VOLUME XVI ISSUE 52

HOMETOWN PEOPLE...HOMETOWN NEWS

ESTSIDE

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2020

Our Nation!

Pray to God for

"I WILL INSTRUCT YOU AND TEACH YOU IN THE WAY YOU SHOULD GO; I WILL COUNSEL YOU WITH MY LOVING EYE ON YOU." - PSALM 32:8

Hilliard Orange Street Project on Schedule



Dawn S. West

The Hilliard Town Council met Thursday night for their first meeting of July. The first item was an update by Mr. Mike Tibble, representing Mittauer & Associates, Inc., engineers that are handling the Orange Street repair project. "I'm happy to say the project is going good. The box culvert is in place and the sewer line is in," said Tibble. "There has been and will be more heavy lifting in the area. The contractor is in hopes to be done by late September."

The next item was a request from Wayne Bishop asking for a septic tank exception for his property on 12th Avenue & Montana Streets. The council approved the request.

Council President John Beasley advised the council that the Florida Department of Health Duval called and asked if they could set up a COVID testing location in the parking lot of the Hilliard Recreation Department. "They want to come Wednesday, July 29 from 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.," said Beasley. The council approved the testing site for July 29.

Town Attorney Christian Waugh advised the council concerning rules or guidelines to follow for a Planning & Zoning Board Appeal. "You all have received the briefing rules and procedures to consider approving," said

Waugh. "There is a small list of rules. It's up to you (council) if you want to approve them." The council approved the rules and guidelines.

Attorney Waugh also requested direction concerning the recent appeal that was handled by the council. "You returned Mr. Brenton Franklin back to the Planning & Zoning Board concerning the appeal," said Waugh. "One of the conditions was that the building is not safe to live in currently and Mr. Franklin stated he was living there. What are your (council) plans concerning this matter?"

"Well, do we know he is living there?" said Councilman Kenny Sims. "I make a motion to have the Code Enforcement Officer to visit Mr. Franklin and find out if he is living there or not. If not, all is good. If so, it's a code violation and he must move out within 30 days." The council approved sending the Code Enforcement Office to see Mr. Brenton Franklin.

Attorney Waugh also brought another request before the council. "Florida State Law requires contractors, including myself, to fill out a Form 1 Disclosure form," said Waugh. "Our Building Inspector, Larry Hogan, has been asked twice to fill out the form and has refused. If there is a dispute, we

NC BOCC Approves Mask Mandate

Dawn S. West

In the Nassau County Board of County Commissioner meeting held Wednesday, July 1, 2020, the board discussed the COVID pandemic and the rise of cases in Nassau County. County Attorney and County Manager Mike Mullins suggested to the board making a mandate of wearing mask in the county. Mullins suggested to the board that we be in sync with the City of Fernandina to make things easier to the residents. "Perhaps you want to do this on limited way. You could choose 30 days, 15 or 7 days, whatever you would choose," said Mullins.

IRNAL

There was much discussion among the commissioners both pros and cons. Commissioners Justin Taylor, District 5, Thomas Ford, District 4 and Aaron Bell, District 2 were all in favor of just expressing and advertising the importance of wearing masks but not making a mandate. Mullins advised the board that he would make a draft for the commissioners to review and they would call another special meeting to discuss and make a decision. (Backing up a little, on Saturday, June 27, Mullins made the decision to cancel all commercial fireworks displays in the county.)

A special meeting was held Thursday, July 2 in commission chambers. There were a handful of people at the quickly arranged meeting to comment both pros and cons. Mullins presented the draft to the board for Executive Order Number 16. After much discussion, Commissioner Ford commented, "I feel like this puts a burden on people with a mandate. Right now, I would vote no. I feel like the city's (Fernandina) mandate on the island is an un-do burden. However, I feel it is a burden to our citizens on the westside, my people. I think we should strongly encourage the use of masks in stores."

Commissioner Pat Edwards (District

politics on an issue like this when we're talking about health and responsibility on us to make a decision for 88,000 people. This is an easy 5-0 vote for us. Thirty days is not forever!"

Commissioner Bell responded, "Most stores have signs saying no shoes or shirts no service. This is just another rule for 30 days."

Commissioner Taylor added, "We're not going to make everyone happy. I would like to strongly encourage wearing masks to our citizens and make extra announcements versus a mandate. We're in a tough spot. I'm struggling with the decision to approve this."

Commissioner Danny Leeper added, "We have a responsibility tonight. One life is too many. I'm disappointed in the state that they are not making it mandatory in the state."

After all was said and done the board approved the Executive Order by a vote of 5-0. The executive order includes: County's "...Nassau Emergency Management Plan authorizes the County Manager to issue orders that are deemed to be in the best interest of the citizens based upon the declared emergency; Nassau County finds that it is necessary to take additional steps to minimize the spread of COVID-19 in response to the recent spikes in positive COVID-19 cases and hospital admittances; and WHEREAS, Nassau County believes that requiring individuals serving the public to wear cloth face coverings will significantly help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and lessen the positive cases in Nassau County; ... WHEREAS, Nassau County finds that there is a public health benefit to wear face coverings in all places open to the public; every operator, employee, customer or patron, over the age of six, of a business establishment must wear a face mask or covering at all times while indoors...effective for 30 days from July

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3) fired back, "What I am hearing is 3, 2020 to August 1 unless extended.' See 'Hilliard' on page 3

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Barnabas Earns Gold Rating

Barnabas Center earned a 2020 Gold Rating from the National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics (NAFC) Quality Standards Program. By selfattesting that the organization has certain policies and procedures in place, it is able to highlight its commitment to providing quality care to patients.

mission of the The National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics is to ensure the medically underserved have access to affordable health care. The NAFC and its members are dedicated to ensuring that patients receive

quality health care. To quantify and qualify the care provided at the Free and Charitable Clinic network, the NAFC formalized a set of Quality Standards for member organizations.

"Barnabas Health Services #1 priority is providing access and excellent care in a safe environment," said Michele VandenBossche, Barnabas Health Services Manager. "Helping our community live healthier and happier lives is what we do best. Our patients

2arnabas CONNECTING PEOPLE, HELP AND HOPE

can feel confident they are receiving quality care by our providers, staff and volunteers. We are honored to receive the 2020 gold rating."

NAFC Members voluntarily submit information to the NAFC on the various policies and procedures in place to attain

their standards rating and attest/ pledge that they successfully incorporate these standards

within their organization. NAFC Quality

Standards elements include policies and procedures related to the following areas: Administrative, Access Enhanced and

Continuity of Care, Identifying and Managing Patient Population information, Planning and Managing Care, Providing Self-Care Support and Community Resources, Tracking and Coordinating Care, and Measuring and Improving Performance.

For more information on the NAFC, please visit www.nafcclinics. org. For more information about Barnabas programs, please visit www. BarnabasNassau.org.

In the Kitchen...

1 can cream of chicken soup 1/2 cup milk

4 skinless, boneless chicken breasts 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour

WESTSIDE

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WESTSIDE IOURNAL STAFF

32011, 32046 and 32009.

Chicken Crunch 1 1/2 cup seasoned stuffing

2 tablespoons margarine 1 teaspoon chopped fresh parsley 1/2 teaspoon lemon juice, optional

In shallow dish, combine 1/3 cup soup and 1/4 cup milk. Set aside. On waxed paper, lightly coat chicken with flour. Dip into soup mixture. On another piece of waxed paper, coat chicken with stuffing. On baking sheet, arrange chicken. Drizzle with margarine. Bake at 400° for 20 minutes or until chicken is no longer pink.

In saucepan, combine remaining soup, 1/4 cup milk, parsley and lemon juice. Over low heat, heat through, stirring occasionally. Serves 4.



One of the best go cart tracks in the country, right here in Callahan

NCSO K9 Training



Nassau County canine handlers recently had the opportunity to train their K9's together. The NCSO now has seven dogs total. The new pups, train for 6 weeks (or more if needed) to become certified. The dogs and trainers spend about 16 hours a month on training.

Shown (l to r) are: Dep. James Ennis, Sgt. Jonathan McCracken with K9 Maggie, Dep. Robert Jackson with K9 Saber, Dep. Elizabeth Smith, Dep. Ryan Goethe with K9 Diesel, Dep. James Lockhart and Dep. Trevor Zittrower with K9 Zena.

Hampton Scholarships Awarded

Dawn S. West

This year the Annual R. Niel Hampton, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament was not held due to the pandemic. Even though the tournament was not held, many sponsors and supporters still made donations to the scholarship fund. Recently, Brother Hal McIntosh. Youth Pastor

of River Road Baptist Church and organizer of the event, was able to award scholarships to 17 students.

