

WESTSIDE JOURNAL



VOLUME XVI ISSUE 2

HOMETOWN PEOPLE...HOMETOWN NEWS

THURSDAY, JULY 18, 2019

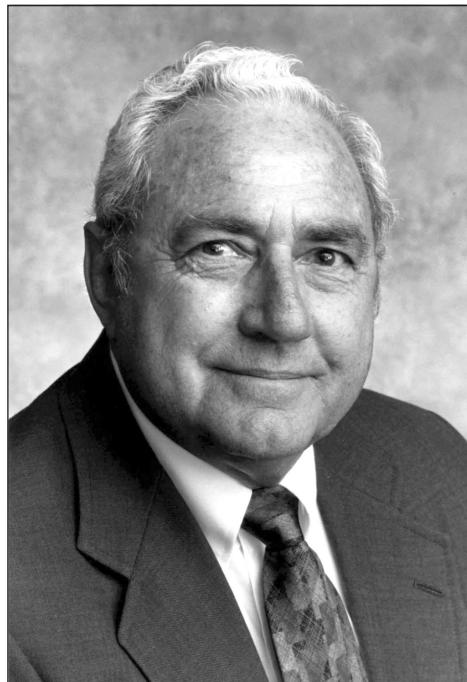
"DO NOT FEAR, FOR I AM WITH YOU; DO NOT ANXIOUSLY LOOK ABOUT YOU, FOR I AM YOUR GOD. I WILL STRENGTHEN YOU, SURELY I WILL HELP YOU, SURELY I WILL UPHOLD YOU WITH MY RIGHTEOUS RIGHT HAND." - ISAIAH 41:10

Callahan Mourns the Passing of Patriarch William Cook

Dawn S. West

Last Wednesday, one by one, friends, co-workers, former employees and the business world found out about the passing of Mr. William Cook. He was a good man with excellent work ethics. Mr. Cook was pretty well a lifelong resident of Callahan as he moved here in 1946 to join his Uncle Henry's turpentine and pulpwood business. He worked hard out in the field both cutting wood and hauling it. In 1950, he joined the US Air Force. After serving 4 years, he returned to his career in Callahan. In 1955, he married his beautiful wife Betty. In 1965, he bought the company, Callahan Timber, from his uncle. "If he told you something you could believe it. He was a fair man and was good to his employees," said Thelma Bethea. "He was a pleasure to work with. If you made a mistake he was okay when you talked with him about it. But don't lie to him. That was something he couldn't tolerate." Mrs. Thelma just recently retired after 47 years of service at Callahan Timber.

The Callahan Timber is one of the



most unique buildings in Callahan, built with logs, of course. Mr. Cook was not only a faithful employer and businessman but he also went to work every day. Recently, you could even see him climbing out of his truck, getting his walker and going up the stairs into the building. He was dedicated to his

business and employees. This past year he has gone through some serious health issues but as quick as he could get back to the office, he would.

A few of his many accomplishments includes: President of the Florida Forestry Association; creation of the Florida Forestry Foundation; Florida Forestry Tree PAC; as well as being honored to the prestigious Florida Agriculture Hall of Fame in 2017. He was one of the instrumental people in bringing the first bank to Callahan, Nassau County State Bank. He served

as Chairman of the Board for the bank. Mr. Cook was a true leader, entrepreneur and family man. A true pillar of the town and entire county.

Callahan is a much better place thanks to the leadership and role model of this great man. Many of us in the business world today owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. Cook. Sometimes maybe for his quiet demeanor or the way his door was always open if you needed to speak with him. Our prayers go out to his family.

His funeral service was held Monday,

July 15 at Callahan First Baptist Church with Pastor Lynn Hyatt officiating. He was laid to rest beside his wife at Live Oak Baptist Church Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Advance Cancer Research at Mayo Clinic Florida: Mayo Clinic Development Office, 4500 San Pablo Road South, Jacksonville, FL 32224.



Northeast Florida Fair Association Receives \$990,000

Dawn S. West

The Northeast Florida Fair Association has been working extremely hard to make much needed improvements to our fairgrounds. As many of you might not know, the Northeast Florida Fair is the only fair in our county. It services everyone in the county. Fair Association President Keith Wingate and Fair Trustee Paulette Kirkland have been working non-stop to get additional money for upgrades to the fairgrounds. "We started talking with the Department of Agriculture about Capital Funding. We found out what we needed to do to start applying for some of that money," said Paulette. "There's a huge application process. In 2015 was our first time applying and we didn't get any money. But we didn't stop. Each year we apply. In 2017, we

received \$256,000; 2018, \$550,000 and 2019, \$990,000. We were the only fair association that received money this year."

Each application must have the information for what you plan to do with the money such as the projects

that are planned to be completed. "Everything takes money and a lot of it," added Keith. "Time is another problem. All projects take lots of time for engineering, permitting, workers, etc. We're getting things done but we had to start from the ground and go from there."

New lights have already been wired for the parking areas. A new water system was installed and the bathrooms were completely redone. The eating area has been redone making it much more eye-pleasing and

actually easier to read what everyone is offering.

"You must have a sponsor, someone from the House and Senate to help push your information through. We have that in Rep. Cord Byrd and Senator Aaron Bean," added Keith. "These men realize the growth of the county. They also see the vision for this to not only be a top notch fairground but also a great facility for many other events for the entire county."

The Northeast Florida Fair Association also partners with Nassau County Emergency Services. They use the facility for staging of the many utility vehicles during an emergency (hurricane or disaster). This partnership has helped both groups to help each other. The fair owns 113 acres so they

See 'Fair Association' on page 2



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We Deserve Better!

Dear Editor,

Citizens for a Better Nassau County (CBNC) was absolutely stunned by the recent news of the county operating outside of the Sunshine and Open Records Laws on occasions too numerous to count. Transparency is fundamental to good government, and when we elected our county commissioners, we put our trust in them to operate transparently and openly. It is extremely troubling that the people we elected to lead our county have utterly failed to do so. Their behavior shows a complete mismanagement of business practices at the county now combined with the real possibility of illegal activity. And because this was only exposed through litigation from the county's failure to honestly respond to a public records request, it makes one wonder what other issues may be lurking beneath the surface.

We must hold our elected officials accountable. Our county commission cannot continue to operate recklessly, with little regard for the rule of law and the job they were elected to do. This lack of transparency on top of other governance issues: combining the roles of county attorney and county manager thus eliminating any checks and balances within county staff, also raises concerns about where we currently stand and where we are heading.

The cost of these choices by our elected officials is substantial and it has had and will continue to have a significant negative impact on our community. We deserve better. We deserve transparency from our local government. If our county commission cannot operate in accordance with the law, it's time for a new county commission.

We, as Citizens for a Better Nassau County, are committed to four primary guiding principles that comprise our mission: 1) Integrity in all business dealings, particularly relating to matters of public trust; 2) Fiscal prudence in all county government matters and the replacement of outdated finance methods with new efficiencies; 3) Meaningful, long-term strategic programs that drive private capital investment into the county,

Letters to the Editor

in turn, bolstering recurring tax revenue and offsetting residential taxpayer-funded capital investment; and 4) Accountability from politicians and government employees, as well as transparency and fairness in their service to our community. More information about Citizens for a Better Nassau County can be found at citizensforabetternassau.com.

Bill Gingrich, Chairman CBNC

USA Haters!

Dear Editor,

Why would you hate the United States of America? Why would anyone, living in the United States of America, hate America? To put it simply, they are looking at the USA through someone else's eyes. There is not a single person, today, who can hold hatred for America honestly in their heart. They may be able to look at examples of people who live in America and decide they hate America. But not one person living in the United States of America has a reason to hate the Country, as the founding document, amended, gives the absolute best form of governance that has ever been assembled.

When I see or hear about some washed up athlete or even some current athlete say they cannot sing or even stand for the National anthem, I wonder why? Is it because they have personally been wronged by the United States of America, recently? If you have to go back 240 plus years (pointing at a woman who never did anything to you) in order to find your grievance, I am pretty sure there is a person in your family tree that I can point to who has done something wrong, which would of course give me all of the reason I needed to hate you. Current athletes are not even able to list their grievance, because they have learned their hatred from socialist/communist sympathizers. If your inability to stand and/or sing the National anthem is that great, why are you representing the Country on a team?

You have about the same personal integrity as some of the great schemers in

America's history; Gore, Madoff, etc. In the United States of America, you are able to do, be or not be anything you wish as long as it does no harm to another person. What is there to hate about that? If you are going to hate something, at least get the facts together, look them over, and then decide if you choose hate. There are people busting their tails to get to America, because the places they are leaving are truly oppressive, and not the fairy tale, Hollywood, Liberal kind of oppressive. If the United States of America is as bad as some of these famous and infamous people are saying, why do they stay?

