

"IF MY PEOPLE, WHICH ARE CALLED BY MY NAME, SHALL HUMBLE THEMSELVES, AND PRAY, AND SEEK MY FACE, AND TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS; THEN WILL I HEAR FROM HEAVEN, AND WILL FORGIVE THEIR SIN, AND WILL HEAL THEIR LAND." - 2 CHRONICLES 7:14

Inventory Liquidation Sale at Badcock & More

The Callahan Badcock & More store is currently holding a liquidation sale on all products within the store. Callahan Badcock opened in December of 1978. The parent company, Conn's, purchased Badcock in December 2023, and due to their bad business decisions, Conn's recently filed bankruptcy.



The Callahan store will not be closing by any means, but will instead be going through a rebranding process to either make changes and stay under the Badcock name, or change the name but stay in the same location. The current local staff, Angela Lee, Manager; Karen Rapp, Chad Cowart and David Darley will still be there to serve their customers, as well as Regional Manager Steven Anderson and store owner Andy Johnston.

The store will hold an inventory liquidation sale from now until October 31, 2024 or until the current merchandise is out of the



way to bring in the new merchandise. Sale prices are anywhere from 30% to 50% off all merchandise.

We are very excited and eager to begin this new journey and look forward to continuing to provide the community with the same excellent customer service for years to come.

The store hours will be Monday – Wednesday & Friday, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.



(closed Thursdays); Saturdays 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.; and Sunday from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Badcock & More is located at 542057 US Highway 1, Callahan; and they can be reached by calling 904-879-1237.

Starting Point Announces Opening of Callahan Clinic



Starting Point Behavioral Healthcare will open at their new Callahan location Thursday, August 1. The clinic is located at 617225 Brandies Avenue. The building, that once housed Florida Sun Printing for many years, has been completely renovated from its printing days.

The July opening was postponed due to unforeseen grading and flooding issues in the parking lot, which was resolved to ensure the safety and accessibility of the clients and staff. "We understand the anticipation surrounding the new facility, and we share in the excitement of expanding our services to the Callahan community," says Lauren Pagel, CEO at Starting Point. "Our team is very excited to begin working in the newly renovated facility."

The new Callahan clinic is an important part of the organization's mission to expand access to quality behavioral healthcare across Nassau County. Once opened, the clinic will

offer a range of services including individual therapy, group counseling, medication management, and community outreach programs.

Starting Point Behavioral Healthcare will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony Friday, August 9 at 12 p.m. (noon) to celebrate the opening of the new Callahan location. The community is invited to join this special event.

In the meantime, Starting Point continues to serve the community through their existing clinics and telehealth services. They encourage those in need of immediate assistance to reach out to their main office for support. Those interested in establishing care in advance of the grand opening in Callahan can complete pre-registration paperwork by visiting the organization's website at: www.spbh.org.

For further updates and information, please visit their website or contact their office directly.



EARLY VOTING AUGUST 7 - 17 • 9 A.M. - 6 P.M.

Early voting is held at two locations on the west side:

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A Word From the Publisher

Geez...it's hard to believe it's August and we have five months left in 2024! I can't even believe it. And now, in 12 days, school will be starting. Time flies, whether you're having fun or not. How very important it is to live life to the fullest each and every day, as we don't know what tomorrow may bring.

August also brings for us an election. This week, we have a 'Meet the Candidates' section in the center of the paper. All candidates were sent a questionnaire and most responded. Please make sure to take time to read through them to help you make your decision of your choice, before you head to the polls. Early voting will begin next week on Wednesday, August 7, allowing people to vote at any of the voting precincts within the county. Election Day is Tuesday, August 20 and if you haven't voted by then, you have to vote in your precinct listed on your Voter Registration Card. Most of the candidates in this primary election are local candidates. The General Election will not be held until November. Just remember when you're trying to decide your candidate (in the Primary and General Elections), do your homework. Read about them and find out what they stand for on different polices. Most important, pray about your choices.

Our world is completely broken. We must be serious about our options, starting at the local level. Somehow, we, the people, have forgotten that we live in the most wonderful country in the world. God has blessed America completely. Sometimes I feel like we (me included) have become a selfish bunch of spoiled brats that don't really stand for anything. As long as 'our' world is not disturbed, we can't be bothered with all this nonsense

that has been going on. Remember, our God created us all to be responsible God-fearing people and productive citizens. All He asked is that we turn from our sins and this sinful world and look to Him for guidance each day.

Pastor Ryan shared Sunday, how appalled we are were to get a glimpse (as I didn't see all of it) the opening ceremony at the Olympics. What did we expect? These are lost people living like the world does and yes, it is so sad. That's how lost people are. They have no hope. It's truly past time for us to stop being okay with everything and stand up for what we believe in. Right is right and wrong is wrong. There is no gray area.

I pray to God Almighty to heal our country and our people. I know, from reading biblical times, that life back then was much worse than we are however, we are on a fine line. God is our only hope. If you haven't asked Him to come into your life and be your Savior and Lord and ask forgiveness of your sins, and turn from your sins, there's no time like the present. Only Jesus can give us life eternal not man. Feel free to come and talk to me or visit any of our churches to find out more about my Jesus.

Make sure to do your constitutional right to cast your ballot. As an American, I am so proud to have this honor to vote. I still remember my daddy making me register immediately when I turned 18 and I've been voting ever since!

God bless you all and God Bless America!

Dawn S. West

Nassau Habitat for Humanity

A Fernandina Beach single mother of four was recently selected by Habitat for Humanity International in Atlanta to showcase its Black Homeownership Initiative. Ysa Arthur, a work-at-home mom and longtime employee of a Miami-based logistic company that routes shipping containers, recently moved with her three sons and a daughter into a Habitat house off Atlantic Ave.



She grew up in Miami and visited her mother's native Yulee every summer growing up. "Her entire family was there so when I left Miami I came back to this area in 2014. I was not pleased with the school system and the way Miami was heading," says Ms. Arthur. "I didn't want to raise my sons in that environment."

A cousin mentioned the Habitat program when the new arrival was seeking better housing, and she initially opted to apply for a home in 2018 but changed her mind. She revisited it in 2022 and began the process over again. "A friend told me to give it a try and see what happens. It really lined up the way it should," she recalls.

"Ysa Arthur has been highlighted by Habitat for Humanity International's initiative to advance black individuals and families across the country," reads a statement from the Atlanta office. "Her story is a testament to resilience and hope. She is a single mother who works hard to provide a loving and stable environment for her four children. Her journey with Nassau Habitat for Humanity began with a desire to create

a better future for her family, and today she stands as a proud homeowner and a public face for Habitat for Humanity."

Carol Bolton, Executive Director of Nassau Habitat for Humanity, described Ms. Arthur as a "shining example" of what can happen when communities come together to support each other. "Her story is a powerful reminder of the importance of our work and the positive changes we can bring to families and communities," commented Ms. Bolton. "Nassau Habitat for Humanity remains dedicated to helping individuals and families become home owners. Ysa Arthur's story is an inspiration to us all and we look forward to seeing where she goes from here."

The non-profit constantly seeks volunteers to participate in building homes and acquiring land donors. The application process will open for Nassau County residents for new homes to be built starting in the Fall, 2024. Find out more about Nassau Habitat for Humanity at its website: www.nassauhabitatfl.com, and by calling Nassau director Carol Bolton at 904-277-0600.