The students are: Kristen Wanamaker and Barbara Stark, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; Shawn Branham, Rhett Dillhyon, Kaleb Dillhyon and Bo Hodges, Baptist College of Florida; Penny Kelley, Liberty University; David Ferraro, Asbury Theological Seminary; Jeremy Large and Thomas

Austin, Southeastern Theological Baptist Seminary; Savannah Crews, Southeastern University; Lydia Hodges, The College at Southeastern; Steven Harris and Anne Pucciarelli, New Orleans **Baptist** Seminary; Theological Paul Samson, Trinity Bible College; Christian and Education Scholarships:

Morgan Graham, Gardner Webb University; and Rachel Johns, Pensacola Christian College.

If you are one of the sponsors or players that missed out on the golf tournament and still wish to donate to the Scholarship Fund, you may send your donation to: River Road Baptist Church, c/o R. Niel Hampton Scholarship Fund, 21067 CR 121, Hilliard, FL 32046.







Chris Cockerham, Reel Habit

So what's the word on the water after all this rain? Well, the redfish haven't missed a lick at all. They continue to be very consistent on the incoming tide. The use of cut baits such as mullet and crab are producing very well. Try to find cleaner water and focus on oyster shells where they are most likely to hold. Right now, you can find reds throughout the Northeast Florida region. The biggest concentrations have been stacked up at the St. Mary's inlet. Mullet schools are thick and redfish are right underneath them.

Next flounder, although we haven't seen them as thick as recent years. They are still being caught from Brunswick all the way down to St. Augustine. The absolute best results are coming on the falling tides. Finger mullet and live mud minnows are the preferred bait but if you like throwing plastics, try a Down South Lure on a jig head and make sure to adjust weight to tidal flow. If you aren't sure what Down South Lures are, ask Lewis at Callie Kay's General Store and Outfitter. Again, many times artificial will out fish live bait. Focus on docks but do not overlook the small feeder creek run outs. Jacksonville continues to have a decent bite and that will only improve from now through October.

Moving on to sheepshead! Let me tell you, they are working the inshore rocks and oyster beds right now. The incoming tide has been best when the water cleans so keep that in mind. I look for the sheepshead bite to only get better in the next few months.

If you are looking for big game fish, tarpon and sharks are everywhere! Find the shrimp boats and find the fish. You can also find them at either of our jetties in huge numbers. You can bet that they won't be far from schooling mullet. Stay on the mullet and you'll be all over the fish!

With that said, I hope you all have a great week. Till next time, I look forward to seeing you on the water!

Hilliard

need to work it out."

"I make a motion that we set up a workshop to meet with Mr. Hogan and try to work this out," said Councilwoman Callie Kay Bishop.

The council agreed to set up a workshop either July 13 or July 21 (at 6 p.m.). Town Clerk Lisa Purvis will check with Mr. Hogan to see which date is better for him.

"I know we are all frustrated about canceling the July 4 Fireworks," said "The Council President Beasley. company is not charging us anything for canceling but we need to decide what date you would like to reschedule them for? Would you like, Veteran's Day or

Continued from page 1

New Year's Eve?"

The council agreed for New Year's Eve, if possible.

"There have been some issues going on at the Parks and Recreation Department," said Councilman Jared Wollitz. "I think we need to set up a workshop to discuss what's going on!"

The council agreed to set the workshop for either July 13 or July 21 (at 7 p.m.) following the other workshop that will be held earlier. Purvis will notify council members of the final date.

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

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ST MY OPINION J

Roger R. West

As the week unfolded prior to July 4th I felt it was extremely ironic that our Board of County Commissioners were busy enacting executive orders to restrict our freedoms. July 4th, our nation's birthday, the day our founding fathers declared independence from a tyrannical British Government. Their first act of trampling on our freedoms was to declare no commercial fireworks displays in Nassau County to celebrate our freedom. Now I have seen, in the past, some idiotic decisions come from that board room, and this one ranks right at the top of the stupidity list. Do those elected and hired individuals understand that fireworks displays are an outdoor event? Fireworks can and are viewed from multiple locations. Thousands of people are not crammed into a small area; they are spread far and wide. When they made that decision they totally ignored two key factors. One is common sense! Of course most of us realize that left the elected governing body a long time ago. The second is the true meaning of Independence Day. When we the people are forced by the government to change our long time tradition of celebrating our independence from a tyrannical government, then perhaps we need

to do what our ancestors did in 1776, replace the ones in office. They are our servants, they work for you and me, and they are not elitists that are above us.

Then came the "mask" Executive Order, two commissioners and the County Attorney/Manager were pushing hard for it. Once again, government is telling how we must live. The three that originally opposed the mask order caved and went along with the leaders of the pact. It was a true political circus. There is good news though; this August we have the opportunity to replace three of the commissioners currently in office. Two will definitely be new as one of the current commissioners is not running for re-election (Dist.3) but he has chosen the candidate he wants to replace him. A second commissioner is not seeking re-election (Dist.5) because he is seeking to be elected as the Supervisor of Elections. The third commissioner (Dist. 1) who may or may not even live within the district boundaries is seeking re-election. Pick your candidates very carefully, do a little research into who is funding their campaign, it may just shed a light on whether we will have more of the same or finally some non-crony representation.

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



TOWN OF CALLAHAN, FLORIDA

The Town of Callahan is seeking to fill the position of Mayor. The selected person shall fulfill the remainder of the previous Mayor's term which ends in November 2022. Applicants must reside within the Town Limits for a minimum of 6 months and be registered to vote in Nassau County. All resumes must be to the Clerk by July 20, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

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U.S. HOUSE, FL 4th DISTRICT

§ C-6. General Duties of Mayor:

The Mayor shall act as the chief executive and chief administrator of the Town; shall see that the ordinances of the Town are faithfully executed; and shall have and exercise all powers incident and usual to the due enforcement of the Mayor's jurisdiction. The Mayor shall have general supervision over all Town affairs, officers, and employees except for the members of the Town Council. The Mayor shall report to the Town Council any improper conduct on the part of any Town official or employee.

Please submit resume to the Town Clerk at clerk@townofcallahan-fl.gov or at Town Hall 542300 US Hwy 1

Individuals with disabilities needing a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in the program or activity should contact the office of the Town Clerk, Stephanie Knagge, at (904) 879-3801 or clerk@townofcallahan-fl.gov at least seventy-two hours in advance to request such accommodation.

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the board, agency, or commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Don't Take The Bait!

Pastor Arlie Johns, Hilliard First Assembly of God



Have you ever been offended? All over the world, people are expressing themselves about how they feel. These emotional expressions are fueled by their personal feelings, because they have been offended. One way that Satan attacks us is through offences.

There is a difference between an offence and being offended. An offence is what happened. Being offended is our reaction to an offence. An offence says, "You did it." Being offended is saying, "I will never forgive." An offense

is an event. Being offended is a decision.

Jesus said, in Luke 17:1–4, "It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe to him through whom they do come! It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones. Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him."

When an offence comes, we often experience feelings of either: <u>Hurt, Anger,</u> <u>Outrage, Jealousy, Resentment, Strife, Bitterness, Hatred, or Envy</u>. Satan uses these offenses like a trap. He puts the bait out there through an offence, in hopes that we will pick it up, like a mouse takes the cheese. If we take the bait of offense, we are headed on a course that leads us into a trap. As Christians, we need to see beyond the bait and see the trap that Satan has laid for us. We need to learn how to get over the offence so that we can escape from Santa's hold.

Jesus gave us instructions on how we should respond to those who offend us in Matthew 5:43–47 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?"

Let me ask you, "How much does it take for you to become offended?" "Do you allow the words and actions of others to control your emotions and feelings?" Being offended is up to you. You can choose to get over it, and let it go, or you can choose to hold on to the offense, and be held in bondage to your emotions. Why not hand your offence over to Jesus and let Him deal with it? God often has a miracle on the other side of an offence. But you have to be willing to get over the offence to get to the miracle. I close with this thought, your level of offend-ability is an indicator of your spiritual maturity. When you learn to let the Lord fight your battles, spiritual growth is staring to take over in your life. My prayer today is that the Lord will help those of you who read this article, to be willing to forgive those who have offend you, and that He will help you not to be an offence to others. Let's learn to get over the offence and not take the bait.

Farewell from the Carpenters!

We just wanted to send a note to say GOODBYE to all our wonderful friends and neighbors in Callahan. We wanted you all to know that we made

it safely to Marion, Indiana on June 12. Instead of seeing Florida pine trees on my morning jog, I now view endless acres of tall corn and lush soybeans. Scattered about are deciduous tree lots...we can only imagine how their glories will shine in the fall!

Living right next door to our son, his wife and five grandchildren is an amazing blessing from the Lord. We never lack for fun and hugs, and we share meals and experience life together. We've enjoyed Midwestern hospitality to the max! The neighbors are friendly. One blessed us with blueberry muffins; another brought dinner and some folks we met at church already had us over for supper! Tim misses his golf buddies but has already hit the links with a new friend.

Life will be very different for us. With the pandemic still "out there",



most musicians are still out of work, including me. I really miss performing. I continue to practice in hopes that opportunities sing for people to will someday open up again. Tim and I have been super-busy settling in and Marion is starting to feel like home. "Hurry" is no longer a word in our

retired state. Why rush?