Are they here to be the savior of all the oppressed people? Aside from spewing their regurgitated nonsense, what are they doing to rectify the outrageous wrongs? I suggest that all they are doing is collecting a paycheck and riding this wobbly wheeled cart for as long as it will carry their sorry behinds. One day, and I hope the day is not far away, I want to be able to see the Country unite as a whole, not from some horrific event, but collectively as Americans. I believe you will never, ever find a Country that will allow you the freedoms we have here in America. If you know of a Country and can't stand to be in this one, please do us all a favor and move.

Mark Roach

Letters to the Editor may be emailed to news@westsidejournal.net but must include a complete name.

Fair Association

have plenty of room to grow. This year, the board voted to hire a Consultant, Charlie Smith from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He is one of the top designers of fairgrounds. "It was nice to have another person's perspective of what we have and how we can make it better," added Keith. "We look forward to discussing his ideas and putting them

Continued from page 1
into action."

This year, the eating area has been stained and new signs hung. The biggest change fairgoers will notice is that the back parking lot, which will really be the new front entrance, will all be paved. No more getting stuck! Congratulations to the Fair Association! Keep up the good work!

In the Kitchen...

1 (14 oz.) can diced tomatoes with green chile peppers (such as ROTEL®), drained
1 (1 lb.) loaf processed cheese (such as Velveeta®), cubed
2 large cooked skinless, boneless chicken breast halves, shredded

Place the diced tomatoes, processed cheese, chicken meat, sour cream, green onion, taco seasoning, and jalapeno pepper into a slow cooker. Cook on high, stirring occasionally until the cheese has melted and the dip is hot, 1 to 2 hours. Stir in the black beans, and cook 15 more minutes to reheat.

Warm Chicken Nacho Dip

1/3 cup sour cream
1/4 cup diced green onion
1 1/2 tablespoons taco seasoning mix
2 tbsp. minced jalapeno pepper, or to taste (optional)
1 cup black beans, rinsed and drained

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WESTSIDE JOURNAL STAFF

Dawn West Publisher
Roger West Owner/Reporter
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*Fish Talk**Tackle Talk**Chris Cockerham, Reel Habit*

You know, the question I get asked quite often is what kind of rods I use. More specifically, what action and what brands. Well, that's a great question, my answer is multiple actions and the brand I choose is "Cajun Custom Rods." They are local, Veteran owned and made right here in the U.S.A. They're also based right here out of Jacksonville. I love supporting local, more importantly, I like quality equipment.

So, first off, can you use one rod for all inshore species? Well, I guess that depends on who you ask. In my opinion, there are multiple reasons behind each rod and its action. For instance, trout have very thin mouths. So when throwing lures with trebles, I want a rod with a smooth parabolic bend and a soft tip. The last thing you need is a stiff rod that pulls the trebles at the boat, that's no bueno. That's why I use the "Cajun Trigger." It allows me to stay hooked up while trout throw those nasty head shakes. It also gives the user just enough resistance and backbone to wear trout down with minimal tissue damage.

Next, red fish, I like using the "Cajun Savannah." They are great all around rods and have a sensitive tip which will allow you to feel the slightest bump. Savannahs are stupid strong and whip upper slot reds with ease. They have a strong backbone which helps with deep hook sets while using jigs. Savannahs are also great for throwing spinner baits or gulp shrimp. The advantage of these carbon fiber blanks are light and balanced perfectly for casting all day.

How about flounder? Well, I like the "Cajun Valor" and the "Cajun Atled." They both have excellent sensitivity and just the right amount of backbone. When I'm fishing for flounder, I like a longer rod. Both the Valor and Atled come in longer blanks such as 7'3" and 7'6". Flounder can be pretty challenging, I do not want a rod that has an extremely stiff tip. If you get bit, many times Flounder will settle right back on the bottom. I like to be able to lift slightly and see if the fish pulls against me. When I feel the fish has committed to my bait, I set the rod with authority.

Lastly, keep in mind, use your drag properly in conjunction with your rod selection and you will become more successful. Have a great weekend, catch a bunch of fish and I hope to see you all on the water!

EVENTS AROUND TOWN

2019 Market Animal Weigh-in - The weigh-in for steers, lambs, & swine will be Saturday, July 20, 2019, 8-10 a.m. at the Fairgrounds.

The American Legion Post 401 plays BINGO every Thursday at 6 p.m. at their post, 37405 Henry Smith Rd., Hilliard. Everyone welcome! For more information call 845-7300.

By opening your heart and home to a youth in Foster Care, you can help forge a lifetime of success and happiness for a child right here in Nassau. Are you ready to learn more? There will be an informative meeting Thursday, July 18 at 6 p.m. at the Callahan Fire Department. Contact Lisa Rozier at 904-614-0269 for more information.

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I will have to admit that President Trump stepped over the line somewhat with his tweet this past weekend concerning the evil progressive democrat congresswomen Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Rep. Ilhan Omar, Rep. Rashida Tlaib and Rep. Ayanna Pressley. He should not have said what he said in the way he said it. His tweet was as follows: "So interesting to see 'Progressive' Democrat Congresswomen, who originally came from countries whose governments are a complete and total catastrophe, the worst, most corrupt and inept anywhere in the world (if they even have a functioning government at all), now loudly...and viciously telling the people of the United States, the greatest and most powerful Nation on earth, how our government is to be run. Why don't they go back and help fix the totally broken and crime infested places from which they came. Then come back and show us how it is done. These places need your help badly, you can't leave fast enough. I'm sure that Nancy Pelosi would be very happy to quickly work out free travel arrangements."

This all comes off the heels of a dispute between Pelosi and the four women President Trump referred to. AOC even accused Pelosi of "singling out newly elected women of color. Of course all four women fired back at the President on their Twitter Accounts as well as ole Hillary. Tlaib wrote: "Want a response to a lawless & complete failure of a President? He is the crisis.

His dangerous ideology is the crisis. He needs to be impeached."

She needs to open her eyes and see that the failure left office 2 1/2 years ago. Trump has done so many successful things for such a diverse majority of people. He is successful; however the liberal left and the Progressive socialists will never accept the fact. Of course all the liberal media self-proclaimed pundits went crazy and began blasting Trump for being a racist. This by the way is in no way accurate!

In the jest of what he twitted, I agree 100% with the President. He doesn't and I don't care what color of skin a person has. One is either pro-America or are against America. I too am sick and tired of all these people wanting to change our country to suit themselves. If they want to live under Islamic law, then move to a country that honors that. If you want a socialist country, then move to one. If you want our country to be like Mexico or any other South American country, then move there. These four women are an insult to the long history of America. Be it our relationship with Israel, our strong capitalist way of living, protecting our borders and the list goes on that these women are against. Basically they are against the entire fiber of what makes America great. His message was spot on, however his presentation could have been a bit more polished. But believe me, when I say, Let's Keep America Great! If you don't love it, leave it!

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

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Are You a Connected Person?

Pastor Ted Heglund, First Alliance Church, Hilliard



How do you connect with family and friends? How do we connect to God? In our world today it seems that everybody has a cell phone or at least a computer available. We expect instant communications and wonder how did we live before all this technology? It has been said that we have lost our ability to be patient and wait for an answer. Someone not too long ago wanted to know why I didn't answer my phone when they called and was surprised when I said I was talking with someone and so I did not answer. The other person was the priority at that moment.

Connecting, that is communicating with God, is very important and prayer is our side of the connection. However, many of us try to use prayer in the same manner as our cell phone, text messaging, etc. We wish that God had a 1-800 number so we could get that instant reply. When He does not reply instantly with the answer we want, we are frustrated, angry or simply walk away!

The truth of connecting with God is that God is always speaking. As the Bible says, "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge... Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world" (Psalm 19:1-4 NIV). If the Lord God Almighty is always speaking then is the issue with us rather than Him?

Connecting with God is a two-way communication with Him. The Lord God's primary avenue of connecting with us is through the reading and studying of His word – the Bible. In 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV) we read, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

The other half of communicating is through prayer. Prayer is speaking with God. It is giving Him glory and praise. It is when with our voices and hearts recognize that He is Sovereign and over all even when we do not understand what is happening.

Jesus said in Luke 11:28 (NIV) "He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it." Notice that the key is that we listen and obey. The problem is that we are not listening for the Lord to speak to us.

