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NEWS LEADER

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Gov. Scott's order on HB 631 gets cool reception

JULIA ROBERTS
News-Leader

While Florida Gov. Rick Scott might have scored some political points last week when he signed an executive order in response to negative public reaction to HB 631, a bill he signed into law, some Nassau County residents feel more needs to be done.

Lowell Hall heads Citizens for Public Beaches and Shores, which spearheaded the effort to get the Fernandina Beach City Commission and the Nassau County Board of County Commissioners to enact customary use ordinances to mitigate the effects of HB 631, which took effect July 1.

Hall and local resident Mac Morriss played key roles in organizing events that resulted in thousands of affidavits being signed by local residents and long-time visitors. The affidavits attest to historic, customary use of the dry sand areas of Amelia Island's beaches.

Hall said he attended Scott's campaign stop in Fernandina Beach on Thursday, July 12, where Scott assured him "I'm on your side." However, Hall said, issuing an executive order does not go far enough.

"Governor Scott should move to repeal State Statute HB 631, Section 10, thus returning the customary burden of proof in determining public customary use to the private property owner," Hall said. "Then Governor Scott can say, 'I'm on your side.'"

Hall pointed out that the executive order says that "title to the beaches below the mean high water line is held by the state" but notes that the definition of "beach" is missing.

"The executive order uses the word 'beach' 13 times without further definition," Hall said. "If Governor Scott's intent is to protect the public's customary rights to the dry sand beach, he would define the word 'beach' as to be without debate and would incorporate

the Nassau County Customary Use Ordinance definition of the word 'dry sand beach' into his executive order and HB 631."

Lowell suggested the governor amend the definition of beach: "The entirety of the wet and dry sand area shall be defined as 'beach.' It is the area from the mean low water line landward to the dune system or if there is no dune system to any sea wall, rock revetment toe or any permanent vegetation."

"Simple, easy to understand," Hall said. Marian Phillips, president of the Nassau Educational Support Personnel Association, is a notary public who helped officially document the affidavits. Phillips believes the executive order is merely a political ploy.

"To put it bluntly, people are mad as hell," Phillips said. "They hurried HB 631 through at the end of session



JULIA ROBERTS/NEWS-LEADER
Florida Gov. Rick Scott poses with Ocean Highway and Port Authority candidate John C. Van Delinder at a campaign stop in Fernandina Beach last Thursday.

ORDER Continued on 3A

City discusses trash

JULIA ROBERTS
News-Leader

At its Tuesday, July 17, meeting, the Fernandina Beach City Commission discussed an issue plaguing the city's beaches - trash.

City Manager Dale Martin said the city's current receptacles are not large enough to collect the amount of garbage generated by beachgoers, but Vice Mayor Len Kreger believes part of the issue is with the contractor whose job it is to collect garbage and other personal items left on the beach after dark.

That contract is currently with Rollins Snelling. Snelling also provides beach clean up services to the county.

Martin said Jeremiah Glisson, Fleet and Facilities Maintenance director, has been working with the city's trash collection contractor, Advanced Disposal, toward a solution at the beach.

"The problem that's developing is the current containers we have - 55 gallon (cans) with blue lids - are labor-intensive," Martin said. "We have approached Advanced Disposal to provide 95-gallon carts, approximately 60 of them, at every beach access. Advanced will pick those up on a regular basis, maybe on a daily basis. That comes down to how

much the proposal will cost.

"We will remove the blue-capped garbage cans from the sand. We will put the 95-gallon carts in the beach accesses. Advanced Disposal will wheel those carts out to the truck, empty them and then return them."

Martin said that Advanced Disposal is in the downtown area daily, but the city would have to pay more than the current contract to have the company also pick up garbage at the beach. Those terms have not yet been worked out.

"This will add to their collection route, but there is no way for Advanced Disposal to actually go across all the beach access points, the walkovers and paths, and empty and get the trash cans that are east of the dune. So, west of the sand, Advanced will provide approximately 60 95-gallon carts. Beach patrons will have to carry their garbage and deposit it in the beach cans that Advanced provides to us," Martin said.

