

Science education discussed at NCSB

JULIA ROBERTS
News-Leader

At its Dec. 14 meeting, some Nassau County school officials said they support the idea of following their own religious beliefs and changing the district’s science curriculum, but voted against it, citing preceding legal decisions.

“It personally pains me to say what I feel obligated to say,” Nassau County School District Chief of Legal Services Ray Poole said before he recommended the School Board keep the current state-approved teaching materials in place in order to avoid a potentially costly court battle.

Local resident and retired public school teacher Jay Shutt addressed the board to say that evolution is a scientific theory and that he believes the district should “stop teaching Darwinian evolution as fact.”

“The Bible is a book containing hundreds of fulfilled prophecies with a batting average of 100 percent, and a New Testament written by eyewitnesses, two of whom are half-brothers of Jesus,” Shutt told the board. “This matter is of utmost importance to the education of our children. They are young. They are impressionable. They are in the process of formulating their worldviews. They do not have the scientific background to challenge this evolutionary teaching. It can crush their faith in the Bible.”

He said “anti-God power brokers” have been “able to substitute the religion of secular humanism for ... Christianity” and asked the School



Burns



Poole

Board to teach “true empirical science.”

Poole prefaced his comment to the board by giving his personal religious background, which includes 10 years of Christian schooling and a year at Trinity University.

“For what it’s worth, my own personal opinion is I agree with Mr. Shutt,” Poole said. “I, in fact, wrote a paper my senior year in college on why I thought evolution is a bunch of bologna, at the risk of making a really bad grade from a molecular biologist who was a dyed-in-the-wool evolutionary theorist.”

Poole went on to cite several state and federal cases that special interest groups brought cases against school boards that authorized the placement of stickers on science books to warn students that the textbooks contained the theory of evolution.

“It is hereby recognized by the Board of Education that the lesson to be presented regarding the origin of life and matter is known as the scientific

SCIENCE Continued on 5A

Fahlgren: Parents need more control over materials

JULIA ROBERTS
News-Leader

Members of the Nassau County School Board are considering changes to the way parents and residents can request removing teaching materials they deem objectionable from school curriculum.

At its Dec. 14 meeting, an item on the agenda was to advertise changes to challenges to adopted instructional materials. The changes were made mandatory by the Florida legislature.

The new procedure says that a parent of a Nassau County student, or a Nassau County resident, who objects to instructional materials being used in county schools would need to file a petition within 30 days of the material being adopted by the School Board. The board would then hold a public hearing before a hearing officer, at which the parent or resident with the objection to the material would present their case.

The hearing officer would not render a decision, but would submit all the evidence to the chair of the School Board. The board would review the evidence and make a decision.

If the board determined that the material should be prohibited, use of the material would be discontinued immediately.

The decision of the School Board would be final, and not subject to appeal.

School Board Member Kimberly Fahlgren said she felt the new process would be a burden to parents who object to materials used by the district.

“It turns the process into a very arduous process for our parents who have concerns about reading materials in our schools,” Fahlgren said. “When we make our policies so challenging to get through, then you discourage a great



Fahlgren

many parents from working through that process to advocate for maintaining their family values in the educational experience.”

Fahlgren said that there have been some materials at her children’s elementary school that she considered pornographic. She

said she feels that parents should be able to protest materials in the schools that are not in line with “their family values.”

“Is there a specific definition published by the legislature, how you define pornography?” Fahlgren asked. “Because I believe that something that could be, depending on your family values, could be viewed very differently across families.”

Nassau County School Board Attorney Leonard Hackett said the definition of pornographic is often a matter of personal perspective.

“(The U.S. Supreme Court) tried to define it,” Hackett said. “You’ll see things like ‘extreme,’ ‘shocks to conscience,’ and, once again, what’s extreme to one and what’s a shock to conscience to one may not be extreme or a shock of conscience to another. They have tried to always define pornography and give it some parameters.”

Fahlgren said she would like to find a way to make the process easier for parents who want to protest teaching materials while still staying within the parameters of the required legislation.

“I don’t know if it’s a possibility that there’s ways to massage this while stay-

MATERIALS Continued on 8A



PHOTOS BY PATRICK LEARY/FOR THE NEWS-LEADER

There are currently 12 black skimmers from Nassau County, N.Y., one from Martha’s Vineyard, Mass., one from Belmar, N.J. and even a wayward bird from Marco Pass, Fla. present on Amelia Island’s beaches.

Wintering birds link Nassau County, N.Y. with Nassau County, Florida

PATRICK LEARY
For the News-Leader

At first blush, Nassau County, N.Y. and Nassau County, Fla. seem to have very little in common. Our county is 649 square miles in area with a population of 78,444, while New York’s – sitting at the west end of Long Island in the shadow of metropolitan New York City – is 453 square miles with 1.361 million citizens. However, both counties have Atlantic Coast beaches, and therein lies a connection. Recently, large flocks of black skimmers (*Rynchops niger*) have been roosting at Main Beach, and within that gathering are a small number of marked individuals, including many that were banded in Nassau County, N.Y.

The marking and tracking of birds have both seen many improvements in recent years. Skimmer biologists and researchers from Florida to Massachusetts are applying colored leg bands with unique, engraved alpha-numeric codes to track their subjects, and it is now

possible to monitor birds from their natal beaches, along their migratory path, to their distant winter haunts. More sophisticated, high-tech devices permit the monitoring of birds via satellite as they cross oceans and span hemispheres, but the black skimmer bands are low tech and require direct observation.

There are currently 12 birds from Nassau County, N.Y., one from Martha’s Vineyard, Mass., one from Belmar, N.J. and even a wayward bird from Marco Pass, Fla. present on Amelia Island’s beaches.

In addition to the banded skimmers, two banded Sanderling and one banded ringed-bill gull have been recorded at Main Beach. One of the Sanderling was banded at Polar Bear Pass in Canada’s high arctic.

Annually, large flocks of black skimmers winter here, but this season has seen an increased surge in their numbers. Thanks to the unique markers, we now possess insight into their origin. Black skimmers are this

SKIMMERS Continued on 3A

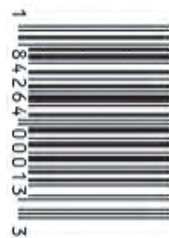


Skimmers do not dive or plunge for their prey, but use their lower bill as a probe to “skim” shallow waters for small finfish as they cruise just over the surface.



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LOOKING BACK 25 YEARS

Fernandina Beach officials violated the state’s open meetings law by participating in a telephone poll to determine if they objected to City Attorney Clyde Davis’ plan to build a private dock on Egans Creek.

Dec. 23, 1992

OBITUARIES

Gerald Barlow

Gerald Barlow, 74, of Fernandina Beach, Fla., passed away suddenly at 1 a.m. Saturday morning in a car accident.



Gerald was born in Detroit, Mich., on December 18, 1942. He was born on his father's birthday to Geraldine Marie Brennan Barlow and Albert Ward Barlow. He is survived by his sister, Diane Barlow Britton of Boston, Mass., and his nuclear family. Sharon Barlow, his adoring wife, and Gerald had two children, Jason of Memphis, Tenn. and their daughter Jordan of Austin, Texas. Jason married Carrie Wenzel Barlow, and they have an eight-year-old son named Blake, who was the apple of his grandfather's eye. "Barley," as Blake and family affectionately called Gerald, could be caught watching videos of his grandson on his phone before bed between their awesome visits.

Gerald and Sharon went to high school together and then began dating at and graduating from Wayne State University in Detroit. Upon graduation in 1966, he served in the Air Force during Vietnam, leaving after six-and-a-half years as a captain. After that, he had a corporate career and then branched out on his own to run a limousine service and another couple of car-related ventures in Dallas, Texas for 19 years. After Jason and Jordan graduated from the University of Texas, Gerald and Sharon moved to Amelia Island in 2002. This past year, they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They have developed quite a community of good friends here, and Sharon was a teacher at Fernandina Beach High School, teaching advanced and honors English classes. Gerald was larger than life with a hilarious personality, an overly generous heart, and a GOOD friend to all. You could often find him on the golf course, tinkering in his garage or yard with various projects, out with friends or hosting a dinner party or something similar with Sharon. He was our hero and will be severely missed.

A Memorial Service is being held at St. Peter's Episcopal Church at 10 a.m. Eastern Thursday, December 21, 2017.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to St. Peter's Episcopal Church and write "Gerald Barlow - Habitat for Humanity Donation" in the memo field of the check.

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

Rest in peace our dear and loving father, grandfather, and husband. You gave us quite a ride.

Oxley-Heard Funeral Directors

Bridget K. Vanderslice

Bridget K. Vanderslice, 60, of Fernandina Beach, Fla., passed away peacefully on December 5, 2017, after a short but courageous battle with cancer.



Born and raised in West Hartford, Conn., she was the daughter of the late Edward and Sarah Kuroskey. After graduating from the University of Maryland, Bridget remained in the Washington, D.C. area for several years working in the events for trade shows industry. In 1990, she relocated back to the New England area to Providence, R.I. to begin a new career in pharmaceutical sales. Eight years later, she married the love of her life, Dan Vanderslice and gained an additional bonus of two wonderful stepsons, Christopher and Jason. Waxahachie, Texas would become her home for the next 16 years.

In 2014, Dan and Bridget moved to the community of North Hampton in Fernandina Beach. For Bridget, she had found her piece of paradise where she and Dan would grow old together.

Friends and family knew Bridget as an easy, fun-loving, warm person. She loved to garden, cook for friends and family, and golf. A rediscovery of the game of golf gave Dan and her a mutual interest that they shared together and with friends. For all those who knew Bridget, she will

be greatly missed.

Bridget leaves behind her beloved husband of 18 years, Dan Vanderslice; her stepsons, Christopher and Jason Vanderslice of Dallas and Austin, Texas; sisters, Jocelyn K. Vallieres and husband Roger Vallieres of Amelia Island, Fla., and Carrie-Lynn and husband John Whitney of Martha's Vineyard, Mass.; two nieces, Hilary V. Bowen and Olivia R Vallieres; a great-niece, Coco-Anais Bowen of London, England; and the many dear friends she touched along the way.

In 2018, a celebration of Bridget Vanderslice's wonderful life will take place for all her family and friends to celebrate with joy and laughter.

In memory of Bridget Vanderslice's life, a donation can be made on her behalf to the following organization: Community Hospice & Palliative Care's Warner Center for Caring in Fernandina Beach, Fla., 1348 S. 18th St., Suite 101, Baptist Medical Center Nassau, Medical Office Building B, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034.

To sign Mrs. Vanderslice's online register book, please visit the Green Pine website at www.greenpinefuneral.com.

Green Pine Funeral Home, Cremations & Cemetery

Mr. Robert J. "Bob" Young

Mr. Robert J. "Bob" Young, 67, of Amelia Island, Fla., passed away unexpectedly Saturday, December 16, 2017 at Baptist Medical Center Nassau.



Born in Hackensack, N.J., he was a son of the late John Young and Anna Reidle Puzio. After high school, he attended the University of Vermont and later graduated from the New Jersey Institute of Technology. Bob started his civil engineering career with Conrail and in 1977 began working as a civil engineer for the New Jersey Transit Authority, from where he would retire in 2010 as the chief engineer of track.

Bob first met his wife, Nancy Sims Young, when they were in high school. They dated in those younger years and after graduation went their separate ways. After their college years, they began dating again and their subsequent marriage would last more than 39 years.

He loved vacationing in Vermont and skiing in the west. In addition to skiing, he loved the beach. He and Nancy moved to Amelia Island in 2014 from Allamuchy, N.J. They travelled extensively in Europe and the Caribbean.

Bob's interests were wide and varied. His love of old cars was best exemplified by his 1974 Triumph TR-6. He was known as quite a "handy man," loved gardening and enjoyed all types of music, especially classic rock. Above all, Bob loved golf and was an avid golfer. He was a member of the Golf Club of Amelia Island and served as the vice president of the Men's Golf Association.

His surviving family includes his wife, Nancy Sims Young of Amelia Island; his mother, Anna Puzio also of Amelia Island; and his sweet dog, Abby.

A local memorial service will be held at the Golf Club of Amelia Island in mid-January.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Second Chance Animal Center, P.O. Box 620, Shaftsbury, VT 05262. Credit card donations may be made by calling (802)-375-2898 or going online to 2ndchanceanimalcenter.org.

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

Oxley-Heard Funeral Directors

DEATH NOTICES

Charles Curtis Meltzer, 86, of Amelia Island, Fla., passed away Sunday, December 17, 2017, at Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville. Services to be announced.

Oxley-Heard Funeral Directors

Patricia L. Reese, 71, of Fernandina Beach, Fla., passed away Sunday, December 17, 2017.

Oxley-Heard Funeral Directors

Joy to the Children needs help

As Christmas draws nearer, Joy to the Children is in need of volunteers to help complete its mission of bringing Christmas to Nassau County children and their families who would otherwise would not celebrate. Help is needed on the following days:

• Dec. 22, 3 to 6 p.m., Gift Transport

• Dec. 23, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.,

It's a Wrap! Party

• Dec. 23, 10 a.m.,

Food Pick Up & Delivery

• Dec. 25, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Christmas

For more information and to volunteer, call 557-0206. Cash donations may also be made to Joy to the Children, Inc., P.O. Box 16404, Fernandina Beach, FL 32035.

Energy bill assistance

Nassau County residents are entitled to receive a winter home energy payment of up to \$475 toward their electric or gas bill through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program. Residents may also be eligible to receive a one-time winter crisis payment up to \$600. Eligibility is based on household income and family size. To schedule an appointment, call 261-0801 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Fridays only. Customers must speak with a representative to schedule an appointment; please do not leave a message.

LIHEAP is provided through the Northeast Florida Community Action Agency, Inc. located at 1303 Jasmine St. in Fernandina Beach.

Libraries closed for New Year's

The Nassau County Public Library System will be closed on New Year's Day, Monday, Jan. 1, 2018. Library book drops will remain open for the convenience of the public.

Caregiver Support Group

The Caregiver Support Group of Nassau County meets the third Thursday of each month at the Nassau County Council on Aging, located at 1367 S. 18th St. in Fernandina Beach. The next meeting will be 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 21. While all caregivers are welcome, this meeting is not suited for loved ones to attend. The goal of the meeting is to offer support and education to caregivers.

For more information, call Debra Dombkowski LPN, Certified Dementia Practitioner, at 261-1701, ext. 113.

VFW bake sale on Saturday

The VFW Post 4351 is hosting its annual bake sale at 12 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 23. The event will include appetizers, breads, cookies, pies and cakes. The VFW is located under the west end of the Shave Bridge at 96086 Wade Place in Fernandina Beach. For more information, call 432-8791.

E.S.S.A. Christmas Dance on Saturday

The Elm Street Sportsman Association will host its second annual Christmas Dance at 9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 23, at the Kraft Athletic Club, located at 961023 Buccaneer Trail in Fernandina Beach. Tickets purchased in advance are \$15 per person and \$25 per couple and are available at Vic's Barbershop, located at 529-1/2 S. Ninth St. in Fernandina Beach, or from any association member. Tickets at the door will be \$20 per person. Food and raffle tickets, including a \$5 raffle for a flat screen TV, will be available at the event.

Head and Neck Cancer support

SPOHNC, a support group for oral, head and neck cancer patients, will meet at 11:30 a.m. Dec. 27 in the Board Room at Baptist Medical Center Nassau. For more information, contact Lauren DeWitt at 277-2700.

Yulee Baptist lecture series

On Dec. 27, the Yulee Baptist Church will host informative lectures concerning textbooks in America that teach "bacteria-to-man evolution" as proven scientific fact. The lectures will be given by Mr. Jay Shutt, a retired public school teacher with 40 years of teaching experience.

The December lectures will be followed up with a 16-week Wednesday night series beginning Jan. 3 on specific scientific discoveries that support a Biblical timeline. This informative and often startling series will be presented by Mr. Rich Turner, executive director of Academic Operations at Florida State College at Jacksonville. All programs will begin at 6:30 p.m. Pastor Doug Sides of Yulee Baptist Church is hosting the lecture. Yulee Baptist is located at 85971 N. Harts Road, across from the Yulee Post Office located on S.R. 200/A1A. For directions or more information, call 225-5128 or visit yuleebaptist.com.

Muscle response testing class

LMT Julie Maley will be teaching another muscle response testing class 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 30. The class will explain what muscle response testing is and how to do it. The class will be held at Therapeutic Solutions Of Amelia, located at: 819 S. Eighth St. in Fernandina Beach. Cost is \$90 for beginners and includes lunch and a book. However, people who came to the first class are welcome to join for only \$10. Space is limited so call 310-6951 by Dec. 23 to sign up.

St. Francis of Assisi blood drive

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Mission at 86000 St. Francis Way in Yulee will hold a blood drive from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 7. All donors will receive a free OneBlood long sleeve T-shirt and a wellness checkup, which includes blood pressure, temperature, iron count, pulse and cholesterol screening. Please sign up online at atoneblooddonor.org and use sponsor # "34851." Walk-ins are also welcome.

Meese to speak in January

The U.S. Constitution Scholarship Foundation will host former Attorney General of the United States Ed Meese at 5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 7, 2018 at the Historic Courthouse in downtown Fernandina Beach as part of its 2018 Speaker's Forum. Meese, who spent much of his adult life working for President Ronald Reagan when Reagan was the California governor beginning in 1966 and then again when Reagan captured the presidency in 1980, became the U.S. Attorney General from 1981

to 1985. Reagan once declared about Meese, "If Ed Meese is not a good man, there are no good men." To RSVP for the event, email uscfspeakersforum@gmail.com.

SCV meeting in January

The Sons of Confederate Veterans will hold a regular monthly meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 20, 2018 at the Pig Barbeque Restaurant in Callahan. Laura Corwin will play Southern music on a dulcimer as part of the meeting. The public is invited to attend.

Various 2018 grants available

The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida has posted grant applications for certain categories of competitive 2018 grant making. Grants opportunities are currently available for those serving young children; for individual professional artists to elevate their work; and for organizations serving at-risk and under-served populations at or near the Jacksonville-area Beaches.

These applications are available at www.jaxcf.org/receive and are limited to the following areas at this time.

Early Childhood – Emerging Opportunities: Grant applications are now available to non-profit organizations interested in applying for up to \$1,000 to improve the quality of childcare centers. These applications should focus on emerging opportunities such as training or other professional development, curriculum needs, or conference attendance. Applications are due Feb. 15, 2018 and work must be completed in 2018. For more information, go online to jaxcf.org/receive/early-childhood.

Individual Artists – Art Ventures: The Community Foundation seeks to invest in individual professional artists in Northeast Florida who are pursuing the next step in their artistic development. Grants of up to \$3,500 will be awarded for one year. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age, and reside in Duval, Clay, Nassau, St. Johns or Baker County. Applications are due March 5, 2018. For more information, go online to jaxcf.org/receive/individual-artists.

Beaches: The Beaches Community Fund, a collective giving circle of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, seeks to improve the life of Beaches residents. Grant applications are now open for nonprofits serving residents from Mayport to Guana. Past grants have ranged from \$5,000 - \$75,000. Applications are due by Jan. 10, 2018. For more information, go online to jaxcf.org/learn/beaches-community-fund.

Big Band Bash in February

The Amelia Island Jazz Festival will present its seventh annual Big Band Bash Benefit Gala Dinner and Dance Saturday, Feb. 17, 2018 in the Amelia Ballroom at the Omni Amelia Island Plantation Resort. The event will feature The Dynamic Les DeMerle 17-Piece Orchestra along with vocalist Bonnie Eisele and special guests playing tunes by greats like Glenn Miller, Count Basie, Duke Ellington and a special tribute to Harry James. The evening will begin with a meet and great with the musicians from 6:30 to 7 p.m. followed by dinner and dancing until 10 p.m. Tickets cost \$90 per person with proceeds benefiting the Amelia Island Jazz Festival Scholarship Program. For more information and to purchase tickets, go online to ameliaislandjazzfestival.com/events/big-band-bash-benefit-gala.

Overeaters Anonymous

Overeaters Anonymous meets in the parlor at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 801 Atlantic Ave., Fernandina Beach, at 1 p.m. Thursdays. There is also a meeting at the Alachua Club, 32 N. Third St. at 6 p.m. Mondays. For more information, contact Lorrie at 343-4771.