We miss our friends, neighbors and church family in Callahan. You will always occupy a special spot in our hearts. We thank God for you and the terrific memories we will cherish forever!

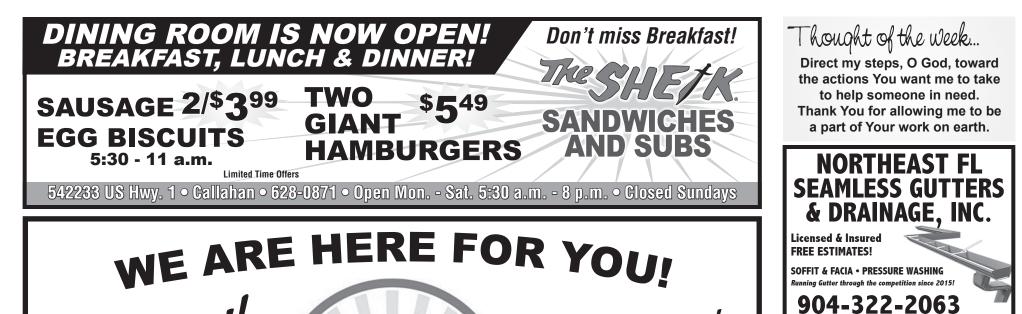
Your Hoosier friends, Pastor Tim and Mrs. Kate Carpenter

Tragedy Strikes Callahan Family



A tragic accident took the lives of two family members, a father and daughter, Thursday, July 2, 2020. According to Florida Highway Patrol reports, at approximately 11:25 a.m. last Thursday, a sport utility vehicle driven by Carrie Higginbotham, 37, of Callahan and her passenger Tom Higginbotham (her father), 68, were traveling northbound on Lem Turner Road south of Braddock Road. A large oak tree fell from the west side of

the roadway directly onto the roof of their vehicle. Both were pronounced deceased at the scene. Our prayers are with the family.



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Genealogy Tidbits

Claude Arpen

Last month the society lost one of our own, Maurice 'Grumpy' Higginbotham. He passed away June 18, 2020. He was a charter member of the West Nassau Genealogy Society. Grumpy will be missed.

According to Pioneers of Florida's First Coast, Grumpy is a descendant of Burroughs Higginbotham (1759-1816), who came to Florida about 1791. Burroughs fought at the Battle of Alligator Creek Bridge in Nassau County during the American Revolution. His name is on

the monument in Central Park at the Fernandina Beach Veterans Memorial along with four other Veterans of Nassau County who fought in the American Revolution.

Our meetings have been postponed indefinitely due to the virus. Hopefully, we will return to our normal scheduled meetings soon. Pray for our country, be safe and don't forget to support your local businesses.

Our normal meetings (when they return) for the West Nassau Genealogy Society is the second Monday of each month at 10:30 a.m. at the Callahan Lions Club, located on US Highway 1 north of the fairgrounds. Visitors are always welcome!

Fatal Accident Friday Night

A fatal accident occurred Friday night taking the life of a Hilliard resident. According to Florida Highway Patrol reports, at approximately 9:10 p.m., vehicle 1 was traveling eastbound on CR 108 in Hilliard with a 25-year-old Hilliard woman driving. Vehicle 2 was traveling westbound on CR 108, with a 29-year-old female driver and a 30-year-old male passenger. For unknown reasons, vehicle 1 failed to maintain their proper lane causing vehicle 1 to collide with vehicle 2. The driver of vehicle 1 was pronounced deceased at the scene.

FDOH Administration has New Location

The Florida Department of Health of Nassau County would like to announce our relocation of our Administrative Services Department to help better serve our clients of Nassau County. Due to this relocation, our office at 30 South 4th St. Fernandina Beach is closed permanently. Our new location is at 1620 Nectarine St., Fernandina Beach.

Please update your records with our new contact information: FDOH Administration

Nectarine St., Fernandina Beach, FL 32034

Our other contact information will remain the same.

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter at @HealthyFla. For more information please visit www. FloridaHealth.gov. Thank you for taking the time to update your records. Please feel free to contact us at 1-904-875-6100 with any questions.



Barrett Announces Candidacy for Nassau County Judge, Group 1

Higginbotham Jenny Barrett Announces her Candidacy for Nassau County Judge, Group 1. The Honorable Wesley R. Poole is retiring at the end of his term and the County Judge bench is up for election on August 18, 2020.

Jenny is a sixth generation Nassau County resident. She is married

to Scott and has two children, Max (7) and Isabella (6). Jenny graduated from West Nassau High School in 1994, where she was honored as a Scholar Athlete in Basketball and Softball after winning a State Championship in Softball for the Warriors.

In 1998, Jenny graduated magna cum laude from the University of North Florida with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English with a Minor in Criminal Justice. Thereafter, Jenny earned her Juris Doctorate Degree in 2001, at the Florida State University College of Law.

After graduating from law school in 2001, Jenny began her career as an Assistant Public Defender in Tallahassee where she handled misdemeanor and felony cases involving Battery, Traffic offenses, Grand Theft, Burglary, and Drug Possession.

Since 2004, Jenny has served as Senior Counsel for Fidelity National Financial. Inc. and has represented Fidelity and consumers in cases including insurance contracts, title claims, real estate disputes, torts, escrow disputes and mortgage fraud. Over the past 16 years, Jenny has worked side-by-side with state and federal law enforcement to report and fraud and theft. As a lifelong resident of Nassau



County, Jenny cares about the well-being of her community. In this respect, she is active in community outreach and activities as a member of Callahan First Baptist Church. She has served as a Coach for Upwards Basketball and Callahan Little League. She also serves on the Board of Directors for

ElderSource, An Aging & Disability Resource Center in Northeast Florida. ElderSource provides aging and disability resources that empowers people to live and age with independence and dignity.

Jenny is running for County Judge because she believes our home deserves leadership that makes a difference for our families. In middle school, she fell in love with civics and the law and as a high school student, she interviewed the Honorable Henry Lee Adams Jr., a Circuit Court Judge in the 4th Circuit who later became Senior United State District Judge for the Middle District of Florida. From that point on, she knew she wanted to be a Judge so she could make a difference for our families and keep our community safe.

"As a mother of two young children growing up in Nassau County, it is more important than ever to ensure that our community is safe. As Nassau County Judge, I will use my position to uphold the rule of law, support the Constitution and ensure fairness and justice is served to protect our community. On August 18, 2020, I would be honored to have your vote and support for Nassau County Judge," said Jenny Higginbotham Barrett.







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In Response

Dear Editor,

So you have been called a fascist and a bigot. You should thank God that you are able to take wrong for speaking right. You have a way to push back with your Journal. If the vast majority disagreed with you, you wouldn't have a Journal. I admire your courage and patriotism along with many others.

Many are the Americans who have spent very large amounts of money on educating their children and then find out they were brainwashed. Every value they were taught has been changed to the opposite way of thinking: good is bad and bad is good. It will run its course as every such evil does and it will fail.

People are not invading our country to embrace a fascist government; they are running away from it. A lot of good books are exposing this great evil, but none of them compare to the only book God has written. Darin Hawkins

In Response

Dear Editor,

In response to the "Just My Opinion" article published on June 25; I wish to provide a different perspective. To begin, you state that the Confederate Flag reminds you of "just being a southerner." I know many who share this opinion. However, is it truly unfathomable that, to another American, the Confederate flag represents the "dark side of southern heritage" (your words)? Let's explore this dark side instead of casually brushing over it, as you did.

The confederate flag was the banner for an effort to continue to institute the egregiously corrupt practice of slavery within the United States in 1861; yet, in 1776, our founding fathers declared that "all men are created equal." 620,000 soldiers died during the Civil War, 50,000 civilians, all so 3,953,762 slaves (1860 census) could continue to provide free labor under the whips of the tyrannical Confederate elite. You mention "white European slavery ... in North Africa" as if this is the reason why we should keep the Confederate monuments to the perpetrators of a universally recognized evil, in America? All slavery is immoral.

Your advice to the descendants of this deeply painful past is to "get over it." Yet, you despair over the loss of statues glorifying the Confederate war effort to keep human beings as chattel. Is it so unreasonable to leave this dark history in books and off the streets? Why don't we create an enlightened future in America? After all, it was Robert E. Lee who said, "I think it wiser, moreover, not to keep open the sores of war but to follow the



Letters to the Editor may be emailed to news@westsidejournal.net but must include a complete name. Letters should be no longer than 300 words.

examples of those nations who endeavored to obliterate the marks of civil strife, to commit to oblivion the feelings engendered."

Rachel Howard

Support Your Local Business Dear Editor,

We would like to thank the local businesses and politicians who use our local printers for their campaign printing needs. However, we are astonished by the number of politicians who would like our vote and to govern us as citizens of Nassau County, yet they choose to do business elsewhere. They've chosen to get their postcards printed and mailed, as well as signs and banners from businesses in Jacksonville, Orlando, Texas and even California.