Listening is a skill that we develop and choose to do just like obedience is a choice. For example: When our children were small Judith, my wife, could hear their cries long before I did because she had a mother's heart and was with them more than I was. When we lived in a village in Indonesia and had a short-wave radio we learned to hear our station, "Kebo," if a pilot or someone called in the middle of a lot of chatter. The Nassau County Sheriff's Office Deputies can be in the middle of a conversation yet they will hear dispatch call their radio number.

When we cannot hear the Lord God it is because we are not listening for Him. We might not be able to hear God because we are too busy "communicating" on Facebook, texting, phone calls, Twitter, etc. The amazing thing is that it may seem that the hardest time to hear God is when we are going through our toughest times. But perhaps during the toughest times, the most important thing to do is to stop, pray, read His word and listen. Romans 10:17 (NIV) "Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ."

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HELPING OUR VETERANS

My name is Abigail Pickett. I am 10 years old and live in Hilliard. I am collecting items for local Veterans. I feel very strongly that they get overlooked in our society. I have heard a lot about poor veteran healthcare and the suicide rate. This really bothered me and I want to do my part to help.

The 5-Star Veterans Center in Jacksonville is a place that houses nearly 40 veterans. They provide housing, counseling, assistance obtaining medical care and job training. Their mission is to get homeless veterans mentally and physically healthy so they can return to work, reunite with their families and successfully regain control of their lives following deployment.



Last summer, I collected many items and monetary donations for the center. I was able to hand deliver these items and the veterans were very thankful. It was so fun to make a difference and put a smile on their faces. I feel it is our duty to take care of our veterans, so I am once again collecting for the 5-Star Veterans Center.

The center is in need of items such as personal hygiene products, cleaning supplies and small snacks, like crackers and candy. I'll be collecting these items at the Westside Journal office across from Dollar General in Callahan through Friday, August 16. Thank you for helping me, help our veterans!

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CHURCH NEWS

Gateway to Life Ministries will have a Food Giveaway Saturday, July 20 for families in need from 10 a.m. - noon. The church is located at 37837 Eastwood Rd., Hilliard.

Bethany Episcopal Church will serve Pork & chicken dinners for \$8 this Friday, July 19 from 5-7 p.m. The church is located on CR 108, across from Hilliard Town Hall.

Ephesus Baptist Church, 48143 Ephesus Rd., Hilliard, will be hosting a Clothes Closet Back-to-School Open House on Saturday, July 27 and Sat., August 3 from 9 a.m. - noon. Call 845-3426 for more information.

River Road Baptist Church, 21067 CR 121, Hilliard, will hold their annual Clothes Giveaway Friday, July 19 and Saturday, July 20 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Bring a bag to fill with free clothing! Free hot dog lunch!

Don't miss VBS this week!

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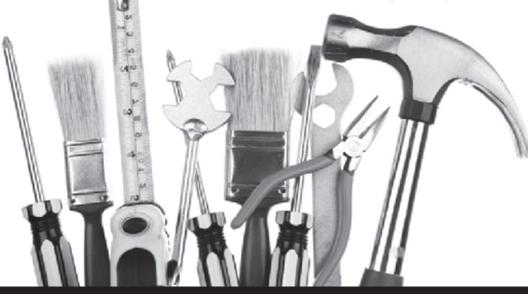
will be closed on Dyal Rd. from Old Dixie Hwy.

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Huntin' for Foster Parents!

Did you know? 55% of Nassau County Children who are removed from their homes come from Callahan and Hilliard but there are only five foster homes in these areas. Help keep these kids in their local community! Interested in learning more? JOIN US:

Thursday, July 18 at 6 p.m.
Callahan Fire Department Meeting Room
1960 S. Kings Road

Or

Tuesday, September 10 at 6 p.m.
FSS Nassau, 96016 Lofton Square Court, Yulee
RSVP to: Lisa Rozier at 904-614-0269 or Lisa.Rozier@fssnf.org.

**CAR WASH SATURDAY
FOR HILLIARD FOOTBALL
SATURDAY, JULY 20TH
8 A.M. - 2 P.M.
LIFE CARE CENTER
OF HILLIARD
3756 W. 3RD STREET**



The Pride of Hilliard is hosting the 2nd Annual Community Car Wash. The goal of the fundraiser is to raise \$3,500 and all proceeds will go towards both Middle and Varsity football teams to purchase team cleats. If you have any questions, contact the Pride of Hilliard president Billy Moore at (904) 228-8904.

Youth Explosion Held Saturday

Dawn S. West

If you did not go to Buchanan Park in Hilliard Saturday, you missed a fun time! The Concerned Citizens of Hilliard sponsored their 15th Annual Youth Explosion. The event was open to all children and families. It was a day of learning, playing games, eating

in our county. Following, the KGK Anointed Gospel Singers, an awesome family trio, got the crowd moving with a gospel song. It was so great to see children involved in the program and sharing their love for Jesus! The singers were: Katelynn Thomas, Gemar Thomas and Kirsten Thomas.

Following the singers, the games began starting with a water balloon toss. There were several games played including the children and adults! Everyone enjoyed a great lunch and then the children received their school supplies.

Thank you to the Concerned Citizens of Hilliard for another great event.



and getting much needed school supplies! Everyone gathered under the big pavilion at Buck Park.

Speakers from the Barnabas Center, Nassau County Sheriff's Department, Take Stock in Children and the Ministerial Alliance of Nassau County were all on hand. Each took time to enlighten the crowd on just what each of their particular businesses do here



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Legs
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**Filet Mignon
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10 lb. Beef Patties
10 lb. French Fries**
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w/purchase
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PEO Department Receives Two State Grant Awards

The Nassau County Planning + Economic Opportunity (PEO) Department has recently been awarded grants from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Florida Division of Historical Resources (DHR).

The \$40,000 DEP grant is the second grant award that will assist in completing a Vulnerability Assessment. A previous grant awarded last year initiated the first phase of the assessment. A Vulnerability Assessment reviews potential exposure to existing developed areas and future areas of development, financial exposure, and risks to environmental and cultural resources as it relates to flooding and sea level rise.

The two areas to be studied in the second phase of the Vulnerability Assessment are: 1) Amelia Island and 2) west of I-95 and north of A1A/SR 200/301. The first phase grant studied east of I-95 excluding the island and west of I-95, south of A1A/SR 200/301. The County has a goal of holistically incorporating resiliency planning into all planning activities, instead of treating it as a siloed, separate planning exercise. For more information, visit: www.nassaucountyfl.com/vulnerabilityassessment.

The \$50,000 DHR grant will allow the County to have a historic resource survey completed. With the projected growth in Nassau County, it is a critical time to inventory and plan for historic and cultural resources. The proposed scope of work for the Nassau County Countywide Historic Resources Survey

is comprised of three parts: 1) Updating existing Florida Master Site File forms, 2) Surveying areas for potential additions to the Florida Master Site File, and 3) Suggesting recommendations for preservation strategies. For more information on the County's history, visit www.nassaucountyfl.com/history.

Neither grant award required a match from the County. The Board of County Commissioners will be presented with the grant agreements for formal acceptance at forthcoming Board meetings, and the County will select consultants to assist in completing the grant projects. The DEP grant project is estimated to be completed in the first quarter of 2020, and the DHR grant project will be completed by June 2020. Community outreach and updates will be part of both grant projects.

The Nassau County Planning and Economic Opportunity Department is charged with leading long-range and current planning for the community, with a focus on technical planning, implementation and management of the Land Development Code and Comprehensive Plan, development and site plan review, and assistance to citizens, the Board of County Commissioners, County Manager and other staff, advisory boards, government agencies, and the private sector regarding growth and development in Nassau County.

For more information on our Plan, Code, or current initiatives, visit www.nassaucountyfl.com/planning, call (904) 530-6300 or email planninginfo@nassaucountyfl.com.

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Railroad Crossing Closures Updated

Dyal Road in Callahan: July 18 at 8 a.m. to July 23 at 5 p.m., closed all night. Proposed Detour: US1 to Henry Smith Road to Old Dixie Hwy to Dyal Road

Braddock Road in Callahan: July 18 at 8 a.m. to July 23 at 5 p.m., closed all night. Citizens on north side of tracks will be contacted concerning detour

Old Dixie Hwy in Callahan: July 22 at 8 a.m. to July 27 at 5 p.m., closed all night. Proposed Detour: Brandies Avenue to River Road to Bypass Road to Old Dixie Hwy

River Road in Callahan: TBD, but not at the same time as Old Dixie Hwy so this road can be used as that detour.

Pickett Street in Callahan: July 23 at 8 a.m. to July 28 at 5 p.m., closed all night. Proposed Detour: US1 to US301 to Pickett Street

Ratliff Road in Callahan: July 25 at 8 a.m. to July 30 at 5 p.m., closed all night. Proposed Detour: US1 to US301 to Thomas Creek Road to Ratliff Road

Please note that any/all dates are subject to change due to weather and/or other conditions. For additional information, please contact Angela D. Nelis at Southern Commercial Development 803-808-3600.