Cancer survivors yoga class

Community Yoga + Wellness hosts a free cancer survivors yoga class from 1 to 2 p.m. every Saturday at its studio, located at 120 N. Second St. in Fernandina Beach. Taught by certified yoga therapists and sponsored by the Christina Phipps Foundation, the class offers safe and supportive healing. Class size is limited to six so register online at yoga-amelia.com or call 613-6345 for more information.

Recycle Center holiday hours

Normally closed on Wednesdays, the Nassau County Convenience Recycle Center located at 46026 Landfill Road in Callahan will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 20, in advance of the Christmas holiday. In addition, the center will be closed from Friday, Dec. 22, through Wednesday, Dec. 27, in observance of Christmas. The service center will re-open at 8 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 28. For more information, contact the Nassau County Solid Waste Department at 530-6700.

Volunteering for NHS

NHS Second Chance Resale Store and its new sister clothing store, NHS Second Chance Closet, are looking to grow their team of volunteers. Both stores have volunteer openings in all areas, from cashier and sales floor duties to merchandise processing.

If you have a few hours a week to spare and enjoy meeting and working with other animal lovers in a fun atmosphere, pick up a volunteer application at Second Chance, located in the Eight Flags Shopping Center on South 14th Street or go online to Nassauhumanesociety.com and click on Volunteer. NHS Second Chance and Second Chance Closet are the primary funding sources for the Nassau Humane Society, a 501(c)(3) organization. For information, call 321-0022.

Be a zookeeper

Amelia Residents in Action for the Symphony sponsors a program each January and February that visits all fourth grade classes in Nassau County with 40 orchestral instruments. The goal of the program is to acquaint students with how to properly hold and play each instrument. To be able to reach all Nassau County students, ARIAS needs volunteer "zookeepers." No experience is required and the excitement of the students and making a difference in their lives will be your reward. For more information or to volunteer, contact Susan Kosciulek at 548-0227 or Barbara Zacheis at 321-5639.

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1303 Jasmine Street, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034

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A PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT
BY THE NEWS-LEADER



PATRICK LEARY/FOR THE NEWS-LEADER

Large flocks of black skimmers have been roosting at Main Beach.

SKIMMERS

Continued from 1A
hemisphere's equivalent to the African and Indian skimmers and all are unique to the avian world with an elongated lower bill that provides a key clue to their unique feeding method. Although a member of the Larid family of birds that includes gulls and terns, skimmers do not dive or plunge for their prey, but use their lower bill as a probe to "skim" shallow waters for small finfish as they cruise just over the surface. So skilled are they at this task, they predominantly forage in the dark and rest or roost during daylight hours as is now evident along our beaches. When flocks are secure and totally relaxed, some birds will sprawl onto the sand with necks outstretched and wings asunder. Few birds rest in such odd postures, but the skimmers are quite healthy and in no distress or need of rescue.

Although most of the win-

ter flock is likely composed of migrant birds, this region supports a small and declining number of breeding pairs. A few decades past, up to 800 skimmers nested on Bird Island in Nassau Sound just off Amelia's south end. Today, that ephemeral island is gone and just a few dozen remain in the region but fail to produce young year after year. Due to such loss of habitat and numerous natural and human perturbations, the species is not doing well in Florida and is designated an imperiled species. Like most beach nesting bird species, skimmers must now compete with humans and their pets on an eroding and shrinking coastline. Unlike the much-loved sea turtles, birds nest on the surface of the sand where their eggs and chicks are extremely vulnerable to human disturbances, nature's wrath, and predation. Even wintering flocks must compete for space on our beach and are persistently disturbed and even harassed by some beachgoers

and their pets. Winter conditions are far more stressful for wildlife. Deliberately flushing the skimmers taxes their resources and causes unnecessary physical stress.

With raised awareness and appreciation, perhaps our avian winter guests can gain more respect and tolerance and be provided more opportunity to rest and relax on our beaches. As with so many environmental issues, it's less about taking any action and more about sharing space and respecting other life forms cohabiting planet earth.

See the Wild Ways column by Pat Foster-Turley on A10 for another view of the black skimmers.

Barnabas CENTER, INC. NLPSP

Needs volunteers to help Nassau County families who need food, shelter and basic necessities.

Call: 904.261.7000 for more information.

1303 JASMINE STREET FERNANDINA BEACH, FL 32034

Rates set for 2018 Citizens insurance

The Florida Office of Insurance Regulation has established the 2018 personal and commercial property insurance rates for Citizens Property Insurance Corporation.

The action comes after a postponement in the rate filing review process due to the impact of Hurricane Irma and the issuance of an emergency order by the office to assist consumers recovering from this storm.

The FOIR has reviewed these filings and considered the comments and testimony received from policyholders and other interested parties, both by email and during a public rate hearing held on Aug. 23 in Miami. As a result of this review, the FOIR has established the rates for Citizens personal and commercial property accounts. The orders are at [www.flor.com/siteDocuments/Citizens211627-](http://www.flor.com/siteDocuments/Citizens211627-17-O.pdf)

[17-O.pdf](http://www.flor.com/siteDocuments/Citizens218433-17-O.pdf) and www.flor.com/siteDocuments/Citizens218433-17-O.pdf. The effective date for both new and renewal rates is no earlier than May 1, 2018.

Rate filings can be accessed via the i-Files system at <https://apps8.flids.com/IFileExternalSearch>. Use the following search criteria in either the "Quick Search" or "Advanced Search" options: file log numbers or by entering "Citizens Property Insurance Corporation" as the "company name". When the selection appears, scroll to the bottom of the results page for the most recent filing information.

Visit the Citizens Public Rate Hearing webpage on the FOIR website for additional information: flor.com/Sections/PandC/ProductReview/CitizensPublicRateHearing2017.aspx.

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Keffer Price - \$31,999

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Keffer Discount \$8,832
Keffer Price \$34,588

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Retail Price \$29,725
Keffer Discount \$2,182
Keffer Price \$27,543

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

USDA Agricultural assistance application deadline is Dec. 28

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service has established a special Environmental Quality Incentives Program through Dec. 28 to help agricultural producers in declared disaster counties who suffered damage from Hurricane Irma.

Declared disaster counties eligible under this sign up include Nassau.

Conservation practices available through this EQIP funding specifically address natural resource concerns caused by the hurricane such as flood and wind damage and provide future protection from exceptional storm events.

Farmers and ranchers seeking NRCS financial and technical assistance can sign up for EQIP at their local NRCS field office.

Mortgage relief program application deadline is Jan. 31

Florida Housing Finance Corporation announced in a news release Monday that qualifying homeowners may continue to apply for assistance via the Unemployment Mortgage Assistance Program, Mortgage Loan Reinstatement Program, and Principal Reduction Program through Jan. 31, 2018.

Homeowners who qualify may apply for mortgage or principal reduction assistance from these three HHF programs until the deadline.

Those Florida HHF programs are as follows:

- Unemployment Mortgage Assistance Program (UMAP), which provides up to 12 months of payments (with a cap of \$24,000) to assist homeowners who are unemployed, underemployed or have suffered a financial hardship due to death, divorce or disability.
- Mortgage Loan Reinstatement Program (MLRP), which provides up to \$25,000 assistance to reinstate a delinquent mortgage.
- Principal Reduction Program (PR), which provides up to a \$50,000 principal reduction for homeowners who are underwater on their mortgage.

HHF Program Stats and Testimonials

To apply for the UMAP or MLRP programs, go to www.flhardsthihelp.org.

To apply for the PR program, go to www.principalreduction-flhhf.org.

For more information go to www.floridahousing.org.



Above, the bright color scheme used on the outside of the building makes it hard to miss the new Aloha Bagel and Deli at 432 S. Eighth St. in Fernandina Beach. The restaurant is open for breakfast and lunch seven days a week, beginning at 6:30 a.m. Below, from left, Sloane, Hannah, Michael, and Cameron Keats.

Come say ‘aloha’ to New York-style bagels

JOHN SCHAFFNER
For the News-Leader

Good news for Amelia Island’s northern transplants and visitors, or anyone who longs for New York-style bagels: Fernandina Beach has a new restaurant – Aloha Bagel and Deli.

The owners, Sloane and Michael Keats, opened their doors at 432 S. Eighth St. on Saturday, Dec. 16, and were greeted by a steady stream of first-day customers throughout the morning and afternoon.

Obviously, those who showed up on opening day were pleased if these excerpted comments from some posts on Facebook are any indication: “Their cranberry muffins are divine! My husband had the Italian sub. OMG, SO GOOD!” “RAVE! Aloha Bagel and Deli! Stopped by there yesterday for breakfast. Bagels were amazing!” “Oh my God I just left the Aloha Bagel and Deli the people are so sweet and kind and funny. ...”

The Keats serve up to 11 flavors of fresh New York-style bagels, which can be topped off with butter or one of several flavors of cream cheese. The menu also includes a Nova Bagel, a bagel with peanut butter, and an Egge Bagel, a bagel with two eggs, cheese and a choice of bacon, sausage or ham.

For lunch, they offer fresh, homemade build-your-own



sandwiches – with a selection of breads, meats and toppings – as well as a Reuben and Rachael, Cajun, Italian sub, Philly, Club and chicken and tuna salad.

There are also a variety of healthy salads, muffins and cookies on offer.

Aloha Bagel and Deli is not just a restaurant. It is also a gallery of Sloane’s artwork – colorful paintings, decorated tiki-type carvings outside and inside, and even a painted surfboard.

The restaurant’s island-themed name inspired Sloane’s artwork, which is for sale. As Sloane said, “If one gets sold, I just replace it with another piece of my art.”

Daughter Hannah also is a talented artist, according to her mother.

That the restaurant is also an art gallery is a natural progression. The building was previously the location for Susi Sax’s multimedia art gallery and is next door to the Shady Ladies Art Gallery. The team at Amelia Coastal Realty assisted them in finding the facility.

The Keats are not newcomers to the restaurant business. They operated a similar bagel

and deli place in Satellite Beach, Fla. before briefly moving to Colorado. Mike says that was a big mistake.

“The snow, cold weather, and everything about Colorado was just not right for us,” Sloane added, “We’re all happy to be here. We love the small town, safe environment of Fernandina Beach.”

The main reason they chose Fernandina Beach is that their daughter Hannah enrolled in the University of North Florida. Their son Cameron attends Fernandina Beach High School.

Before getting into the bagel and deli business, the Keats had a roadside floral business in Boca Raton. Both Sloane and Mike grew up in Florida. Mike was born in western Pennsylvania and moved to Florida when he was one. Sloane was born in New York and moved to Florida when she was young as well.

The Keats say the breakfast and lunch business has worked with their family life, “and our family life is important to us,” Sloane said. They could take the children to school in the morning and then go directly

to work, and it allowed them to be at home when the children finished school.

The building where Aloha Bagel and Deli is located is too small to house the bakery where the New York-Style bagels are made fresh daily, so they are made off the island at a private bakery where they maintain complete control over their product.

“It takes a facility of a minimum 20,000- to 30,000-square feet in order to handle the process of making the bagels and such a facility is extremely costly,” Michael explained. New York-style bagels are poached in boiling water before they are baked. “No single bagel shop can afford it. That is why you don’t see many on the island,” he added.

Aloha Bagel and Deli does not have a website yet, but its phone number is 432-8934. The Keats encourage call-in orders for pick up as well as takeout orders, since table and seating space is somewhat limited.

The restaurant is open for breakfast and lunch seven days a week, beginning at 6:30 a.m.

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

INVITATION TO BID

The City of Fernandina Beach and Rayonier Advanced Materials will receive sealed competitive responses for requirements for the following until no later than **12:00 pm, February 2, 2018.**

ITB LTF Rail Spur Installation

Bid Documents and Specifications are available to download from the City of Fernandina Beach website, www.fbfl.us/bids, Demand Star’s website at www.demandstar.com or from Erica Ogden via email at Erica.Ogden@RayonierAM.com. There will be a **mandatory pre-bid meeting at 10:00am on Wednesday, January 17, 2018 at the Rayonier Advanced Materials, Fernandina Plant, 10 Gum Street, Fernandina Beach, FL.** Questions regarding the Bid requirements or process can be directed in writing to Erica Ogden, Buyer, at Erica.Ogden@RayonierAM.com.

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NL/PSA

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY COMMISSION CITY OF FERNANDINA BEACH

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 2, 2018, at 6:00 PM** in the City Commission Chambers, 204 Ash Street Fernandina Beach, Florida to consider the following application:

ORDINANCE 2017-23

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FERNANDINA BEACH AMENDING CHAPTER 70 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY IN REGARDS TO STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND OTHER PUBLIC PLACES BY CREATING SECTION 70-7 REGARDING NEWSRACKS, PROVIDING FOR CITY-APPROVED NEWSRACKS WITHIN THE HISTORIC DISTRICT; SPECIFYING PERMIT PROCEDURES AND PROHIBITIONS REGARDING NEWSRACKS IN THE PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY; PROVIDING FOR SPECIFIC LOCATIONS FOR THE PLACEMENT OF CITY-APPROVED NEWSRACKS IN THE HISTORIC DISTRICT; PROVIDING FOR REMOVAL BY THE CITY OF ABANDONED AND IMPERMISSIBLE NEWSRACKS; PROVIDING FOR AN APPEALS PROCESS; PROVIDING FOR TIME TO COMPLY; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Interested parties may appear at said hearing and be heard as to the advisability of any action, which may be considered. Any persons with disabilities requiring accommodations in order to participate in this program or activity should contact 310-3115, TTY/TDD 711 or through the Florida Relay Service at 1-800-955-8771 at least 24 hours in advance to request such accommodation.

IF ANY PERSON DECIDES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE BY THE BOARD/ COMMISSION WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT SUCH HEARING, S/HE WILL 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.

For information, please contact the Staff of the City Clerk’s Office, 204 Ash Street, between the hours of 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday, (904) 310-3115.



JULIA ROBERTS/NEWS-LEADER

Jay Shutt asked the Nassau County School Board to stop teaching evolution as fact. “May God give you the courage to make the right decision,” he told the board.

SCIENCE *Continued from 1A*

theory of evolution, and should be presented to inform students of the scientific concept and not intended to influence or dissuade the Biblical version of creation or any other concept,” one of the warning sticks said in part. “It is further recognized by the Board of Education that it is the basic right and privilege of each student to form his or her own opinion, or maintain beliefs taught by parents on this very important matter of the origin of life and matter.”

Poole said a federal court found that the stickers violate the First Amendment.

He also cited a Louisiana case ruling that stated such warnings introduce religion into the argument.

“Ultimately, in the rationale, was – what motivated you to put (the warning sticker) in here?” Poole explained to the board. “And, if you were motivated by considerations of Christianity and God, then we’ve got a problem with that.”

Poole said putting religion into science teaching is “inescapable.”

“The conundrum is – when we talk about creation, we necessarily, we are talking about God, whether it’s a Christian’s god or a Muslim’s god or whoever. We ultimately are talking about a god. That’s an inescapable thing,” he said.

School Board Member Kimberly Fahlgren asked Poole about what rights parents have if they want to “opt out” their student on a day or a week that content on evolution is being covered.

“Do parents have the opportunity to notify the teacher or the principal or the district that they would like their child opted out during that instruction?” asked Fahlgren.

Poole said he did not know the answer to that, but Superintendent Kathy Burns said parents can opt-out of having their child instructed on subjects like evolution.

Burns also shared her personal beliefs on the subject.

“My beliefs, and I believe many of yours, probably line up certainly in line with what Mr. Poole described for himself,” Burns said. “I also believe that parents and families teach their children what they want them to believe. It’s difficult. It’s a challenging situation.”

Burns said the current textbook material that includes evolution has been in Nassau County schools for “quite some time” and that the current school year will be the last in which it is used.

“We will probably be addressing this in the future,” she said.

Brandon Haught is a high school science teacher in Volusia County and the communications director for Florida Citizens for Science. Haught said the definition of the word “theory” is at issue. He said the principle of gravity is a theory, but there are no objections to teaching gravity in public schools.

“(The Nassau County School Board) implied that evolution is merely a theory, which is a red flag that indicates the speaker doesn’t know the most basic science facts,” Haught told the *News-Leader*. “The word theory is used differently by scientists than by the general public. In science, a theory is not a guess. A theory in science is something that is well supported, having withstood constant testing and experimentation. Germ theory of disease, cell theory and gravitational theory are examples, and I doubt that school district officials brush them off as mere guesses. Evolution is on that same high level of scientific consensus and confidence.”

Haught called the discussion by School Board members “shenanigans” in which Florida Citizens for Science will become involved if he believes it to be necessary.

“The clear ignorance of science displayed at the recent meeting is ... very concerning,” Haught said. “Dr. Burns stated that the science textbooks currently being used in the district will be replaced soon and said, ‘We’ll be addressing this again in the future.’ Florida Citizens for Science will definitely keep an eye on Nassau County and do everything we can to support and defend quality science education there.”

Based on precedents on cases such as the ones cited, Poole recommended NCSB keep the current materials in place. The board voted unanimously to do so.

jroberts@fbnewsleader.com

Expectations and perceptions

Jaguar fans are ecstatic. We had no expectations of the Jaguars being in the playoff hunt. In fact, I usually bet one of my friends that the Jags will win 50 percent of their games, but having lost three years in a row, I decided to skip this year. So every week, I am thrilled that they are performing far beyond my expectations. It is amazing that when you exceed expectations, life is good.

So how does this play out in the other aspects of life? Every day, someone asks me how I feel President Trump is doing. I really had low expectations for President Trump. His reputation in New York was that he only considered what was best for him and most people who had dealings with him, including the other USFL owners, despised him. However, he was very successful in business and in many dealings, even when his business venture (the casinos) went bankrupt, he came out okay and sometimes a winner.

On the domestic side, his objectives – to roll back regulations, grow the economy through tax reform and make America more secure by reforming immigration – have exceeded my expectations. In addition, his willingness to bring in General Kelly as chief of staff to change and upgrade an area that was in trouble, to me, was impressive.

On the international side, while his rhetoric is sometimes dangerous, his choices to lead the different agencies including the CIA, the Defense Department, the State Department and the U.N., are all better than I expected. While he is extremely impulsive and emotionally uncontrollable, until recently he has not let these characteristics influence his actual decision-making (i.e., North Korea). This too has exceeded my expectations.

However, where President Trump had the highest expectations was as a winner and a terrific negotiator. But here is the area where, to date, my perception is that he has operated below expectations. An example is the recent Jerusalem decision. However you feel about Israel (and I am a big supporter), most former State



COACH'S CORNER

...

Howard Pines

move, if the objective is to get a peace treaty.

In beginning successful negotiations, unless you want the other party to react emotionally, you do everything to keep the other party calm. If he wanted this to be a move that the other parties felt was balanced, he would have provided conditions favorable to the Palestinians in consideration for the move. For example, make the Jerusalem move contingent on Israel first halting new settlements on the West Bank, etc.

Unfortunately, this is not the only bad decision he seems

to have made negotiating. For example, promising his supporters he not only would build a wall, but would make Mexico pay for it, is totally against the principles of win/win negotiating, especially with the president of Mexico. Moreover, his handling the Obamacare negotiations was not successful.

So why is President Trump seeming to have the most trouble in an area where he had highest expectations of success? One reason may be that as president he needs to play roles that are outside his comfort zone. With the Israelis and the Arabs, he has to play the role of mediator, not lead negotiator. That is a role where he does not appear to have much experience. In the role of mediator, both parties have to believe you have their interests at heart for you to be successful.

Secondly, President Trump’s business experience has been as a win/lose rather than win/win negotiator. In business, he used his leverage and street smarts to outfox and defeat other parties, rather than to have them go away feeling

good about the negotiations and about him. Presidents many times have to be win/win negotiators.

My assessment is that President Trump actually has some talents that I did not acknowledge, including the ability to learn and adjust. The roles presidents have to play, especially in regard to negotiations, are very different than the roles one must play in one’s own business. So, as with his internal staff, President Trump may need to bring in a Jim Baker-type to help him effectively deal with the different issues of negotiating.

Amelia Island resident Howard Pines has more than 30 years experience as CEO, chairman and founder of BeamPines, a premier firm in the executive coaching business. He also co-founded the BeamPines/Middlesex University Master’s Program in Executive Coaching. Prior to that, he served as senior VP of human resources for a Fortune 100 corporation. He is the author of The Case for Wasting Time and Other Management Heresies.