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AUGUST

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
First Day of School Monday, August 12th 				1 Food Giveaway @Callahan First Baptist 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Hilliard Town Meeting 7 p.m.	2 NAMI Support 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Fernandina Council on Aging	3
4	5 Pine Forest Alumni Meeting 5 p.m. Bethel A.M.E. Church Callahan Town Meeting 7 p.m.	6 Torah Club 9 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. Callahan Methodist Church Westside Republicans 6 p.m. Hilliard Comm. Center NAMI Family Support 6:30 - 8 p.m. Alachua Club, Fern. Bch.	7 Free Community Dinner 5 p.m. Callahan Methodist Church Parents of Addicted Loved Ones (PAL) 6 p.m. Hilliard Library	8	9 NAMI Support 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Fernandina Council on Aging American Legion & Auxiliary Post 401 Hilliard 7 p.m.	10
11	12 WN Genealogical Society 10:30 a.m. Lions Club Country Star Quilt Guild 7 p.m. Anchor Church Ch. 154 Order of Eastern Star 7:30 pm @ Masonic Lodge	13 Torah Club 9 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. Callahan Methodist Church Callahan Lions Club 7 p.m.	14 NAMI Support 12-1:30 p.m. Hilliard Journey Church Free Community Dinner 5 p.m. Callahan Methodist Church PAL 6 p.m. Hilliard Library	15 Food Giveaway @Callahan First Baptist 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Hilliard Town Meeting 7 p.m.	16 NAMI Support 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Fernandina Council on Aging	17
18	19 Barnabas Food @NE FL Fairgrounds 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. Westside Optimists 7 p.m. Lions Club Sons of Confederate Veterans 7 p.m. The Pig Callahan Town Meeting 7 p.m.	20 Torah Club 9 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. Callahan Methodist Church NARFE Nat'l Active & Retired Federal Employees 11 a.m. The Pig NAMI Family Support 6:30 - 8 p.m. Alachua Club, Fern. Bch.	21 Free Community Dinner 5 p.m. Callahan Methodist Church PAL 6 p.m. Hilliard Library	22 Historical Society 6:30 p.m. @ Depot	23 NAMI Support 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Fernandina Council on Aging	24
25	26 Ch. 154 Order of Eastern Star 7:30 pm @ Masonic Lodge NC Beekeepers Association 7 p.m. Multipurpose Building	27 Torah Club 9 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. Callahan Methodist Church Callahan Lions Club 7 p.m.	28 Free Community Dinner 5 p.m. Callahan Methodist Church Parents of Addicted Loved Ones (PAL) 6 p.m. Hilliard Library	29	30 NAMI Support 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Fernandina Council on Aging	31

JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

Have you ever heard the saying, “Be careful what you ask for”? Well, I have a gut feeling that what so many of us asked for may turn around and bite us. Yes, I am referencing Biden/Harris. We all know there is no boundary for the liberal left. They preach “Democracy” constantly and as usual what they say and what they believe are always two different things. As soon as they forced (a true political coup) Joe into withdrawing his duly right to be the Democrat nominee, they just tossed the democratic process out the window and crowned Harris as the new and improved nominee for President. Never mind the fact that she received zero votes from the millions of democrats throughout America. You have to understand that this is the way the socialist left operates. They are constantly saying one thing to distract you while they are doing just the opposite.

Just over a week now, since Biden dropped out under duress, and he has been totally shunned from the public eye. Zero chatter on his mental capacity to head our country for the next five months, nothing being said about how and why the Vice President along with the entire lot of elected Democrats and Whitehouse staff, along with the main stream media covered up his deficiencies. Every one of the above mentioned through their actions or perhaps their non-actions were blatantly lying to every one of us. Where our problems now lay is the liberal main stream media and corrupt Democratic Establishment. They are working overtime in an attempt to make Harris look like the Supreme Leader of freedom. She will be adorned by the left. They will utilize every tactic in the play-book to

make her look like exactly what she isn't. The plain and simple truth about Harris is, she is dumb as a box of rocks!

She was known to be the most liberal Senator in office, more so than even Bernie Sanders. She is known to be anti-law enforcement. She is known to be in favor of open borders, free taxpayer funded healthcare for illegal aliens, restricting red meat consumption, confiscating firearms, and eliminating the oil and natural gas industries.

The entire leftist movement is on full alert to hide and erase Kamala's past. Axios, a political think tank has just come out stating they were wrong in multiple articles in 2021 calling Harris Joe Biden's border czar. This is Axios statement this week, “Editor's note: This article has been updated and clarified to note that Axios was among the news outlets that incorrectly labeled Harris a “border czar” in 2021.” Now Govtrack that exclaims, “We publish the status of federal legislation, information about your representative and senators in Congress including voting records, and original research on legislation. We're one of the oldest government transparency websites in the world.” But GovTrack deleted an entry from 2019 listing Kamala Harris as the most liberal senator. Even Wikipedia has rewritten Harris's profile in the last 10 days. The cover-up to whom she really is, is in full force. The left will put on full force images of a pretty face, a woman of color and that she deserves to be president on those two characteristics. She is worse of a threat to our country than even Joe Biden.

As always...that's just my opinion!
Trump 2024



Back to School Supplies

The Concerned Citizens of Hilliard will hold a Back to School Supplies Giveaway this Saturday, August 3 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Oxford Street Ballpark. Anyone needing supplies is encouraged to attend.



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Hilliard Little League's Annual Election

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Ecclesiastes 7:8 says: "Better is the end of a thing than its beginning, and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit" (ESV).

Have you ever thought about the end of your time here on earth? How far from now will that be? 50 years? 30? 10 years from now? 5 years? Maybe recently you have felt like you'd just be happy to make it to 2025? But knowing that all of us will have a last day, how will you spend however much time you have left on this earth? Will you use your days to accomplish that which has

eternal value or use your days for temporary pleasure?

In 2 Timothy chapter 4, the Apostle Paul shares that his last days are close. He has been in a prison in Rome for quite some time and the trial is not looking good. There's a good chance he will be executed for his belief in Jesus. "For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come." 2 Timothy 4:6 ESV

With Paul's mind on the end, he reflects on how he lived his life: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." 2 Timothy 4:7, ESV. Paul can honestly say he did what God asked of him. Paul has gone from city to city planting new churches, has raised up leaders and appointed them to these churches, and has shepherded them from afar.

What about us? Have we fought the good fight? Have we finished the race that Christ has laid out before us to run? Have we kept the faith? There is still time. With however many years we have left, we can choose to follow Jesus.

2 Timothy 4:8, tells us, "Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing." ESV For those who are faithful, those who love Jesus's appearance, He has the crown of righteousness.

So, what will we do with the time we have left on this earth? Will we waste it on worthless endeavors or use it to do the work He has called us to? It's really easy to do what we want, what is fun, what is lazy or convenient. Paul did none of these. Paul fought the good fight. I pray that we will as well. How will you choose God today, and fight the good fight? What is Jesus calling you to today to end well?

SCV National Reunion

Seven members of Kirby-Smith Camp 1209 traveled to Charleston, S.C., for the National Reunion of Sons of Confederate Veterans. Individual members earned various awards of merit. The highlight of the event was that Camp 1209 earned two of the highest awards. The first was the General Nathan Bedford Forrest Award for Greatest Net Gain in Members; and the second was the General William D. McCain Distinguished Camp Award as the Most Excellent Camp in the SCV.



Shown is Commander-In-Chief Jason Boshers presenting the award and banner to Florida Division Commander Calvin Hart and Camp Commander Chris Bunton. Congratulations!

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We are always seeking new students to serve as Attorney's in Court. Anyone wishing to learn and serve in this position, just serve on the jury and speak to the coordinator about joining the team!

Court meets at the Robert M. Foster Judicial Center in Yulee. Simply show up, sign up and serve on the Jury. Call Nancy, the coordinator, at 904-548-4520 or email nbeasley@nassaucountyfl.com.

Visit us anytime at: www.mywestsidejournal.com

CLASS REUNION

West Nassau High School Class of 1974

The WNHS Class of 1974 will celebrate their 50th year reunion October 26 at 1881 Occasions at 6 p.m. in Hilliard. The event will be \$30 per person.