Micah's Place to Hold Night of Safety Campaign

Micah's Place is excited to announce the launch of the Night of Safety Campaign for the 2019-2020 year. Last year, Micah's Place provided 4,440 Nights of Safety to domestic violence survivors and their children. Sometimes, survivors do not have a safe place to flee the abuse they are enduring. This is why Micah's Place emergency shelter is so important, it gives a survivor a safe haven to recuperate and start fresh. Last year, Micah's Place had 65 unmet requests for safe shelter—that is how big of an issue domestic violence is in our community.

In response, Micah's Place is happy to announce that their shelter is nearing completion of a desperately needed shelter expansion, doubling the available beds for survivors and their children. While 46% of Micah's Place operating budget is from grants, state and federal funding, the remainder of their budget is supported by the

community. They've crunched the numbers and the portion of a Night of Safety in Micah's Place emergency shelter not covered by grants comes to \$46.22 per night.

For \$46.22, a Night of Safety provides everything a survivor or child will need including: the physical

safety of a warm, safe place, 24-hour confidential on-site support, all meals and snacks, personal care essentials, resources & referrals to community supports, after shelter support and much more. By providing everything they will need, one night at a time, together we can help survivors and their children overcome the immense challenge of rebuilding their lives after fleeing abuse.

For more information or to donate visit: www.micahsplace.org/night-of-safety/. If you or someone you know is in an abusive situation and in need of assistance call Micah's Place 24/7 hotline at 904-225-9979.

Micah's Place

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Fri. & Sat. 11 am - 9:30 pm, Sun. 11 am - 9 pm*



Callahan Approves Re-Zoning for New Duplexes

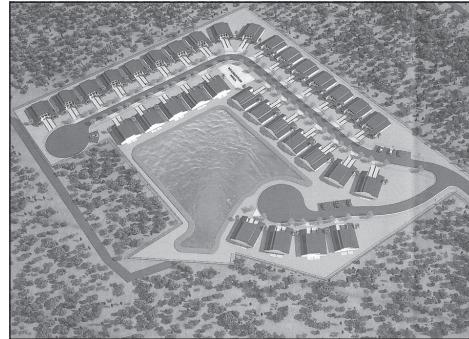
Dawn S. West

The Callahan Town Council met Monday night after a 3-week holiday break per say. Ta'Nasha Parker, representing the Nassau County Economic Development Board, approached the podium. "I just wanted to update you all about an Industry Network Meeting that will be held at Rayonier on Thursday. You can RSVP to me at the office if you plan to come. Also, July 23 the full board and Executive Board will be meeting at the Red Bean Center. Everyone is invited to attend."

Callahan resident Mike Cole approached the podium. "I'm here to speak about the Liquor Store and their plans to grow. I'm not against growth at all. I know it is coming. But to grow in a manner that's not good for Callahan, I'm against. These site plans have a playground on it. Mr. Bass you prayed before the meeting that we (the council) would make decisions in the pleasure of the Lord. Pretty sure this wouldn't please Him. Thank you."

A Public Hearing was held on Ordinance 2019-O06 which concerned rezoning a parcel of land (10 acres) from Mixed Use to Planned Urban Development. The developer plans to build 33 duplex apartments (total of 66) on the property that is directly behind Full Circle Animal Hospital on SR 200. The council approved the rezoning. The second and final Public Hearing on this ordinance will be held at the August 5 meeting.

SCW Liquors was on the agenda



for a site plan review however all the information for the review was not available. The review will be sent back to the Planning & Zoning Board until all the information is received.

Resolution 2019-R17 was approved which concerned the Nassau County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. "There were only a few changes within the plan. One was that the County Manager can declare a State of Emergency should we need one," said Greg Foster, Nassau County Emergency Manager. "The second, we are trying to get approval to enter a private drive or roadway (subdivision) to remove debris if needed."

The council agreed to set the tentative mileage rate at the roll back rate of 2.6079, the same as last year.

Mayor Marty Fontes advised the council that he and Public Works Director Mike Williams have been looking at land to annex in to the town. He provided maps of the property and requested approval to move forward with the annexation. The council approved the request.

The next meeting of the council will be Monday, August 5 at 7 p.m.

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Spotlight on Mental Health The Positive News

The Nassau County affiliate of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) would like to share that life can be purposeful and enjoyable while living with a serious mental health condition.

Society is often exposed to media coverage that pairs the topic of mental health with acts of violence. This may unintentionally increase stigma and deter individuals from seeking medical treatment. NAMI cites that individuals with a serious mental illness are more likely to be victims of violent crime as opposed to engaging in violent acts. Three members of our community are exemplary examples that life after a mental health diagnosis can be worthwhile and at the same time help dispel the myth that individuals that live with a serious mental illness are prone to violent acts. Following is the second member's story.



and Bipolar Disorder. Mr. Hardman had to stop working, receive disability, and currently resides in an assisted living facility (ALF). The ALF is the least restrictive environment that allows him to remain stable and manage his illness.

John's altruism became apparent as he served on the NAMI Nassau Board of Directors for several years, did volunteer work at his ALF, facilitated education courses for his peers, assisted with crisis intervention training (CIT) at the Nassau County Sheriff's Office, and took a state exam to

receive a certificate as a Peer Support Specialist. John is now employed part time with a local behavioral health agency and travels with his peers to medical appointments to serve as their advocate and facilitate communication with providers. Though a humble and soft-spoken man, he is quick to tell people, "I may have a mental illness; but that is not what defines me as a person."

NAMI Nassau County, wants individuals experiencing mental health symptoms to realize that they are not alone. They may call the NAMI Helpline at 800-950-6264 or if in a crisis may text NAMI to 741741. They may also contact the local NAMI Nassau County helpline at (904) 277-1886.

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New Building Dedicated at Dayspring Senior Living

With the assistance of Florida's Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis, Dayspring Senior Living announced the name of the new 12,584 sq. ft. facility now under construction on its 36-acre campus just north of Hilliard. "We are so excited to have had so many public officials and members from the community come and attend this important ceremony. The new building will be dedicated to caring for seniors and veterans here in Northeast Florida," said Douglas Adkins, Executive Director. "We believe strongly that the living space should have a name, just as our seniors have names. The name of the new building will now be called the



'Frances Elizabeth Huey Residence' in honor and memory of my wife's (Janet Adkins) mother Liz Huey who passed away on January 1, 2019. The rooms will be named after Florida's rivers and springs. It is water that flows in these streams and springs that reminds us of the importance of life, even as we age."

Florida CFO Jimmy Patronis is the third statewide public official to make the trek to Hilliard in the last 13 months. "In June 2018, we hosted



now Governor Ron DeSantis at DSL; we then worked to bring now Lt. Governor Jeanette Nunez to the American Legion Hall; and now CFO Patronis," added Adkins. "Hilliard is a special place we call home for our residents and many of our

staff. I am committed to the Hilliard community. We have recently opened a new office in Hilliard and will announce

a new program for seniors in Hilliard in the near future."

The event welcomed several officials including: Sheriff Bill Leeper, Fire



Chiefs Brady Rigdon and Greg Roland, Vice Mayor of Fernandina Beach Len Kreger, Port Commissioner Mike Cole, Jacksonville City Councilman Reggie Gaffney, representatives from Congressman Rutherford's office, Florida Health Care Association, Nassau County Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development Board, Community First Bank and so many local leaders including Wanda Arnold and Bobby Franklin. "It is the people that make a difference and we are blessed to have great people serving our residents and their families," said Adkins.

The new building is expected to be completed in early 2020 with a grand opening date to be announced at a later date. To learn more about Dayspring Senior Living, please visit: www.dayspringseniorliving.org or call at 904-845-1940.



Clothing Give-A-Way Saturday!

River Road Baptist Church will hold their Annual Clothing Give-A-Way this Friday and Saturday, July 19 and 20 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. There will be FREE clothing both days and also a hot dog lunch. No re-sellers please! Those who are in need of clothing of all sizes (men, women & children) are encouraged to attend! Saturday ONLY, there will also be FREE Food from Farm Share (while supplies last)!

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Friday, July 19th
6 - 7:30 p.m.
Ice Cream Bar & Floats
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Entertainment

Callahan Train Depot
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Local Rider Headed to Nationals!



Cami Young, of Hilliard, started riding motorcycles on a Honda 50 at 3-years-old. Her Daddy nicknamed her Cami Knievel cause she crashed so much. The name still stands but her driving is much better! She began motocross racing at age 4 1/2. She is now 14 and still racing and competing. She currently rides a Kawasaki 100cc Super Mini.