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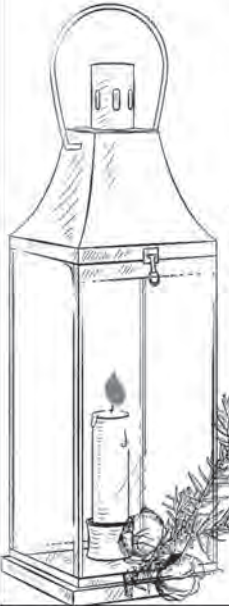
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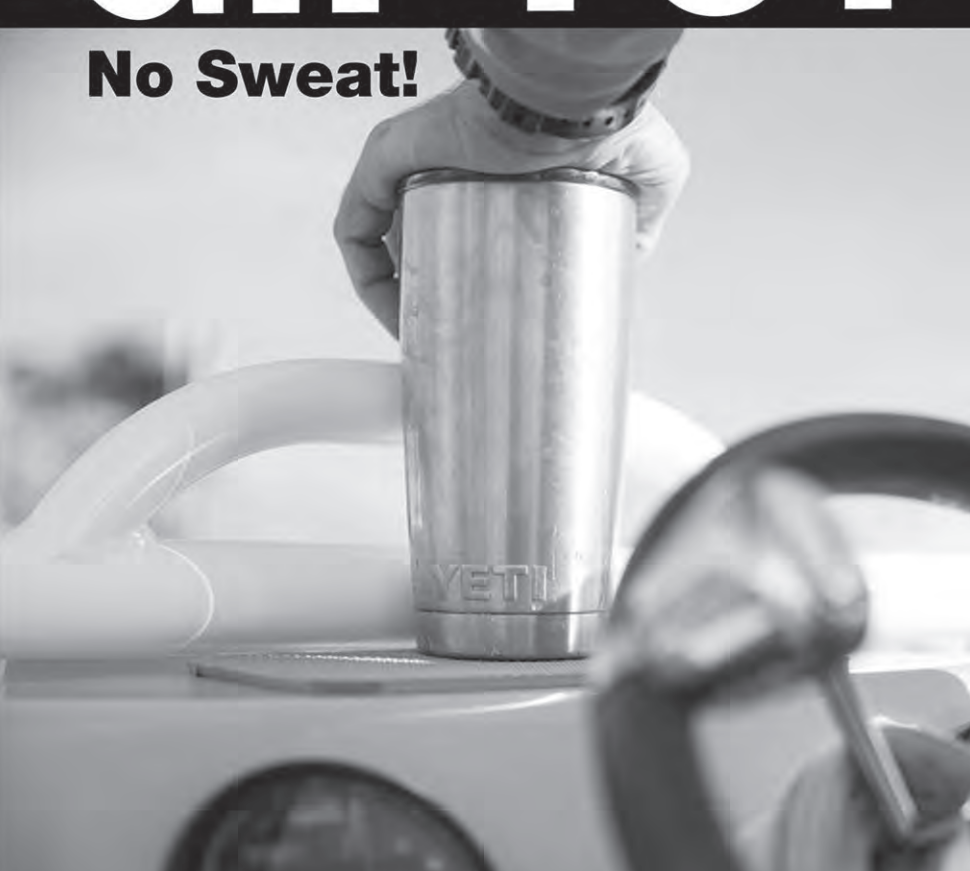
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The study was funded by the National Science Foundation.

qmarino@ufl.edu

3. Be health conscious. My dietician friend likes to say: "We are what we eat." My husband says it a bit differently: "Garbage in, garbage out." Either way, we all need to remember that the healthier we eat, the better we feel. Likewise, staying fit typically



Janice
Clarkson

8. Learn something new every day.
New knowledge gives us a fresh perspective and encourages feelings of self-confidence. Think about babies. They are like little sponges, soaking up new words and behaviors daily, and they are some of the happiest and most

Janice Clarkson, Ed.D., a Fernandina Beach resident, is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor and Certified Addiction Professional. Readers with confidential questions may e-mail her at jjclarkson@earthlink.net.

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FLORIDA'S OLDEST WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

NEWS LEADER

FERNANDINA BEACH • AMELIA ISLAND • YULEE • NASAU COUNTY



FLORIDA'S OLDEST WEEKLY NEWSPAPER
ESTABLISHED IN 1854

The News-Leader is published with pride weekly for the people of Nassau County by Community Newspapers, Inc., Athens, Georgia. We believe that strong newspapers build strong communities – “Newspapers get things done!” Our primary goal is to publish distinguished and profitable community-oriented newspapers. This mission will be accomplished through the teamwork of professionals dedicated to the truth, integrity, quality and hard work.

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NEWSROOM VIEW / CINDY JACKSON / REPORTER

Going on a ride along

It takes a special kind of person to be a public servant, and yet another kind willing to put himself or herself in harms’ way day after day. That’s what every individual does who endeavors to become a member of the Nassau County Sheriff’s Office.

Those dedicated individuals have to know the law, be familiar with the communities they serve, have an understanding of the human psyche, and of course, possess a command of the weapons they possess.

According to Sheriff Bill Leeper, Nassau County has a total of 133 sworn law enforcement officers and an additional 52 detention deputies and bailiffs.

In this day and age, as Leeper would attest, “outreach is critical,” and NCSO attempts to engage with the community through a variety of programs including “our Citizens Academy, Community Advisory Teams, Coffee with a Cop, Shop with a Cop, the Safe Kids Academy, the Teen Driver Challenge, the Explorer Program, the volunteer mounted posse, and the Ride-Along program ... to name just a few.”

This reporter did just that. I participated in a “ride along” with Deputy Ryan Goethe on a recent Saturday evening and walked away with even more respect for law enforcement officers.

I was struck by how very proactive their approach is to protecting and serving the community. For instance, one Yulee neighborhood has recently been experiencing a rash of break-ins and car thefts, so time was spent driving around that development. Seeing a rental truck

so late in the evening was a tad suspicious and so the squad car lights went on and the deputy approached the driver. Turns out this particular rental was being used by one of our nation’s major package delivery companies during this busy holiday season.

Goethe is a third-generation police officer. He worked in Jacksonville before coming to Nassau County. Goethe shared that coaching sports helped to build better relations with the kids and families in the district he served in Jacksonville. Going that extra mile, being proactive in the community certainly can make a big difference.

Goethe also works at getting to know the loss prevention specialists in some of the big box stores along S.R. 200/A1A so that he can be of greater assistance in their efforts to stop shoplifters.

But reacting quickly is also an important part of the job. A call came in about an individual who was threatening suicide. On the way to the home, additional details became available from the dispatcher at the 911 communications center. The troubled individual was reported to have made comments that the officers on the scene would just have to shoot him.

Another officer and his partner were called in to assist. Drugs were found at the scene, arrests were made, and the individual threatening suicide was “Baker Acted.” What is the Baker Act? Yahoo Answers explains it best: “The Baker Act allows for involuntary examination (what some call emergency or involuntary commitment). It can be initiated by judges, law enforcement offi-

cials, or mental health professionals. There must be evidence that the person has a mental illness, is a harm to self, harm to others, or self-neglectful. Examinations may last up to 72 hours.”

However, there is no facility in Nassau County where authorities can take someone in such distress, so whenever that sort of situation arises, a rather long ride to a Jacksonville facility must occur.

The deputies on duty the evening of my ride along were in contact with each other, giving and getting updates as the evening progressed – demonstrating to me a real sense of teamwork.

The patrol cars are all equipped with the latest and greatest in technology, including a laptop equipped with cutting-edge law enforcement software, a printer and, of course, a dash-mounted camera. In addition, Goethe is scheduled to get a camera that automatically reads license plates. The reader is a relatively new tool that searches tags around the patrol car and almost instantly reports back if a car or tags are stolen – without the deputy having to “key in” any information. There is a lot to learn about the community in which one lives, and my ride along was an excellent way for me to do just that. In today’s world, with some law enforcement officers criticized for using too much force or being overly aggressive in certain situations, my experience was with deputies who are community members like all of us and truly committed to protecting and serving all the citizens of Nassau County.

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VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Inspiring event

The Sunday afternoon of Dec. 10, my wife (as a truly humbled member of the choir) and I, as part of a sizable audience, were privileged once again to witness and participate in a wondrous event as a welcome respite and antidote to the toxic chaos of our world as Amelia Baptist Church Choir – for the 21st year – regaled us with the music and inspiring vignettes of the season.

From the opening chords of the magnificent Benedictus, during which my eyes immediately filled, to the closing strains of “Go Tell It on the Mountain,” this year’s theme, “Be Born in Me,” demonstrated the relevance of the real Christmas story in the 21st century, through a short 90-minute presentation. I say short since I think most would agree we could have sat inspired for hours.

Pastor Neil Helton’s half-time interpretation, in a mere eight minutes, presented a deeply thought out and well-reasoned analysis of Christ as a figure in history and as a figure of faith. And, despite our possible religious differences, all of us were welcomed.

It brought home to one whose career was always so “evidence-based” in science and law, that happenings such as that afternoon are not merely fortuitous, but providential.

Thank you, Pastor Neil Helton, for your words, and thank you, Pam Helton, for your gifted leadership in presenting it all in music; and finally, thank you, Peggy Strickland, for once again telling the timely story in the context of our modern world.

There is not enough room to name all the contributors. There were dancers, actors, and musi-

cians, and during the second half, all of us were included personally in the production as we sang some more classic popular and Christian hymns.

We are so fortunate as a community to have such a resource so, following our closing song, I wanted to once again “Go tell it on the mountain!”

Brian E. Downey
Mary B. Downey
Fernandina Beach

Thank you

Thank you to all who supported me in the recent city commissioner election.

Being an effective city commissioner involves listening to all constituents, translating their concerns into workable proposals, and building consensus to implement them. I will not be able to do this job without the involvement and openness of all the citizens of our city.

Not only am I thankful for your support, but also for the other candidates who offered to serve their community and seek solutions for public problems. It is not easy to put oneself out there in such a public forum, so I give credit to those with the initiative to do so.

I thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Chip Ross
Fernandina Beach

Nice work

Just want to thank the city and its workers who put up the lights in downtown Fernandina Beach this year. They are spectacular.

Jamie Morrill
Fernandina Beach



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VIEWPOINT / JAY KAYNE / FERNANDINA BEACH

The expendables

“We are the shadows and the smoke, we rise. We are the ghosts that hide in the night.”

- Barney Ross, leader of *The Expendables*

Just in case the name “Barney Ross” doesn’t ring a bell, he was the commander of a team of retired mercenaries hired to take down a South American dictator in the 2010 action film *The Expendables*. I thought about Ross (Sylvester Stallone) and his baby boomer band of brothers as I was reading an article in the Dec. 13 issue of *The Washington Post* titled, “Fracking Sites May Raise the Risk of Underweight Babies, New Study Says.”

The referenced study was jointly conducted by Janet Currie (Princeton), Michael Greenstone (University of Chicago) and Katherine Meckel (UCLA). The analysis was based on data covering more than 1.1 million births in Pennsylvania between 2004 and 2013. Their conclusion? Babies born within one kilometer of active fracking sites had a 25-percent higher risk of poor birth outcomes including low-birth weight and other health issues. Similar though less frequent maladies were reported within three kilometers of active sites.

Last weekend, my wife and I visited family in the northern panhandle of West Virginia. Evidence of fracking activity was apparent throughout the region. There were multiple “pads” (i.e. staging areas) along every two-lane rural road. Extended-stay motels have become home for out-of-state workers eager to take the relatively high-paying jobs in the industry.

And then it hit me. Not far from

the pads was an abandoned coalmine where workers and residents were once exposed to equally severe environmental hazards. The correct analogy for residents of Appalachian Pennsylvania and West Virginia is NOT *The Expendables* but the sequel, *The Expendables 2*, when the mercenaries are again recruited to face danger in the interest of national security. Except in the case of fracking, the same residents who suffered black lung and other respiratory diseases to power the 20th century are again being put at risk for national ECONOMIC security.

The *Post* quotes Greenstone as saying the researchers’ goal was not to condemn fracking but to promote practices such as converting from vertical to horizontal drilling, which would lessen the negative impacts. But what about the children who are subject to physical ailments and the families who face financial distress from medical bills? And there lies the major difference between Ross’ “ghosts that hide in the night” and the casualties of the battle for American energy independence.

In an exchange between Ross and Trench Mauser (Arnold Schwarzenegger), the two haggle over how high the compensation needs to be for the latter to join the expedition.

Trench: “Only an idiot would do this job.”

Ross: “How much?”

Trench: “Like I said.”

In the current situation, some families have received cash payments and/or royalties for transferring mineral rights to the oil and gas companies. If the industry, with government approval, wants to continue fracking in the



poorest regions of the country, the least they could do is provide parents with the help they need to give their children the medical care they deserve. And it’s not like they need to create a new state or federal program. The Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) already does that.

All Congress must do is renew it. And it would happen tomorrow if



JOHN COLE SCRANTON TIMES-TRIBUNE/CAGLE CARTOONS

the governors and state legislatures in fracking states threatened to shut down fracking activity until CHIP is reauthorized and fully funded. The parade of oil and gas lobbyists from K Street to Capitol Hill would put Disney to shame.

I have never understood why pro-life advocates are not the most vocal pro-health care champions.

Especially for children. They are NOT EXPENDABLE.

Dr. Kayne is senior partner at *ImagineIt Today* based in Fernandina Beach. He previously served as director of the Miami University Institute for Entrepreneurship and as director of economic and commerce policy studies at the National Governors Association in Washington, D.C.

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The views expressed by the columnists and letter writers on this page are their own and do not necessarily reflect the views of the newspaper, its owners or employees.

MATERIALS *Continued from 1A*

ing within the framework provided by the legislature for this rule such that it's more user-friendly to the concerns of parents who have issues over conflict and what is being utilized in the classroom to their personal family values," she said. "So, I don't know if there's any leeway."

Legal Services Chief Ray Poole told the board that under the new policy the board would have the ultimate decision as to what is considered suitable teaching material.

"Ultimately, under the statute, the buck stops here (at the School Board)," Poole said. "Unlike a lot of issues that you sit as sort of the judge and jury on, but somebody can appeal it to Tallahassee, under this statute, there is no right of appeal. You are the decider of what (pornography) is. You individually and you collectively can decide whether in your opinion something is, for example, pornographic and inappropriate on that basis. If you decide it's pornographic, that's the end of it. If you decide it's not pornographic, likewise, that's the end of it. You sort of set, in that sense, where in the spectrum of inappropriateness we cross the line."

After the discussion, the board approved advertising the changes to the policy, with Fahlgren casting the only dissenting vote.

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Architects help students design

JULIA ROBERTS
News-Leader

Students at Emma Love Hardee Elementary School are learning the nuts and bolts of building design thanks to a program that brings architects into the school.

Emma Love Hardee Principal Rebecca Smith and Assistant Principal Bryce Cubbal gave a Dec. 14 presentation to the School Board about the Architects in Education program, which is a cooperative effort between the American Institute of Architects and Florida Foundation for Architecture, according to Cubbal.

Shelly Rawls is a parent at Emma Love Hardee and an architect who spearheaded the program, Smith said.

"The intention of the program is to provide a deeper understanding of architecture through hands-on investigation and discovery, to improve verbal and written communication and interpersonal and social skills through collaborative learning and to boost creativity and critical thinking by actively engaging and solving physical problems," according to the presentation by the school's administrators.

There were architects who had a booth at Back to School night, with samples of projects the program would



EMMA LOVE HARDEE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL/SUBMITTED

Fifth grade students Morgan Ott, Caroline Martin, Abigail Purvis and Ivy Bradley learned to design a building in the Architects in Education program at Emma Love Hardee Elementary School.

include, Bryce said.

Smith said the school invited all its fourth- and fifth-graders to join the program, and 30 students responded. She said she is pleased that 11 of the members of the program are females.

"Not that we don't want males, but we were happy that females had that

interest," she said.

Smith explained that four to five architects would visit the school once a week during the time after early release on Wednesdays. The students worked in the school's science lab for eight weeks.

The science lab had some materials on-hand that were used by the junior

architects, but the school had to provide some materials.

Bryce said the program was "very hands-on," and was successful due to cooperation between everyone involved.

"Ms. Rawls was great about getting the materials to the administration ahead of time," he told the board. "We sat down and mapped out the materials. The program flowed very easily. Everything was planned in advance."

The final project consisted of building a structure that relates to a school, such as an outdoor pavilion or a vestibule, Bryce said.

"Some made them out of tinfoil (and) some made them out of boxes," Bryce said, and adding that the projects were displayed in a hallway with the names of the students, which peaked interest in the group.

The students studied buildings in the community, Smith said, sparking interest in local architecture.

"One of our parents even commented it made her student more aware of architecture and buildings we have around town," Smith said.

The program will continue into the spring, with the same 30 students. Those students will take the foundation of knowledge and apply it to the projects in the new semester.

jroberts@fbnewsleader.com

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POLICE REPORT

Pamela Bushnell of the News-Leader compiled this report from written reports by the Nassau County Sheriff's Office. Arrest indicates suspicion of a crime, not guilt. To report information about a crime, contact the Fernandina Beach Police Department at 277-7342 or the Nassau County Sheriff's Office at 225-5174. The "We Tip" program – 1-800-78Crime – also allows callers to leave anonymous tips.

■ Vincent Edward McCollum, 24, 37111 W. Fifth St., Hilliard, Dec. 7, burglary of an occupied dwelling.

■ Amber Nicole DeLong, 20, 97590 Chester River Road, Yulee, Dec. 8, possession of a controlled substance with intent to sell, possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia with residue.

phernalia with residue.

■ Kylee Renee Fox, 38, 5062 River Road, Hilliard, Dec. 8, possession of a controlled substance and tampering with or destroying evidence.

■ David Joseph Gorski, 36, 2900 C.R. 214, St. Augustine, Dec. 8, possession of a controlled substance.

■ Brian Emery Z.W. Plummer, 28, 211 Pine St., Saint Marys, Ga., Dec. 8, possession of a controlled substance with intent to sell.

■ Kyle Rollin Courson, 30, 85378 Blackmon Road, Yulee, Dec. 9, possession of a controlled substance, possession of less than 20 grams of cannabis and possession of drug paraphernalia with residue.

COURT REPORT

The following report was compiled by Pamela Bushnell of the News-Leader from the Dec. 14 court docket of Circuit Court Judge Robert M. Foster.

■ Justen Dean Alexander admitted violation of probation for sexual battery. He was adjudicated guilty and sentenced to time served in Nassau County Jail and reinstatement of probation with the added condition he serve one year sexual offender community control.

■ James Taylor Anderson pleaded guilty to a lesser offense of battery. Adjudication was withheld. He has paid \$35,000 in restitution. An additional \$273 in court costs was ordered to be paid by Jan. 4.

■ Priscilla Jeanette Bostick denied violation of probation for two convictions of grand theft.

■ Kyle Jay Bushey waived his right to a speedy trial on a charge of burglary of a dwelling or occupied structure.

■ Joseph Glenn Camp waived his right to a speedy trial on charges of the sale, manufacture or delivery of a controlled substance, possession of a controlled substance, possession of less than 20 grams of cannabis, and possession of controlled substance paraphernalia.

■ Sha-Ling Carmichael pleaded guilty to grand theft. Adjudication was withheld. She was sentenced to 12 months probation to include 100 hours of community service. She must pay \$418 in court costs, \$100 to the State Attorney's Office and \$150 to the Public Defender's Office.

■ James Mark Coleman submitted a written plea of not guilty to two charges of possession of a controlled substance.

■ Jesse Albert Collins pleaded not guilty to two charges of sexual battery on a victim aged 12 years or under.

■ Alyssa Diane Dunman pleaded not guilty to two charges of battery on a law enforcement officer.

■ Christian Anthony Fecteau pleaded guilty to possession of heroin and possession of controlled substance paraphernalia. Adjudication was withheld. He was sentenced to 60 days in Nassau

County Jail with seven days of credit for time served and 12 months drug offender probation. He must submit to a drug and alcohol evaluation within 60 days, follow through with treatment recommendations and submit to random urinalysis. He is also ordered to attend a narcotics anonymous class each week. He was ordered to pay \$518 in court costs, \$100 to the State Attorney's Office and \$150 to the Public Defender's Office.

■ Heather Flowers admitted violation of probation and was adjudicated guilty. She was sentenced to time served in Nassau County Jail and reinstatement of probation with the condition she pay \$700 in restitution.

■ Michael Christian Fox pleaded guilty to possession of a controlled substance, possession of less than 20 grams of cannabis and possession of controlled substance paraphernalia. Adjudication was withheld. He was sentenced to time served in Nassau County Jail and ordered to pay \$518 in court costs, \$100 to the State Attorney's Office and \$150 to the Public Defender's Office.