Mail your check or money order to: Nancy Tew Lee, 274021 Murrhee Rd., Hilliard, 32046.

Women's Community Bible Study

The Nassau County Women's Community Bible Study is an interdenominational study, welcoming all faiths and stages of believers. The study will begin Thursday, September 5 at 3:30 p.m. or at 6 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Gray Gables, 54031 Church St., Callahan (just south of Callahan off US 1). We will spend 20 weeks walking through the book of Matthew together. We follow the Nassau County school calendar for holidays and weather closures.



For more information call, Dawn Kilpatrick Curtright, 904-715-0429 or Kerri Walton 478-397-9533.

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Record Breaking School Grades... Our Best Performance Yet!

July 24, 2024, the Florida Department of Education released school and district grades for the 2023-2024 school year, Wednesday, July 24.

According to Superintendent, Dr. Kathy Burns, "Nassau County School District has once again received an 'A' grade, with 12 schools earning an 'A' and one school earning a 'B'. This is the highest number of 'A' schools in Nassau County since the inception of the state grading system. Our overall score placed us at number three in the state. These results reflect the hard work and dedication of our teachers, administrators, support staff, students, parents, and community members. The Nassau County School District has a long-standing tradition of excellence, and we express our gratitude to everyone who has contributed to this legacy over the years."



School grades provide an easily understandable way for parents and the general public to understand how well each school is serving its students. Schools are graded A, B, C, D, or F. Each school grade is based on a variety of components. There are five achievement components and four learning gains components, as well as components for middle school acceleration, graduation rate and college and career acceleration. The five achievement components are English Language Arts (ELA), Grade 3 ELA, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. The four learning gains

components are learning gains in ELA and Mathematics, as well as learning gains for the lowest performing 25% of students in ELA and Mathematics.

The Middle School Acceleration component is based on the percentage of eligible students who passed a high school level EOC assessment or industry certification. Graduation rate is based on an adjusted cohort of ninth grade students and measures whether the students graduate within four years.

The College and Career Acceleration component is based on graduates who earned passing scores on a variety of acceleration examinations (AP, IB, or AICE), dual enrollments credits, Armed Services Qualification Test, or earned industry certification.

2023-2024 School Grades

School	Grade
Bryceville Elementary	A
Callahan Elementary	A
Callahan Middle	A
Emma Love Hardee Elem.	A
Fernandina Beach High	A
Fernandina Beach Middle	A
Hilliard Elementary	A
Hilliard Middle Senior	A
West Nassau High	A
Wildlight Elementary	B
Yulee Elementary	A
Yulee High	A
Yulee Middle	A

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Celebrating Seniors

Dear Editor,
 Attention Must Be Paid! The attitudes and treatment of our senior citizens leaves a lot to be desired. Beginning with economic status, Bernie Sanders, a Democrat, tells us that the majority of seniors are living under poverty level. The cost of living has increased exponentially. Seniors received a miniscule Social Security raise in 2023, while the Biden-Harris henchman are paying Social Security Benefits to illegals. Aging Americans find themselves increasingly put aside, ignored both privately and publicly. If you pay your bills, the telephone hardly ever rings. There are publicly funded activities and charitable societies that are only minimally helpful. Participants are looked upon as a bunch of dotty old people, stereotypes and second-class citizens with infirmities who don't have a brain in their heads. Snacks and sedentary activities are offered that tend to reinforce society's biases that seniors have no legitimate role in society. Seniors want and need opportunities, not pity.

The latest in this ongoing tragedy is that a broad range of facilities are being established for fully functioning seniors whose children can afford to dump a parent or two. What seems evident is that if you treat any person, regardless of age, as if they have lost their value in society, they will end up behaving that way.

So, here's the juice! Our attitudes and behavior are only making the lives of Senior Citizen's increasingly unbearable. These men and women don't want to be taken care of, coddled into obscurity. The Senior Community needs, requires, learning opportunities, healthy recreational programs to keep them moving and active, public speakers who can influence the attitudes of citizens, as well as leaders in business and education and, of necessity, individual commitment to inclusion. Every newspaper in the country needs a column written by and for Seniors. They have a valuable voice and it needs to be heard.

There is a veritable army of people out there being overlooked because of age. Citizens capable of contributing commercially, socially and culturally are

Letters to the Editor



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

being missed. In high schools and institutions of higher learning, the senior students are most revered for having accomplished their mission. Don't our seniors who have a wealth of accumulated experience, deserve the same kind of reverential treatment?

B. R. McConnell

In Response to Candidate Announcement

Dear Editor,
 On reading the recent article, regarding Jeff Gray's announcement of his re-election bid for County Commissioner, I was struck by the inconsistency in his claimed standards and his poor record in applying those standards for the residents of Western Nassau County. I have always believed that actions speak louder than words and found his words hollow and hypocritical in light of his record.

For those considering his candidacy, I feel compelled to highlight his poor record and the warning that my neighborhood (in Callahan), Tupelo Plantation, serves as for fellow neighbors and voters in Nassau County. As a resident of the Tupelo Plantation neighborhood, I and my neighbors have firsthand observed Commissioner Gray putting commercial interests ahead of community quality of life and just principles. Last year, Commissioner Gray without hesitation voted to approve the rezoning of open rural residential area (Woods Lane) to allow for heavy industrial use, despite popular and strong resident opposition to this decision. Further, unlike his fellow council members, he refused to directly engage with and hear the concerns of the neighborhood. His vote violates the 2030 Comprehensive Plan for Nassau County current zoning which states "Industrial development SHALL NOT be permitted in the Open Rural district."

This rezoning will drastically and negatively affect the quality of life of the residents of Tupelo Plantation and neighboring areas and places corporate

interests unnecessarily ahead of the interests of our county.

Commissioner Gray claims to pride himself in being a family man but has not extended that same care to the families affected by his rezoning vote. Rather, these families with their own children and grandchildren will now face a degraded community life as a result. Is it only his own family that he cares for and not the families that reside in Nassau County?

In the article, Commissioner Gray claims to be proud of his work in enhancing the quality of life in Nassau County. The article highlights his support for CLAM and recreational parks. I would highlight that a simple glance at a map will reveal that

most county parks are concentrated in the eastern parts of the county. Tupelo Plantation residents have proposed a county park on Woods Lane for neighborhood children to enjoy. This proposal was not supported by the county. Again, I would ask whether his family care extends beyond his own to all residents of Nassau County, including residents in Western Nassau County?

The final paragraph thanks the readers in advance for their trust and confidence. I can assure Commissioner Gray that I and my neighbors have neither trust nor confidence in his ability and willingness to serve in the interests of all Nassau County residents. We urge would-be voters to consider his poor record of parochialism and putting commercial interests ahead of our county residents.

Sincerely,
 Chip Hofmann

The Arc Nassau Celebrates 50 Years

The Arc Nassau is proud to announce its 50th Anniversary Gala, a milestone event celebrating five decades of dedication and service to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Nassau County. The Gala will take place on September 27, 2024, at The Ritz Carlton Amelia Island, promising an evening of celebration, reflection, and community support.

This prestigious event will feature a sumptuous dinner, inspiring speeches, live entertainment, and both silent and live auctions. Attendees will have the opportunity to connect with community leaders, supporters, and advocates who have been instrumental in The Arc Nassau's journey. "We are thrilled to celebrate this significant milestone with our community," said Megan

Feldman, Marketing and Development Director at The Arc Nassau. "This Gala is not just a celebration of our past achievements but a testament to the incredible support we have received from our community over the years. We look forward to an unforgettable evening that will further our mission and impact."