This is even true with some restaurants on the east side of the county. They want us to eat and buy locally, but yet they don't advertise their business on this side of the county.

The yard signs and banners for the 2020 graduates of the county were done without obtaining bids and supposedly paid for by the School Board. There are multiple printers and sign shops located within our county, Callahan, Yulee and Fernandina Beach that would have had the pleasure and honor of at least quoting the job and to make sure the pricing was fair.

If in the area, we do eat local and shop local. We do not shop in the big box stores unless they are the only ones who happen to be open. Our tax dollars should support Nassau County jobs and projects. Shop local and give our businesses a chance!

> Mark Thompson and Brent Armstrong Florida Sun Printing

Crossroads...Again!

Dear Editor,

America, we are at a crossroad (again). We have a very crucial decision to make in November 2020. We need to decide if we want to remain a free Democratic Republic or, do we want to give that up and become a Communist Socialist Nation? As Benjamin Franklin was exiting after writing the U.S. Constitution, a woman asked him, "Well, Doctor, what have we got - a republic or a monarchy?" He replied, "A republic if you can keep it." (copied)

This letter is aimed at Christians, those who have trusted Jesus Christ to be their Savior and Lord of their life. We need to put aside the name calling and blaming whoever for whatever and get serious about who we are and what we are called to be and to do. 1) We are to be salt and light to the world. 2) To share the 'Good News' (Gospel of Jesus Christ) with a lost world (anyone who has not put their trust in Jesus Christ).

But that is not what this letter is about. We Christians had better take note. God got us out of the last crossroad in 2016. He is the only Hope we have for 2020. We need to start coming together again like those in the "old days." We as local church families need to start having old time midweek "prayer meeting" again. We need to bow ourselves before God Almighty and confess our sins of allowing the things of this world to control our lives and believing that things will continue to go along just as they have for the last 244 years. Thinking "my vote will not count anyway." Asking Him to hear from Heaven and forgive our sins and heal our land. (Paraphrased from 2 Chronicles 7:14) Not just in our local churches in Nassau County but all across America. The worst enemy in the history of the USA at this time is the Democratic Party and the 'sleeping church'.

Look at what is going on around America today. Total chaos! Satan is running rampant in America. He must be stopped! If we sit back and allow the Democrats to take control of the White House, the Congress and The Senate, America as we know it today will be no more!

As that great American Earl Pitts used to say, "WAKE UP AMURICA" God is our only Hope!

Hank Martinez Sr. & Jimmy Schramm

Mask Mandate

Dear Editor,

Although I respect people's decision to follow the county mandate on masks, it is a true violation and I'm quite sure that many of them don't know that what they are doing is a violation of state statutes. I'm sure many of your readers would like the answers to the same questions that I do. I've sent an email out to each and every member that sits on the board of county commissioners but I seriously doubt I get a reply from any of them because if they knew that they can't trump state law with a county mandate!

Here are the facts and questions that I came up with: 1. Nassau County Mandate regarding masks violates Florida Statute title COVID Chapter 876 #876.13 wearing a mask in public. 2. It also violates the ADA

(Americans with disabilities act) who has physicians saying they cannot wear masks but this order ignores physicians.

How can this be? Is our county board more qualified than a physician? Their mandate is nothing more than a political grandstanding. It does not insure the safety of the people as they clearly do not care about the people with disabilities only to bow to a certain group of people. True concern would dictate businesses decrease occupancy rates and also would require a stringent policy in place for testing, treatment and enforcement which none exist in this county. Why are the people being forced to do things against their will and maintenance of health under a false narrative? Tonya Sawyer

In Response

Dear Editor,

I read with interest a recent "Just My Opinion" by Roger West. History is to be remembered, not erased or distorted. Removing flags, changing names and tearing down statues is simply wrong. The lives of the men honored by these statues need to be examined for their total contribution to society. Following the war years 1861-1865, many of them became educators, governors, congressmen or served the United States military in the Spanish-American War. Many of these statues and markers remember the unnamed soldier, the one who never made it home. In the years following the War for Southern Independence, Union and Confederate soldiers, sailors and marines came together in a national spirit of unity and reconciliation. If the men who actually fought each other came together in reconciliation, then we should honor all of our American veterans.

Robert E. Lee (who became president of Washington College) stated, "I have a selfimposed task which I must accomplish. I have led the young men of the South in battle; I have seen many of them die in the field; I shall devote my remaining energies to training young men to do their duty in life."

South is not just a direction on a map. The South is a land to be embraced and a way of life that, for those not born here, just would not understand. I was born, raised and lived my entire life in this beautiful area of our land. Do not destroy history! Do not attempt to change history! I will never be ashamed of my ancestors. I had two great-great grandfathers who fought for the South. I have located and visited their graves in small cemeteries in the Florida panhandle. I did this as an act of honor and respect...and this honor and respect to them, and other men like them, I will render until my dying day!

Kim Hoffecker



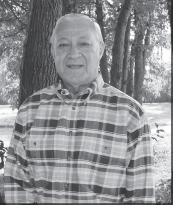






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DOH-Nassau Releases Key Points for Positive COVID-19 Cases

Due to the recent dramatic increase in numbers of positive cases in NE Florida, and the exponential numbers of contact tracing investigations that must

be performed, "close contacts" of cases may be notified by the individual positive case before they can be reached by Public Health Officials. Take immediate action if you are notified that you are a close contact to a positive case or have a positive test result.

Key Points:

If you have had a sample collected for testing, you should self-quarantine (i.e. sequester yourself from others) until you know your results.

If you have tested positive for COVID-19, self-isolate (i.e. "lockdown" at home - you should not go out, you should not let non-household members inside with you, and you should not let others get close to you). Public health officials will let you know when you can be released from isolation. Let your

On Tuesday, June 30, 2020, members of the Nassau County Multi-Jurisdiction Task Force arrested Christopher Donavan Trey Gainey, 22, from Yulee, for sale and possession of illegal drugs. He was charged with 2 counts of Sale of



close contacts know you have tested positive.

If you are told you have had close contact with someone who has tested

positive for COVID19, stay quarantined at home for 14 days and monitor your health for symptoms. Getting a negative test result while you are under the 14-day quarantine does not change the length of time you are required to stay sequestered at home. These instructions

must be followed if we are to limit the spread of COVID-19 in our community. Community members are encouraged to work together to minimize exposure by using cloth masks whenever in public indoor spaces. Free cloth masks are available throughout Nassau County.

Please see the attached infographic from the Florida Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Drug Arrest Made

Marijuana. Possession of a Controlled Substance with Intent to Sell, Possession of Methamphetamine, Possession of Alprazolam, Possession of a Firearm by a Career Criminal, and No Valid Driver License.

The following items were seized by the task force: 157 grams of Marijuana, \$960 cash, Full box of 9mm ammunition, 42 Alprazolam tablets, 3.4 grams of Methamphetamine, 48 Marijuana "VAPE" cartridges with 91% THC content, 9mm Springfield handgun, Plastic bag of crushed Alprazolam tablets and a Scale.

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- Protect Property Rights
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- Increase Transparency





REPUBLICAN

NCSO Responds Big When Stolen Bike Reported!



On Friday, June 19, the Nassau County Sheriff's Office responded to a call to investigate a larceny in Yulee on Harts Road. The victim reported that between the hours of 9 p.m. and 9:30 a.m. unknown persons stole a 20 inch Huffy children's bike off her front porch. The bike was pink and blue in color and has a clear bag attached to the front. The bike also had a purple bell attached to the handle bars and training

wheels. There were no witnesses or video of the offense.

The incident touched Deputy Mark Nassar so he handled the situation. He went and purchased a brand new bike with all the 'bells and whistles' and took it to the house and delivered it personally! As you see, she was thrilled with the special gift! It also came with a chain lock! Thank you for your service and your kindness, Deputy Nassar!

HAPPY

Birthday





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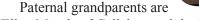
Contributions to the James S. Page Governmental Scholarship for Nassau County Students can be sent to: **The Florida State College Foundation** 501 W. State Street Jacksonville, Florida 32202

"Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16

New Beginnings and Milestones

Declan Ryder Monds and Maren Rose Monds

Jonathan and Brittany Monds, of Callahan, are proud to announce the birth of their twins Declan Ryder Monds and Maren Rose Monds. The babies were born April 3, 2020 at UF Health Jacksonville. Declan was born at 1:35 p.m., weighed 7 pounds 12 ounces and measured 19 ³/₄ inches. Maren was born at 1:51 p.m., weighed 8 pounds 1 ounce and measured 19 inches.



Ellen Monds of Callahan and the late Ben Monds.

Maternal grandparents are Ernest and Susan Swann of Callahan.

Proud great-grandparents are Sue Swann of Jacksonville and the late Earl Swann; and William and Madeline Brommer of Jacksonville; and the late Norman and Terry Froitzheim.