■ Joseph Dennis Gossage denied violation of probation for carrying a concealed firearm and possession of a controlled substance.

■ Justin Ryan Green pleaded guilty to domestic strangulation, felony battery and false imprisonment, therefore violating probation for a previous conviction of felony battery and obstruction of a police officer without violence. He was adjudicated guilty. Probation was revoked and terminated and he was sentenced to 24 months in Florida State Prison with credit for 137 days to be followed by two years of probation. He is to have no victim contact. Within 30 days of release, he must enroll in a batterer's intervention program. He must submit to a drug and alcohol evaluation within 60 days of release and follow treatment recommendations. Early termination of probation may be considered after 18 months of full compliance. He was ordered to pay \$1,615.16 in outstanding costs from his earlier conviction and a total of \$1,019 in new court costs.

■ Kendra Marie Hegedus pleaded not guilty to

possession of cocaine without citation and possession of a controlled substance.

■ James Ronald Herndon Jr. pleaded guilty to two charges of possession of a controlled substance and one count of driving without a valid license. He was adjudicated guilty and sentenced to 90 days in Nassau County Jail with 37 days credit for time served. He must pay \$1,036 in court costs, \$200 to the State Attorney's Office and \$300 to the Public Defender's Office.

■ Joshua Travion Jackson pleaded guilty to grand theft and fraudulent use of credit cards. He was adjudicated guilty and sentenced to time served in Nassau County Jail and 18 months of probation to include 100 hours of community service. He was ordered to pay \$2,449 in restitution, \$418 in court costs, \$100 to the State Attorney's Office and \$150 to the Public Defender's Office.

■ Richard Scott Lefevre pleaded guilty to grand theft. He was adjudicated guilty and sentenced to 90 days in Nassau County Jail with six days credit. He was ordered to pay \$418 in court costs, \$100 to the State Attorney's Office and \$150 to the Public Defender's Office.

■ Jason Adam Levin pleaded guilty to possession of a controlled substance. He was adjudicated guilty and sentenced to time served in Nassau County Jail. He must pay \$518 in court costs, \$100 to the State Attorney's Office and \$150 to the Public Defender's Office.

■ Christopher Tyrone Livingston submitted a written plea of not guilty to charges of carrying a concealed firearm, possession of a controlled substance, tampering with physical evidence and possession of less than 20 grams of cannabis.

■ Natasha Magee Malouin pleaded not guilty to possession of a controlled substance and possession of controlled substance paraphernalia.

■ Marcus Lamar Morrow was granted conditional release for failure to register as a sexual offender under the condition he attend day treatment group five times a week.

■ Adam S. Moser pleaded guilty to resisting

glary of unoccupied vehicles and four charges of theft.

■ Noah Elijah Blu Wilkinson, 20, 8165 Lem Turner Road, Jacksonville, Dec. 10, seven charges of burglary of unoccupied vehicles and four charges of theft.

■ Christian Nicole Kurlin, 36, 54227 Hazel Jones Road, Callahan, Dec. 12, burglary and theft.

■ Sabrina Marie Mathis, 32, 3423 Armstrong St., Jacksonville, Dec. 12, burglary and theft.

■ Samuel Isaiah Gibson Wright, 21, 17094 McCauley Lane, Hilliard, Dec. 12, domestic battery and aggravated assault on a person over 65 years of age.

pbushnell@fbnewsleader.com

arrest with violence. Adjudication was withheld. He was sentenced to 18 months probation under conditions he obtain a mental health evaluation and treatment within 30 days and enroll in an anger management program.

■ Anthony Alexander Nutty pleaded guilty to possession of a controlled substance. Adjudication was withheld. He was sentenced to 18 months drug offender probation to include a drug and alcohol evaluation within 60 days, follow through with treatment recommendations and random urinalysis. Early termination of probation may be considered with 12 months of full compliance. He was ordered to pay \$518 in court costs, \$100 to the State Attorney's Office and \$150 to the Public Defender's Office.

■ Ranie Shaw Rewis pleaded not guilty to carrying a concealed firearm.

■ Hunter Courtland Whitley denied violation of probation for multiple convictions each of armed burglary, grand theft, and burglary and one count of dealing in stolen property.

■ Kristopher Andrew Whorton pleaded guilty to fraudulent use of a credit card. He was adjudicated guilty and sentenced to 18 months of drug offender probation to include drug and alcohol evaluation within 60 days, follow through with treatment recommendations and random urinalysis. Early termination of probation may be considered after 12 months of full compliance. He was ordered to pay \$733 in restitution, \$418 in court costs, \$100 to the State Attorney's Office and \$150 to the Public Defender's Office.

■ The court terminated Frank Earl Wilder's conditional release on previous charges pending a new charge of trafficking opium.

■ Keith Curtis Williams pleaded not guilty to possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and domestic battery.

■ Samuel Williams III pleaded not guilty to two charges of the sale or delivery of cocaine and one charge of possession with the intent to sell, deliver, manufacture or purchase cocaine.

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Woman guilty of fraud

State Attorney Melissa Nelson announced Thursday, Dec. 14, that Lauren Eileen Carr, 58, of Bryceville, was found guilty by a jury of organized fraud. Carr now faces a maximum of 30 years in Florida State Prison, according to Nelson's office.

From 2008-15, Carr owned Stazac Management Co., which managed several homeowner associations. During that time, Carr diverted more than \$1.5 million for her and her family's everyday personal use and for paying off debt, according to the release. A whistleblower alerted law enforcement.

A sentencing hearing is scheduled before the Honorable Russell L. Healey on Jan. 16.



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In flight, groups of skimmers seem to shift from black to white, depending on your viewing angle.
PAT FOSTER-TURLEY
FOR THE NEWS-LEADER

Skimmers are skimming at Main Beach

Anyone who has been to Main Beach lately has no doubt seen our popular winter residents, the black skimmers. If you have seen flocks of black and white birds flying in a group, swooping low over the water with their beaks open, it's skimmers you are watching, not seagulls. As they fly in groups, changing direction, their color patterns seem to change from black to white; black when the top of their wings are exposed, white when you see the underside.



WILD WAYS
...
Pat Foster-Turley

Gorgeous!
Main Beach has a number of conveniently situated benches, just right to watch the skimmers. Another good place to observe them is from a barstool or table at the Sandbar and

Kitchen restaurant. Skimmers are "crepuscular" and do much of their foraging in the dim light of sunset, around dinner-time, perfect entertainment. And with a band playing inside or on the deck too, what could be better?
These days, at the Sandbar, I click into my "inner interpreter" mode. After all my years as an education director at a large oceanarium, and my 14 or so years explaining nature through this column, I just can't help myself. When I overhear visi-

tors talking about the birds they are watching fly by the window – usually calling them seagulls – I often interject myself to tell them about skimmers. Soon enough, I notice them looking up skimmers on their smartphones. I have interested them in finding out more – a sign of success for an inborn naturalist like me.
If you look at skimmers closely (or better yet, with a telephoto lens) you should notice their unusual red beaks, with a lower mandible much

longer than the upper one. This adaptation is perfect for skimming the water's surface and catching any fish that collide with their beaks. Skimmers have very small eyes in proportion to their size and, unlike most shorebirds, they do not rely on sight to find their food. All they need to do is fly in a group with their beaks skimming the water and eventually they find something to eat.
During the day, groups of skimmers are usually seen resting on the beach in flocks. If you see them there, try not to disturb them (or let your child or dog chase them) and make them fly. They need their "beauty" rest, after all. Every time resting shorebirds are disturbed, they burn up precious calories that deplete them. On cold days in particular, these added flights are a drain for them, using up energy they need to stay warm.

gery species in those parts. Enam now has another goal. I've shown him my photos of skimmers lying down, and now he is trying to chronicle this behavior in his own population in Bangladesh. But I'm still waiting to see the photos.

The skimmers we see at Main Beach are only wintering here, outside of their breeding season. Skimmers breed in early summer up the East Coast as far as New England, but in winter these snowbirds head south. Some skimmers in Florida are year-round residents, and even breed in some areas, although not at Main Beach. Where they do breed in Florida, they face threats due to coastal development and human disturbance.

Skimmers are protected nationally as a migratory bird and also protected under Florida's Endangered and Threatened Species Rule. Along with snowy plovers, least terns, and American oystercatchers, they are also the subject of a Florida Species Action Plan that outlines conservation measures aimed at protecting them.

A quick Google search will steer you toward much more information about these birds. And if you do so, great, I've made my mark once again!
Pat Foster-Turley is a zoologist on Amelia Island. She welcomes your nature questions and observations. Her email address is patandbucko@yahoo.com.

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Report quail sighting to FWC

To help restore the state's northern bobwhite quail populations, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is asking private landowners to report sightings of bobwhite quail on their land.
Landowners can go to a new FWC webpage to record when and where they see northern bobwhite quail on their property: MyFWC.com/QuailSightings.
Hearing bobwhite quail calls also qualifies as a sighting.
The information collected will be useful to biologists in the FWC's Landowner Assistance Program, who collaborate with private landowners on the restoration of bobwhite quail habitat. Bobwhite quail populations in Florida have declined by an estimated 82 percent over the past 50 years, primarily due to loss of habitat.
"I encourage landowners to get involved and let us know when you see or hear bobwhite quail on your land. The more landowners who decide to report their bobwhite quail sightings to the FWC's new webpage, the more data we will have on the current locations and abundance of bobwhite quail throughout the state," said Morgan Richardson, who heads the FWC's Landowner Assistance Program. "Your participation will help us improve our efforts to restore bobwhite quail populations in Florida."
The National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative in its

State of the Bobwhite 2017 report mentions how FWC's private lands biologists "provided technical assistance and cost share opportunities to landowners, creating roughly 8,000 acres of new bobwhite habitat throughout the state – nearly doubling last year's acreage total."
More than 19 million acres of Florida's nearly 35 million acres are in private ownership. The land management practices encouraged by the FWC to maintain and restore bobwhite quail habitat include:
• Planting low-density long-leaf pine forests (less than 500 trees per acre).
• Frequently doing prescribed burns.
• Planting and maintaining field borders with native plants, providing food and cover for bobwhite quail.
The FWC wants to record sightings of wild quail, not pen-raised quail that are released for hunting. Sightings of bobwhite quail that are current or within the past year are preferred, but older sightings may be reported if the year and month are known.
Learn more about the Landowner Assistance Program at MyFWC.com/LAP, where you can contact an FWC private lands biologist.
The FWC also relies on citizen scientists to report sightings of other species. Go to MyFWC.com/Get-Involved and click on "Citizen Science" and then "Sightings."

Last weekend we were in Key Largo with our best friends from Callahan Buck and Mary and our oldest son D.J. and wife Monica. Our RV resort was only steps away from Jimmy Johnsons' Big Chill Restaurant and Lounge. Our granddaughter Amanda is the manager and husband Dominic Congemi the Chef. Key Largo had a boat lightshow to celebrate their recovery from the hurricanes. The area is beautiful and the spirit of the people are amazing. Come by the coffee is on.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from our family to yours!

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AROUND YULEE PEOPLE, PLACES, THINGS TO DO

Local couple leads emergency teams

CINDY JACKSON
News-Leader

Most of us in Nassau County do not spend every day thinking about what to do in a major emergency, but at least one couple here has taken on that task by working together.

Billy Estep, the director of emergency operations for Nassau County, has been in the business of emergency management for more than 40 years. Estep's wife Stephanie is in charge of the county's Citizens Emergency Response Training, or CERT.

Stephanie Estep, reached in Orlando, where she was assisting volunteers in becoming certified in emergency response, will readily say that she is "dedicated to being of service to the community, the state and the nation." And her outreach has paid dividends. A family in West Nassau County lost their home to a fire, and Stephanie and her team helped to get them relocated in short order. Now that family wants to give back, and they are in the process of becoming trained in CERT. Another individual who was provided emergency assistance is now interested in working for the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

So what does the county's Emergency Management team do when they are not responding to a potential disaster? They are constantly planning, testing and re-testing, executing and modifying and keeping their finger on the "pulse of the world" – analyzing potential disasters and figuring out how best to respond to something happening here.

There are 3 levels of activation, according to the department's website:

"Level 3 describes the day-to-day 'blue skies' activities performed by the NCEM planners and dedicated volunteers in the County Warning Point. County Watch Officers are monitoring local, regional, and world events while our Emergency Management and Planning Professionals collaborate with partners and stakeholders to develop plans, conduct training, and drill/exercise our plans to improve disaster preparedness throughout the county. During Level 3 Activation, the EOC is staffed from 0800-1700 hours Monday through Friday.

"Level 2 usually indicates a threat is looming, or some large event or incident of concern is developing which could adversely impact our county. Staff members focus on assessing the situation, making preparations to manage a crisis, and determining trigger points for further action.

"And Level 1 is a full-scale activation, requiring representatives from each emergency response and support specialty (e.g., law enforcement, fire rescue, transportation, utilities, healthcare, animal care, business and industry, etc.) to report for duty in the EOC as outlined in Nassau County's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. Shifts for staff are typically extended to 12-hour periods around the clock until the crisis is under control."

For Hurricane Irma, a local state of emergency was declared on Sept. 4. Curfews were established, the evacuation process commenced, and the Emergency Operations Center went to full throttle.

Managing the EOC takes the efforts of some 135 individuals. Stephanie organized a cadre of 12 volunteers to manage the Citizens Information Center before, during and after Hurricane Irma. They stayed on site for days. They ate at the



LINKEDIN.COM

Above, Billy Estep is the director of emergency operations for Nassau County. Estep's wife Stephanie is in charge of the county's Citizens Emergency Response Training.

Emergency Operations Center and slept on cots, including the oldest volunteer, 91-year-old Bob Keane. At any given time, there were six to eight phone lines ringing "off the hook."

After a state of emergency has been lifted, there is the process of getting the federal reimbursement outlined by the Stafford Act, but that can take three to five years to complete. Payroll expenses are typically the first of expenses to be reimbursed, while capital expenditures take much longer. According to Billy Estep, Nassau County has not received anything yet for Hurricane Matthew.

During an emergency, resources are very limited, so Stephanie also needs creative staffing ideas, like reaching out to the state's Volunteer Florida program.

And it's about relationships.

Harris City, Miss. was at ground zero during Hurricane Katrina back in 2005, but it survived relatively unscathed during Hurricane Irma. Billy Estep made friends there long ago. As a result, that city loaded up a C-130 aircraft with all sorts of supplies – trucks, vans and other pieces of heavy equipment – and flew into Duval County, where Estep worked before coming to Nassau, to return the favor during Irma.

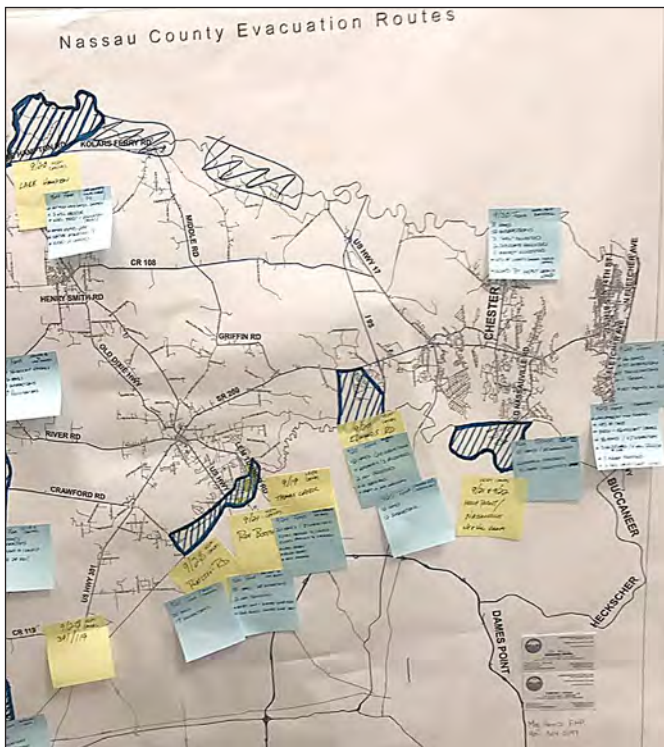
The primary point of failure during any emergency, Billy acknowledges, is communication.

"Information is everything," he said. So, what does he have as backup? A team of ham radio operators known as the Nassau Area Radio Emergency Service or ARES. Billy Estep calls them his "MacGyvers."

There was a point during Hurricane Irma when communications failed, but it took just 10-15 minutes for the ARES team to get all lines of communication reestablished. In addition to keeping all of Nassau County connected, a team of two ham radio operators went down to the Keys and got done in 24 hours what Motorola said would take days.

The emergency management system in Nassau County works because of its community partners. Its website explains that "Nassau County Emergency Management (NCEM) heads a diverse group of citizens – representing public safety, utilities, government and non-government agencies, private business and industry, faith-based organizations, homeowners associations, and the general public" in their mission. And it works. Originally, the utility companies serving Nassau County estimated it would take three to four weeks for 100 percent power restoration after Hurricane Irma, but because the utilities have a seat at the emergency management table, it took just 10 days.

"It takes a community approach to manage the needs



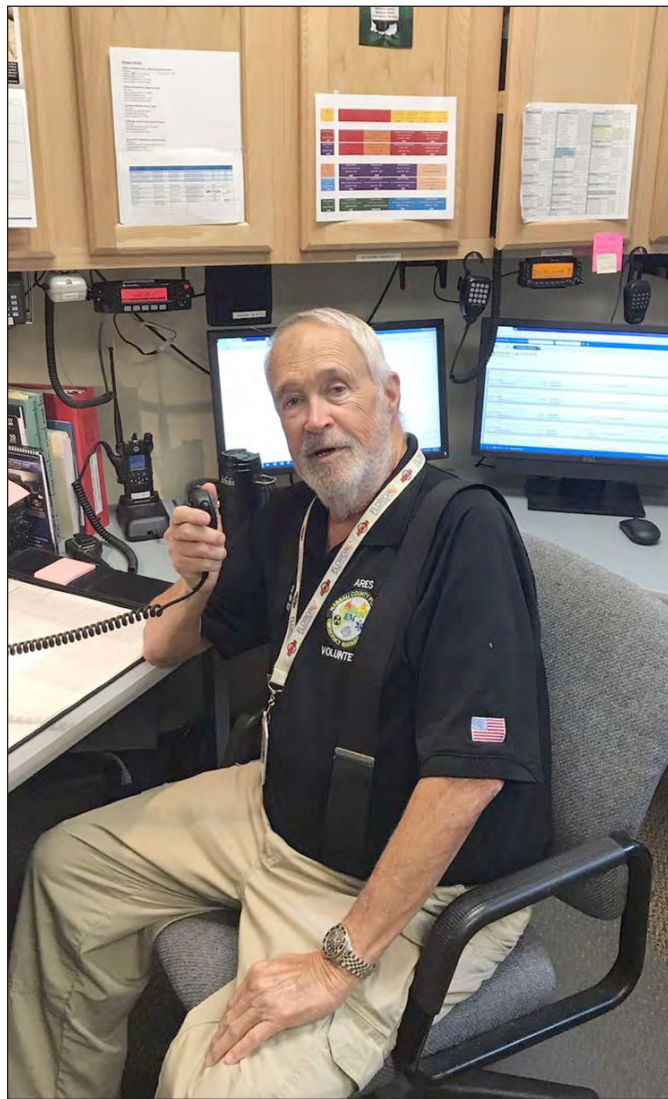
PHOTOS BY CINDY JACKSON/NEWS-LEADER

Above, a board in the Emergency Operations Center tracks the situation in specific areas and the allocation of resources in an emergency. Right, Mike Griffin, a volunteer with the Nassau Area Radio Emergency Service or ARES. Billy Estep calls them his "MacGyvers."

of our community," Stephanie said.

The EOC is located at 77150 Citizens Circle in Yulee, Florida and can be reached

by calling 548-0900. For an Emergency Preparedness Guide, go to www.nassaucountyfl.com/DocumentCenter/View/12716 cjackson@fbnewsleader.com



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Boys soccer title a first for Yulee Middle School

The Yulee Middle School boys soccer team was crowned Nassau County champion for the first time in school history. The YMS Hornets defeated the Fernandina Beach Pirates in the title game Thursday at Yulee High School.

Both teams were at a stalemate through the first 20 minutes of the game, and then with 10 minutes to go in the first half, a free kick was awarded to YMS from about 30 yards out. Captain Hayden Domingo stepped up and unleashed a spectacular free kick that found the top righthand corner of the net to lift Yulee 1-0 over the Pirates.