Tickets for the Gala can be purchased through The Arc Nassau. If you are interested in attending, please contact Megan Feldman at: meganfeldman@thearcnassau.org or visit our website <http://www.thearcnassau.org> and scan the QR code on the main page for ticket purchase.

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MEET THE CANDIDATES

The Primary Election will be held Tuesday, August 20 from 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.. Early voting begins Wednesday, August 7 and runs through Saturday, August 17, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. daily, including Saturday and Sunday. Early voting is held at two locations on the west side; the Hilliard Community Center, 37177 Pecan St., Hilliard and the Walter Junior Boatright County Building, 45401 Mickler St., Callahan. Following are your local candidates that participated in our informative political questionnaire.

CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT & COMPTROLLER



Mitch Keiter

Residence: Fernandina Beach **Republican**
Family: Wife Jennifer (24 years), daughter Peyton (15), son Lucas (11)
Occupation: Chief of Staff and Operations for the Clerk of Court and Comptroller Office

Key Issues and Concerns: Cybercrime continues to grow and become more sophisticated each year. This is important because the Clerk's office is responsible for maintaining the integrity and security of a tremendous number of records for our citizens. These records include personal data containing financial and medical information, county banking information, property ownership and sales information, and the names of victims and minors, just to name a few. This is why cybersecurity is of paramount importance and concern. We must preserve the integrity of our court and finances to protect Nassau County citizens. I am committed to continuing this critical work as your elected Clerk.

Goals: While we have recently received awards for our financial reporting, had increased credit ratings, and moved to improve court administration security, there is always more that we can do. My goal remains the same as it always has: to protect taxpayers. I will do this by increasing security from digital threats that aim to steal money and personal data from our county. I already have and will continue to work to reduce burdens and continue modernizing court operations to ensure our citizens receive fast, accurate, and efficient services from the Clerk's office. I humbly ask for your vote on or before August 20th.



Allan Reynolds

Residence: Fernandina Beach **Republican**
Family: Wife Penelope, children Noah and Natalie Reynolds, Luke and Shelby Lyle
Occupation: Chief Financial Officer & Comptroller for the Nassau County Sheriff's Office

Key Issues and Concerns: As your next Clerk, transparency and accountability will be my top priorities. I am currently responsible for all financial operations at the Nassau County Sheriff's Office where I serve as the Chief Financial Officer & Comptroller. I am proud to have endorsements from Sheriff Bill Leeper, Tax Collector John M. Drew, Property Appraiser Michael Hickox, Nassau County Firefighters Local 3101 and Fernandina Beach Firefighters Local 2836.

Goals: In an effort to have 100% transparency and accountability, I believe all Nassau County residents deserve to know where their local tax dollars are being spent. I will work toward creating an online dashboard with an open checkbook, so all disbursements are easily viewed online. Also, many services provided by the Clerk's office require in-person or phone interactions with the staff. We will provide excellent customer service to ensure Nassau County residents have a positive experience when interacting at the Clerk's office.

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS



Kathy Knight Burns (Incumbent)

Residence: Callahan **Republican**
Family: Daughter Tara Burns
Occupation: Current Superintendent of Schools

Key Issues and Concerns: Our primary concern is the recruitment and retention of top-quality personnel. We need to attract and keep the best educators to maintain our high standards. Additionally, managing the impact of rapid community growth on our schools is crucial. We must address the need for increased mental health and behavioral support for our students to ensure their well-being. Expanding academic and vocational training opportunities is also essential to prepare students for future success. By tackling these issues head-on, we can continue to provide a high-quality education and support the diverse needs of our students and community.

Goals: Looking ahead, our goals are focused on sustaining and enhancing our educational environment. We plan to create a comprehensive master plan for capital projects, addressing the need for new schools and the renovation of aging facilities. Supporting our employees at every level with improved salaries, benefits, and site-based wellness programs is a priority. We aim to expand and enhance safety measures district-wide, in partnership with local law enforcement agencies. Finally, we will grow and refine academic and vocational training opportunities, including establishing a centralized vocational training facility, to maximize student success and meet the needs of our evolving community. Together, we can ensure top-notch schools, successful students, and a stronger Nassau.



Curtis Gaus

Residence: Yulee **Republican**
Family: Wife Jennifer "Suzanne" Gaus, five children and three grandchildren
Occupation: Teacher

Key Issues and Concerns: As a superintendent candidate, my key concerns include ensuring responsible use of taxes and spending to optimize student performance. Efficient budget management is crucial to directing more resources to classrooms and essential programs. Strengthening employee relations is vital for a supportive and effective teaching environment. My focus will be on transparency in spending, fair compensation for staff, and strategic investments in educational tools and infrastructure. By addressing these issues, we can create a sustainable, high-performing school district that prioritizes both student achievement and fiscal responsibility.

Goals: As superintendent, I will be committed to fiscal responsibility, and ensuring that taxpayer dollars are spent efficiently to maximize student performance. My approach includes strategic budgeting to prioritize classroom resources while maintaining a lean administrative cost structure. By fostering positive employee relations, we can create a supportive and collaborative environment for teachers and staff, directly enhancing student outcomes. My goal is to balance the needs of our district with prudent spending, and ensuring every dollar invested benefits our students' education and future. Together, we can build a thriving, high-performing school district that respects taxpayers and values educational excellence.



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MEET THE CANDIDATES

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS



Janet H. Adkins (Incumbent)

Residence: Fernandina Beach **Republican**
Family: Husband Doug (27 years), son Douglas (22), daughter Emily (1999-2022)

Occupation: Nassau County Supervisor of Elections

Key Issues and Concerns: Ensuring safe, accurate and secure elections is my top priority. Protecting the ballot box against ineligible voters is key to ensuring that your vote counts. We will continue to accomplish this through on-going voter roll clean-up efforts. Election security begins with clean voter rolls and taking the necessary actions to ensure that ineligible individuals cannot vote. Planning for growth is a top concern and I have created a plan to recruit "top talent" and to ensure that we are keeping pace with the growth in the community. Stopping ineligible voters is a critical task that is further highlighted by the large numbers of illegal immigrants entering the United States and we are working to ensure they are not registered to vote or casting illegal ballots. Combating misinformation is a key election security concern. Our office is engaging voters via text messages, social media, our elections mobile app, newspaper/radio, and our modernized website and chatbot to dispel false and misleading information. I have added a button to our agency website for voters to report election misinformation. Quick response to audio, visual, text, and image misinformation is essential to protecting your vote.

Goals: Maintaining public trust is my highest priority. We will continue our Community Advisory Council that provides a forum for two-way communication and transparency. Listening to voters and election workers will be a hallmark of excellence in my administration. We will continue to innovate and seek ways to improve the voting experience. Helping our veterans, seniors, disabled and citizens register to vote, find their voting location, resolving their eligibility questions, and keeping the voters informed are core responsibilities. The power of one voice in this nation can make a difference and I will work to ensure all voices are heard.



Stan Bethea

Residence: Callahan **Republican**

Family: Wife Nancy, daughter Hayden

Occupation: Retired in 2023 from the Duval County Supervisor of Elections Office as Chief Elections Officer and Director of Information Services after 18 years of service there

Key Issues and Concerns: Lack of confidence in elections. Florida elections are among the most well-run in the nation, yet distrust and cynicism run rampant. This has contributed to the decline in Nassau County's voter turnout over the last three elections; The Nassau County Supervisor of Elections office is not using latest, most secure, voting machines; Budgets presented by the Nassau County Supervisor of Elections office have been grossly overestimated, wasting taxpayer money and eroding confidence; The Nassau County Supervisor of Elections office misled a candidate who wanted to run for office by providing inaccurate information; Nassau County deserves a better elections leader.