Declan and Maren were welcomed home by their big brother Collin!

Happy 1st Birthday Kollyns Frae Crosby



Kollyns Frae Crosby celebrated her first birthday July 5. She celebrated her special milestone with a huge party at her home with lots of family and friends joining in the fun! Her proud parents are Justin and Morgan Crosby of Hilliard!

Her proud grandparents are Greg and Cindy Grooms of Hilliard; and David and Sherrie Crosby of Callahan.

Proud great-grandparents are Garry Sparkman of Hilliard; and William and Lavonne DiMaria of Callahan.

Elizabeth McIntosh to Celebrate 102nd Birthday

Elizabeth McIntosh, a longtime Hilliard resident and a current resident of Hilliard Life Care Center, will celebrate her 102nd birthday July 10. Ms. Liz was born in North Carolina and spent her early years there. After graduating she moved to Florida with her family.

Ms. Liz was very active in buying and selling land in her younger days. She enjoys sharing stories of her many experiences she has had throughout her life. She enjoys going to the events that different gospel groups bring to Life Care each week. Ms. Liz is one of the sharpest tacks around! Not too many things get past her at the center. She has a friendly smile and greets everyone. She is the oldest



Ms. Ruby Howard, of Callahan, celebrated her 88th birthday June 5. Ms. Ruby, who can be seen many

days walking through the streets

of Callahan for exercise, is a very

energetic woman. She enjoys working

with her plants and sharing cuttings

with others. She can't wait to go back

to the Woodbine Opry in Woodbine,

Georgia on Saturday nights to see her

friends again once it reopens!

living charter member of Live Oak Baptist Church.

Her brother Johnny (Margie) Layden, 97, lives in Elizabeth City, North Carolina.

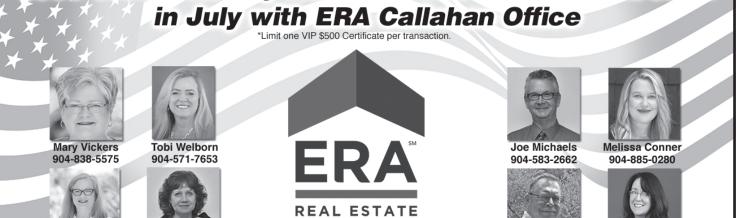
Ruby Howard Celebrates 88th Birthday



She celebrated her birthday a little later this year by parachuting, again (4th time), out of an airplane, in a tandem jump, in Fernandina Beach. Jumping is truly something she enjoys obviously. She plans to continue to jump each year as long as she is healthy enough to do it! She loves it!

Ms. Ruby has four children Robert Howard and Janet Johnson, both of Callahan, and Fred and Ronald Howard (both deceased). She also has numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.





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Nassau Clerk of the Court Releases Financial Report

The Nassau County Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller's office is excited to release the Fiscal Year 2019 Nassau County Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR), By the Numbers, to our citizens! Nassau County's PAFR combines the most pertinent information from the annual county financials and presents it into a compact, easy to understand report.

Our team has won excellence awards for our PAFR for the past 8 consecutive yearsincluding our very first year preparing one! The nation's top association government for financial professionals, the GFOA, reviews PAFR's from government offices, large and small, across the country to determine which reports uphold the

highest standards of excellence. Nassau County has been the smallest county in Florida to earn this prestigious distinction of excellence!

John A. Crawford, Nassau County Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller, calls the PAFR "the layperson's roadmap to the county's accounting and finance." He so strongly believes in the importance of this report for citizens that he facilitated a training panel discussion at the Florida Court Clerk & Comptrollers Association's winter conference earlier in the year. Clerks across the state attended this well-received seminar session, which emphasized the importance of each Clerk and Comptroller providing



pray for our first respond

this invaluable tool for their own citizens. The seminar encouraged the Clerks who were not currently producing a PAFR to do so, and in the spirit of service, offered for those who needed more direction, to reach out for assistance from the counties who have already mastered the process.

Packed full of useful and interesting

information, graphs, tables and photographs, By the Numbers is mustread for all Nassau County citizens! Visit our website, www.nassauclerk. com, to view the electronic version. Printed copies will be available soon.



Dawn S. West

I know we have all been closed up in our homes and yards and have all been looking for something enjoyable to do. This Saturday, the Circle L Arena in Hilliard will present Saturdays in the South! This will be live music featuring Bluegrass, Gospel and country music! Something we all enjoy! It's for the entire family with a concession onsite. There is no alcohol allowed. There is plenty of room to spread out and social distance but everyone is also invited to bring their own lawn chairs to enjoy the music. The best part about it all is admission is only \$5 per person with children 5 and under free!

Local entertainment will by Dustin McCullough, Aldean Hodges, Saralisa Conner, Scott Birchall, Cole Hodges, Madison Cunningham, Gaven Wilkes, Freddie Nelson, Aubrey King and Chris Woods! "We are so excited to present a positive event during these crazy times," said Kristin Geiger. "Come out and enjoy some good 'ole fashioned bluegrass, gospel and country music. We are so blessed to have so many great local entertainers. Come for a couple of hours or the entire time!"

Saturdays in the South concert will be held this Saturday, July 11 from 6-11 p.m. at the Circle L Arena, 458244 Old Dixie Highway in Hilliard. Admission is only \$5 per person with 5 years old and under free! Hope to see you there!







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- -1 For Jenny Higginbotham Barrett, our community comes first.
- She was born and raised right here in Nassau County. This is her home.
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YARD SALES

"BE THE CHANGE NE FL" will hold a **YARD SALE SATURDAY**, July 11, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m., 14244 Pace Road, Jacksonville. Proceeds help raise funds for the ministry! Come support our local community!

3 FAMILY SALE: Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Saturday, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.; 54672 Church Road, Callahan. Household items, clothes, shoes, miscellaneous items. Too much to list!

SUNOWA SPRINGS COMMUNITY yard sale! Bryceville, Friday & Saturday, July 10 & 11, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. 3 miles east of US 301 off of Ford Road. Look for the pink signs!



EMPLOYMENT

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

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

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DELIVERY DRIVERS FOR FedEx: Local FedEx contractor is looking to add several fulltime drivers to his team. The following are required to apply: 21 years of age or older; at least 1 year of experience (in the last 3 years) driving a commercial vehicle. This can be any type of deliver/driving experience (from Uber drivers to pizza delivery drivers, etc.). Experience driving a cargo van, step van, or large commercial vehicle is a plus; clean criminal background and driving record; pass a drug test and DOT physical; knowledge of Callahan, Hilliard and Yulee areas is a plus. Please reply to: Northstar1inc@gmail.com with your resume and a contact number. 71620

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HIRING DAYS AT CALLAHAN MCDONALD'S: Wednesday, July 15 and Thursday July 16, 3-5 p.m. each day! Hiring on the spot! 70920 Feys II Management Gro

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It is illegal to discriminate against any person because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin in the sale, rental, financing, appraisal of housing or in the provision of real estate brokerage services. If you believe you have been discriminated against or would like further information about your rights or obligations under the Fair Housing Act call Jacksonville Area Legal Aid at 904-356-8371.



Stan Bethea Announces Candidacy for Supervisor of Elections

Callahan resident Stan Bethea, has qualified to run for Nassau County Supervisor of Elections in the August 18 Primary Election. Stan seeks the position to serve voters and manage fair and accurate elections in his home county. For the past 14 years, he has worked

as Director of Information Technology and Chief Elections Officer at the Duval County Supervisor of Elections office, where he serves over 630,000 voters. Stan has worked alongside current Supervisor of Elections, Mike Hogan, to deliver 43 successful elections, four of which were gubernatorial, and three of which were presidential. With his staff, Stan is now managing the 2020 Presidential Election. "Running elections isn't something you learn overnight. I have been in this industry 14 years, and I am still learning. From the statutes and rules to best practices and security, there is always something to learn," Stan said.

With a bachelor's degree from the University of North Florida in Information Systems and national and state election certifications, Stan is well-prepared to run fair and accurate elections in Nassau County. "The elections process has changed over the last 15 years. The whole thing is



computerized now, from the voter registration system to ballot layout and vote counting," Stan said. "I have created ballots, mailed ballots, processed ballots, tabulated ballots, set up Early Voting sites, configured tabulators, and sat across a window

from the news media on Election Night as I tabulated results, and more."

Son of Billy and Thelma (Geiger) Bethea, Stan has deep roots in Nassau County, where he has lived his whole life. He's married to the former Nancy Lee Smith of Jacksonville. The couple has one daughter. Stan and Nancy have visited many neighborhoods on their bicycles, spreading the word about his campaign. "It's been a fun way to meet people and talk to our neighbors across the county," Stan said. "We've definitely put in some sweat equity!"

"I am an election professional, not a politician. I would love the opportunity to bring my skills and expertise home to serve my neighbors, the voters of Nassau County." he said.

If you have a voting-related question for Stan, of if you would like more information, please visit www.stanbethea.com or email him at stanfornassaucountysoe@gmail.com.