Seven minutes later, YMS's lead was doubled. After a brilliant drive into the FBMS box by Marc Mariconi, his twin brother Andrew Mariconi had a beautiful strike to the bottom right hand corner. Yulee led 2-0 at halftime.

Fernandina regrouped and came out on fire in the second half. The Pirates pressured and harassed the YMS end of the field. The labor finally bore fruit as, nine minutes into the second half, there was a pass into the YMS box that bounced off of the head of Adam Vanderhoff, and Sebastian Joinville hit an absolute missile that beat the YMS keeper to the top lefthand corner. FBMS cut Yulee's lead to 2-1.

For the remaining 21 minutes of the half, it was a master class of defending from the YMS defense led by Captain Ryan Hoskins, P.J. Stokes, Joe Walsh and goalkeeper Nick Emerson. YMS held on for a 2-1 victory and celebrated its first boys soccer county championship. It was a great season for the YMS boys, who finished the year with eight wins, three losses and two draws under the direction of Coach Fox.



The Yulee Middle School boys soccer team celebrates its first county championship Thursday.

SUBMITTED

Pirates host Johnny T. Smith tourney

Yulee takes on Ocala Trinity; FBHS faces WNHS Warriors

BETH JONES
News-Leader

The 4-3 Pirates headed to University Christian Tuesday and return home to host the annual Johnny T. Smith holiday tournament Thursday and Friday nights. Games are at 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. both nights in the Fernandina Beach High School gym.

The Pirates are coming off back-to-back wins, beating host Hilliard 69-62 Thursday and visiting Ridgeview 54-33 on Friday.

"Hilliard has a solid team with one great player on it," FBHS coach Matt Schreiber said. "He played great the night we played him, scoring 34 points. But, with that being said, he took quite a few shots in order to score those points. Basketball is a team sport, and our team was better than their team that night."

Hilliard's Jacob Crews led all players with 34 points. FBHS junior Joey Harris led his team with a season-high 27 points.

"That was off just 13 shots, so that's the kind of efficiency on offense we look for," Schreiber said. "Five were 3-pointers, and he was 6-of-6 from the free-throw line."

Harris, who also had four rebounds, four assists and a steal, was one of four Pirates in double figures. Scotty Rivenbark scored 14 to go along with six rebounds, two assists and two steals. Walker Bean had 13 points, seven boards, an assist, a block and pair of steals. Nick Vanlennep chipped in 10 points and had six rebounds, four assists and a steal.

The Pirates were back at home Friday, hosting the Ridgeview Panthers. The home team led 9-6 after a quarter and

26-17 at halftime.

"We came out in the third quarter and held them to one point," Schreiber said. "We had things pretty well in hand at that point."

The Pirates had three players in double figures, with two scoring a double-double. Vanlennep led on the scoreboard with 14 points. He also had five boards, four assists and a pair of steals. Rivenbark had a double-double with 11 points, 13 rebounds, two assists and two steals. Bean had 10 points, 12 rebounds, two blocks and a steal.

"The strength of our team is our balance," Schreiber said. "The one thing we've been able to count on so far is our rebounding and defense. So, if we can just work on our ability to take care of the basketball and score, we'll be a much better team."

The Pirates host the annual Johnny T. Smith holiday tournament Thursday and Friday. Yulee and Ocala Trinity Catholic play at 6 p.m. Thursday, followed by Fernandina Beach and the West Nassau Warriors at 7:30 p.m.

"We beat West Nassau in the first game of the year," Schreiber said. "They're much improved from years past. I think they've improved since we played them earlier."

The consolation game is slated for 6 p.m. Friday, with tip-off for the championship game set for 7:30 p.m.

After Christmas, the Pirates head to Clay County for a three-day tournament Dec. 28-30.

• The FBHS Lady Pirates defeated Harvest 58-13 on Monday. FBHS hosts Mandarin today at 7:30 p.m. The Lady Pirates play in a tournament at ESPN in Orlando Dec. 27-30.



BETH JONES/NEWS-LEADER

Walker Bean takes a charge Friday night for the Pirates in their matchup with Ridgeview. The Pirates were 4-3 when they headed to University Christian Tuesday. They are back at home Thursday and Friday to host the annual Johnny T. Smith tournament. Games are at 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. both nights.

► FOOTBALL

QB Lupone named 2017 Pirate MVP

Fernandina Beach High School held its football awards for the 2017 season on Dec. 6. Joe Lupone, senior quarterback for the FBHS Pirates, received two awards. He was named the varsity most valuable player and also received the captain's award.

The Pirate award for performance and leadership went to senior Sebastian Miller. He was also named the top defensive lineman for the season.

Walker Bean received the "War Daddy" award for defensive production points. Jordan Parker was named the top skills player. Both are seniors.

Top offensive lineman was Clay Gaines, and fellow senior Eddie Turvey was named top special teams player.

The offensive coach's award went to Morgan Knight; John Powell earned the defensive coach's award.

Ryan Edwards received the academic award.

Khamari Barksdale was named the junior varsity squad's most valuable player.

► GOLF EVENTS

Museum tournament

The Amelia Island Museum of History will host its 16th annual golf tournament Feb. 23 at the Golf Club of Amelia Island. Shotgun start is at noon.

Register at www.ameliamuseum.org. For information or to become a sponsor, email gray@ameliamuseum.org.

• The Hit the Pin for Literacy golf scramble will be Feb. 2 at the Golf Club of Amelia Island. Registration is at 11 a.m. with a noon shotgun start. Visit www.ameliaisland-bookfestival.com.

Five Hornets in double figures in win over Warriors

The Yulee High School boys basketball team hosted West Nassau on Thursday night and beat the Warriors 64-57.

The Yulee Hornets trailed in the first quarter but came back to take a 38-32 lead at intermission. Yulee built the lead to 10 points on several occasions in the second half only to see West Nassau continue to cut into the lead. The Warriors were able to tie the game at 56 with four minutes to go in the game, but the Hornets outscored them 8-1 down the stretch to record the victory.

Yulee had four players in double figures on the night, led by Sam Jackson with 15 points, seven rebounds and three assists. Ahmid Babbs scored 13 points, including a trio of 3-pointers, and seven rebounds. Tripp Landtroop knocked down three 3-pointers and 11 total points, and Austin Pederson chipped in 10 points, including one 3-pointer, and four assists. Will Ferguson added nine points and a game-high 12 rebounds on the night, and Dennis Perkeci, returning from a shoulder injury, had six points and four assists.

The Hornets travel to Stanton to take on the Blue Devils today. Tip-off is at 7 p.m. Yulee will play Thursday and Friday nights in the annual Johnny T. Smith tournament at Fernandina Beach High School. Yulee plays Ocala Trinity Catholic at 6 p.m. Thursday.



The Hornets during a timeout in the second period Thursday night at home against the West Nassau Warriors. The Hornets led by five and went on to notch a 64-57 win over the visitors. Yulee plays at Stanton tonight and participates in the Johnny T. Smith tournament at Fernandina Beach Thursday and Friday nights.

SPECIAL



Nassau Sport Fishing Association member John Riegler, left, garnered 2017 Angler of the Year honors during the Christmas party and awards dinner held at Walker's Landing Dec. 13, top. Right, NSFA President Anson DeWolf, far right, handed out awards to, from left, Lou Mazzeo, third place; Ed Frey, second; and Riegler.

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FERNANDINA BEACH HIGH SCHOOL			Jan. 6	at Bolles	6:00/30	Jan. 23	JV semis at Hilliard	5:30/6:30
Girls Soccer			Jan. 18	JV at Camden	6:00/30	Jan. 25	Varsity semis at Hilliard	5:30/6:30
Jan. 8	RIDGEVIEW	6:00	Jan. 19	TRINITY (homecoming)	7:30	Jan. 26	Finals at FBMS	5:30/6:30
Jan. 10	at Episcopal	6:30	Jan. 25	at Ridgeview	5:30/7	YULEE MIDDLE SCHOOL		
Jan. 12	BISHOP KENNY	6:00	Jan. 26	YULEE	6:00/30	Boys Basketball		
Jan. 16	ST. JOSEPH seniors	6:00	Feb. 1	at Fletcher	5:30/7	Dec. 20	at Charlton County	6:30
Jan. 22, 24, 26	District at Providence	6:00	Feb. 2	ST. JOSEPH	6:00/30	Dec. 21	CALLAHAN	2:30/3:30
FERNANDINA BEACH HIGH SCHOOL			Feb. 6	HILLIARD	6:00/30	Jan. 10	at Episcopal	5:15/5
Wrestling			Feb. 8	UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN	6:00/30	Jan. 11	CALLAHAN	5:30/6:30
Jan. 12-13	at Terry Parker Army Duals	4:00	Feb. 12, 14	16 District at Episcopal		Jan. 12	BOLLES	4:30/5:30
Jan. 26-27	at Yulee Battle or Borders	4:00	FERNANDINA BEACH HIGH SCHOOL			Jan. 16	CAMDEN	6:30
YULEE HIGH SCHOOL			Boys Soccer			Jan. 19	at Fernandina	5:30/6:30
Boys Basketball			Dec. 21	LEE	7:20	Jan. 23	JV semis at CMS	5:6/30
Dec. 20	at Stanton*	6/7:30	Jan. 11	at Providence	7:00	Jan. 25	Varsity semis at FBMS	5:6/30
Dec. 21	at JT Smith at FBHS	6/7:30	Jan. 22	BISHOP SNYDER	5:30/7:20	Jan. 26	Finals at Yulee	5:6/30
Dec. 22	at JT Smith at FBHS	6/7:30	Jan. 25	at Nease	5:45/7:20	YULEE MIDDLE SCHOOL		
Jan. 9	at RCSA	4:30/7:30	Jan. 29-Feb. 3	DISTRICT at FBHS		Girls Basketball		
Jan. 11	FERNANDINA BEACH	6/7:30	YULEE HIGH SCHOOL			Dec. 20	at Charlton County	5:00
Jan. 12-13	MLK TOURNAMENT	TBA	Girls Basketball			Jan. 10	EPISCOPAL	5:6/15
Jan. 16	TERRY PARKER*	6/7:30	Dec. 21	at Terry Parker*	5:30/7	Jan. 11	CALLAHAN	5:30/6:30
Jan. 18	BALDWIN	6/7:30	Jan. 9	RCSA	6:00	Jan. 12	at Bolles	4/5:30
Jan. 22	at Ridgeview	6/7:30	Jan. 11	at St. Augustine	6/7:30	Jan. 16	CAMDEN	5:00
Jan. 23	EPISCOPAL	6/7:30	Jan. 18	at Baldwin	5:30/7	Jan. 19	FERNANDINA	5:30/6:30
Jan. 26	at Fernandina Beach	6/7:30	Jan. 22	at Ed White	5:30/7	Jan. 23	JV semis at Hilliard	5:6/30
Jan. 29	at Trinity Christian	4:30/7:30	Jan. 25	WEST NASSAU	5:30/7	Jan. 25	Varsity finals at Hilliard	5:6/30
Jan. 30	at RCSA	4:30/7:30	Jan. 29	at Trinity	6:00	Jan. 26	Finals at FBMS	5:6/30
Feb. 1	at Ed White	6/7:30	Jan. 30	at RCSA	6:00	YULEE HIGH SCHOOL		
Feb. 2	at Hilliard	4:30/7:30	Feb. 1	ST. AUGUSTINE	5:30/7	Boys Soccer		
Feb. 5	RIDGEVIEW	6/7:30	Feb. 2	at Hilliard	6:00	Dec. 21	ED WHITE	7:20
Feb. 8	at West Nassau	6/7:30	* District			Jan. 9	at Raines	6:00
* District			YULEE HIGH SCHOOL			Jan. 9	at Terry Parker	6:00
FERNANDINA BEACH HIGH SCHOOL			Girls Weightlifting			Jan. 12	TRINITY CHRISTIAN	6:00
Boys Basketball			Jan. 13	District meet	8am	Jan. 13	PALM COAST	3:00
Dec. 21	CAMDEN (JV)	4:15	FERNANDINA BEACH HIGH SCHOOL			Jan. 19	at Bishop Snyder	6:30
Dec. 21	JOHNNY T. SMITH	6/7:30	Girls Basketball			Jan. 22	at Episcopal	6:30
Dec. 22	JOHNNY T. SMITH	6/7:30	Mandarin			YULEE HIGH SCHOOL		
Dec. 28-30	at Clay Holiday Tournament		Dec. 20	MANDARIN	6/7:30	Girls Soccer		
Jan. 5	BISHOP SNYDER	6/7:30	Dec. 27-30	ESPN Orlando tourney		Jan. 4	at Orange Park	6:00
Jan. 9	RAINES	6/7:30	Jan. 4	PAXON	4:30/6	Jan. 5	at Bishop Kenny	6:00
Jan. 11	at Yulee	6/7:30	Jan. 9	at Middleburg	6/7:30	Jan. 9	at Mandarin	6:00
Jan. 12	WEST NASSAU	6/7:30	Jan. 12	at Newberry	6:00	Jan. 12	TRINITY (seniors)	5:30

SPORTS SHORTS

Queen of Tees

The Fernandina Women's Golf Association held the December Queen of Tees tournament Dec. 12. Mary Ann Schroeder had a low net of 71 to best the rest of the field.



Schroeder

In flight A, low gross went to Kathleen Walker; first low net as Debbie Engers; and, there was a tie for second low net between Vickie Galpin and Sherrill Boyer.

In flight B, low gross was captured by Schroeder; first low net as Pat Aylor; and second low net went to Julie Hensler.

Flight C low gross winner was Nancy Inboden; first low net as Sue Raskin; and second low net went to Jayne Paige.

Sailing club meets

The Amelia Island Sailing Club meets the first Tuesday of the month at the Kraft Athletic Club at Ten Acres. Social hour starts at 6:30 p.m., followed by a potluck dinner and the business meeting.

The AISC is dedicated to fun and boating in and around Amelia Island's waters. Owning a boat is not a prerequisite. Some members also have power boats.

Contact Commodore Charlie Hayes at (678) 429-6108 for information.

TaxSlayer Bowl

Mississippi State University will play the University of Louisville in the Dec. 30 TaxSlayer Bowl. This marks the third all-time meeting between these two universities.

The No. 23 Mississippi State Bulldogs, who finished this season with an 8-4 record, will serve as the Southeastern Conference representative and will be making their third appearance in the TaxSlayer Bowl.

The Louisville Cardinals, the Atlantic Coast Conference representative, finished their regular season with an overall record of 8-4. This match-up

will mark the team's second appearance in the TaxSlayer Bowl, their last being in 2006 against Virginia Tech.

The 73rd annual TaxSlayer Bowl will be played at noon Dec. 30 at EverBank Field in Jacksonville. The game will be nationally televised on ESPN.

Tickets and bowl information are available online at www.taxslayerbowl.com.

Tennis boot camp

The Cliff Drysdale Tennis program at the Omni Amelia Island Plantation will offer 2018 Tennis Doubles Boot Camp weekends. The program brings visitors from around the country.

Camps are Jan. 26-28, Feb. 9-11 and Feb. 23-25. Each weekend is packed with doubles specific drills that are designed to elevate match play and will feature new drills and strategy that will build on past years.

Learn smart shot selection, how to attack like a tiger and how to play a defensive offense. Doubles Boot Camps are designed for players at all levels who play doubles regularly. This is a coed camp for individuals, couples or groups.

The weekend includes 10 hours of professional instruction and supervised match play, a welcome reception, pro exhibition and goody bag upon arrival. The discounted rate for county residents is \$300.

For information, visit www.ameliaislandtennis.com or call 277-5151.

Monster Jam

Tickets for Monster Jam Feb. 24 at EverBank Field in Jacksonville are on sale to the general public. Gates open at 5 p.m., and the opening ceremony and racing start at 7 p.m. EverBank Field is located at One EverBank Field Drive.

The event will feature 14 trucks and drivers vying to be the Jacksonville champion, including Grave Digger, Hot Wheels and El Toro Loco. Trucks/drivers subject to change without notice.

The Monster Jam Pit Party from 2:30-5:30 p.m. provides access to the trucks and drivers. Purchase tickets at the Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena box office, online at www.ticketmaster.com or charge by phone at (800) 745-3000.



Tournament co-chairman Tom Smeeton, second from left, presents the first-place prize to Tom Oden, Ed Velasquez, Glenn Kratz and Stu Klein.

KOC holds eighth annual golf tournament

The eighth annual Knights of Columbus Charity Golf Tournament was held Dec. 1 on the Oak Marsh Course of the Omni Amelia Island Plantation Resort. Since this tournament's inception eight years ago, it has always been a very competitive event. This year, 88 men and women played with prizes awarded to three teams.

First place went to the team of Tom Oden, Ed Velasquez, Glenn Kratz and Stu Klein with a gross score of 57 and a net score of 53.

The teams earning second, and third place prizes underscored how competitive this year's tournament was. Five teams posted identical net scores of 58. Consequently, the Oak Marsh golf pro staff utilized a tiebreaking formula which determined that the foursome of Rick Keffer, Darryl Crisp, Jim McCollum and Brad Reese took second place, and the quartet of John Haag, Andy Scott, Paul Donovan and Roger Dexter finished in third place.

The tournament's longest drive champions were Sue Riegler in the women's division and Mark Sobolewski, who won the men's title for the second year in a row. Well known in local golfing circles



Smeeton presents the men's longest drive prize to Mark Sobolewski, left. Sue Riegler, right, received prizes for winning both the women's longest drive and closest to the pin contests.

for his prodigious drives, Sobolewski has participated in long driving contests around the country. A talented ball striker, Riegler also won the women's closest to the pin contest. Tom Nicholson was the men's section winner.

Sponsored by the local St. Michael Knights of Columbus Council 14295, this annual golf outing supports many

charitable causes in Nassau County. Among those benefiting are the Special Olympics Nassau, Salvation Army Hope House, Council on Aging, Food for Families, Coats for Kids, Care Centers of Nassau, ARK of Nassau, USO, Military Chaplain's Fund, Beach Buddies for Fernandina Beach High School, Hornet Buddies for Yulee High School and St.

Michael Academy. St. Michael Council 14295 is one of more than 14,000 worldwide. The Knights total membership exceeds 1.8 million. Last year, the 120 Knights in the local council provided thousands of dollars to charities in Nassau County as well as thousands of hours of volunteer service to individuals and organizations.



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Holiday season is about traditions, old and new

For most of us, the holiday season is about traditions – honoring old ones and creating new ones. As overwhelming as the holiday hoopla may be, we are determined to recreate treasured memories. It may be a holiday decoration that is unpacked and displayed each year. Or decorating a Christmas tree. Most Christmas trees are like family albums and showcase a variety of ornaments – some may be collected from travels, handed down, or handmade by young children. Some trees are real and some come out of a box complete with lights – just plug in and instant Christmas tree. Our tree is smaller and, yes, artificial. We miss the smell of fresh pine. We even tried a fir-scented candle. Just not the same.



FROM THE PORCH
...
Dickie Anderson

Christmas Day meal. It never varies.

Most families have traditional meals that may include a Christmas Eve supper, Christmas morning breakfast or a big family meal Christmas Day. Some open presents Christmas Eve; others open their presents Christmas Day. Our tradition is French onion soup Christmas Eve and open presents. Roast beef is our traditional Christmas Day meal. It never varies.

The Big Guy and I have simplified our decorating and, even, celebrating. Our gift giving is less extravagant. We simply do not want any more stuff. Our gifts to each other are not huge or fancy like a car, but instead things that are thoughtful and personal. We still chuckle as we recall one of our first Christmases on Amelia Island. We both were fascinated with the history of our new home and when I found a print of the seaport town of Fernandina in the late 1880s, I knew I had found the perfect gift! Come Christmas Eve and present time, we found each of us had purchased the same print – different frames. One went back.

Another tradition for the Andersons is our annual Christmas light tour. We

gather up Flossie and Kate, our small and excitable dogs, and begin our tour. We slowly drive by our favorites. The Omni and Ritz are always a delight. This year our downtown is aglow – seems like more lights this year making Centre Street even more magical. We drive through neighborhoods that are decorated with lights of all colors and animated figures. We are thankful for the imagination and creativity that goes into the light displays offered by individuals and entire neighborhoods.

A strong tradition in our family is the baking of Christmas cookies. I can remember the cozy smell of cookies baking. Once out of the oven, we would gather around the kitchen table and

paint them with icing and add all kinds of sparkles and sprinkles. We were quick to gobble up any “mistakes.” A generation later, my three boys recreated the family tradition by producing their own cookie creations. Now the next generation, their children, my grandchildren, are doing the same. Part of the fun was and is sharing with friends and neighbors.