Cami, and her dad Bill, just returned from the South of the Border MX in South Carolina. Following a bad start at regionals and going down in moto to finish 12th she came back for a 3rd Place in Moto 2 and battled to 2nd Place in Moto 3 with super-fast lap times for



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5th Place overall. With that, she secured her place with the top 42 girls in the country!

There, Cami qualified at regionals for the 38th Annual Rocky Mountain ATV/MC AMA Amateur National Motocross Championship to be held at Loretta Lynn's Ranch in Hurricane Mills, Tennessee on July 29. The event is presented by Lucas Oil and is the world's largest and most prestigious amateur motocross racing program. Nearly 22,000 racers attempt to qualify in 35 classes for the 1,446 available positions at the National.

Cami has been training at MTF Milsaps Training Facility in Cairo, GA with Jazzmyn Canfield, a 4-time Loretta Lynn's Champion! Cami is sponsored by Jacksonville Powersports, Pro Action Suspension, Illusive Gloves, North Florida Motocross and ATS Racing. This upcoming school year, Cami is going in the 9th grade at Hilliard Middle-Senior High School. She loves racing her bike and beating the boys!

New Beginnings and Milestones

James Allard Bolden



James was welcomed home by his big sister Erin Mae Bolden!

Theresa (Crawley) and Jacob Bolden, of Fernandina Beach, are proud to announce the birth of their son James Allard Bolden. James was born July 3, 2019 at Baptist Medical Center in Jacksonville. He weighed 9 pounds 15 ounces and measured 22.5 inches.

Paternal grandparents are Ed and Teresa Bolden of Valdosta, Georgia.

Maternal grandparents are Richard and Diane Crawley of Callahan.

Proud great-grandmother is Beverly Eckes of Callahan.

Back to School Bash Saturday!

Saturday, July 20th
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

West Nassau High School

The Annual Back to School Bash will be held this Saturday at West Nassau High School. There will be backpacks for every age child (accompanied by an adult). The event is free and all are welcomed to attend.

This event has previously been held at Ewing Park but now will be held at West Nassau. Children may also receive a certificate for a free athletic physical for the school year. There will be a bounce house for the children and a lunch will be provided.



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After fulfilling her dream of becoming an officer in the U.S. Navy and serving for seven years, **Stephanie Meyer, MD**, is excited to practice family medicine in North Florida, where she completed her residency. As a board-certified family medicine physician, Dr. Meyer is joining **Warren Groff, MD**, at Baptist Primary Care in Callahan. She is passionate about family medicine and treats patients of all ages. Dr. Meyer specializes in:

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

NORTH-CENTRAL FLORIDA ENGINEERS ARE ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS for Heavy Equipment Apprenticeship Program! A great career, no tuition, paid health care and pension, progressive wage rate (CDL Class A applicants preferred but not required). Please email amandajac673@aol.com or call (904) 693-8094, Mon.-Thurs., 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. for more information. 71819

FULLTIME AND PART-TIME SALES ASSOCIATES needed for Insight. Fill out application at: insightjax.com or message us on Facebook at: [InsightJacksonville](https://www.facebook.com/insightJacksonville). tfn

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PLANS EXAMINER. Nassau County has an opening for a Plans Examiner in the Building Department at \$22.1839 – \$33.7555 hourly plus benefits. Applications will be accepted until filled. To apply please visit: www.nassaucountyfl.com or for additional information contact the Human Resources Department located at 96135 Nassau Place, Suite 5, Yulee, Telephone (904) 530-6075 or Fax (904) 321-5797. Drug Free Workplace. This position is eligible for Veterans' Preference in accordance with applicable laws. 71819

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**Fun at the Callahan Library:
Orbiting Space Stations**

"Orbit" around fun activity stations as the Callahan Library's "Universe of Stories" Summer Reading Program makes its final landing on Wednesday, July 24 from 2-3 p.m. at the Walter "Junior" Boatright County Building. Activities will include CD Saturns, Artful Adventures with Aliens, Create-a-Constellation and coloring, story, and Mosaic Space Mural stations.

Bead the Solar System

Explore the depth and breadth of our Solar System on Tuesday, July 30 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Callahan Library's "Bead the Solar System" program. Please RSVP with Library staff to participate in this fun, interactive activity. This program is a part of the "Universe of Stories" Summer Reading Program and is sponsored by the Friends of the Callahan Library. The Callahan Library is located at 450077 SR 200, Suite #15, Callahan, 904-530-6500 (#3), www.nassaureads.com.

PLANT CLINIC

On Monday, July 22 UF/IFAS Nassau Director Rebecca Jordi will conduct a Plant clinic at the Yulee County Building on Pages Dairy Road. Bring your tired, diseased, insect infested plants yearning to be free of problems. When possible place your plant in a plastic bag to prevent chances of spreading issues to other plants. You will receive current researched based information on proper plant care, disease management and insect control. These sessions are free to the public. No registration required. Come anytime between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. for expert advice.

For additional information call the Extension office at 904-530-6353.

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Attempted Murder Suspect Arrested

A suspect wanted by the Nassau County Sheriff's Office for armed robbery and attempted murder was arrested in Union County, Ohio on an outstanding arrest warrant.

On Sunday, March 31, 2019, at approximately 3 p.m., a 20 year old black male, from Fernandina Beach, arrived at Nassau Baptist Hospital Emergency Room with a gunshot wound in his leg. He was then air-lifted to UF Health in Jacksonville with serious injuries.

NCSO received information that someone heard loud voices then a gunshot coming from a building behind the residence at 2064 Friendly Road, Fernandina Beach. A witness observed an unidentified male grab another unidentified male and then heard a gunshot. The witness observed a blue/



silver car (suspect) drive down the driveway and turn left onto Friendly Road heading toward SR-200 and then observed a blue Cadillac (victim) drive down the same driveway and turn right onto Friendly Road.

Upon further investigation, NCSO Detectives obtained an arrest warrant for Dylan Michael Page, 24, from Fernandina Beach. The Union County Sheriff's Office in Ohio arrested the suspect on July 11, 2019, on the outstanding warrant and was booked into the Tri County Regional Jail in Mechanicsburg, Ohio. He is awaiting extradition back to Nassau County.

This incident is still under investigation and no further information is available at this time.

Bryceville Auto Burglars and Thieves Arrested



Triston Lei Palmer



Michael Jason Dechaine

Between June 26, 2019 and June 28, 2019 there were ten auto burglaries reported in Bryceville, particularly in the Ford Road and US 301 area. All of the vehicles that were burglarized were left unlocked and three firearms were also stolen during these incidents.

After further investigation, NCSO Detectives have arrested two suspects so far:

- Triston Lei Palmer, 17, Hilliard, was arrested and charged with three burglaries and theft.
- Michael Jason Dechaine, 16,

The investigation is continuing and more arrests and charges may be forthcoming.

Always lock your doors in order to reduce your chances of becoming a victim. These thieves walk around checking vehicle doors to see if they are locked or not. If not, they will look inside for anything of value to steal. If you have anything of value, take it out or hide it from plain site.



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Callahan Office: 904-879-3011

RESIDENTIAL

10837 Sheri Lane – 3BR/2BA, 1620 sq ft, Country living outside of Bryceville, DWMH on 7 acres with a detached workshop. MLS#85769 \$165,500

26169 Willie Hodges Road, Hilliard – 5BR/3.5BA, 3,598 sq ft, saltwater pool, gas stove, corian countertops, large master suite with spacious walk in closets. MLS# 85606 \$550,000

10579 Sheri Lane – 3BR/2BA, 1,529 sq ft, well maintained, located outside of Bryceville. Country living, dead end road with lots of peace and quiet. MLS #85752 \$128,500

9625 Ford Road, Bryceville – 4BR/2BA, 1,884 sq ft, wood-burning fireplace, kitchen with ample storage, attached 2-car garage and detached workshop/garage. MLS #85575 \$270,000

373086 Kings Ferry Road, Hilliard – 4BR/3BA, 1,929 sq ft, hardwood floors, open floor plan and wood-burning fireplace. MLS #85571 \$175,000.