POLICE REPORTS

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

Monday, June 29

James Upton McCorkel, 50, 55058 Thomas Road, Callahan: Violation of Probation DUI of Alcohol or Drugs

Tuesday, June 30

Joshua Eugene Parker, 42, 552273 US Highway 1, Hilliard: Duval County Warrant False Representation as Licensed Contractor During a State of Emergency; Conspiracy to Commit Organized Fraud

NCSO Seeking Re-Accreditation for Detention Center

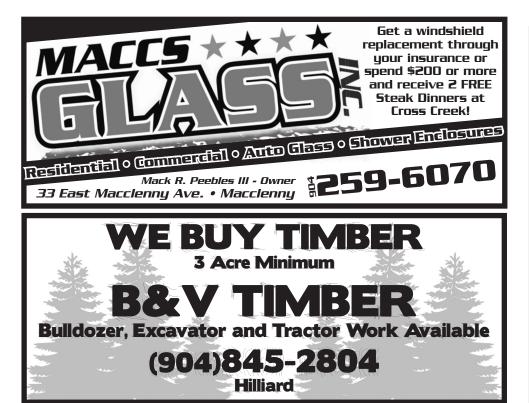
The Nassau County Sheriff's Office (NCSO) is undergoing an assessment by the Commission for Florida Corrections Accreditation to maintain state-level accreditation. An accreditation assessment examines all aspects of the NCSO's Jail/Detention Center, including looking at policies and procedures, management, operations and support services. "Accreditation by FCA is vital to maintaining the public trust and assuring our many stakeholders that we are abiding by the highest standards set for professional law enforcement agencies." said Sheriff Bill Leeper. "We are proud of our FCA accreditation and look forward to recertification."

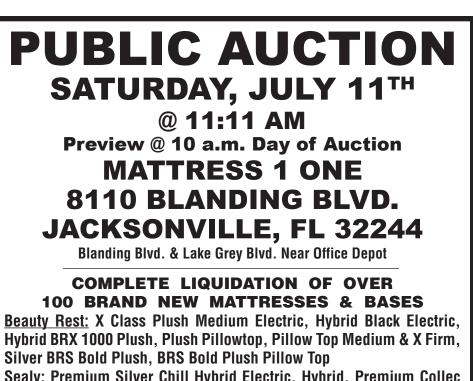
As part of the on-site assessment, NCSO employees and the general public are invited to offer comments to the assessment team. A copy of the accreditation standards is available through the Commission for Florida Corrections Accreditation's website at www.flaccreditation.org. Individuals can submit comments on this website, send a letter to the Commission for Florida Corrections Accreditation, PO Box 1489, Tallahassee, FL 32302, or email to info@flaccreditation.org.

A team of Florida Corrections Accreditation assessors will conduct an assessment of the NCSO Jail/Detention Center in July. The Commission for Florida Correction Accreditation's assessment team will consist of team leader Sergeant David Harvey, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office and team members Sergeant Wilda McWilliams, Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office and Correctional Officer Caiti Suggs, Okaloosa County Department of Corrections.

Once the Commission's assessors complete their review of the agency, they report back to the full Commission, which will then decide if the agency is to receive re-accredited status. The NCSO accreditation is for 3 years. Verification by the team that the NCSO meets the Commission's standards is part of a voluntary process to gain or maintain accreditation--a highly prized recognition of law enforcement professional excellence.

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JARROD 'TREEFROG' BRANNAN



Jarrod 'Treefrog' Thomas Brannan, 37, of Folkston, Georgia, passed away on July 2, 2020 with his family by his side. Jarrod was born on March 28, 1983 in Blackshear, Georgia to

Larry Thomas Brannan and Brenda Diane Lloyd Brannan. After serving in the United States Navy Jarrod began a career as a truck driver. He enjoyed mountain bike riding, fishing, hunting, riding motorcycles, making car stereo systems, playing Magic the Gathering card game, gaming on PlayStation, target practicing but most of all he enjoyed spending time with his family who he loved dearly. He is preceded in death by their child Baby Jayden; as well as family members Sigmond Theodore Ciepielak, William Christopher Brannan, Cheryl Mullis Brannan, Michael Wayne Brannan, Theron Wayne Brannan and Dorothy Mae Lewis Brannan.

Jarrod is survived by his loving wife, Brenda Jo Brannan; children Cody, Chennaye, Christian, Channing and Patrick; parents Larry and Brenda Brannan; sister Melissa Dawn (Chad) Graham; nephews Christopher and Ashlen; niece Desiree (Matthew) Mistisshen; grandparents Glynn Richard Lloyd, Sr.; William D. (Betty Ruth) Brown; and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

Following a procession from Nassau Funeral Home, a celebration of Jarrod's life will be held Saturday, July 18 at 12 p.m. at Homeland Cemetery in Folkston, with Pastor Mike Maddox officiating. The family received friends Tuesday, July 7 at his private residence.

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

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

Peggy Joyce Brown



Peggy Joyce Rodgers Brown, 86, of Hilliard, went home to be with the Lord on July 3, 2020. She was born on March 23, 1934 in Waycross,

Georgia to the late Victor Dallas Rodgers and Bessie Lillian Martin. Peggy moved from Waycross to Macon and then decided to settle in Nassau County in the 1970's. On August 23, 1973, Peggy married the love

of her life Philip 'Buddy' Brown, Sr. They

OBITUARIES

were happily married for 47 years. Peggy enjoyed fishing, reading, traveling, horses and gardening. She also loved being a grandmother and had plenty of love to give all of her grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her parents.

Peggy is survived by her husband, Philip 'Buddy' Brown, Sr. of Hilliard; children Charlotte Caudill of Hilliard, Dori (Bill) Royal of Jacksonville, Cindy (Stephen) Olsen of Woodbine, Sharron (Joseph) Sudhoff of Oklahoma, Phillip 'Skip' (Knox) Brown, Jr. of Hilliard and Kristi (Dennis) McNabb of Virginia; brothers Dennis (Adele) Rodgers and Michael (Donna) Rodgers; several grandchildren; and numerous great-grandchildren.

A celebration of Peggy's life will be held Friday, July 10 at 11 a.m. at Nassau Funeral Home with Pastor Buddy Rigdon officiating.

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

MILDRED J. COLBERT

Mildred J. Colbert, 72, passed away July 2, 2020 in Hilliard. She was born August 31, 1947 Mildred Jennie Varnes in Folkston, Georgia, the daughter of Cleveland Vannis Varnes, and Jennie Doris Allen. Millie was one of ten children. She is preceded in death by her siblings Wesley, Lesley, Wanda, Lee, Doris, Cleveland and Glenda. Millie met her husband Gene while she was working at Burger Chef on Soutel Drive in Jacksonville, January 1966, and married two months later in March, never looking back. Through thick and thin, high and low, for richer and poorer, Millie never demanded anything in life that wasn't hers to have. Loving, living and laughing with Gene, they traversed life together for 54 years, embracing every moment life gave, never fearing the outcome. Millie was a war spouse, Gene a US Navy Vietnam Veteran. Millie was never one for pretense, false words or flattery and kept life simple, the way she understood it to be.

Millie is survived by her husband of 54 years, Gene E. Colbert; two children, Kimberlin, a mother of four, and Gene, Jr., a U.S. Marine Corps Combat Veteran; and

two sisters Peggy and Ellen. The family will receive friends

Thursday, July 9 from 6-8 p.m. at Callahan Funeral Home. A graveside service will be held Friday, July 10 at 10 a.m. at the Jacksonville National Cemetery on Lannie Road.

Condolences may be expressed at www. callahanfh.com.

Arrangements by Callahan Funeral Home, 879-2336.

Melissa Robinson-Cook

Melissa Ann Robinson-Cook, 51, went home to be with the Lord July 2, 2020. She was born on July 16, 1968. Melissa worked in Medical Coding for more than 25 years. She loved to spend time with her nieces and nephews, create arts and crafts, work in the garden and breed dogs.

She is survived by her husband Rance Cook; her stepchildren Joe Cook, Megan Cook and Ashley Cook; her parents Robert 'Rob' and Susan A. Robinson, Jr.; four siblings Robert E. 'Rob' Mercer, Norman R. (Jennifer) Robinson, John R. (Bethany) Robinson and Cynthia S. Robinson; her grandchildren; and nieces and nephews. She is predeceased by her mother Shirley Hogan-Corey; her brothers Harvey Clay Robinson and Jerry R. Prevatt.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, July 11 at 11 a.m. at Trinity Baptist Church, 800 Hammond Blvd., Jacksonville, with Pastor Stephen Wolgamott officiating. There will be a reception following the service at the north end of the dining commons.