Goals: 1. Lead the Nassau County Supervisor of Elections Office in a respectful and honorable fashion. 2. Protect our voters' precious right to vote from threats near and far. 3. Instill public confidence in election outcomes. 4. Acquire the latest, most secure, election equipment. 5. Explain the election process to all voters. 6. Budget and spend taxpayer monies accurately and honestly. 7. Clean the Nassau County voter rolls so they are as accurate and pristine as possible. 8. Ensure the utmost security procedures for each and every election. 9. Improve voter confidence. 10. Train poll workers so they are capable and confident in their roles. 11. Strive to increase voter turnout and participation.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, DIST. 3



Jeff Gray (Incumbent)

Residence: Yulee **Republican**

Family: Wife Diana (31 years), two children, three grandchildren

Occupation: Nassau County Commissioner District 3 (Yulee); Currently the Republican Committeeman for Precinct #31; Retired from Volvo/Mack Trucks Inc.

Key Issues and Concerns: I will continue to fund our Nassau County Sheriff to protect and keep our citizens safe, as illegal immigrants illegally cross our borders and enter our country committing crimes. I am very proud of delivering three (3) consecutive years of reduced ad valorem property taxes. Prior to Jeff Gray taking office in 2020, the ad valorem property tax millage rate on citizens homes was raised twelve consecutive years. I am pleased to share, I am working to reduce taxes further again this 2024 year while continuing to fund public safety. Jeff Gray excels in fiscal stewardship and conservative government.

Goals: I will continue to work with the Nassau County Republican Executive Committee as Committeeman for Precinct 31, and to continue to lessen the burden on our taxpayers by lowering the county tax millage rate for our citizens. I will continue to invest back into our communities with recreational facilities for our citizens and their children to enjoy. Jeff Gray funded the Westside Regional Park to be built on U.S. 1 between Callahan and Hilliard that will soon provide new baseball, softball, football, soccer, and multipurpose fields for our taxpayer families to enjoy on the westside of our county.



Lynn Newcomer

Residence: Yulee **Republican**

Family: Husband retired Navy; two children

Occupation: Former Executive, now current business owner of (Rosewood) antique store in Nassau

Key Issues and Concerns: Unmanaged growth overtaking rural, natural resources and converting to small urban cities.

Goals: Manage growth and development Preserve the unique characteristics of our land - old growth trees, wetlands, wildlife areas, waterways - by making it costly to remove or impact these resources. Development can still continue while preserving our unique characteristics. This preservation posture should be communicated throughout the county so that employees are confident that their decisions confirm the vision AND are supported in the community. We have an emotional connection to our county. We care about its well-being and future. We need to foster that belonging by tying together neighborhood groups and public forums in communicating toward a county that promotes community.

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MEET THE CANDIDATES

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, DIST. 5



Klynt Farmer (Incumbent)

Residence: Callahan **Republican**
Family: Partner Celeste
Occupation: Small Business Owner: KA Farmer Septic and Farmer Trailer

Key Issues and Concerns: Affordable housing, managing growth, and protecting our natural resources are the most important priorities for us as a county right now. We also have to continue making government work better for less money. We have rolled back taxes three times, and I will continue to make sure we are spending tax dollars the right way.

Goals: During my next four years, I'd like to see us roll back taxes for a fourth year in a row and enhance our CLAM Program (Conservation Land Acquisition Management Program). It is important we continue to promote public safety and enhance services for our citizens. We also have to tackle affordable housing and make it so people can afford to live and work in our county. I hear too often about people spending too much on housing. I have no doubt we can accomplish whatever we put our minds to. It is an honor to serve the citizens of Nassau County.



John "Paul" Ladson

Residence: Callahan **Republican**
Family: Married, a father, grandfather, and great-grandfather
Occupation: Retired

Key Issues and Concerns: County development and growth, impact fees on long-time homeowners. Local traffic issues, awareness of how county decisions affect homeowners. Slow permitting issues. Private sub-division roads and ditches do not get any help with maintenance but still pay the same amount of taxes as all other property owners. Let's make property owners aware of meeting times and agenda for all Commissioner meetings. Set a time that works and allows those who want to know what is going on. Property owners, residents and local businesses have a voice and should be heard.

Goals: I want to be your full-time County Commissioner with an open-door policy. I would like to be there for you, to be your voice. I would like to see a satellite office opened in the Callahan area. This would make it easy for the west side of Nassau County's property owners and local businesses to address their concerns without having to go to Yulee. I would like to know what you, the taxpayers, have issues with. I can't make a list of promises, because I don't know your concerns. But you let me know; I will have your back and I will be your voice.

OCEAN HIGHWAY & PORT AUTHORITY, DISTRICT 1



Danny Fullwood

Residence: Fernandina Beach **Republican**
Family: Wife Joann (53 years)
Occupation: Retired Educator and OHPA Commissioner (District 2) since 2008

Key Issues and Concerns: Improve port infrastructure and safety. Find solutions for port capacity and efficiency needs of Florida's growing population and economy. Find funding sources in order to maintain the port's supply chain solution. Find new business partners.

Goals: New Customs and Border Facility - Remodel old facility as a Commission office or as a lease space for businesses. Work with the Nassau County Economic Development Board to create jobs on the west side of Nassau County. Keep the port safe and in good working order. Improve meeting communication. Have county-wide citizen workshops. Maintain a good working relationship with FDOT, The Florida Ports Council the Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic Development Council and the Army Corp of Engineers to ensure the Port of Fernandina receives support it needs to become a productive and financially secure working port.



Miriam R. Hill (Incumbent)

Residence: Fernandina Beach **Republican**
Family: Husband Chris, two children
Occupation: Commercial Lawyer

Key Issues and Concerns: Thank you for electing me in 2020 to serve as Nassau County's Port Commissioner, District 1! I have worked hard to live up to the public trust of public office. After being elected Chairman in 2023 by my fellow commissioners, I've enacted an ethics policy for the board, passed a resolution requiring regular financial reporting from the port operator, and taken cost-savings actions to save OHPA over \$100k in administrative expenses. Other accomplishments as commissioner include: ensuring OHPA meetings are streamed online, passing the first OHPA strategic master plan with broad community engagement and support; and digitizing OHPA records.

Goals: If re-elected I will continue to use my experience as a corporate and finance attorney to advocate for practices and policies to put our "financial house in order" and that leave OHPA and the Port of Fernandina "better than we found it." I will represent the interests of the citizens of Nassau County and the state of Florida with transparency and accountability. I will remember my fiduciary duty and will act with fiscal conservatism. I will never vote to sell public land without full transparency and accountability. Thank you for your trust (and your vote on August 20!).

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MEET THE CANDIDATES

OCEAN HIGHWAY & PORT AUTHORITY, DISTRICT 2



Jimmy Dubberly

Residence: Fernandina Beach **Republican**
Family: Wife Laura, four children, three grandchildren
Occupation: Retired US Coast Guard; current Owner of a Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business

Key Issues and Concerns: Currently the Port is broken and is having to sale of land to cover the bills. The current Port Authority Commissioners game the Port Operator a 35-year contract which they keep 98% of the revenue and give the Ocean Highway and Port Authority very little in return. This is a bad contract which the Port Authority gets very little revenue to put back into growing the Port or supporting the local community. Some of the current Commissioners only think about themselves and not the constituents within the county.

Goals: To bring the Port into a profitable situation so it can give back to the residents of Nassau County. Once the Port has the funds I would like to try and give scholarships to the High Schools Seniors for College or Trade School. This would be available to seniors in all the High Schools in the County. The Port should be working with the municipalities in the county to help build parks and playgrounds for families along with other outdoor entertainment. Let's make the Port a staple in our community instead of being an anchor in the mud.