37169 Eastwood Road, Hilliard – 3BR/2BA, 2,318 sq ft brick home with open floor plan, spacious kitchen, new corian countertops and more. MLS #85856 \$289,000

37117 Eastwood Road, Hilliard – 3BR/2BA, 1,522 sq ft, open, light and airy. Galley kitchen with new corian countertops, vaulted ceilings in livingroom, fenced yard with new millings driveway. MLS #85849 \$245,000

43070 Winding Lane – 3BR/2BA, 1,248 sq ft manufactured home on 3 acres with new flooring, fresh paint and HVAC less than a year old. MLS #85801 \$94,000



COMMERCIAL

Brandies Avenue, Callahan – Vacant 2.2 acres zoned commercial. MLS#79880 \$150,000

15809 County Road 108 – Town of Hilliard, highway frontage, zoned CN, city water & sewer available, high and dry! MLS#85215 \$59,000

New Kings Road – Commercial lot zoned CCG-2, priced to sell, North Jax, just south of Nassau county line. MLS#79219 \$80,000

RESIDENTIAL LAND

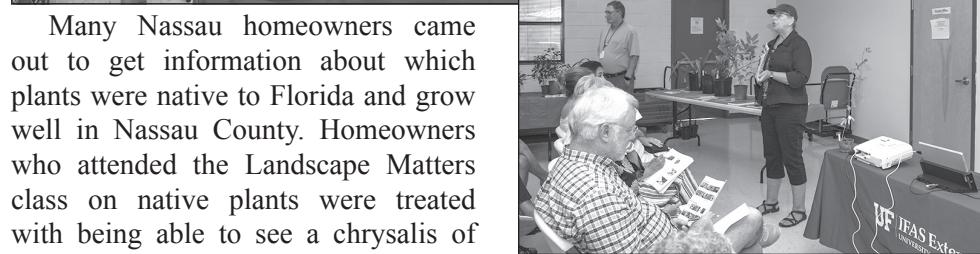
Oxford Street, Hilliard – 420'x186' lot located in the town of Hilliard. MLS#85041 \$25,000

Third Avenue, Hilliard – Residential lot, city water & sewer nearby, 200' x 100'. MLS#82759 \$40,000

49118 River Bluff Drive – 1.4 Acres, waterfront lot. MLS#81264 \$129,000

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Native Plants Class Held



Many Nassau homeowners came out to get information about which plants were native to Florida and grow well in Nassau County. Homeowners who attended the Landscape Matters class on native plants were treated with being able to see a chrysalis of a zebra longwing butterfly. Florida designated the zebra longwing butterfly (*Heliconius charitonius*) as the official state butterfly in 1996. This butterfly lays its eggs on Passion Vine leaves.

UF/IFAS Nassau Director/Horticulture Agent Rebecca Jordi led the presentation on native plants and provided homeowners with handouts that had photos and descriptions of



the many native plants that grow so well in our gardens. Provided the right habitat, native plants often require much less water than non-native plants, and are disease-resistant. UF/IFAS Nassau Master Gardener Shirley Lohman discussed and had samples of several native plants available for local gardeners, including the Coral Bean shrub.

Attendees had the opportunity to purchase native plants at the conclusion of the class. A variety of plants is offered for sale at each Landscape Matters class. The next class is Wednesday, July 24; the topic is Orchids.

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MARGIE SIMMONS BENFIELD

The family of Margie Simmons Benfield would like to share that Margie went to be with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ on Sunday, July 7, 2019. Margie retired from Kmart and had also worked at Western Auto prior to that. She was a faithful member of Evangel Temple Assembly of God and served there many years. She was born on March 7, 1933 to Mary and Lloyd Simmons in Columbus County, North Carolina. Margie was preceded in death by her husband Joseph Wayne Benfield; her brother Robert Simmons; and her infant son Joseph Samuel Benfield.

Margie's greatest joys were her family and her church. She also had a great sense of humor and loved to laugh. We will miss our mother, grandmother, and GG but we are assured that because of our collected belief in Christ Jesus we will be reunited all together with our precious mother in heaven either at our departure or the glorious rapture.

She is survived by her siblings Carol Martein, Tommy and James Simmons; three living children David Michael Simmons, Laura Benfield (Michael) Creel, Joseph William (Debbie) Benfield; her grandchildren Aleshia Simmons (Levi) Rigdon, Ceressa Simmons (William) Anthony, Gordon Michael (Sharon) Creel, Joseph Tyler Benfield, Cody Green and Ernie and Brian Taylor; her great-grandchildren Zoe, Drew and Lola Anthony, Trinity and Levi Rigdon, Frederick and Everett Creel and Kierstyn Taylor.

Margie's family received visitors from family and friends Monday, July 15 at the Hardage Giddens Funeral Home located at 7242 Normandy Blvd.

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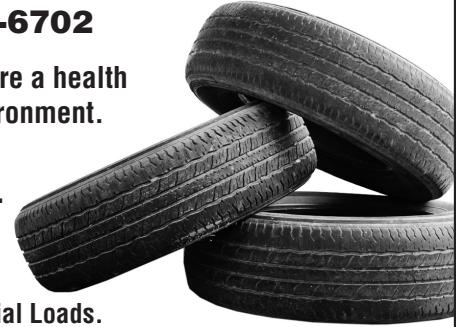
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OBITUARIES

WILLIAM K. COOK



William K. Cook, 89, of Callahan, passed away on Wednesday, July 10, 2019 at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville. He was born in Tallahassee,

Florida on October 26, 1929 to loving parents Eva Patterson Cook and Dessie Roland Cook.

He graduated from Leon High in 1946. After graduation he moved to Callahan, to join his uncle's turpentine and pulp wood business. In 1950, he joined the United States Air Force during the Korean War. In 1954, he returned to his career in Callahan where he began building his forestry legacy. In February 1955 he married Betty Pickett Cook, a nurse and later a philanthropist who not only became the Director of Nursing for the Nassau County Health Department but would serve as Nassau County's first woman County Administrator. Together they had two sons, William Kindree Cook, Jr. and Robert Patterson Cook.

The Cooks loved being parents and grandparents, traveling, playing golf and family. Betty P. Cook was his lifelong partner and wife until her death in 2013. They were married for 58 years.

During Mr. Cook's life he had many accomplishments including, President of the Florida Forestry Association, Chairman of the Board Nassau County State Banks, creation of the Florida Forestry Foundation, Florida Forestry Tree PAC, as well as being honored to the prestigious Florida Agriculture Hall of Fame in 2017. Mr. Cook was a true leader, entrepreneur and family man.

He is survived by his sons William Kindree Cook, Jr. and Robert Patterson Cook (Michele); grandchildren Dr. William Burgess Cook, Robert Patterson (Elizabeth)

Cook, Jr. and Caroline Michele Cook; sisters Kathryn Cook Cox, Betty Cook Miller, Kate Cook (Ray) Raulerson; and many loving nieces and nephews and dear friends.

Funeral services were held Monday, July 15 at the First Baptist Church of Callahan with Pastor Lynn Hyatt officiating. Mr. Cook was laid to rest with his wife at Live Oak Baptist Church Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Advance Cancer Research at Mayo Clinic Florida and they may be directed to the Mayo Clinic Development Office, 4500 San Pablo Road, South, Jacksonville, FL 32224.

Please share your memories and condolences at www.oxleyheard.com.

Oxley-Heard Funeral Directors.

cousins, nieces, nephews and friends. He was preceded in death by his father.

A funeral service was held Saturday, July 13 at Long Branch Baptist Church with Pastor Harry Conaway officiating. Burial followed at Long Branch Cemetery. Mr. Finley's loved ones received friends Friday, July 12 at the church.

Funeral arrangements were entrusted to Prestwood Funeral Home, Baldwin. 904-266-0072.

Please sign the guestbook at: www.prestwoodfuneralhome.com.

JOEL LUTHER HAND

Joel Luther Hand, 81, of Hilliard, joined his loving wife in Heaven on July 14, 2019. Joel was born in Denton, Georgia to Lester and Eva

Hand. He was a Corporal E4 in the US Marine Corp. He loved dirt track racing and his grandchildren. He was a loving husband, father and grandfather.

He was preceded in death by his wife Robbie; and his brother Norman.

He is survived by his son Dale (Tammy) Hand; daughter Janet (Jeff) McGee; granddaughters Mallory Bright, Mandi Carter (Dustin Phillips) and Bailey Hand; grandson Thorne Hand; great-grandsons Carter and Denver Bright; sisters Annie Ruth McCloon, Betty Sue (Atris) Ray; and a brother Perry Hand.

The family will receive friends Friday, July 19 from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. with the funeral service to begin at noon in the Nassau Funeral Home Chapel with Victor Worth officiating.

Condolences may be expressed at www.nassaufh.com.

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

JEFFERY DALE FINLEY



Mr. Jeffery Dale Finley, 52, of Middleburg, was welcomed into the arms of his Lord and Savior on Wednesday, July 10, 2019. He was born in Jacksonville to Mary S. and William E. Finley, Sr. Mr. Finley attended Paxton Senior High School and was a 1984 graduate. A hardworking man, he was employed by NAPA for 34 years. Mr. Finley was known for his easy going personality and his infectious laugh. He enjoyed riding his bicycle and photographing nature in Jennings State Forest. He was an avid NHRA fan and loved attending drag races.