Peggy Usher Hendrix



Peggy Juanita Usher Hendrix, 76, of Bryceville, passed away on July 1, 2020, following a lengthy illness. She was born in Jacksonville on February 2, 1944. She graduated from

Terry Parker High School in 1962 and then worked for TWA in New York City and Delta Airlines in Jacksonville and years later at Life of Georgia. She was a member of Arlington Baptist Church until the family moved to Bryceville, in 1974, and then joined River Road Baptist Church. Aside from her home, where she loved to cook and bake (including incredible cakes), Peggy wanted to be with her church family. Her passion for five decades was teaching children's Sunday school and starting the that were an annual treat for the children's families. Peggy had an extraordinary network of friends and family, including the Usher and Hendrix families in Georgia and abroad, the Bryceville/Callahan/Baldwin "Moms", and her church family.

She was predeceased by her parents George Victor and Eloise Usher, her husband of 37 years Jerry W. Hendrix; and her youngest son Justin Hendrix.

She is survived by her sons Jerrald (Gail) Hendrix of Jacksonville and Jason Hendrix of Los Angeles, CA; and her grandchildren Devin, Kayley, Amelia, Kori, Jaret, Tristen and Jenna; her brother Gene (Lynn) Usher; sister Bonnie; niece Alana (Billy) Waller; and nephews Ron (Mona) Steedley, Darren (Dusty) Usher and Chris Usher; and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers were Darren Usher, Chris Usher, Nick Usher, Eric Yates, Patrick Gibson and Jaret Hendrix.

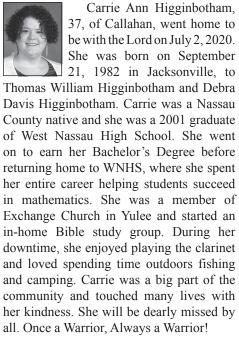
She will be buried after a small, private service.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the River Road Baptist Church Sunday school Fund.

Warren Funeral Services of Baldwin is honored to serve the Hendrix Family.

Please leave online condolences at www.warrenfuneralservices.com.

CARRIE ANN HIGGINBOTHAM



Carrie is survived by her mother Debra Higginbotham of Callahan; a sister Ashley L. (Bryce) Fowler of Bryceville; nephew Cameron; and niece Brylynn.

The family will receive friends Friday, July 10 from 5-7 p.m. at Nassau Funeral Home. A Celebration of Carrie's life will be held Saturday, July 11 at 11 a.m. at Callahan First Baptist Church.

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





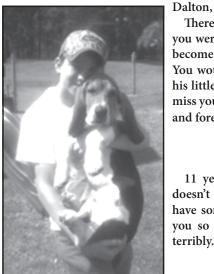
IN LOVING MEMORY OF William Cook

OCTOBER 26, 1929 - JULY 10, 2019

It's been one year since you've been gone. God called you away to your new home. It's with the Angels that you now rest. You're up in Heaven as God's special guest. Your work worn hands and smiling face, no one could ever take your place. With treasured memories, sweet and true, a home in Heaven God gave to you.

Love your family, Bob, Michele, Robert, Elizabeth, Caroline, William and Bill

IN LOVING MEMORY OF **DALTON ED NETTLES** December 22, 1995 • July 10, 2009



There isn't a second that goes by that we don't wish you were here with us. We would have loved to see you become a young man, a husband, father and an uncle. You would have been so good at them all. Dad misses his little man and I miss my sweet Dalton. We love and miss you so terribly. We will love and cherish you always and forever.

> Love, Daddy and Momma

11 years have come and gone without you. A day doesn't go by where I don't think of you, miss you, or have something or someone remind me of you. I love you so much words cannot describe and I miss you terribly.

> Always and forever, Heather #35



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TOMMY HIGGINBOTHAM

Thomas 'Tommy' William Higginbotham, 68, of Callahan, went home to be with the Lord on July 2, 2020. He was born on September 11, 1951 in Fernandina, to Clarence Frazier Higginbotham and Susie Sapp Higginbotham. Tommy was a native of Nassau County and was a member of Callahan First Baptist Church. He worked as a technician at Rayonier, Inc. for 36 years before retiring in 2013. Tommy was an outdoorsman who enjoyed camping, hunting and fishing. Most of all, he was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather who loved spending time with his family. He is preceded in death by his brother Clyde Higginbotham; and his sister Betty Anderson.

Tommy is survived by his loving wife of 40 years, Debra Higginbotham; his daughter Ashley L. (Bryce) Fowler of Bryceville; and his grandchildren Cameron and Brylynn.

The family will receive friends Friday, July 10 from 5-7 p.m. at Nassau Funeral Home. A Celebration of Tommy's life will be held Saturday, July 11 at 11 a.m. at Callahan First Baptist Church.

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

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

IRIS RAE HIGGINBOTHAM

Iris Rae Higginbotham, 70, of Callahan, passed away July 7, 2020.

The family will receive friends Thursday, July 9 from 5-6 p.m. with a memorial service at 6 p.m.

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

ALBERT HERSHEL JUSTICE



Albert Hershel Justice, 84, of Jacksonville, went home to be with the Lord on June 29, 2020 with his loving family by his side. He was born on June 18, 1936, in Ashland, Kentucky to

Charles Bascom Justice and Shirley May Lowe Justice. Albert proudly served his country in the United States Army. He

OBITUARIES

then later made a career as a truck driver. In his spare time Albert enjoyed listening to gospel music, going flea markets and garage sales. He also enjoyed attending church services. He is preceded in death by his parents; and daughter Mona Justice Morgan.

Albert is survived by his loving wife of 60 years, Barbara Kay Green Justice of Jacksonville; son Albert Hershel Justice, Jr. of Murrells Inlet, South Carolina; daughters Lora (Ed) Hines of Callahan and Shannon (Paul) Carroll of Jacksonville; seven grandchildren; and eight greatgrandchildren.

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

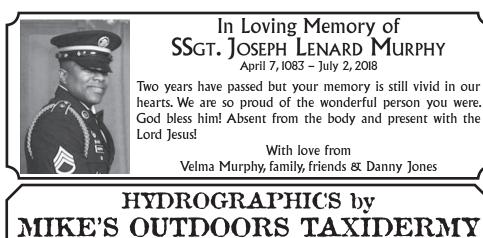
Visit www.nassaufh.com to sign the family's guest book.

JESSE RUSSELL KNIGHT

Jesse Russell Knight, 82, of Yulee, passed away Wednesday, July 1, 2020, at his home, after a long battle with cancer. His wife and daughter were by his side. Mr. Knight was born in Lafayette, Tennessee, to the late Jesse A. Knight and Ellen Hale Knight. He was a US Army Veteran; and was retired from Anheuser Busch electrical maintenance. He enjoyed his livestock, raising buffalo and beefalo, and he enjoyed spending time with his brothers and sisters in Christ. Mr. Knight was a Christian. He was an active member and worshiped at Lake Forest Church of Christ.

In addition to his parents; he was preceded in death by a grandson Edward Lee Blackshear; his brothers Webb, Jack and Bobby Knight; and his sister Mary Pryor.

He is survived by his wife of almost 60 years, Freeda; his daughter Monika (Dawson) Blackshear of Callahan; grandson JD Blackshear; granddaughters Amanda (Will) Kirkland and Samantha (Landon) Stuart; two great-grandsons Graham and Sawyer Stuart; brother Billy Knight; and a



sister Pheobe Knight Helm.

A memorial service was held Monday. July 6 at Lake Forest Church of Christ. The family received friends prior to the service.

Mr. Knight will be buried at Memorial Gardens in Lafayette, Tennessee.

Corey-Kerlin Funeral Home, Jacksonville, was in charge of arrangements.

FRANCES ELIZABETH MORGAN

Frances Elizabeth Morgan

went home on Monday June

29, 2020. Frances spent over

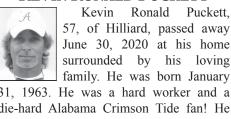


20 years in Callahan and was loved by many. She always had a giving heart and a strong will and liked things her way. She was known by her grandkids as Meemaw. She praised the Lord daily and loved her UF Gators. Go Gators!

She is survived by three daughters, Jenny Lutina, Cynthia Renee and Mandy Melissa; nine grandchildren; and 10 greatgrandchildren.

A celebration of life service was held Monday, July 6.

KEVIN RONALD PUCKETT



57, of Hilliard, passed away June 30, 2020 at his home surrounded by his loving family. He was born January 31, 1963. He was a hard worker and a die-hard Alabama Crimson Tide fan! He loved his family and spending time with his children and grandchildren. He will be missed by all that knew and loved him.

He is survived by his children Joshua

(Laynie) Puckett and Justin 'JP' Puckett; his parents Leon and Donnievee Puckett of Hilliard; two precious grandsons Jasper River and Orion Alexander; his siblings Keith (Pinky) Puckett, Karrie (Richard) Knott and Korey (Libby) Puckett; and several aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

Family and friends will be gathering Friday, July 10 from 6-8 p.m. at the residence of Ronnie and Dena Bennett, 24800 CR 121, Hilliard.

ROBERT EARL SMITH, SR.