So whatever your family traditions, enjoy them and treasure them. The Big Guy, our two terriers, Flossie and Kate, join me in wishing you the happiest of holidays.

To receive her weekly newsletter or get information about her books including her four *From the Porch* books, contact Dickie at dickie.anderson@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY SCRAPBOOK



UF/IFAS NASSAU EXTENSION

Nassau garden team wins state award

UF/IFAS Nassau Extension Director Becky Jordi recently joined UF/IFAS Nassau Master Gardeners Harriett Klontz and Elaine Roblez at a workshop – “Master Gardeners: A Day with the Citrus Specialists” – at the UF/IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center in Lake Alfred, Fla. Roblez served as captain of the Fruit Demonstration Garden Team, which won a state award from the Florida Master Gardener program for excellent performance by a team of Master Gardeners. Klontz was an original member and will now be serving as the team captain. For information about the UF/IFAS Nassau Fruit Demonstration Garden, call the Extension office at 530-6353. Master Gardeners are on office duty from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fridays. Call 530-6350 and press “1” for the Yulee office.



2018 Master Gardeners fall plant sale

Above left, new Master Gardeners Kathy McLean, Lynn West, Yvonne Harrell, and Sarah McCullough – all part of the Class of 2018 – joined in the fun of their first Nassau Master Gardener Fall Plant Sale. (Not pictured are Lynn Aiello-Lees and Sandy Kerry, also members of the 2018 class.)

Above right, during the Master Gardener Fall Plant Sale, Nassau County Extension Director and Horticulture Agent Becky Jordi was on hand to provide help to gardeners seeking identification and solutions to problems they are experiencing in their yards.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS



SUBMITTED

Saying thank you to veterans

Pat Stichweh, right, hands thank you cards to veterans for Cara Curtin to deliver to the Robert H. Jenkins Jr. Veterans Domiciliary Home of Florida in Lake City, Fla. The Amelia Plantation Chapel project to thank veterans for their service was just one activity during the second annual Fall Festival held recently by the Amelia Island Property Community Association. Curtin, chairman of the Service for Veterans Committee of the Amelia Island Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution, delivered the cards to the residents of the domiciliary during a subsequent visit by the Amelia Island chapter.

Newcomers support NAMI

Members of the Amelia Island Newcomers present a check to National Alliance for the Mentally Ill from the proceeds of their Purple Elephant Luncheon that was held recently at the Fernandina Beach Golf Club. Newcomers pictured left to right are Jan Cote-Merow, Wendy Taylor, Diane Duhig, Kay McKenna, Llona Meaux, Linda Campbell, Joanne Nieman, Sharon Sayre, Kristin St. John, Jan Rothrock, Laura Germer, Kay Heard and Cheri Vander Biezen.

SUBMITTED



Two join Junior Naturalist program

Wild Amelia Junior Naturalist Program Coordinator Robyn Nemes (right) recognized two new Maritime Forest Junior Naturalists – Naserian McClurg and Nooretet McClurg – at the Wild Amelia November Wild Nite program. For more information about the Junior Naturalist Program, go online to wildamelia.org.

KATHY BROOKS/SPECIAL



LIBBY WILKES, UF/IFAS NASSAU MASTER GARDENER

Gardeners learn how to reduce costs

Attendees at a recent Landscape Matters Frugal Gardening class presented by UF/IFAS Nassau Extension Executive Director and Horticulture Agent Becky Jordi, who instructed local gardeners on ways to reduce their gardening costs by using methods such as “plant propagation,” had the opportunity to purchase handmade garden art.



Speakers face off in countywide contest

Nassau County students in grades 4 to 6 recently completed the final leg of the 4-H/Tropicana Public Speaking Contest, which began with each classroom in the Nassau County School District hosting a competition. The winners moved on to a school-level competition in a bid to represent their schools in a countywide contest that took place Thursday, Dec. 7. The county competition was divided into elementary and middle school divisions, with the first place winner of each receiving a scholarship to the 4-H summer camp of his or her choice in the summer of 2018. Above left, winners in the Elementary School Division were Kanaan McCosh from Callahan Intermediate in first place, Brody Singley from Callahan Intermediate in second place and Peyton Tate from Yulee Elementary in third place. Elijah Stewart from Hilliard Elementary received an honorable mention.

Above right, the winners in the Middle School Division were Emma Murphy from Callahan Middle in first place, Tony McCoy from Hilliard Middle in second place and Annabella Zaccaro from Yulee Middle in third place. Alexa Kennedy from Yulee Middle received an honorable mention. For more information about the 4-H/Tropicana Public Speaking Contest, call 530-6353.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

PEOPLE & PLACES

THIS WEEK

Featuring over 21 musicians with a variety of professional singers, entertainers and acts, the Crescendo Amelia Holiday Show is sure to get everyone in the spirit. Ask anyone that attended the last three years and they will tell you this show is a "must-see" event. This full theatre production will include all your favorite holiday songs, local celebrity singers, dancing, acting and a few surprises. The show's singer line-up includes Marah Lovequist, Reed Meyer, LoriAnn Mooney, and Jennifer Burns. The show has two dates set – today and Thursday – at 7:30 p.m. Tickets range in price from \$10 for children up to \$45 for special packages. To purchase a ticket, go online to eventbrite.com/e/crescendo-amelia-presents-how-the-big-band-stole-christmas-tickets-39677309902. For groups of 12 or more, contact info@CrescendoAmelia.com for group rates.

Shady Ladies Art Studio at the corner of S. Eighth and Elm streets will continue its \$100 and under holiday market through December. The market will include original work and gift items by the Shady Ladies and other talented local artists and artisans. Shady Ladies is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday with extended hours until 6 p.m. Dec. 19 to 23. For more information, email info@shadyladiesart.com or visit facebook.com/shadyladiesartstudio. Shady Ladies is an accessible facility with off-street parking.

The Nassau County Public Library System will be closed Friday, Dec. 22, Monday, Dec. 25, and Tuesday, Dec. 26 for the holiday. Only the Fernandina Beach Branch will be open on Saturday, Dec. 23. The Yulee Branch Library, located on the FSCJ Campus, Nassau Center, will close at 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and at noon Friday through Dec. 22. The Yulee branch will be closed for the holidays Dec. 25 through Jan. 2.

Yulee United Methodist Church, located at 86003 Christian Way in Yulee, will host an 11 a.m. Christmas Eve service on Sunday, Dec. 24, as well as a Christmas Eve candlelight service at 6:30 p.m.

Amelia Island Church of Christ will hold a Christmas Eve candlelight service at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 24, and a New Year's Eve watch night service from 9 p.m. to midnight Sunday, Dec. 31. The church is located at 95762 Amelia Concourse in Fernandina Beach. For more information, call 277-3303.

UPCOMING

The Island Art Association's latest Nouveau Art Show, themed "Celebrate," will be on display throughout January. The judge for the show was Jacksonville artist and workshop teacher Ted Head. In February, the Nassau County High School Art Students Show will be on display and judged by an art student from the University of North Florida. For more information related to the exhibits, go online to islandart.org or call 261-7020. The IAA gallery is located at 18 N. Second St. in Fernandina Beach.

The Amelia Island Museum of History will hold its next Brown Bag Lunch on at noon Wednesday, Jan. 3. U.S. Navy Rear Admiral Frank Gallo will deliver a presentation on the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum. After retiring from the Navy in 1993, Gallo became a docent at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C., where he was able to use his experience as a pilot and his aeronautical engineering background (not to mention the Smithsonian's intensive docent training program) to teach visitors about the beginnings of commercial air transportation, and profile some of the museum's most fascinating attractions, like the 1903 Wright Flyer, the Enola Gay, and the SR-71 Blackbird. This program is free and open to the public. Seating is first-come, first-served. For more

information, contact Gray at 261-7378, ext. 102, or gray@ameliamuseum.org. Amelia Island Museum of History is located at 233 S. Third St. in Fernandina Beach.

The Amelia Island Genealogical Society will conduct a beginner genealogy course for those interested in researching their family history. Five sessions will be held 9:30 a.m. to noon on consecutive Saturdays from Jan. 6 to Feb. 3 at the Fernandina Beach Branch Library at 25 N. Fourth St. Topics will include Census and Civil Vital Records; Church and Cemetery Records; Courthouse, Military, and Immigration Records; Effective Use of Libraries and Archives; Digital Book and Newspaper research; and Organizational Techniques. Each student will also receive two hours of one-on-one assistance using internet resources to research their own ancestors. The fee for the full course is \$15 for AIGS members, \$40 per person (includes one-year individual AIGS membership) or \$65 per couple (includes a one-year AIGS family membership). Call Marie to register at 321-3460. Seating is limited, so please register ASAP.

Auditions for the play To Kill A Mockingbird will be held at the Amelia Musical Playhouse on Saturday, Jan. 6. Adapted by Christopher Sergel from the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by Harper Lee, the play will be directed by Bob Weintraub and presented at AMP in mid-April. Auditions for the three children who have major roles will be held from noon until 1 p.m. Adult role readings will be held from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Those unable to attend these auditions may make special arrangements with the director prior to Jan. 6 by contacting AMP at 277-3455.

The three children's roles include the following:

- Scout Finch – The protagonist of the story, Jean Louise "Scout" Finch is about 10 years old but projects more mature. She is intelligent and, by the standards of her time and place, a tomboy.
- Jem Finch – Scout's brother, Jeremy Atticus "Jem" Finch, about 14, is a typical American boy, refusing to back down from dares and fantasizing about playing football. Jem moves into adolescence during the story, and his ideals are shaken badly by the evil and injustice that he perceives.
- Charles Baker "Dill" Harris – Jem and Scout's summer neighbor and friend. Dill, also about 14, is a diminutive, confident boy with an active imagination. He represents the perspective of childhood innocence.

The three roles are demanding, both in terms of lines and blocking to be learned and in rehearsal and performance times. Applicants and their parents must have read the play to understand its adult nature, its racial issues and language that represents the culture of 1930s rural Alabama. Play scripts are available at AMP.

Major adult roles include:

- Atticus Finch (40s) – Lawyer and widower with a dry sense of humor. With his strongly held convictions, wisdom, and empathy, Atticus is the play's moral backbone.
- Calpurnia (30-40s) – The Finches' black cook and a stern disciplinarian.
- Maudie Atkinson (40s) – The Finches' neighbor, a sharp-tongued widow, and an old friend of the family. She is also the play's narrator.
- Bob Ewell (50s) – The antagonist of the play, bitter, bigoted, a drunk from one of Maycomb's poorest families.
- Mayella Ewell (20-30s) – Bob Ewell's abused, lonely, unhappy daughter and the alleged victim.
- Tom Robinson (20s) – The black field hand accused of rape.
- Mrs. Dubose (60s) – A Finch neighbor, ill-tempered, racist woman who battles morphine addiction.
- Heck Tate (30-40s) – Sheriff of Maycomb, a decent man who tries to protect the innocent.

Supporting roles are:

- Stephanie Crawford (40s) – Self-absorbed, gossipy, representative of Maycomb's middle class.
- Reverend Sykes (40-60s) – Pastor of the black church. Judge Taylor 50s, runs the trial.
- Walter Cunningham (40-

50s) – A poor farmer and part of the mob that seeks to lynch Robinson.

- Mr. Gilmer (40-50s) – Public prosecutor.
- Arthur "Boo" Radley (40s) – A recluse who does not appear until the final scene.
- Nathan Radley (40s) – Boo Radley's older brother.

Extras – some with one or two lines – will be needed and include two to three white men and two to three black men or women.

To Kill A Mockingbird will be presented April 12-14 and 19-21.

Auditions for the St. Marys Children's Theatre production of Willy Wonka, part of the company's fourth season, will be Saturday, Jan. 6, 2018 from 12 to 4 p.m. at Lisa Allen's Dance Works in St Marys, Ga., according to a news release. Lisa Allen and Megan Friese-Kaufman will co-direct the show, which will close the theater's main-stage season.

Based on the 1971 Gene Wilder movie *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory*, the play brings the story to the stage and includes favorite numbers such as "Pure Imagination" and "Candy Man" as well as new songs from the film's composer, Leslie Bricusse. Originally intended to help promote the newly formed Willy Wonka's Candy Company, the movie – adapted from Roald Dahl's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* – became a cult classic and has gone on to become one of the most beloved titles in the history of children's cinema.

Actors must be between the ages of 6 and 18 and should come prepared with a 30-second memorized monologue from a book or movie (not from this musical) and a 45-second memorized a capella vocal piece from a musical. Last names beginning with A-F will audition from 12 to 1 p.m., G-N from 1 to 2 p.m., O-S from 2-3 p.m. and T-Z from 3-4 p.m. Additional audition information can be found online at stmaryschildrenstheatre.org. Area youth wishing to join the technical crew for the production should also plan on attending this audition.

Willy Wonka performances are set for 7 p.m. April 13, 14, 20 and 21 at 2 p.m. April 15 and 22. All shows will be performed at Camden campus of the College of Coastal Georgia in Kingsland, Ga. For more information, call (912) 510-9700.

Nassau County Extension Director and Horticulture Agent Rebecca Jordi will conduct a plant clinic 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, Jan. 8, 2018. All county residents are invited to bring plant samples showing landscape problems to the Yulee Extension office at 86026 Pages Dairy Road in Yulee. Problems will be identified and solutions offered

for correction. There is no fee for this service. For information, call 530-6353. Master Gardeners are on phone duty 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fridays; call 530-6350 and press "1" for the Yulee office.

Nassau County Extension Director and Horticulture Agent Rebecca Jordi will teach a Landscape Matters class on growing and maintaining citrus plants at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2018 at the Yulee Extension office, located at 86026 Pages Dairy Road in Yulee. Jordi will discuss the importance of citrus disease management, identifying these diseases, protection and treatment. The class will include a hands-on instruction on pruning the lemon and orange trees at the Fruit Demonstration Garden. Bring your pruning shears and gloves. The class is free. For more information, call the Extension office at 530-6353. Master Gardeners are on phone duty 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fridays; call 530-6350 and press "1" for the Yulee office.

The Nassau County Adult Education Department will offer a beginning guitar class that will run 6:45 to 8 p.m. Thursdays for six weeks from Jan. 11 to Feb. 15.

The class will be held in the Team Center at the Nassau County School District Administration Building, located at 1201 Atlantic Ave. in Fernandina Beach. The class is limited to six participants and costs \$80 for instruction and materials. Call Michelle at 650-823-1767 to register or for more information.

The Plantation Guild & Gallery will host a gallery reception for Guild member Lorraine Kilmer, who is the January/February Featured Artist, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Feb. 2, 2018. Her work currently can be seen daily during the gallery's regular hours. The gallery is located at 94 Amelia Village Circle in Fernandina Beach, near the Omni Spa and Shops. For more information, go online to artamelia.com or call 432-1750.

ONGOING

Tickets for the Fernandina Beach High School Prom scheduled for 7 to 11 p.m. Saturday, April 14, 2018 at the Golf Club of Amelia Island, located at 4700 Amelia Island Parkway in Fernandina Beach, are now on sale. Tickets purchased prior to Jan. 1 are available for \$50 for seniors and \$75 for juniors. Beginning Jan. 1, the price for all tickets will be \$100. Tickets for guests will be available beginning in February and will also cost \$100. Tickets can be purchased in the FBHS cafeteria during Anchor Hour on Thursdays. Prom contracts must be signed before tickets can be purchased and juniors

and seniors must fill out a guest form when purchasing a ticket for a non-FBHS student.

Kings Bay RC Modelers, established in 1989, is located at the intersection of Clark's Bluff Road and Oakwell Road in Kingsland, Georgia. We are a small Club with excellent facilities, consisting of friendly people passionate about our hobby. Our pilots fly many types of radio controlled airplanes and helicopters. We welcome pilots of all experience levels. To learn more please visit bit.ly/2xDeCFB.

ACBL Duplicate Bridge, Peck Center, 516 S. 10th St., Fernandina Beach. Amelia Island Duplicate Bridge Club hosts the only sanctioned ACBL duplicate bridge games on the island. Monday, 1 p.m.; Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.; Thursday, 1 p.m. For information, contact fredstokes50@gmail.com or (770) 616-7664.

Bingo is played every Thursday at American Legion Post 54, 626 S. Third St. The public is invited to play in the smoke-free meeting hall. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., and early bird games begin at 6:05 p.m. Regular session, which consists of nine games for \$20, begins at 6:30 p.m. All games have cash prizes, and proceeds are donated to help veterans, children and the community. You must be 18 to be in the hall during play. Call 261-7900.

Dust off your drumsticks, oil your valves or wet your reed to join the Nassau Community Band! The ensemble meets weekly for rehearsal at 6 p.m. Thursdays in the Yulee Middle School band room, 85439 Miner Road. For more information, visit www.nassaucommunityband.com.

Lions Club bingo, every Thursday and Sunday, Yulee Lions Club Bingo Hall. Doors open at 4 p.m., warm-ups at 5:15 p.m. Early birds play at 5:45 p.m. with the

regular program at 6:30 p.m. Participants must be 18 years old; minimum purchase \$15. Information, 708-2591.

Living With Loss is a support group organized by the Nassau Alcohol Crime Drug Abatement Coalition for anyone who has lost a loved one and needs a safe place for comfort and support.

Meetings are Mondays from 4-5 p.m. at the Peck Center, 516 S. 10th St., Fernandina Beach. Cost is \$10 per meeting. Call 277-3699 or email supportgroups@nacdac.com for information.

Contract bridge, Monday and Thursday, except the first Monday of each month, 12:30-3:30 p.m., Peck Community Center, 516 S. 10th St., Fernandina Beach.

Gerri's Corner of Comfort is open every Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and every Thursday, 1-4 p.m., Barnabas Center, 1303 Jasmine St., Fernandina Beach. It is a Nonprofit resource center for women with cancer, answers questions in a confidential setting, provides support group information and more. Appointments are preferred. Call 261-7000.

Guests on the Ghost Tour will learn Amelia Island ghost stories while they tiptoe through dark streets and walk in the footsteps of a bygone era as the past comes alive through the skillful storytelling of your guide. This tour begins at 6 p.m. every Friday.

Meet your guide in the cemetery behind St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 801 Atlantic Ave. Tickets may be purchased at the Amelia Island Museum of History for \$10/ adults and \$5/students, or before the tour from the guide with check or cash only.

Submit event announcements/briefs to Calendar Listing c/o News-Leader, 511 Ash St., Fernandina Beach, FL 32034; editor2@fbnews-leader.com; or 261-3696.

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CROSSWORD

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DISH DEALS!!

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for 24 months where available

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HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

ACROSS

- Hose woes
- Bag to Coco Chanel
- Dart
- Dam
- *Public health research org.
- Pageant prize
- Not slouching
- Gershwin brother
- Slide to open
- *Exertion session
- *Lack of this can lead to sickness and weakness
- Partaker's pronoun
- E-mailed
- Employment
- Homemade swing seat
- Wacko one
- Second-hand
- First rate
- Crossbeam
- International Civil Aviation Org.
- *Blood pump
- Military no-show
- Editor's insertion mark
- Affect emotionally
- Raise the roof
- Lands
- "Put a lid ____!"

- ____ and don'ts
- Regular attendee
- *Do it to fruits and veggies
- *Important healthy lifestyle unit
- Nonsensical
- Courtroom excuse
- Unit of absorbed radiation
- Words to live by
- Java cotton tree
- Hot temper
- Spot for water-line marks, pl.
- Gaelic
- Typographer's measurement units
- Speck in the ocean

DOWN

- A whole bunch
- Agrippina's slayer
- Affirm with confidence
- GEICO's mascot
- Take the first steps
- Hissy fit
- *Fresh need
- Irritate by rubbing
- Certain Scandinavian
- Take it easy
- Pupil's place
- Memorial Day solo
- *You should be

- ashamed!"
- Heep of "David Copperfield"
- Night spot
- Washington post
- *Jay Kordich's favorite drink
- Extinct Italic language
- Soul patch or chin curtain
- Fish eggs, pl.
- Carhop's load
- Chewed
- Convex molding
- *Kettle ____ Better"
- Ireland, romantically
- "____-and-true"
- Mongolian monetary unit
- Hawaiian dish
- *Meditative Chinese exercise
- Ghostlike
- Tori, sing.
- Have it and eat it too
- Banned apple spray
- "Loose ____ sink ships"
- Piercing woodwind
- 15th of March
- "Go ____ it on the Mountain"
- *Get moving and don't remain this
- C in COGS
- *Biceps location

CATS ANGELS

It’s time for mistletoe and holly, but this Holly doesn’t need a reason for giving kisses because she gives plenty of them. Holly is a very sweet and loving three-month-old tortoiseshell female kitten. She loves to be held, snuggles on your neck and purrs away. Holly was an abandoned kitten and just arrived at Cats Angels. In her first few hours with us, this special fur baby made friends with everyone she met! Stop by to visit and meet Holly and all of our cats waiting for their “forever homes,” especially this holiday season. They all have been spayed or neutered and micro-chipped and are current on their vaccinations. Our Adoption Center is open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday or you can call 321-2267 to make an appointment to visit.

