to reach their goals for the future.

Tour the mill and speak to staff about the career opportunities in Lumber Manufacturing. We will be grilling hamburgers and hotdogs for all participants.

Location:
Whitehouse Lumber Mill
109 Halsema Road, S. Jacksonville, FL 32220

If you are interested in learning about our industry, please contact Brenda Kersey at 904-695-3823 or Brenda.kersey@westfraser.com to confirm your spot for the tours.

Any Staff or Educators interested in seeing our process are welcomed and encouraged to participate!

NOW HIRING!



MAJOR CONCRETE is a locally-owned, fast-growing Ready Mix Concrete company serving Northeast Florida.

As we expand, we are looking for a few new drivers and yard personnel willing to contribute and grow with our team.

- ★ Great Pay
- ★ Benefits
- ★ 40+ Hours Per Week
- ★ Utilizing New Trucks
- ★ Local Deliveries Only

DRIVERS
starting at
\$18.75/Hour

YARD PERSONNEL
starting at
\$17.00/Hour

Applicants must possess a valid commercial driver's license (CDL A or B)
No Ready Mix truck experience needed!

Ready Mix experience preferred, but we're willing to train if you're willing to learn.

Call Today! 912-421-8988

We look forward to hearing from you!



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