Robert Earl Smith, Sr., 64, passed away on Friday July 3, 2020. He was born November 23, 1955 in Jacksonville to the

late Bob and Carol (Wagner) Smith. He has lived in Jacksonville all of his life. Robert was the owner of Robert's Semi Trailer Repairs. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, sonin-law and friend and will be missed by all. He loved fishing and helping others in need. He is preceded in death by his son Robert Smith, Jr.

He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Peggy Sue Smith; son Christopher Smith; brothers Raymond Smith and David Smith; sisters Wanda (Dennis) Petty, Tina (Keith) Butler and Bobbie (Keith) Higginbotham; grandchildren Dylan Smith, Dustin Smith, Drake Smith, Sophia Latina and Katherine Latina; mother-in-law Mary Gill; and a host of other relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends Thursday, July 9 at Dunns Creek Baptist Church, 1425 Starratt Road, Jacksonville from 5-7 p.m.

Cedar Bay Funeral in charge of arrangements.

Visit us anytime at: www.mywestsidejournal.com





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Wagner Announces Candidacy for Superintendent of Schools

Albert Wagner is a public servant who has served communities in public education for over 15 years. During his career, Albert has worked in the

capacity of Elementary Principal, Assistant Principal, Instructional Coach and Teacher. Albert graduated from Temple University with a Bachelor's Degree in December 1999 in Elementary Education. In December 2004, Albert attained his Master's Degree in Educational

Leadership from St. Joseph's University. Albert has certifications as a K-6 Elementary Teacher, School Principal, Supervisor and District Administrator.

For the past two years, Albert has worked as a teacher at Yulee Elementary School. During this time, Albert has gained a positive reputation in the community of facilitating handson lessons for his students, going above and beyond for his school and developing professional and respectful relationships with stakeholders.



Albert is currently a candidate for Superintendent of Schools for Nassau County. He is bringing a vision to Nassau School District of collaboration and innovation. Albert's campaign

> Superintendent of for Schools is about placing the educational growth of our individual students intellectually, socially, and emotionally above state test scores. His platform focuses on student growth, collaboration and innovation, and teacher

retention. Albert resides in Yulee with his wife of 14 years Kendra. Together they have two beautiful daughters Rylee, 11, who will be entering YMS next year, and Addisyn, 9, who will be entering YES next year. Mr. Wagner is proud to be raising his children in Nassau County, a conservative county with conservative values.

You can find more information on Albert Wagner on his Facebook Page @ ChangeforNassauSchools.

Douglas C. Pearson, Sr. Since the middle of February we have

resisted travel and socially contacting our friends as that was beginning to be the accepted, and soon to be, reality of COVID-19. We cancelled travel plans to Alaska and New England and have put off going to Tennessee to be introduced to our new great-granddaughter, who was born at the end of March.

Now, as things are beginning to loosen up for travel, and the return to some measure of normalcy, the lunatics have come out of their closets and are destroying what this nation has built and the margin of safety that has been all but guaranteed through the ages. Even during the turbulent times of the Vietnam War, we knew there were demonstrations but we were never concerned about not being able to travel freely and safely about the country. When it was perceived as a potential concern, during my military service between 1968 and 1972, our commanders encouraged us to travel in civilian clothes to deter any possibility of potential confrontation.

Now the arrogance and ignorance of the Gen-Xers and millennials have caused a resurgence of the COVID-19 cases AND the ability to travel safely around the country. I remember years ago a co-worker in aviation, from Tallahassee, reminded me of a sure fact that "you can't even fly to Hell from here, without first changing planes in Atlanta." Now that we want to make plans to drive to Tennessee and be introduced to that new family member, the outlook for travel (even via the roads) is looking doubtful as we don't want confrontation on the highways, passing through major cities, risk offending someone when we stop at rest areas or even just casually walking down a sidewalk.

The major communities now all seem to be unable to protect the people as they go about

their daily routines, and are now afraid to not only confront possible antagonists, or arrest those that are breaking the law through their alleged peaceful protests, but they are also reluctant to respond to legitimate emergency calls that report incidents.

First the Pandemic, Now the Lunacy

One only needs to look to Cuba in the late 50's and early '60s to see the exact parallel that is occurring in this country. The same tactics that Fidel Castro used to overthrow a democracy and establish communist rule in that country are now being used here by the "Black Lives Matter" organization. Protest authority, destroy history, instill doubt in the established government/economy and, where able, establish their own rules and zones to keep out those charged with the safety and protection of constitutional laws. If you are in doubt, do the research. The two co-founders of the "BLM" movement have already said that is their intent and failing to do so will result in their continued efforts to "destroy" the history and foundations of this country.

Nikita Khrushchev, the former Soviet Premier, forewarned us in the late '50s that they would bury us! How you say? If you have to ask that then you were either not alive then or your history teachers have failed you miserably when you were at school! They would do so by burying "us from within." Create anarchy and mistrust by and within the middle class, and lower, to disrupt commerce and the economy forcing the restructuring of the country. If you think this is not a threat, then you are ready to lose your freedoms of speech, choice, security and the power to pursue happiness.

It is your choice now and until the war is lost. Yes, the war and there is one now! It is entirely around your freedoms and safety. Feel free to speak yours, until you are unable to do so any longer.







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Q: Please give me some information about giant snails. JS

A: Giant African land snail, Achatina (Lissachatina) fulica, is considered by some to be one of the most damaging snails in the world. It has been observed to feed on at least 500 different types of plants, many of them crops. It is thought to have originated in East Africa but has since spread through many countries in Southeast Asia and islands in the Pacific Ocean, including the Hawaiian Islands. More recently, this mollusc gained access to South America (Brazil) and the Caribbean islands of Martinique, Guadeloupe, Saint Lucia, Barbados and Saint Martin/Saint Maarten. In early September 2011, it was found in Miami-Dade County of southern Florida. This is not the first occurrence of giant African snail in Florida. In 1966, a Miami, FL, child smuggled three giant African snails into south Florida when he returned from a trip to Hawaii. His grandmother eventually released the snails into her garden. Seven years later, more than 18,000 snails had been found along with scores of eggs. It was eventually eradicated, but it took 10 years at a cost of \$1 million to eliminate this invader. Florida is now once again faced with an invasion by this snail.

Despite its documented ability to

Garden Talk Rebecca Jordi, UF/IFAS Nassau County Horticultural Extension Agent is a University of Florida faculty member. Mail questions to: Garden Talk, c/o Rebecca Jordi, Nassau County Extension,

543350 US Hwy. 1, Callahan, FL 32011 or email rljordi@ufl.edu



feed on hundreds of different plants, giant African snail can be expected to do most damage to vegetables, flowers and other ornamental plants, and to annual weeds. However, any succulent plant is at risk, particularly seedlings.

Giant African snail also has proven to be injurious by transmitting disease organisms to plants and animals, including humans. It can serve as an intermediate host for rat lungworm, which can cause meningoencephalitis in humans. It also carries a gramnegative bacterium, Aeromonas hydrophila, causing several disease symptoms in people, especially those with compromised immune systems.

For more complete information, read the UF/IFAS publication: Giant African Land Snail in Florida.

O: Is Lantana camara 'Anne Marie' invasive? I am getting conflicting information. RC

A: We will need to wait and see. In some cases, hybrids may revert to a parent and become actively producing

seeds which may or may not be viable. Therefore, reports are this hybrid is not invasive. 'Anne Marie' is more coldhardy and can be grown in cold hardiness zone 8 (Callahan, Bryceville or Hilliard). It is considered



dwarf with compact growth habit reaching about two feet tall. Flower colors are hot pink and vellow or orange. 'Anne Marie' is typical of lantana plants: drought tolerant, grows best in full sun and susceptible to mites and slugs but the pollinators love it. You should have constant visitors to your garden. I'm getting conflicting on it being an annual or perennial. Local micro-climates can supply exceptions

> - so try it. If you discover it seems to be growing out of control or producing seeds, dig it up and trash it. It is new, so we need to watch it for a period of time.









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Callahan Popeye's Building Underway!



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The next time you ride down State Road 200 (A1A) make sure to look over at the huge vacant lot with all the construction equipment. In the front corner, you can see that Callahan's new Popeye's is shaping up.

Crews quickly framed up the building last week and construction is moving right along! There is no timeline at this time for the project!

Callahan



Journey Food Store Nears Completion!

If you haven't traveled north of Callahan lately, you need to! The Journey Food Store is getting closer to its opening day. Signs are already in place that they will have Mobil gas and also offer diesel and ethanol-free; and



also a sign for Little Caesars Pizza. Right now, it looks like they still have quite a bit of paving work to do and of course stocking the store! Keep watching for grand opening day!



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Now, more than ever, we NEED to keep **DANNY LEEPER** as County Commissioner, District 1 Working for YOU! I ask for your vote on August 18th

To reach out to me, email: dleeper@bellsouth.net

Political advertisement paid for and approved by Danny Leeper, Republican for Nassau County Commissioner, District 1.