He is survived by his mother Mary Finley of Middleburg; sisters Renee Williams of Bryceville and Debbie (Dan) Rosamonda of Middleburg; brother William E. (Cindy) Finley, Jr. of Atlanta; his little fur baby Bella; and numerous aunts, uncles,

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ELIZABETH D. MANNING

 Elizabeth Delaine Manning, 65, of Hilliard, passed away July 10, 2019 in Jacksonville. She was born August 12, 1953 in Folkston, Georgia, to the late James Alvin Keene and Doris Nettles Vanacor. Mrs. Manning retired in October 2012 from the Florida Department of Agriculture after 28 years of service.

Along with her parents; she was preceded in death by her sisters Maryann Johnson and Rose McInvale and a brother Andy Vanacor.

She is survived by her husband of 50 years, Richard Manning; two children Richie Manning, II and April (Eugene) Willis; four grandchildren Tristan Carter, Maddison Manning, Bryce Willis and Kailyn Manning; and a brother James Robert Keene.

A memorial service was held Saturday, June 13 in the chapel of Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home with Rev. David Manning officiating. Memorialization will be by cremation.

Condolences may be expressed at www.shepardfh.com.

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home in Folkston.

BRETT EUGENE MEHLHOFF

 Brett Eugene Mehlhoff, 71, of Callahan, passed away on July 5, 2019. His sudden passing was caused by massive cardiac arrest. His closest family members were with their husband and father on this day. Brett was born October 20, 1947 in North Dakota, to late parents Emmy and Dellas Mehlhoff. Although born dangerously premature for the time, he was not slowed down, played sports and talked about running the fastest mile in school. Brett married Carole Paulson on August 21, 1976 and began to grow their family starting the following year. He was a successful employee in the logistics industry, working for various railroads and steamship lines, moving his family across the country with each new opportunity.

In 1988, the family settled in Atlantic Beach, Brett working for CSX. He retired in 1995 to forge a new path and became a respected entrepreneur in the same industry. In 2015, by now an empty-nester and beloved grandparent, he left the office life

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Nassauville Incident Solves Several Crimes and Uncovers Others

Over the past few weeks the Nassau County Sheriff's Office was notified of several burglaries in the Nassauville area. On June 18, 2019, a burglary report was taken at Springhill Baptist Church where laptops, computer monitors, keys, adding machine, flat screen TV, and projector was stolen. The thieves entered an unlocked door.

On June 27, 2019, deputies responded to 95724 Springhill Road in reference to an armed burglary. The back door had been pried open and a 9mm handgun was stolen.

On July 7, 2019, deputies responded to 95344 Santa Juana in reference to a burglary. The back door had been kicked in and several items were stolen to include two Play Station 4 gaming consoles and controllers, victim's military I.D. card, and two laptop computers.

On Saturday, July 13, 2019, NCSO received a call from an individual who had his house burglarized and items stolen on July 7, 2019. Deputies met the victim at the intersection of Old Nassauville Road and Raintree Lane. The victim stated that he confronted two juveniles (known as Jory and Shawn), who he had suspected breaking in to his house and stealing his property, on Santa Juana Road near Springhill Road. The victim said that Jory pulled out a black firearm from his waistband and pointed it at him and stated "I will blow your brains out." This caused the victim to fear for his life. The juveniles then took off running on foot on Santa Juana Road towards Old Nassauville Road. The victim said he observed the suspects run behind Springhill Baptist Church into the woods towards Petunia



Shawn Scott



Jory Meredith

Court and Raintree Lane.

A NCSO deputy observed the suspects who matched the description the victim gave standing in the front yard of 95027 Petunia Court and then disappear. As NCSO deputies searched around the area of the residence for the suspects they heard children crying and screaming from inside the home.

Deputies knocked on the back door several times and announced who they were. When no one came to the door and fearing for the children's safety and welfare the deputies opened the door and went inside. They found an adult male who appeared to be intoxicated. He stated he just woke up and was not sure if Shawn or Jory was there. A NCSO Sergeant asked who the crying children were and the subject said they belonged to Randi, but he did not know where she was because he just woke up.

The deputies observed two unattended small children, ages 5 months and 16 months crying in the living room. One child was lying in a bouncer on top of a couch unsecured and the other child was in a playpen with several cockroaches crawling around him. The subject inside the house had

no idea that the kids were there because, as he said, "he was passed out drunk."

As the deputies searched the house they found the two juvenile suspects they were looking for hiding in a closet under some clothes. The suspects were identified as Jory Meredith, 17 and Shawn Scott, 15. Jory admitted to pulling and pointing a handgun at the victim. He also stated that when they ran by Springhill Baptist Church he threw the gun behind the air-conditioner, which was found later by deputies. He also stated that he stole the gun from the residence on Springhill Road. Both Jory and Shawn

admitted to committing several burglaries in the Nassauville area and provided the location of several items that were stolen, which were recovered by NCSO. Jory was also confirmed to be a runaway and missing person from Wolf Lake, Indiana.

The two arrested were:

Jory James Meredith, 17, charged with Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon, Possession of a Firearm under the age of 18, Carrying a Concealed Firearm, 2 Counts of Burglary, 3 Counts of Theft, Criminal Mischief, and Armed Burglary.

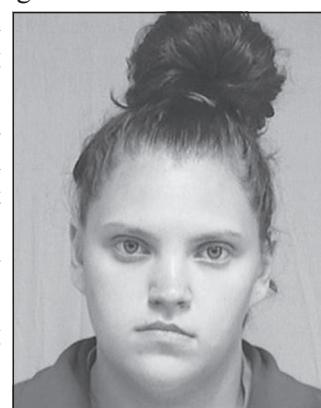
Shawn Robert Scott, 15, charged

with 2 counts of Burglary, 3 counts of Theft, and Armed Burglary.

To calm the crying children down, the deputies attempted to locate some baby formula or juice to make them bottles to drink. They located a diaper bag and found some baby formula inside, but also observed live and dead cockroaches inside the bag. After getting the children something to drink and taking them outside to care for them, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) were called to the residence. The residence was filthy inside with piles of clothes, insects, dirty dishes and garbage lying everywhere with no air-conditioning. The toilet appeared not to be working as it was filled with fecal matter. Both of the children had multiple bite marks from insects and were checked out by Nassau County Fire/Rescue personnel. DCF arrived on scene and took custody of the small children.

The mother of the babies, Randi Brooke Christner, came walking up to the residence as the deputies were there and was questioned about the condition of the children. She stated that she left her kids with the adult

male subject inside the house and went down the street to another residence. Due to the failure of Randi Christner, age 24, to provide proper supervision of the children, failure to maintain the children's physical well-being and the conditions which she left the children in, she was arrested for Child Neglect.



Randi Christner

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County Annual Road Overlay Program

The Nassau County Road Department will begin the Annual Road Overlay Program on or around July 22. All roads in the overlay program will consist of "clipping" grass and soil off of the road edges, milling sections of the roadway (which may create dust), "tacking" the roadway before paving, overlaying the roadway with a new layer of asphalt, temporary and permanent traffic striping and road shoulder repairs from the new construction.

The County's Capital Improvement Plan adopted on September 18, 2018 included \$2.5 million in Fiscal Year 18-19 funding for Pavement Management Programs to include Overlay Projects. The following roads were prioritized at a Workshop held on April 22, 2019 based on the following criteria: Traffic Volume, Through traffic, Citizens served, Existing Road Conditions, Ride ability, Quantity of potholes and Condition of service (cracking, etc.).

Road Overlays are typically a fast-moving operation. During construction, there will be periods of high noise levels. There are 14 roads on the east side and 8 on the west side.

APPROVED ROADS INCLUDE (East side roads not shown):

Lessie Road (From CR 108 to Coopers Neck Rd.) Hilliard
 Edwards Road (From SR 200 to end) Callahan
 Janice Drive (From Lem Turner Rd. to Lisa Dr.) Callahan
 Lisa Drive (From Lem Turner Rd. to Janice Dr.) Callahan
 Pineridge Drive (From Hilltop Ln. to end) Callahan
 Davidon Place (From Murhee Rd. to end) Hilliard
 Mt. Olive Road (From SR 200 to end) Callahan
 Commanchee Road (From Pickett St. to end) Callahan

Barnabas to Hold Free Food Distributions Monday

Barnabas Center's mobile food pantry team will hold free food distributions for lower-income Nassau County residents on Monday, July 22 and Monday, August 12. Sign-in begins at 10:30 a.m. and the distribution will last until all the food is distributed at the Northeast Florida Fairgrounds, 543378 US Highway 1 in Callahan. Distributions take place every other Monday.