Commissioners agreed that having Advanced Disposal's trucks going to beach accesses would be problematic.

"I see a lot of problems with that," Mayor Johnny Miller said. "I hope we have a backup plan before you get too

TRASH Continued on 3A

Joe Zimmerman wants to replace state Rep. Cord Byrd

JULIA ROBERTS
News-Leader

Joe Zimmerman said he believes elected leaders should communicate with the people they represent, and will, if elected, communicate with his constituency.

Zimmerman is running for state representative in Florida's District 11, a seat currently held by Cord Byrd.

Zimmerman said he learned the importance of listening to people when he was in charge of constituent services for state Rep. Janet Adkins from 2013 until 2015.

"I think the job of an elected state representative is to listen to all stakeholders, listen to all the people in your community, because that's who represent the people here," Zimmerman told the *News-Leader*. "When I worked for the state legislature, we had town halls all the time. We had education summits, we had mental health forums, we had a dyslexia summit. We did lots of things to gather community input. You haven't had any of that in the past



Zimmerman

two years. You have to reach out and hold those town hall meetings. You have to return constituent phone calls. That is what unites people so that, when you go to Tallahassee and you're voting on a bill, you are voting the interest of your district."

Zimmerman said Byrd did not listen to his constituency when he voted for HB 631, the controversial change in Florida law affecting public access to the dry area of the beach above the mean high water line. Since that bill was passed, a grassroots effort has produced thousands of affidavits and photographs from people who say they have customarily and historically used those areas of local beaches.

HB 631 was not what the residents of District 11 wanted, Zimmerman said. "Not only did (Byrd) vote for that

bill, but he did not consult local government first," Zimmerman said. "He went so far as to say that they should have lobbied him for that. That's not how it's supposed to be."

"He could have filed an amendment to that bill. He could have held a public workshop on that bill. He could have voted 'no' on that bill. So, he had choices."

"Then, he went so far as to say the bill was non-controversial. I disagree. The community thought it was controversial enough that they got over 8,000 signed, notarized affidavits saying this is not what we want. The representative said, 'If this closes public beach access, I'll show up with my pitchfork and fight for it.' Well, I think we have 8,000 pitchforks that were dropped off at the county commission chambers. People don't want it."

The new East Nassau Stewardship District is another issue in which Zimmerman said the current leadership did not represent the wishes of

ZIMMERMAN Continued on 5A

Dog shot and killed in clinic parking lot



SUBMITTED
The scene in the parking lot of a local animal clinic after a dog was shot and killed on Wednesday morning after it allegedly attacked another dog.

PAMELA BUSHNELL AND PEG DAVIS
News-Leader

A dog that broke loose from one of its owners while being taken from the Fernandina Beach Animal Clinic on Wednesday morning was shot dead after it allegedly attacked a restrained dog in the clinic's parking lot at 1868 S. 14th St.

A weeping Mustafa Ba of Fernandina Beach told the *News-Leader* Wednesday afternoon that his dog, Dozer, a mixed breed, had pulled the leash from his stepdaughter's hand when she took him outside of the veterinarian's office to relieve himself. The dog was at the clinic for a heartworm test, according to Ba. Ba's family maintains that the 80-pound, 2-year-old dog was a "friendly pet" that was not being aggressive but just wanted to "play" with the other dog in the parking lot.

A news release from the Fernandina Beach Police Department states that witnesses at the scene reported "the owner of the restrained animal, James Strickland, a 70-year-old Army veteran with a valid Florida Concealed Firearms License, continued to restrain his dog while two individuals attempted to pull the Pit bull from the angry attack (sic)."