Cats Angels is a volunteer-based organization helping the community since 2001 with low-cost spay and neuter services and TNVR (Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return to Caregiver). We receive no local or federal government funding and operate solely on private donations, fund raising, grants and sales from our Thrift Store. Your support is appreciated. If you want to know more about how to support or donate to Cats Angels, visit www.catsangels.com and click on



“How To Help” where you will find many ways to lend a hand. Recycle your aluminum and cat food cans at the bins in our parking lot at 709 S. 8th Street. We graciously accept donations for cat care and resale items at our Thrift Store. Information about our spay-neuter, TNVR and adoption programs is on our website. Cats Angels welcomes volunteers to help us care for the cats and as retail clerks in our Thrift Store. Our volunteer application is online or you can call or stop by Cats Angels to sign up.

Cats Angels can help you get the animals in your care spayed or neutered. It will control the overpopulation of unwanted cats and dogs. Visit the Spay/Neuter TNVR page on our website or call us at 321-2267 for help with feral and community cats or information on low-cost spay-neuter services.

Spay and Neuter – The Responsible Solution.

NASSAU HUMANE SOCIETY



How about a sweet Bonbon for Christmas – and for a lifetime! Our Bonbon is a mixed-breed dog, a little more than a year old with a milk chocolate-colored coat. She’s medium-sized at about 43 pounds and fully grown. She’s very affectionate and will gently lean in on you to soak up all the loving she can. She’s housetrained and crate trained, and rides well in the car. She recently spent about three weeks with a foster family as she successfully recovered from heartworm treatment, and they said she loves to be petted and cuddled. She was great with their kids, ages two to seven, and gently accepted treats from them. She’s young, has energy and likes to play, but also handles quiet time well. She’d love to rest her head on your lap! She’s working on her leash walking, comes when she’s called and knows how to sit. Her fosters said she’s a “shadow dog” and wants to be where you are. She’s also a true rescue dog because she came to us from a shelter where she was almost out of time through no fault of her own. Now she’s ready for her



forever home. Please come meet Bonbon – she’s sweet as candy!

Mini Merlin is one handsome dude! He’s a domestic shorthair mix and about a year old. He’s not very big and is fully grown. He has a dense, plush coat that is mostly black with a white bib. His eyes are almond shaped and a beautiful golden color. He loves being petted and responds when you talk to him. He likes to play with cat toys and other cats in our cattery. He’s neutered and vaccinated and has a microchip. If you’d like to meet him, we suggest calling 321-1647 or checking our website to see if he’s in our cattery or at one of our remote adoption sites. Please come see Mini Merlin and let him work his magic on you!

Our adoption center at 639 Airport Road in Fernandina Beach is open from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday (new winter hours), 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday. You can contact us at 321-1647 or info@nassauhumane.org, and follow us on Facebook.

Kitty wish tree

The Kitty Wish Tree at the entrance of the Cats Angels Thrift Store is loaded with lots of “kitty wish” cards from our fur babies. You just choose a wish and make it come true. Our cats have a variety of wishes for cat food, treats, litter, cleaning supplies, spay/neuter surgeries, vaccinations and more. Your donations will help with our low cost spay/neuter, TNVR and adoption programs. There are other ways to support Cats Angels, too. Visit our website at catsangels.com and click on “How To Help” to read our Annual Appeal Letter that highlights the work we have done this year. Cats Angels is very appreciative and thankful of the support we receive from our community.



For some, quiet & reflective worship is more comforting at Christmas.

The Longest Night Worship Service

A Christmas service of hope for those hurting during the holidays.

Memorial United Methodist Church
601 Centre Street, Downtown
Thursday, December 21st, 6:30PM

City officials win regional leadership awards

The Northeast Florida Regional Council recently recognized several Fernandina Beach officials as part of its Northeast Florida Regional Leadership Awards.

At the 2017 Northeast Florida Elected Officials Luncheon and Regional Leadership Awards for Excellence, the Northeast Florida Regional Council thanked elected officials for their service, and recognized the best projects and the brightest leaders in the region. Awards were given for regional excellence in a broad range of areas that will help define the future of Northeast Florida. This is the 15th year that the Regional Council has recognized the people, programs, and communities in Northeast Florida that are making a difference.

The Regional Awards recognition program is anchored by the overall Regional Leadership Award, given to a leader who exemplifies service to community and commitment to regionalism. This year’s recipient of the Northeast Florida Regional Council Regional Leadership Award is Fernandina Beach’s Vice Mayor Len Kreger. Kreger is active with the Northeast Florida Regional Council (currently serving on the Affordable Housing Committee) and the Nassau County Affordable Housing Committee. He has



Above left, Fernandina Beach Vice Mayor Len Kreger with NEFRC 1st Vice President Catherine Robinson. Center, Fernandina Beach Utilities Director John Mandrick and NEFRC 1st Vice President Catherine Robinson. Right, Fernandina Beach Senior Planner Kelly Gibson and NEFRC 1st Vice President Catherine Robinson.

been active with several environmental efforts: serving on the Sustainable Fernandina Committee, chairman of the Bike Friendly Committee resulting in the Bronze Bicycle Friendly Designation to the city, working to bring the Blueway Designation to the city, working to acquire and implement the Coastal Partnership Initiative Grant, and leading efforts related to the Sea Turtle Conservancy Lighting Grant. He previously served on the Nassau County Code Enforcement Board, the Board of Directors for Wild Amelia, and as a part-time executive director of Keep Nassau Beautiful.

The Regional Award for Excellence in Environmental Stewardship recognizes indi-

viduals, organizations, or specific projects with a primary focus on long-term protection, conservation and enhancement of the region’s natural resources and leadership in promoting and awareness. This year’s recipient is the city of Fernandina Beach Wastewater Treatment Plant Solar Program, developed by Fernandina Beach Utilities Director John Mandrick. The solar project has reduced the need to purchase energy from traditional power providers, with the expected savings to be significant over its 30-year life. An additional benefit is the substantial reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, thereby improving the quality of life in Fernandina Beach.

The Regional Award for Excellence in Planning and Growth Management recognizes a focus on meeting very real planning and growth management needs. This year’s award goes to Fernandina Beach Senior Planner Kelly Gibson, whose efforts have included revitalization plans for the gateway corridor to downtown, increased density regulations to promote housing options and economic vitality, several non-motorized trail projects, and a leading role in tree conservation. Her management of the city’s Comprehensive Plan earned the city a Bronze Award from the American Planning Association for Standards for Sustaining Places.

Poetry contest for high school students

Nassau County high school students in public, private or home school programs have until March 9, 2018 to submit a poem for the 3rd Annual Jax Poetry Fest. Each April, Hope at Hand hosts a poetry festival to celebrate National Poetry Month.

Students may submit one poem of no more than 15 lines on any subject and in any style except concrete and black out poems. The content of the poem may not be vulgar, offensive or contain profanity. Poems must

be original, individual work of the entrant. Prizes are \$50 for first place, \$40 for second place and \$30 for third place. For more information, go online to hopeathand.org.

Hope at Hand is a 501(c)(3) charity that provides poetry lessons for at-risk youth populations in North Florida. Founded by veteran educator Steffani Hendricks Fletcher in 2009, Hope at Hand combines poetry and art to help youth process life, love, and progress in a changing world. Hope at Hand part-

ners with over 15 youth agencies in North Florida. Hope at Hand programming instills confidence and independence while improving social connections and emotional growth through poetry. All poems presented incorporate the concepts of choice and change. To make a donation or to learn more about Hope at Hand and its partners, visit www.HopeatHand.org.

Hope at Hand is registered with The United Way of Northeast Florida.

CALLAHAN STUDENTS COMPETE IN BEE



Callahan Intermediate School hosted its annual school spelling bee on Tuesday, Dec. 12. At right, Liam Green, left, competed against 17 other fifth graders to win first place, and Jason Sweat, right, was runner up. Green will now move on to the next round of competition at the County Spelling Bee in January. Above, the entire 18-member field of fifth graders who took part in the annual spelling bee sit for a photo after the competition.



EMBRYOLOGY PROGRAM SEEKS VOLUNTEERS



Every year, Nassau County 4-H conducts numerous embryology programs throughout the county and reaches over 1,000 youth. The embryology program allows students to witness chicks hatching in the classrooms while instilling life skills in youth, such as responsibility and science literacy. To meet this year’s increased demand for the program, 4-H needs additional volunteers to help during the school day for a few hours and teach classrooms about the hatching and incubation process as well as chick care and other topics. Previous experience is not required. A training session will take place at 3 p.m. Jan. 22, 2018 at the Callahan Extension Office. To sign up or for more information, call Kelsey Irvine at 530-6353.

SUBMITTED

PET PROJECTS

Donations needed

Bring gently used items to donate to Second Chance resale store, 1002 S. 14th St., to benefit the Nassau Humane Society’s programs. Free pickup is available by calling 321-0022.

Cats Angels need your help

Cats Angels is in need of volunteers for our Thrift Store and for cat care. If you like

working in a retail setting, we have shifts available Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and from 2 to 5 p.m. If those hours don’t fit in your schedule but you would still like to help in the Thrift Store, let us know. The kitties need your help too. We have two cleaning shifts (morning and evening) every day and the cats and our volunteers are happy to meet new people. Our volunteer application is available online at our website at bit.ly/2ijwWGf or at the Cats

Angels Thrift Store, 709 S. Eighth St. We’re open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. For information, call 321-2267.

NHS needs volunteers

The Nassau Humane Society is looking to add to its volunteers to assist with various services. Visit nassauhumane.org, email info@nassauhumane.org or call 321-1647.



SHERIFF BILL LEEPER/SPECIAL

Nassau County Sheriff's Office deputies and correctional officers shopped with 240 Nassau County children as part of this year's Shop with a Cop.

Shop with a Cop benefits 240

Deputies and correctional officers from the Nassau County Sheriff's Office as well as troopers from the Florida Highway Patrol spent Dec. 7 and 14 at the Yulee Wal-Mart with 240 Nassau County children participating in the in Shop with a Cop program.

Shop with a Cop pairs children from low-income families with officers who treat them to a spirited day of shopping in an effort to create a positive bond between the kids and officers.

"Nothing embraces the Christmas spirit more than watching children select the toys and books on their wish lists and making sure they have clothes and other necessities," said Sheriff Bill Leeper. "We look forward to participating in this event every year and I am very proud of the officers and civilian employees who volunteer their time to make this day special for these children."

Each child is allotted \$100, half of which they must spend on necessities like clothing, shoes, school supplies, and other needs. The other half is reserved for toys, movies and other fun items.

The event is made possible by the support of NCSO Charities, Inc. (which holds fundraising events throughout the year), Amelia Island Concours d' Elegance Foundation, Inc., Wal-Mart,



and individual donors.

NCSO Charities, Inc. is a Florida Not For Profit Corporation established to organize, promote, and sponsor charitable missions and events in Nassau County. To donate to Shop with a Cop, contact Lawanna Ware, treasurer, at 548-4018. All donations are tax deductible.

LEGAL NOTICES CALL FOR EARLY LEGAL DEADLINE INFORMATION FOR THE DEC. 27 AND JAN. 3 HOLIDAY WEEK PUBLICATIONS.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR

NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 17CA000306AXYX
WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FS8, AS TRUSTEE OF STANWICH MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST A,

Plaintiff,
vs.
ELAINE KYLE A/K/A ELAINE S. KYLE; et al.,
Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF ACTION
TO: The Unknown Beneficiaries of The Kyle Living Trust
Last Known Residence: Unknown

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in Nassau County, Florida: LL THAT CERTAIN LOT, PIECE OR PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE CITY OF FERNANDINA BEACH (FORMERLY NAMED FERNANDINA), COUNTY OF NASSAU AND STATE OF FLORIDA AND BEING FURTHER DESCRIBED ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL MAP OR PLAT OF SAID CITY (AS LITHOGRAPHED AND ISSUED BY THE FLORIDA RAILROAD COMPANY IN 1857 AND ENLARGED, REVISED AND REISSUED BY THE FLORIDA RAILROAD COMPANY IN 1857 AND ENLARGED, REVISED AND REISSUED BY THE FLORIDA TOWN IMPROVEMENT COMPANY IN 1887 AND 1901) AS:

LOTS THIRTY-ONE (31) AND THIRTY-TWO (32) IN BLOCK ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-TWO (172),
has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on ALDRIDGE I PITE, LLP, Plaintiffs attorney, at 1615 South Congress Avenue, Suite 200, Delray Beach, FL 33445, on or before, Jan. 15, 2018 and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on Plaintiffs attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.

Dated on Dec. 8, 2017.

As Clerk of the Court
By: Derek Harden
As Deputy Clerk
1133-9468
#394184

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA. CASE NO.: 2017-CP-355 DIVISION: A

IN RE: ESTATE OF MARVIN E. JOHNSON, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of MARVIN W. JOHNSON, deceased, File Number 2017-CP-355, is pending in the Circuit Court for Nassau County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which 76347 Veterans Way, Yulee, FL 32097. The names and addresses of the personal representative(s) and the personal representatives attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedents estate on whom a copy of this notice has been served must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and persons having claims or demands against the decedents estate must file their claims with this Court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA STATUTES WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENTS DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of the first publication of this Notice is December 20, 2017. Attorney for Personal Representative: J. Price Poole, Jr., Esquire Florida Bar No.0157674 303 Center Street, Suite 200 Fernandina Beach, FL 32034 Telephone: (904)261-0742 Personal Representative: JAMES S. TOBIAS 202 North 18th Street Fernandina Beach, FL 32034 #394173

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA CIRCUIT CIVIL DIVISION CASE NO.: 2014-CA-000216 EVERBANK

Plaintiff(s),
vs.

MARIA DIAZ; RAFAEL JUAREZ; CARTESIAN POINTE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.; Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
THAT, pursuant to Plaintiffs' Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered on June 14, 2017, in the above-captioned action, the Clerk of Court will sell to

the highest and best bidder for cash at www.nassaulexrealforeclose.com in accordance with Chapter 45, Florida Statutes on the 11th day of January, 2018 at 11:30 AM on the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment of Foreclosure, to wit:

LOT 29, OF CARTESIAN POINTE UNIT 3, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 7, PAGE(S) 124 THROUGH 127, INCLUSIVE, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA.

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 76031 LONG POND LOOP, YULEE, FL 32097

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens, must file a claim within sixty (60) days after the sale.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT. If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator for the circuit court system at crtntrp@coj.net or (904) 630-2564 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

John A. Crawford
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
As Clerk of the Court
By: Derek Harden
Deputy Clerk
Padgett Law Group,
Attorney for Plaintiff
6267 Old Water Oak Road,
Suite 203
Tallahassee, FL 32312
attorney@padgettlaw.net
21 12-20-2017
#393520

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 4TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION CASE NO. 17CA000125AXYX

FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION (FANNIE MAE), A CORPORATION ORGANIZED AND EXISTING UNDER THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Plaintiff,

vs.
PATRICIA LEE FOSTER A/K/A PATRICIA L. FOSTER A/K/A PATRICIA L. FOSTER; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF PATRICIA L. FOSTER A/K/A PATRICIA L. FOSTER A/K/A PATRICIA FOSTER; FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION; STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE; CLERK OF COURTS NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA; UNKNOWN PERSON(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY;
Defendant(s)

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated November 15, 2017, and entered in Case No. 17CA000125AXYX, of the Circuit Court of the 4th Judicial Circuit in and for Nassau County, Florida, wherein

FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION (FANNIE MAE), A CORPORATION ORGANIZED AND EXISTING UNDER THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA is Plaintiff and PATRICIA LEE FOSTER A/K/A PATRICIA L. FOSTER A/K/A PATRICIA FOSTER; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF PATRICIA L. FOSTER A/K/A PATRICIA FOSTER; FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION; STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE; CLERK OF COURTS NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA; are defendants. JOHN A. CRAWFORD, the Clerk of the Circuit Court, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash by ELECTRONIC SALE AT: WWW.NASALEXREALFORECLOSE.COM, at 11:30 a.m., on the 11 day of January, 2018, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

LOT 5, MOBLEY HEIGHTS NORTH UNIT TWO, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 5, PAGE(S) 316, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA, LESS AND EXCEPT THAT PART IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 843, PAGE 909, BEING FURTHER DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: THE EASTERLY 5 FEET OF LOT 5, AS SHOWN ON PLAT OF MOBLEY HEIGHTS NORTH UNIT TWO, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 5, PAGE(S) 316, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA.

TOGETHER WITH A MOBILE HOME ID # GAFLN34A16506SH AND ID # GAFLN34A16506SH TITLE # 64303327 AND #64303328.

A person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale.

Dated this 4th day of De-

ember, 2017.
JOHN A. CRAWFORD
As Clerk of said Court
By Derek Harden
As Deputy Clerk

This Notice is provided in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator at (904)548-4600 press 0, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

Submitted by: Kathane & Associates, P.A. 8201 Peters Road, Ste.3000 Plantation, FL 33324 Telephone: (954) 382-3486 Telefacsimile: (954) 382-5380 Designated service address: notice@kahaneandassociates.com File No.: 16-00404 SET 21 12-20-2017 #394167

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO. 16CA000345AXYX

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Plaintiff, v. MARY M. ABBOTT; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF MARY M. ABBOTT; UNKNOWN TENANT 1; UNKNOWN TENANT 2; AQUA FINANCE, INC.; PAGE HILL OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

NOTICE OF SALE
Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered on June 14, 2017, in this cause, in the Circuit Court of Nassau County, Florida, the clerk shall sell the property situated in Nassau County, Florida, described as:

LOT 4, OF PAGE HILL, UNIT ONE, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 6, PAGES 237-238, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA.
a/k/a 86081 WORTHINGTON DR. YULEE, FL 32097-3488 at public sale, to the highest and best bidder, for cash, online at www.nassaulexrealforeclose.com, on JANUARY 4, 2018 beginning at 11:30 AM.

If you are a person claiming a right to funds remaining after the sale, you must file a claim with the clerk no later than 60 days after the sale. If you fail to file a claim you will not be entitled to any remaining funds.

Dated this 29th day of Nov., 2017.