The fairgrounds are located 1.2 miles north of Callahan on US Highway 1. Barnabas Center is located at 1303 Jasmine Street, Fernandina Beach. For more information, call (904) 261-7000 and visit www.BarnabasNassau.org.



LANDSCAPE MATTERS

On Wednesday, July 24, 10 a.m. at the Yulee County building, 86026 Pages Dairy Road, Master Gardener Claudia Witcher will conduct a landscape matters class on orchids. She will discuss growing orchids in your home. Included in her presentation will be a review of orchids that are easy to grow, and tips on care and feeding. The class is free. You may purchase an orchid to take home for a fee of \$5. Please bring cash or a check made out to University of Florida (supplies are limited).

For more information, call 904-530-6353.

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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.



Morgan Bartzlett (Louisiana), Chris Barr (Texas), Jewel Rene Barron (Virginia), Johnathon Bates (Florida), Timothy Beasley (Cuba), Cody Beaver (Washington), Danielle Beaver (Spain), Jessica Bell (Hawaii), Chad E. Black (South Carolina), Kevin & Brooke Blanton (Georgia), Spc. Caleb Bohannon (South Korea), Israel Marcos Bonilla (Missouri), Derek Borden, Benjamin Black (Iraq), Hunter Brannon (North Carolina), Conrad Brauhn (Afghanistan), Ryan Brooks (Connecticut), John Brookshire (North Carolina), Aaron Brown (Japan), Branden Brown (USS Nimitz), Anthony Broekema (Virginia), Ethan Bulford, (Virginia), Aaron Burnette (South Carolina), Brandon M. Burnette (Hawaii), Calen Burnette (South Korea), Thomas W. Burnette (North Carolina), Ahmad Butler (Japan), Brayden Lamar Carroll (North Carolina), Allen L. Carter (Alaska), John Coltrane (NAS Jax), Scott Cooper, Dustin Corum (California), Charlie I. D. Cox (South Korea), 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), Johanna Diaz (Nevada), Clif Dixon (Iraq), Robert Dodson (Arkansas), Devin Michael Dowling (Kansas), Christopher Downs (Arizona), William Clay Dryden (Kansas), 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 (Virginia), Todd W. Hanner, Jr. (Texas), Andy Harper, Mark Harris (Virginia), Harley Henderson (Texas), Nathan Hess (Japan), Jeff Higgs (Spain), SPC Hodge (Iraq), Josh Hoyle (California), AT2 Brian Hughes (Bahrain), Bryan K. Jeffers II (Iraq), Wyoming Jefferies (Ohio), Jacob Jensen (Middle East), Cameron Johns (North Dakota), Aaron L. Johnson (Colorado), Carlus Johnson (Texas), Donald Johnson (North Carolina), Jamaal Jones (Hawaii), Bradley Justice, Brian J. Kerns (Virginia), Joseph A. Kidd, IV (Iraq), Kayla King (Germany), Scott Kirkland (California), Joshua Knight, PO3 Travis E. Kornacki (Cuba), Jordan Kriner (Italy), Tyler Landreville (Florida), John C. Larkin (Iraq), Chase M. Lewis (North Carolina), Katelyn Lewis (Japan), Nicholas Louese (Spain), Jason Lovejoy (Colorado), Gatlin Mackie (Virginia), Kevin Marshall (Germany), Canisha Martin (Georgia), Tony Martin (Georgia), Anthony Mastrogiovanni (Georgia), Stacey McDaniel (Virginia), Noah E. McKinnon (Iraq), Michael McQuaiz, Matthew McRae (North Carolina), Russell Mellroy (Afghanistan), Ivory Melton, Jr. (Kuwait), Brian Middleton (Afghanistan), Steven Miner (Germany), Britt Mizell (South Carolina), Dillon Mock (Florida), Joshua Monds (Virginia), Anthony Moore (Afghanistan), Anthony Moore (South Carolina), Roland Moore (Iraq), Chris Morehead (North Carolina), Sgt. Travis Morris, Climart 'CJ' Moses (Afghanistan), Michael Murphy (Iraq), Aaron Musgrove (Afghanistan), Stephen Myers (Korea), Jonathan Neeve (Texas), Gary Nelson (Kuwait), Michael Nelson (Florida), Michael Nettles (Iraq), Lee Nickola (Iraq), Ryan Norton (North Carolina), Jesse O'Berry (England), Daniel O'Dell, Shannon O'Dell, Steven A. Oxfurth (Connecticut), Walter Oxfurth (New Mexico), Chase Parden (Kansas), Michael Park (South Korea), Danielle Parker (North Carolina), Jeremy Pelkey (Georgia), Christopher Phelan (Virginia), Darren Phelan (Washington State), Linn Phillips, III (Italy), Kyle Pipkins (South Carolina), Joshua Poirier (Georgia), Austin Potochnik (Japan), Dusty Price (Iraq), Michael Price (Germany), Kenneth Pullum (Washington, DC), Kyle Pullum (Louisiana), Robert W. Pyles (North Carolina), Jeffery Rapadas (Kuwait), Justin Reed (North Carolina), Kasie Richardson (North Carolina), Jeffrey Rigdon (Kentucky), Camilla Roberts (Alaska), David Roberts (Alaska), Stephen Roberts (Mayport), Sydney A. Robinette (Florida), Michael Robinson (Alabama), Jason Rodgers (Texas), Douglas Raymond Roth, Marc Rowe (Georgia), Brian M. Sartain, Jr. (Pensacola), James Sanders (Germany), Tressie Scott (Afghanistan), James Scully (Kansas), Donald Shaw (Iraq), Michael Shearer (Illinois), Jesse D. Silcox (Bahrain), Tayib A. 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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. God Bless our Troops!

The 2019 Florida Forestry Teachers' Tour was held June 18-21. Forty teachers from all over Florida convened in Fernandina Beach for this unique opportunity to look at the role Florida's forest industry plays in our everyday lives. Florida Forest Service Jacksonville District Manager Jennifer Hart explained "The forest industry supports thousands of jobs and communities, not just here in Nassau but across the state," said Hart. "We want educators to see that we all have a stake in the future of Florida forests. This tour allows us to showcase the forest management practices and efforts by not just private companies, but government organizations, landowners and individual tree farmers that are taken to ensure this renewable resource will be available for future generations."

Each day the teachers were taken to various stops across northeast Florida to see firsthand the many different facets of forestry. In Clay County, teachers visited



2019 Florida Forestry Teachers' Tour

Jennings State Forest for a prescribed fire demonstration, a small family owned tree farm and Camp Blanding to learn about ongoing conservation efforts. In Duval County, teachers visited the West Fraser Saw Mill in Whitehouse to see how lumber was manufactured. The Symrise Chemical Company provided a presentation on how it utilizes papermaking byproducts to produce flavorings and scents for thousands of products. In Alachua County, the teachers visited Austin Cary Memorial Forest and participated in several Project Learning Tree activities after learning about the different forestry career paths from the University of Florida School of Forest Resources and Conservation. In Nassau County, teachers visited Rayonier Forest Resources property for presentations on tree genetics, timber measurements and saw first-hand an actual timber harvesting operation. The papermaking process was detailed at the WestRock papermill and box plant in Fernandina Beach.

At each stop, tour hosts graciously answered all the teachers' questions and provided them with ample information to take back to the classroom, including brochures, lesson plan ideas, posters and much more.

While the days were long, teachers enjoyed the opportunity to be outside and participate in hands-on learning. A fourth-

grade teacher from Broward County wrote tour organizers "I loved how packed the days were with information. The field trips were amazing. Seeing all the steps of the timber life cycle were eye-opening...thank you!"

All meals and lodging were provided, and teachers earned 30 continuing



The Florida Forest Service, a division of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, manages more than 1 million acres of state forests, provides management assistance on more than 17 million acres of private and community

forests, while protecting homes, forestland and natural resources from the devastating effects of wildfire on more than 26 million acres. Learn more at FloridaForestService.com.

For more information about the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, visit www.FreshFromFlorida.com.

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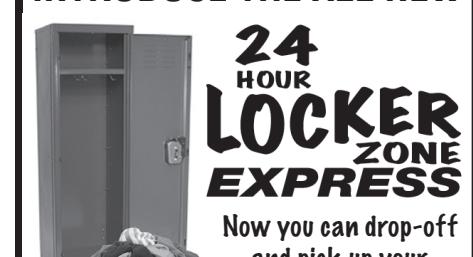
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