Scott Moore - NO RESPONSE

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER DISTRICT 4



Dr. Cynthia "Cindy" Grooms (Incumbent)

Residence: Hilliard **Republican**
Family: Daughter Morgan Grooms Crosby and two grandchildren
Occupation: Former Dean of Students, Assistant Principal, Coordinator of Student Services and Director of Secondary Education, Current Teacher (Charlton County)

Key Issues and Concerns: Operating Safe, and Orderly Schools with Positive Learning Environments: We need safe schools that have clear discipline policies which are enforced fairly. Bullying of students cannot be tolerated. Keeping Students First: Students should either be prepared to pursue a college education, enroll in a post-secondary career program or enter the world of work. Students who plan to enter college must be provided with a challenging curriculum that will provide them with the skills to achieve the necessary scores on the ACT and/or SAT. Additional career and technical training programs should be offered to students who do not plan on attending college. This will enable the students to pursue additional training after graduation or to enter the workforce.

Goals: Enhancing Student Achievement: Continue to work towards implementing policies and programs that support academic excellence and reduce achievement gaps by ensuring access to high-quality curriculum, resources and programs that provide targeted support for students with diverse needs. Adopting and maintaining an annual budget that is aligned with the vision of the school district. As your school board member, my job is to advocate for sufficient funding, oversee transparent budget processes, and prioritize spending on key educational initiatives and infrastructure improvements while ensuring the board and superintendent are prioritizing what is important and what is promised to the public and money is being spent with guidance and fidelity. I will continue to use data and best practices to give informed information to the board and superintendent with regards to spending. Fostering a positive school environment for teachers is crucial for the well-being and effectiveness of maintaining quality teachers, which ultimately benefits students. Ensuring that school leaders and administrators are approachable, supportive, and responsive to teachers' needs. Teachers need work-life balance. As a board member. I will continue to work towards implementing policies that reduce unnecessary workload, and encourage a culture of respect and understanding.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER DISTRICT 2



Gail G. Cook (Incumbent)

Residence: Fernandina Beach **Republican**
Family: Daughters Tamie Cook Stubblefield (Zevon) and Krisy Cook Kays (Jordan); grandchildren Asher and Reagan Kays
Occupation: Retired

Key Issues and Concerns: Our school system is facing many challenges due to the rapid growth happening throughout our county. A plan needs to be developed to address the need for new schools and how to fund them without putting more burden on the taxpayers.

Goals: My main goal for running again is to use my training, experience and passion for public education to best serve our students, parents, faculty and staff of Nassau County. To advocate for all parents' rights to be involved in their child's education and to support our faculty and staff as they do an outstanding job of providing an A+ education with the many challenges they face.

Roody Joinville - NO RESPONSE



Kristi Loyd Simpkins

Residence: Hilliard **Republican**
Family: Husband Robert (Bobby) Simpkins (30 years), three children, Haley (27), Hannah (25), and Robert (24)
Occupation: Retired Nassau County Administrator, Current Principal, Folkston Elementary School

Key Issues and Concerns: 1. The retention and morale of staff, which are crucial for a thriving educational environment. 2. The current millage rate salary bonus serves as a temporary fix for teacher pay; a permanent, sustainable resource must be found. 3. Enhanced support for site-based administrators and teachers in enforcing student conduct policies is needed, as student disruptions are not conducive to a quality education. 4. We need to continue expanding initiatives and programs to meet the diverse needs of our Nassau County students. 5. Addressing the growth in the county, particularly in the Wildlight/Yulee area and along the A1A corridor, is essential to ensure adequate resources and infrastructure. These issues need to be addressed to maintain and improve the educational standards.

Goals: My goals are to: 1. Prioritize campus safety and security by supporting advanced measures and protocols to protect students and staff while keeping a welcoming campus. 2. Ensure fiscal and instructional responsibility and transparency by managing resources efficiently and maintaining open communication about financial and educational decisions with all stakeholders. 3. Recruiting and retaining talented teachers for the county is a key focus, as quality educators are vital to student success. 4. I am committed to developing and supporting initiatives and programs that cater to the diverse needs of our students, ensuring that each student receives a personalized and high-quality education.

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ESTATE SALE, Friday & Saturday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., 553274 US Highway 1, Hilliard. Furniture, small appliances, collectibles, scrapbooking, toys, crafts, books & much more!

MOVING SALE! SATURDAY, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m., 371232 Eastwood Rd., Hilliard. Full size bed, mattress/boxsprings, stove, love seat, TV, cabinet, antique serving cart & much more!

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CHRISTINE CREWS LEE



Christine Crews Lee, 81, of Homeland, Georgia, passed away Wednesday, July 24, 2024, at her home. She was born February 15, 1943 in Charlton County, to the late Fell Edgar Crews and Ola Irene Cone Crews. Christine was a fulltime homemaker. She loved the Lord and was a member of Ephesus Baptist Church. In addition to her parents; she is preceded in death by her loving husband, Lesley Marvin Lee, Sr.; and a brother James Crews.

She is survived by her children Mary Lee of Folkston and Lesley Marvin (Elizabeth) Lee, Jr. of Hilliard; six grandchildren Hannah (Gabe) Martin, Brandon (Kirsten) Lee, Thaddaeus Moore, Madison Moore, Huntley Moore and Seth Moore; brother Ted (Margie) Crews; and a great-granddaughter Willow Lee.

A memorial service was held Saturday, July 27, at Ephesus Baptist Church with Bro. Marvin Lee officiating. A private burial will be at a later date at Homeland Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Ephesus Baptist Church Building Fund.

Condolences may be expressed at www.shepardrobersonfh.com.

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, 526 Oakwood Street, Folkston.

CYNTHIA ELIZABETH NABERS



Cynthia "Cindy" Elizabeth Nabers, 68, passed away July 29, 2024, at her home, with her daughters by her side.

She was a devoted wife, mother and nana. Cindy was a homemaker, who cared for and supported her husband, children, grandchildren, nephews, and nieces over the past 48 years. She was an amazing cook, who loved her family, Christmas, cookouts, thunderstorms, and a tasty adult beverage. Cindy is preceded in death by her son Benjamin Nabers; brothers

OBITUARIES

Jimmy Sapp, Gary Sapp and Phillip Sapp; and sister Vivian Charles.

Cindy leaves behind her husband of 48 years, Bennie Nabers; daughters Kristy (Tee) Vickers and Kerrie (Travis) Rice; grandchildren Kayla Nabers, Jared Nabers, Michael Vickers, Kaitlynn Bennett, Brooke Rice and Alyssa Nabers; great-grandchildren Maddox Gordon and Bellami Schedlinski; mother Dolores Sapp; sisters Jeanette (Jim) Devine and Rhonda Lofton; as well as, many nephews, nieces, cousins and friends.

The family will receive friends at 1 p.m. Monday, August 5 at Nassau Funeral Home prior to the memorial service at 2 p.m. A celebration of life will be held immediately following the service at the Nabers' family residence.

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

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

CHRISTINE FAYE SWANSON



Christine Faye Swanson, 64, of Bryceville, went home to be with her Heavenly Father July 25, 2024 at UT Medical Center in Knoxville, Tennessee, with her loving family by her side.

She was born September 20, 1959 in Los Angeles, California to Jackson Boyd and Ruby Marler Boyd. She was raised in Heflin, Alabama and moved to Jacksonville and Bryceville, where she lived for 38 years. The last 10 years, she lived in Maryville, Tennessee. Christine spent most of her life working as a seamstress and business owner for a pest control company. She loved the Lord and loved serving in her church. She was kind to everyone she met. She would do anything for anyone and she treasured her family and loved spending time with them. She was a loving wife,

mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and (Momma C to many) and will be greatly missed. She was preceded in death by her parents; siblings Bobby Boyd, Janie Boyd, Johnny Boyd and Roy Boyd.