Ba's stepdaughter, Courtney Scott, said

Strickland began cursing at her about her dog being off leash and threatening to kill it if she couldn't control it. Ba said he came outside to restrain the dog and was holding it in his arms when it broke free again. He said Strickland pulled a gun out of a fanny pack and shot it. Ba's dog died in the veterinarian's office of its wounds.

The release says that, as the two dogs were momentarily separated, "Strickland twice announced his intention to shoot the attacking animal if it could not be restrained. Once again the pit bull broke free from its handlers and once again attacked Strickland's dog. Strickland produced a .38 caliber handgun and fired twice at the Pit bull from very close range."

The release from the FBPD says Scott told police the dog "slipped out of its collar as it was being put in their vehicle," and that Strickland's dog, a VA service animal, "was not seriously injured, but did sustain visible scratches."

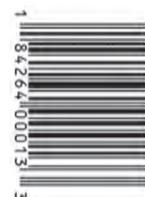
"There's no reason for someone to have a gun like that and shoot a dog at the vet's office!" said Ba. "There were people around who could have gotten hurt. He could have hurt my grandson or my stepdaughter. Everybody there was distraught and

DOG Continued on 5A

Nassau County, choose your Best of the Best 2018



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SEA TURTLE NESTING SEASON
2018 Nests: 131 Hatchlings: 113

For details visit ameliaislandseaturtlewatch.com



2017 Nests: 226 Hatchlings: 12,650
2016 Nests: 204 Hatchlings: 13,550

Please turn off or redirect lights shining directly on the beach.

OBITUARIES

Kathleen Josephine Claxton

Kathleen Josephine Claxton, 82, of Fernandina Beach, Fla., passed away peacefully July 12, 2018 at the Custead Care Center of Haven Hospice in Orange Park, Fla.



Kathleen was the second oldest of 13 children, born in Faheens, County Mayo, Ireland. She was a daughter of the late Anthony and Agnes Moran Quinn.

In 1941 the Land Commission Exchange gave families better farms on the east coast in exchange for their west coast farms and moved all their possessions by train. It was then she spent the rest of her childhood in Laragh, Maynooth, County Kildare, Ireland.

One of Kathleen's favorite memories was of her first job in a chocolate factory in Maynooth. It brought much to the delight of her younger siblings. In early adulthood, she moved to Camden Town, London, England, where she worked on Tottenham Court Road at Lyon's Tea House. Eventually she moved onward and joined her sister in New York City. There she secured a position with New York Bell as a switchboard operator. While in New York in 1964, she met John William Claxton, to whom she was married for 14 years. In 1968, the early years, they moved the family to Jacksonville, Fla. This was their first child joined them, Ann Elizabeth Claxton. They lived in suburban Arlington, where she was a housewife who loved to cook and sew and garden and where their second child, Maria Colleen Claxton, was born in 1970.

Kathleen also loved to play cards and was an avid reader. She volunteered at Christ the King Catholic School and Church and also attended mass there. In 1973 the family moved to Yulee, Fla. to be near John's family. They had a house built by his uncle, a prominent master builder, Brody Claxton. The house was situated on a large waterfront acreage overlooking Lofton Creek. Kathleen volunteered at Yulee Elementary School, where she and another lady sewed bicentennial costumes for every child in the school. As not all of the parents could afford the fabric for the costumes, many other parents donated money so that every child could participate in the 1976 parade held at the school. In 1985 she landed a job working for American Body Armor, where she, as a seamstress, sewed bullet proof vests.

Then, in 1986, she moved the family to Fernandina Beach on Amelia Island, where she purchased a house and remained there for more than 30 years. In those years she became a board member for the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill and an active member of St. Michael Catholic Church. In more recent years she volunteered at the Baptist Medical Center Nassau as a coffee corner attendant while also attending bingo, which she loved, twice a week. She had a wonderful, happy spirit about her always, warm and charming, but with an ever-present sense of hope. She had many friends and loved to host parties and attend holiday celebrations and festivals of all sorts. Anyone who came to her house was always treated like family, not just a guest. Her most admirable attributes were that she had a great determination of will, a great strength of character, and strong sense of integrity no matter the situation.