John A. Crawford
Clerk of the Circuit Court
By: Derek Harden
Deputy Clerk
eXL Legal, PLLC
12425 28TH STREET NORTH, SUITE 200
ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33716
EFILING@EXLLLEGAL.COM
Fax No. (727) 539-1094
AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) NOTICE: INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES NEEDING A REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROCEEDING SHOULD CONTACT THE COURT ADMINISTRATORS OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. TELEPHONE (904) 630-2564; OR, IF HEARING IMPAIRED, 1-800-955-8771 (TDD); OR 1-800-955-8770 (V) VIA FLORIDA RELAY SERVICE. 888150167 21 12-13-2017 #392279

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION CASE #: 2017-CA-000129 DIVISION: A

U.S. Bank National Association as Indenture Trustee for CIM Trust 2015-3AG Mortgage-Backed Notes, Series 2015-3AG

Plaintiff,
-vs.- Ronald Carlton Wilkins a/k/a Ronald C. Wilkins; Russell G. Wilkins; Vincent T. Wilkins; Michelle Susanne Baird a/k/a Michelle Susanne Wilkins; Unknown Spouse of Russell G. Wilkins; Unknown Spouse of Vincent T. Wilkins; Unknown Heirs, Devisees, Grantees, Assignees, Creditors and Lienors of Helen L. Wilkins, and All Other Persons Claiming by and Through, Under, Against The Named Defendant(s); OneMain Financial of America, Inc. Successor in Interest to American General Financial Services of America, Inc.; Unknown Parties in Possession #1, if living, and all Unknown Parties claiming by, through, under and against the above named Defendant(s) who are not known to be dead or alive, whether said Unknown Parties may claim an interest as Spouse, Heirs, Devisees, Grantees, or Other Claimants Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF ACTION FORECLOSURE PROCEEDINGS
PROPERTY

TO: Unknown Heirs, Devisees, Grantees, Assignees,

Creditors and Lienors of Helen L. Wilkins, and All Other Persons Claiming by and Through, Under, Against The Named Defendant(s): ADDRESS UNKNOWN

Residence unknown, if living, including any unknown spouse of the said Defendants, if either has remarried and if either or both of said Defendants are dead, their respective unknown heirs, devisees, grantees, assignees, creditors, lienors, and trustees, and all other persons claiming by, through, under or against the named Defendant(s); and the aforementioned named Defendant(s) and such of the aforementioned unknown Defendants as may be infants, incompetents or otherwise not sui juris.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action has been commenced to foreclose a mortgage on the following real property, lying and being and situated in Nassau County, Florida, more particularly described as follows:

ALL THAT CERTAIN PROPERTY LYING AND BEING A PORTION OF SECTION FIFTY-ONE (51) (JOHN LOWE GRANT), TOWNSHIP THREE (3) NORTH, RANGE TWENTY-SEVEN (27) EAST, NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

FOR A POINT OF REFERENCE, COMMENCE AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE EAST LINE OF RANGE TWENTY-SEVEN (27) EAST, NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND THE NORTHERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY OF THE SEABOARD COASTLINE RAILROAD (HAVING A 120.0 FOOT RIGHT OF WAY); THENCE NORTH SIXTY-THREE (63) DEGREES, FORTY-FIVE (45) MINUTES, THIRTY (30) SECONDS WEST, ALONG SAID RIGHT OF WAY, A DISTANCE OF FOUR THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED ONE AND THIRTEEN HUNDREDTHS (4,101.13) FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUE NORTH SIXTY-THREE (63) DEGREES, FORTY-FIVE (45) MINUTES, THIRTY (30) SECONDS WEST, ALONG SAID RIGHT OF WAY, A DISTANCE OF FOUR HUNDRED FORTY-THREE (443.50) FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT, THENCE NORTH TWENTY-ONE (21) MINUTES, TWENTY-THREE (23) SECONDS EAST, A DISTANCE OF ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-TWO HUNDREDTHS (100.32) FEET TO AN IRON; THENCE SOUTH SIXTY-THREE (63) DEGREES, FORTY-FIVE (45) MINUTES, THIRTY (30) SECONDS EAST, A DISTANCE OF FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY-EIGHT AND ONE HUNDREDTH (428.01) FEET TO AN IRON; THENCE SOUTH TWELVE (12) DEGREES, FORTY-SIX (46) MINUTES, TWENTY ONE (21) SECONDS WEST, A DISTANCE OF ONE HUNDRED TWO AND SEVENTY-NINE HUNDREDTHS (102.79) FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

ALONG AND TOGETHER WITH A THIRTY (30) FOOT EASEMENT FOR INGRESS AND EGRESS LYING WEST OF AND ADJACENT TO THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED LINE: FOR A POINT OF REFERENCE, COMMENCE AT THE FOREMENTIONED POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE NORTH TWELVE (12) DEGREES, FORTY-SIX (46) MINUTES, TWENTY-ONE (21) SECONDS EAST, A DISTANCE OF ONE HUNDRED TWO AND SEVENTY-NINE HUNDREDTHS (102.79) FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

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TOGETHER WITH THAT CERTAIN MANUFACTURED HOME, YEAR: 1999, MAKE: NOBILITY, VIN#: N89144A AND VIN#: N89144B.

more commonly known as 86001 Ezell Lane, Yulee, FL 32097.

This action has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defense, if any, upon SHAPIRO, FISHMAN & GACHE, LLP, Attorneys for Plaintiff, whose address is 4630 Woodland Corporate Blvd., Suite 100, Tampa, FL 33614, on or before Jan. 12, 2018 and file the original with the clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

WITNESS my hand and seal of this Court on the 5th day of Dec., 2017.
John A. Crawford
Circuit and County Courts
By: Derek Harden
Deputy Clerk

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator at

(904) 548-4600 press 0, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.
Phone- (904) 548-4909
Fax- (904)548-4949
TDD/TTY- Dial 711
E-Mail - calewis@nassaulexrealforeclose.com
17-306605 FC01 CXE
21 12-13-20-2017 #392291

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO THE FOLLOWING PERSONS AT THE LAST KNOWN ADDRESS OF:

Rachel M. Barcaro
18 Jasmine Pl
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034
James F. Faircloth
15842 CR 108
Hilliard, FL 32046
Preston D. Fletcher
54439 Church Rd
Callahan, FL 32011
Sergio B. Izzo
87106 Kipling Dr
Yulee, FL 32097
Michelle D. Reed
54155 Roy Booth Rd
Callahan, FL 32011
Meghan F. Shiver
56461 Griffin Rd
Callahan, FL 32011
Justin P. Thomas
95284 Mobley Heights Rd
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034
Robert K. Todd
1014 S 14th St
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034
Terrell R. Webb
45005 Colson Rd
Callahan, FL 32011

Pursuant to Section 98.075, Florida Statutes, you are hereby notified that notice was published on November 8, 2017 and November 9, 2017 that you were potentially ineligible to be registered to vote. Failure to respond within thirty (30) days after that notice was published resulted in a determination of ineligibility by the Nassau County Supervisor of Elections and removal of your name from the statewide voter registration system. Please contact the Supervisor to receive information regarding the basis for ineligibility and the procedure to resolve this matter. If further assistance is needed, please contact the Supervisor of Elections at the numbers listed below.

Vicki P. Cannon
Nassau County
Supervisor of Elections
96135 Nassau Place, Suite 3
Yulee, Florida 32097
Telephone 904-491-7500
Toll Free 1-866-260-4301
11 12-20-2017 #393519

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

BILLS TOWING gives Notice of Foreclosure of Lien and intent to sell these vehicles on 01/05/2018, 8:30 at 425 S 8TH ST FERNANDINA, FL 32034-3609, pursuant to subsection 713.78 of the Florida Statutes. BILLS TOWING reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids.

KNDJIN2A27F7223623
2015 KIA
11 12-20-2017 #393772

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that

CAPITAL ONE CLTR

The holder of the following certificate(s) has filed said certificate(s) for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number(s) and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the name (s) in which it is assessed are as follows:
Parcel Number: 21-2N-25-0000-0005-0020
Certificate Number: 807
File Number: 17TD000052AXYX
Description of Property: PT OR 946/1954
Assessed To: MARISSA WYNDAM EMERY H BYRD
FAY LENORA BYRD TOMPKINS MELVIN CLARK ROBINSON LARRY BERNARD ROBINSON RUTH BYRD SMITH HELEN ALFREYD ROBINSON CARSON
GLODIA JEAN SAMPSON FLORENCE MCNAIR ROBINSON

All of the above property is located in Nassau County, in the State of Florida.
Unless such certificate(s) shall be redeemed according to Law, the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the Highest Bidder at the MAIN ENTRANCE OF THE ROBERT M. FOSTER JUSTICE CENTER, 76347 VETERANS WAY, YULEE, FL, on the 9th DAY OF JANUARY 2018 between the hours of 11:00 am and 2:00 pm. The Clerk of Court's Office Policy is to hold the sale at 11:30 a.m.
JOHN A. CRAWFORD
NASSAU COUNTY
CLERK OF COURT
BY: RHODA GOODWIN, DEPUTY CLERK

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator at (904) 548-4600 press 0, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.
AT 12-06-13-20-27-2017 #391112

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that

TIM DEEVER

The holder of the following certificate(s) has filed said certificate(s) for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number(s) and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the name (s) in which it is assessed are as follows:
Parcel Number: 45-2N-28-5508-0002-0310
Certificate Number: 2540
File Number:

notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.
AT 12-06-13-20-27-2017 #391104

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that

CAPITAL ONE CLTR

The holder of the following certificate(s) has filed said certificate(s) for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number(s) and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the name (s) in which it is assessed are as follows:
Parcel Number: 19-2N-25-0000-0102-0080
Certificate Number: 787
File Number: 17TD000053AXYX
Description of Property: IN OR 1322/22
2006 PALM HARBOR DW/MH
Assessed To: LEE JANUSZKIEWICZ
SHERRI JANUSZKIEWICZ

All of the above property is located in Nassau County, in the State of Florida.

Unless such certificate(s) shall be redeemed according to Law, the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the Highest Bidder at the MAIN ENTRANCE OF THE ROBERT M. FOSTER JUSTICE CENTER, 76347 VETERANS WAY, YULEE, FL, on the 9th DAY OF JANUARY 2018 between the hours of 11:00 am and 2:00 pm. The Clerk of Court's Office Policy is to hold the sale at 11:30 a.m.
JOHN A. CRAWFORD
NASSAU COUNTY
CLERK OF COURT
BY: RHODA GOODWIN, DEPUTY CLERK

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator at (904) 548-4600 press 0, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

AT 12-06-13-20-27-2017 #391110

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that

CB INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENTS

The holder of the following certificate(s) has filed said certificate(s) for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number(s) and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the name (s) in which it is assessed are as follows:
Parcel Number: 07-3N-26-0000-0003-0000
Certificate Number: 1175
File Number: 17TD000054AXYX
Description of Property: IN OR 459 PG 464 EX 3-1 3-5 & 3-4
Assessed To: VERONA JACOBS FRANK JACOBS FRANSCEENA M JACOBS EST

All of the above property is located in Nassau County, in the State of Florida.
Unless such certificate(s) shall be redeemed according to Law, the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the Highest Bidder at the MAIN ENTRANCE OF THE ROBERT M. FOSTER JUSTICE CENTER, 76347 VETERANS WAY, YULEE, FL, on the 16th DAY OF JANUARY 2018 between the hours of 11:00 am and 2:00 pm. The Clerk of Court's Office Policy is to hold the sale at 11:30 a.m.
JOHN A. CRAWFORD
NASSAU COUNTY
CLERK OF COURT
BY: RHODA GOODWIN, DEPUTY CLERK

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator at (904) 548-4600 press 0, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if

To Place An Ad, Call (904) 261-3696. The Classified Ad Deadline for Wednesdays is 5:00 p.m. Monday and for Fridays is 5:00 p.m. Wednesday

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Lost & Found
Personals
Public Notice
Miscellaneous
EMPLOYMENT
Help Wanted
Business Opportunity

Work Wanted
Services
EDUCATION
Schools & Instruction
Tutoring
Lessons/Classes
FARM & ANIMAL
Equipment

Livestock & Supplies
Pets/Supplies
Services
MERCHANDISE
Garage Sales
Articles for Sale
Antiques-Collectibles
Produce

Appliances
Home Furnishings
Musical Instruments
Auctions
Wanted to Buy
Free Items
Miscellaneous

RECREATION
Boats/Watercraft
RVs/Campers/Trailers
REAL ESTATE
Homes for Sale
Condominiums
Mobile Homes
Ocean/Waterfront

Lots & Land
Farms & Acreage
Commercial/Retail
Investment Property
Other Areas
Wanted to Buy
RENTALS
Apartments

Condominiums
Homes
Rooms
Mobile Homes
Vacation Rentals
Office
Commercial/Retail
Roommate Wanted

Wanted to Rent
TRANSPORTATION
Automobiles
SUVs
Trucks
Vans
Motorcycles/ATV's

THE NEWS-LEADER SERVICE DIRECTORY IS LOCATED BELOW

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lost & Found

IF YOU HAVE LOST Your Pet - please check the Nassau Humane Society facility located at 639 Airport Rd. next to the airport (904)321-1647 and the Nassau County Animal Shelter, 86078 License Rd. in Yulee next to the drivers license building (904)491-7440.

Fernandina Beach Realty
(904) 261-4011
2057 S. Fletcher Ave.

LONG-TERM RENTALS

FAIRWAY OAKS

2 bedroom, 2 bath condo on Amelia Island Plantation close to pool. Gated community. \$1595 per month. Available now.

AMELIA LAKES

2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Gated community with pool and fitness center. 1100 sq. ft. No pets. \$1025 per month includes water and garbage. Available 1/5/18.

MARSH LAKES

3 bedroom, 2.5 bath house, 2 car garage, 1812 sq. ft. \$1625 per month. Available 1/20/18. Amelia-ERA.com

Public Notice

ALL REAL ESTATE ADVERTISED HEREIN - is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation, or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or the intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

The News-Leader will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

If you believe that you may have been discriminated against in connection with the sale, rental or financing of housing, call the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development - HUD - 1(800)669-9777, or for the hearing impaired 1(800)927-9275.

Miscellaneous

EARLY CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

In observance of the upcoming holidays, the *News-Leader* will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Deadlines have changed, so please get your classified ads in early!

EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted

ASSISTANT MANAGER - Local company seeking a full time assistant property manager. Property management, hotel guest services, bookkeeping experience are a plus. Will oversee four rental offices and the guests, work with owners, coordinate maintenance, housekeeping, collect and post funds, prepare monthly reports, statements, and pay owners. Some Saturdays, Holidays and rotation for after-hours calls. Submit resume to strentaljobs@gmail.com.

CHAIRSIDE DENTAL ASSISTANT - NEEDED FOR OUR GROWING PRACTICE - We are looking for an energetic, friendly person to help us with providing dental care to our patients in our state-of-the-art dental office. EDA certification preferred. Offering retirement plan and bonuses. Send resume to: ameliaagentdental@comcast.net or to Amelia Gentle Dentistry, 1699 S. 14th St. #21, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034

Earn \$\$\$ Helping MDs! Process medical claims from home. Call the Federal Trade Commission to find out how to spot medical billing scams. 1(877)FTC-HELP. A message from the News-Leader and the FTC.

HELP WANTED - Must be at least 21, customer service a must. Call to set up appointment (904)849-1950, Treasure Bay.

RECEPTIONIST/BOOKKEEPER Accounting firm seeks person to work up to 40 hours/week from now through April. Respo0nd to: wroggie@att.net

Help Wanted

LOAD KING MANUFACTURING CO. Load King, a dynamic manufacturer that provides turn key solutions to customers seeking an easier and faster way to open retail stores and restaurants, has immediate openings for quality focused associates with experience in:

- Corian Fabrication
- Building Maintenance and Repair* (Industrial experience)
- Electrician* (Industrial experience)
- Plant Maintenance Painter* (Industrial experience)

*Valid driver's license required

Load King offers competitive pay and a full benefits program for full-time associates including health/dental/vision/disability/life/401k plan/paid vacations & holidays.

Apply in-person: 1357 West Beaver Street M-F 9am-4pm
Fax resume: 904-356-1947
Email resume: HR@loadking.com

Drug Free Workplace EOE

OFFICE MANAGER wanted for Fernandina CPA firm. Full time during tax season; reduced hours in off season. Excellent customer service and communication skills, team player, self-directed, able to handle interruptions. Confidentiality a high priority. Positive and professional attitude a must. Compensation based on experience. To schedule an interview, please email resume to sdoss@dossweeks.com.

RESERVATIONIST - Local vacation rentals company seeking a full-time reservationist. Property management, hotel guest services are a plus. Duties include: answering phones, checking guests in and out, posting payments, coordinating maintenance and housekeeping. Some Saturdays and Holidays required and will share in the after-hours on call duties. Submit resumes to strentaljobs@gmail.com.

SECURITY OFFICERS NEEDED - Fernandina Current "D" Lic. Clear Background, DL & DMV Reg. phone, Diploma/GED Pay \$10.75 + Benefits, DMV - ECO/M/F/V/H. Apply at www.DSISecurity.com, BB9100030

WE ARE NOW HIRING PLUMBERS AND PLUMBERS HELPERS - Must have a valid clean driving record. Apply within Monday thru Friday 8:00-4:30. Close for lunch from 11:00-12:00. Dave Turner Plumbing, 474390 E. SR 200.

Work Wanted

SANTA CLAUS won't come down a dirty chimney. Call Lighthouse Chimney Sweeps for a clean, safe chimney. 261-8163 / 583-1300.

Services

NEED A MAID? - I clean homes. Call Denise (904)362-3503.

MERCHANDISE

Garage Sales

GARAGE SALE - 2812 Atlantic View Dr. Fri. 12/22 & Sat. 12/23, 9am-2pm. Fishing poles, light fixtures, small refrigerator, deep fryer, Christmas stuff.

Antiques-Collectibles

HOUSE OF COLLECTIBLES - Holiday Gifts, Christmas Decorations, Storewide Specials - Comics, Toys, Books, Dolls, Jewelry, CDs, DVDs, Records, Sports Cards. 131 So. 8th St. (904)624-7497

MADAME ALEXANDER DOLLS - \$20 and less. Can be seen at Vintage Vendors on 8th Street. Contact (904)563-6540.

Musical Instruments

BABY GRAND PIANO, KAWAI - 13 years old like new, \$9,500 (new \$13,000). Call (904)415-6098.

Miscellaneous

SAWMILLS - from only \$4397. Make & save money with your own bandmill. Cut lumber any dimension. In stock ready to ship. Free info/DVD: www.Norwood-Sawmills.com, 1-800-578-1363 ext 300N. ANF

REAL ESTATE

Lots & Land

1+ ACRES - MINER RD, YULEE. Across from school. No well. No septic tank. Asking \$50,000. (912)285-2247 or (912) 579-6767

RENTALS

Apartments

SANDRIDGE APARTMENTS - NO APPLICATION FEE - Affordable Living. Rent based on income for eligible seniors, handicapped or disabled persons. 1 and 2 bedrooms. Sandridge Apartments, 2021 Jasmine Street, Fernandina Beach 32034. (904)277-8722. Handicapped Accessible Apartments available. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. TDD: 711

FOR RENT - Unfurnished 2BR/1.5BA TH apt. CH&A, stove, regfrig., D/W, carpet. Service animals only. \$895/mo. 828 Nottingham Dr. Call (904)261-3035.

Condominiums

OFF ISLAND - 1BR/1BA, washer/dryer, water included, gated community, ground floor, lake view, pool, fitness center. \$900/mo. + \$900 security. 954-444-9483

Homes

2BR/2BA FULLY FURNISHED - in the Plantation. Close to beach, \$2200/mo. AMELIA RENTALS (904)261-9129.

3BR/2BA HOME on river - \$1,700/mo., older home. All appliances, fireplace and dock. Long or short-term. Please call (904)557-1706.

ESTATE HOME in The Preserve at Summer Beach. Unfurnished 4BR/3BA w/2-car garage. Very nice. \$3500/mo. Year's lease. AMELIA RENTALS (904)261-9129.

VISIT www.chaplinwilliamsrentals.com for the most recent information on Long Term Rentals. Updated Daily. Chaplin Williams Rentals, The Area's Premier Rental Company

YULEE COTTAGE - 2BR/1BA, CH&A, fenced, outside storage. \$785/mo. First & last + \$1000 deposit. Available mid January. Call (904)465-0511.

Rooms

ROOM FOR RENT - Partially furnished. Close to beach. Utilities included. \$500/mo + deposit. Call (904)310-5977.

Mobile Homes

2BR/1BA SW - in Yulee. \$725/mo. + \$725 deposit, + \$30.00 non-refundable background check. (904)583-1946 or (904)707-7576

STATIONARY RV'S - for rent weekly or monthly. Call (904)225-5577.

Office

EXECUTIVE OFFICE SUITES - Office space from 100 sq. ft. to 2,000 sq. ft. Includes utilities, Internet, common area receptionist, conference room, break room, & security. For info call (904)753-4179

Roommate Wanted

ROOMMATE WANTED - \$125/wk + \$125 deposit. All utilities are included. 408 S. 13th Terrace, Fernandina Beach, FL. Call (904)491-1521.

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CONSTRUCTION

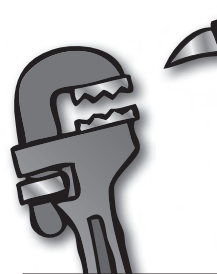
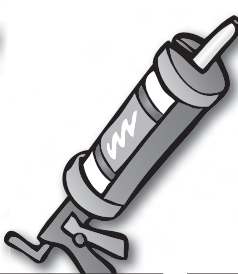
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\$450 per pallet.
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Sales Consultant
Chris Lowe
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Quality Work at Reasonable Prices
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The News-Leader at 261-3696 to put the Service Directory to work for you!

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ZIKA VIRUS
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PRESSURE WASHING

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Houses - Trailers - Patios
Driveways - etc.

Wood Decks Cleaned & Resealed
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Nassau County's Largest Roofing & Siding Contractor Serving Satisfied Homebuilders & Homeowners

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