She is survived by her husband David Swanson, Jr; daughter Marcella (Phillip) Andre; sons Anthony (Jaime) Johns, David (Makayla) Swanson, III and Jacob Lindsey; seven grandchildren Samantha Church, Logan Andre, Annabella Johns, David Johns, Tristan Swanson, Clarissa Swanson and Gideon Swanson; one great-grandson Braylon Church; brothers Eddie Boyd, Randy (Esther) Boyd and David (Melissa) Boyd; sisters Betty Third, Rosie (Lamar) Waites and Dorothy Burleigh; brother-in-law Ronnie Swanson; sister-in-law Marlene Swanson.

The family received friends prior to the funeral service Thursday, August 1, at Hope For Life Baptist Church, 7725 Ramona Blvd. W., Jacksonville. Interment followed at Gethsemane Memorial Gardens, 800 Hammond Boulevard, Jacksonville.

PEGGY COLLEY TRAMMELL



Peggy Franzell Colley Trammell, 69, of Jacksonville, passed away July 21, 2024, at her home of natural causes. She was born November 18, 1954 in Appling County. Peggy was the daughter of Lewis Franklin Colley and Ruthie Mae Carter Colley. She is preceded in death by her parents; brothers Dale Colley, Sr., Bobby Colley and Dewaine Colley.

Peggy leaves behind her husband, Cecil Trammell of Orange Park; daughters Angie (Kurt) Schlotterbeck of Callahan, Deana (Ben) Turner of Bangkok, Thailand and Andrea (Matt) Brummett of Williamsburg, VA; grandchildren Abigail Schlotterbeck, Kailey Schlotterbeck, Elizabeth Turner, Daniel Turner, Benjamin Turner, Andrew Turner, Kayden Brummett, Johannah

Brummett and Duncan Brummett; and sister Pam (Larry) Mullis.

A memorial service for Peggy will be held Saturday, August 17 at 12 p.m. at Callahan Methodist Church, 449648 US-301, Callahan. A private graveside service will be held, at a later date, at Ephesus Church of God Cemetery in Baxley, Georgia.

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

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

SYLVIA VAN DELINDER



Sylvia Van Delinder, 98, of Kingsland, Georgia, passed away peacefully July 22, 2024. She was born February 8, 1926 and adopted by John and Anna Pica of Detroit, Michigan. Sylvia loved and served her Savior throughout her adult life. She met and married her husband, William, in Miami, Florida, where they reared their two sons. In their retirement years, they built a beautiful mountain home in Murphy, North Carolina, where they lived until his death in 2011.

Actively involved in the churches in each area they lived, Sylvia was a prayer warrior with a heart for missions. She enjoyed music, crocheting, painting and gardening. A loving and devoted mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, she will be dearly missed by her family who finds great comfort in knowing she is in her Savior's presence. Sylvia is preceded in death by her husband William Van Delinder; and grandson Stephen Van Delinder. "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." Psalms 116:15

Sylvia leaves behind her sons, Dr. John (Jan) Van Delinder of Callahan and Thomas (Jane) Van Delinder of Fernandina Beach; grandchildren Jeremy (Jennifer) Van Delinder, Joel (Audrey) Van Delinder and Diana (Mark) Shroeder; great-grandchildren Joanna, Jackson, Talan and Julia Van Delinder.

A celebration of Sylvia's life will be held Thursday, August 1 at 11 a.m. at First Avenue Baptist Church, 27388 W. First Avenue, Hilliard.

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

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

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Betha Announces Candidacy for Supervisor of Elections

Callahan resident and Nassau County native, Stan Betha, has qualified to run for Nassau County Supervisor of Elections in the August 20 Primary Election. Stan seeks the position to serve voters and manage fair and accurate elections in his home county.



For 18 years, he worked as Director of Information Technology and Chief Elections Officer at the Duval County Supervisor of Elections office, where he served over 650,000 voters. Stan delivered 50 successful elections, five of which were gubernatorial, and four of which were presidential. "Running elections isn't something you learn overnight or even after a year or two. I was in the industry 18 years, and I was continually learning," said Stan. "From the statutes and rules to best practices and security, there was always something to learn."

With a bachelor's degree from the University of North Florida in Information Systems, both national and state election certifications, and numerous election-specific classes, Stan is well-prepared to run fair and accurate elections in Nassau County. "The elections process changed and progressed over my 18 years. Most of it is computerized now, from the voter registration system to ballot layout and vote counting," continued Stan. "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."

When asked what Nassau County voters should remember about him, Stan said, "Our right to vote is precious, and it should be protected. The Supervisor of Elections should be focused on running fair, accurate, and transparent elections, not on gaining political ground or using the position for power."

Son of Billy and Thelma (Geiger) Betha, 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 foot and 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," added Stan. "We've definitely put in some sweat equity! I am an experienced election professional, not a politician seeking power for myself. I would love the opportunity to bring my skills and expertise home to serve my neighbors, the voters of Nassau County."

If you have a voting-related question for Stan, or if you would like more information, please visit www.StanBetha.com or email: Stan4SoE@gmail.com.



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Westside Republican Club Meeting

Tuesday, August 6th at 6 p.m.
 The Pig Bar-B-Q Restaurant • Callahan

The Club's guest speaker will be Foy R. Maloy, Regional Publisher News-Leader, Nassau County Record, Tribune & Georgian. Candidates for local office will also be present for sharing and one-on-one conversations. The public is invited and always welcome at club meetings.



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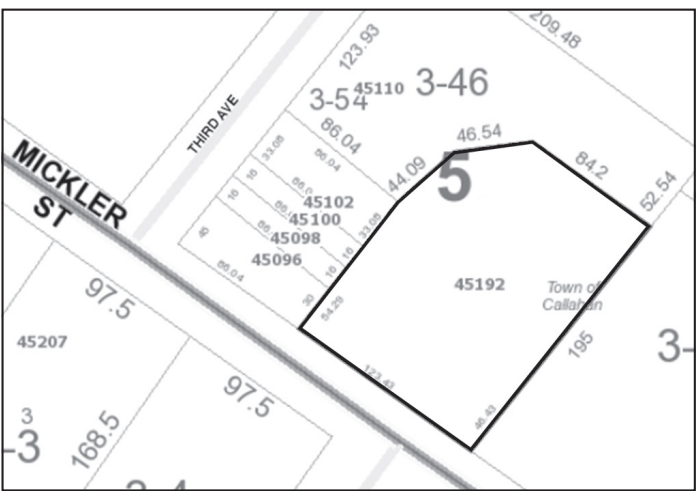
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TOWN OF CALLAHAN, FL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

THE TOWN OF CALLAHAN PLANNING & ZONING BOARD WILL HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PARCEL #29-2N-25-3220-0003-0055



Monday, August 12th at 7 p.m.

Callahan Town Hall

542300 U.S. Hwy. 1 • Callahan, FL 32011

Interested Persons may appear and be heard at the Hearing. Site plan will be available for review at Town Hall.

Individuals with disabilities needing a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in the program or activity should contact the office of the Town Clerk 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.