A dedicated wife, mother and friend, her survivors include her children, Ann (Allen) Wingate of Yulee and Colleen Claxton (Norman Cranford) of Fernandina Beach; her siblings, Michael (Sara) Quinn of Blackburn, Lancashire, England, Sr. Margaret Quinn of New Ross, County Wexford, Ireland, John (Mary) Quinn of Faheens, Swinford, County Mayo, Ireland, Ann (John) Fay of Clifton Park, N.Y., Dolores Roughley of Poughquag, N.Y., William (Trini) Quinn of Santa Barbara, Calif., Kevin Quinn of Laragh, County Kildare, Ireland, Philomena (Eddie) Fitzpatrick of Kilcock, County Kildare, Ireland, Birnadette Quinn (Moctar Auld Achmed) of Clane, County Kildare, Ireland, and Veronica (Martin) Kavanagh of Portmarnock, County Dublin, Ireland; her grandchildren, Amy (Jeremy) Taylor and Adam (Chelsea) Wingate; and her great-grandchildren, Brantley Wingate and Paisley Wingate, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

The family received friends and family at Oxley-Heard Funeral Directors between 10 and 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, July 18, 2018. That visitation was followed by a funeral mass at 12 p.m. at St. Michael Catholic Church with Fr. Jose Kallukalam, Celebrant, officiating. Kathleen will be laid to rest in a private family service in Ireland at a later date.

Memorials may be made to the National Alliance on Mental Illness at namijacksonville.org. *Ut Semper Belli* – Always keep fighting
Non Desistas Non Exieris – Never give up never surrender

Oxley-Heard Funeral Directors

Mattie Lou Morrison Johnson

Mrs. Mattie Lou Morrison Johnson, 84, passed away Saturday, July 14, 2018, in Fernandina Beach, Fla. Born February, 24, 1934 in Fernandina to the late Rev. Lenworth S. Morrison and Elizabeth Jenkins Morrison, she was the eighth of nine children. Her twin, Hattie, died a few days after their births.

Mrs. Johnson accepted Christ as a child, was baptized and, at age 13, became the first Sunday School student at the O'Neal Memorial Baptist Church, founded and built in 1947 by her father.

She graduated from Peck High School with the Class of 1952 and attended Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU). After relocating to Baltimore, Md., Mrs. Johnson graduated from Provident Hospital's school of nursing and served as staff nurse for four years. During her nursing career she worked as a registered nurse at Duval Medical Center in Jacksonville, Fla. She also worked at Mount Sinai Hospital, Metro Health Hospital, Kaiser Permanente and the Cuyahoga County Boys Home. She retired from the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System in Columbus, Ohio.

On July 2, 1960, Mrs. Johnson was united in holy matrimony to Abraham Johnson Sr. As a result of this marriage, she gained two sons: Lawrence and Abraham Jr. She was formerly a member of the Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church in Cleveland, Ohio. In 2008, almost two years after her husband's passing, Mrs. Johnson moved back to Nassau County. During this time she became reacquainted with classmates and old friends in the Fernandina, O'Neil and Yulee communities. She reinstated her membership with O'Neal Memorial, where she rejoined the Sunday school, delighted in singing hymns and faithfully attended worship until her health would not permit her to continue.

Mrs. Johnson leaves to cherish her memory sons, Lawrence Johnson and Abraham Johnson Jr., their children and grandchildren; sister, Juliette M. Knox, San Diego, Ca., and sister-in-law, Helen Morrison, Tampa; loving cousins and a host of sorrowing nieces and nephews, including special niece Nanette (Gary) Autry and special nephew Michael Jerome Knox; special classmate and friend Edith Renelda Jackson.

Huff and Battise Funeral Home

Caroline Burgess Dickens Kent

Caroline Kent passed away July 14, 2018 after a lengthy illness.