POLICE REPORTS

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

Tuesday, July 23

Bryeion Isaiah Alderman, 25, Callahan: Resist without Violence; Possession of Schedule 1 Substance (More than 20 grams of Cannabis); Aggravated Flee/Elude at High Speed

Zachariah Camero Cardona, 26, Callahan: Failure to Appear MM; Failure to Appear Felony (x 2)

Thursday, July 25

William Bruce Adams, 42, Callahan: Possession of Drug Paraphernalia with Residue; Writ of Attachment Child Support

Shelly Kay Rowland, 39, Callahan: Failure to Appear MM; Failure to Appear Felony

BOCC Proposes Reduced Millage Rates for Fourth Consecutive Year

On Monday, July 22, 2024, the Board of County Commissioners held a workshop to review the tentative budget and maximum millage rate for Fiscal Year 2024/2025. Based on the budget presented, the BOCC is proposing a structurally balanced budget which includes the fourth consecutive year of millage rate [property tax rate] reductions, while continuing to fund the critical Capital Improvement Plan, Pavement Management Plan, Chip Seal Program, and improving public safety through investments into the Nassau County Sheriff's Office and the Nassau County Fire Department. Additionally, the budget provides funding for the staffing and operations of the new Fire Station No. 10 currently under construction.

Understanding the demands of the County residents and the future economic pressures, the tentative budget continues to focus on improving the quality of life while working within the restricted revenues of the County. While still providing a reduced millage rate, the budget is structured to continue funding for investment into land conservation and management programs, in line with the request from the community and pursuant to the voter approved referendum in November 2022. As the Nassau County continues to be one of the fastest growing

counties in both the State and the Country, this population growth requires additional service capacity to meet these demands. The BOCC understands these growing demands and has continued to focus on supporting public safety operations through the Sheriff, Fire Rescue, Emergency Operations, and Animal Control.

The BOCC's engagement and efforts in the budget process through the annual Winter Strategic Planning Sessions; the development of the Strategic Plan, Capital Improvement Plan, Pavement Management Plan, Chip Seal Program, and forthcoming Stormwater Management Plan; along with the annual review and updating of the guiding county policies, continues to result in smart financial planning. These actions also provide for a transparent and results driven budget process that focuses on reduction of the millage rates and improving services to county residents.

The July 22, 2024 budget workshop can be viewed online at www.nassauclerk.com/watch-meetings. If you have any questions regarding the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2024/2025, please contact Chris Lacambra, Director of the Office of Management & Budget, at (904) 530-6010, Option 2, or via e-mail at clacambra@nassaucountyfl.com.

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Friends of NRA Event Coming

Karen Marks

The Nassau County Friends of NRA will host the 3rd Annual event Saturday, August 10 at Camp Sorenson in Hilliard at 5 p.m. We are excited to hold the event again at the beautiful facility at Camp Sorenson!

Friends of NRA is a program of the NRA Foundation. We are a non-political 501 charity. We raise funds by hosting these events. The monies raised are distributed to local organizations, through a grant process. Friends of NRA supports public safety, ranges and improvements, shooting sports and education. More information can be found by visiting the website: www.friendsofnra.com/ grants.

Event tickets are available for \$40 per person, by calling me (Karen, 904-903-9552) or purchasing them at the Westside Journal in Callahan.

We will offer our favorite: Buy a table, get a gun! When you purchase (reserve) a table, you also get a gun with it. Different levels of tables are available for the event with 8 people per table. The tables are named Liberty (\$1,000), Patriot (\$1,500), Table of the Year (\$2,024) and Freedom (\$5,000). The more expensive the table, the higher the value of the gun you will receive. Call Karen 904-903-9552, to purchase a table.

When you arrive, you will be

amazed at the number of firearms available. We will have games, raffles, a silent auction, and a ladies table. If you purchase a table, you will receive a fun pack which includes funny money that can be used to play games. All game prizes are guns. There is also a wall of guns – If you win at this game, you can choose which gun you want from the selection posted. There are handguns, rifles and shot guns on this wall. The choice will be yours if you are a lucky winner! There will also be raffle tickets available for sale the night of the event. All raffle prizes are

guns!
The ladies table will have items especially for the lady of the house as well as a lady's handgun as the main prize. You can purchase a rose for her and you will receive a ticket to win one of the prizes on the table. The grand prize will be a firearm just for her.

Attendees eat dinner and listen to a guest speaker if one is present. The evening concludes with a live auction and winners are chosen from the games, raffles, and silent auction. These events are volunteer-run and managed at the local level with NRA support staff oversight.

If you have any questions or would like to purchase a table for our event, please reach out to me, Karen at 904-903-9552, or email at: NCFNRA01@gmail.com.



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Westside Journal Goes West!



Jason and Erin Milligan and their son Kyle, of Bryceville, recently took a 10-day trip out west to celebrate Kyle's graduation from high school. The trip started in Salt Lake City and visited Bonneville Salt Flats. Next to Lava Hot Springs where Jason's grandparents lived and where his grandpa was buried. Then to Jackson Hole, Wyoming, Grand Tetons National Park, Yellowstone National Park and then Glacier National Park. The sights were amazing and the pictures don't do it justice! They each had their favorite place and not a one was the same! Luckily, they took along a copy of the Westside Journal on their trip!



Helping the Homeless

As we all know, we, in the United States, have a homeless problem. Yes, it is country wide, as well as county wide, even in Callahan and Hilliard. The Coalition for the Homeless of Nassau County, Inc. is trying to be of help to those who are homeless in our county. The organization is located in Fernandina Beach however, they are also reaching out to the entire county. The group meets every other month and plans to hold another meeting here in Callahan so that we, as a community, can also be involved. The hope is not to

enable the homeless but to help those, who want it, to better themselves.

One way is the offering of the Mobile Homeless RV to visit Callahan and Hilliard. Currently, the RV comes to Callahan Methodist Church, 449648 US 301, every Wednesday from 4-6 p.m. and provides: showers, bathrooms, clean underclothes, food, drinks and toiletries. The RV visits Hilliard the third Friday (August 16) of each month at the Journey West Church, 550974 US Highway 1 from 10 a.m. – noon.

Adopt-A-Classroom!

Dawn S. West

Jari Edwards, a 2000 graduate of West Nassau High School, wants to fulfill his late mother's wish of removing the burden of expense from educators (teachers). His mother, Kay Raulerson Edwards, served as a substitute teacher for many years at West Nassau High School. She also volunteered many times, when needed, at other schools. Kay, also a graduate (1973) of West Nassau High School, was raised in Callahan and loved helping others. Kay was also a very talented seamstress, helping people out many times with different needs. She was an outgoing person with a big beautiful smile. Even though her illness was very painful, she never complained. She loved the Lord with all her heart, as He carried her through every day. Kay passed away from a long debilitating

illness in January 2019.

Kay shared a notebook with Jari, full of thoughts, wishes, and things that she wanted to accomplish but obviously, time ran out. One of those wishes was to start a foundation for teachers, to help with the cost of being a teacher. "It frustrated her so much that teachers had to dig out of their pocketbooks to get supplies they needed for their classes," said Jari. "She wanted to start a foundation for people to actually adopt a classroom each year to help teachers out a little. My mom's vision for the foundation was to eventually serve teachers in the entire county."



Jari Edwards

Jari has read through the pages of her book for some time now and decided it was time to take action and wants to do it all, in his mother's memory. He reached out to Callahan Elementary to try to find out how many teachers are there. He found out that there are 46 teachers and hopes to help most of them. While he didn't realize how long it takes to get a foundation going, he still longs to start the process. He would love to present every classroom with a \$200 gift of money but any amount will help.

We will be holding a drive for the next two weeks from now through August 15, to collect as much money as possible to give to as many teachers as possible. Checks (made out to CES) or cash, of any amount, may be brought to the Westside Journal office, 450034 SR 200, Callahan, (or mailed PO Box 607, Callahan) during the collection time.



Kay Raulerson Edwards



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- Served 10 years Nassau County School Board
- Served 8 years Florida House of Representatives
- Current Supervisor of Elections 2021 to Present

Personal:

- Married to Doug Adkins – 27 years
- Member Blackrock Baptist Church
- Two Children – Emily (1999-2022) and Douglas (22)
- 5th Generation North Floridian
- Founder – Emily's Promise – Not for Profit
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