She was born October 29, 1954 to Dr. Bailey and Barbara Dickens and was raised in Fernandina Beach, Fla. She was the granddaughter of Judge H. V. and Myrtle Burgess of Fernandina Beach. She was active in swimming (Junior Olympics and held several pool records at age 12), Girl Scouts, and band, where she was an accomplished baritone saxophonist. She attended school in Fernandina Beach and skipped her senior year to begin college at Jacksonville University in Jacksonville, Fla. She graduated with a degree in chemistry and microbiology from the University of Florida. She attended graduate school at the University of Miami and the University of North Florida. She worked in research at the Jacksonville Mayo Clinic for many years and had several papers published during her tenure there.

Caroline had a kind and generous heart and enjoyed her many cats and frequent backyard raccoon visitors at her home in Jacksonville. Though she had no children, she was a devoted aunt and very fond of all 16 of her nieces and nephews.

Caroline met the love of her life, William Mallory Kent, and was married in 1992. They were entirely devoted to each other and it showed in their everyday actions. They had a wonderful life together and traveled extensively to Europe and Asia. They typically flew and then took cruises from Europe and enjoyed the leisurely voyages home. They also enjoyed flying in Bill's airplanes.

Caroline is survived by her husband, Bill Kent; her sister, Anna (Bob) McFarland and nephew Ryan (Brianna) McFarland and brother Jimmy (Anita) Kent. Other survivors include her brothers, Victor (Ferla) Dickens, Jack (Julie) Dickens, and Charles (Meg) Dickens; sisters, "Sparkle" Barbara (Roger) Nation, Jan (Mike) Bray, and Cindy (Buck) Buchanan; and 16 nieces and nephews and many cousins, including Ben (Bonnie) Dickens and Mary Julia (Dennis) Little locally. She was also predeceased by her uncle, Dr. Cecil Brewton, and aunt, Sarah Brewton, and uncle Dr. Ben Dickens and aunt Ann Dickens of Fernandina Beach. She was also predeceased by her brother and sister-in-law Bailey (Joyce) Dickens III.

Funeral services are scheduled for 10 a.m. Friday, July 20, 2018 at San Jose Episcopal Church in Jacksonville with burial to follow at 3 p.m. in Live Oak, Fla.

Norman S. Porter

Norman S. Porter, 81, passed away July 16, 2018 at his Yulee, Fla. residence.

Mr. Porter was born May 31, 1937 in Bug Hill, N.C. and moved to Yulee in 1989 from Jacksonville, Fla. He was loved and will be missed by his family and friends.

He was predeceased by his wife, Doreen Porter, who passed away in 2004; his parents and 11 brothers and sisters.

Mr. Porter is survived by his daughter and son-in-law, Tonia and Don Patton; two grandchildren, Kenneth Vinson Jr. (Amanda) and Sarah Wendell (Nicholas); great-grandchildren, Hunter, Raelynn, Colton and Elizabeth; and step-great-grandchildren, Darren and Caleb.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. To sign Mr. Porter's online register book and leave condolences, visit the Green Pine Funeral Home website at www.greenpinefuneral.com.

Green Pine Funeral Home, Cremations & Cemetery



FOR THE RECORD

The last name of the friend at shark attack victim Dustin Theobald's side in the photo on A1 in the July 18 edition of the News-Leader was misspelled. Her name is Shayna Ericksen.

The News-Leader strives for accuracy. We will promptly correct all factual errors. Please notify the editor of errors at peg-davis@fnnewsleader.com or call (904) 261-3696.

WEEKLY UPDATE

Order of Rainbow for Girls reunion

All past members of the International Order of Rainbow for Girls are invited to a reunion Saturday, July 21, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at Amelia Lodge, located at 1101 S. 14th St. in Fernandina Beach. Bring your memories, pictures, memorabilia, "brag rag" or anything you want to share. A survey will be taken to determine interest in reviving an assembly in the Amelia Island area, so bring your daughters, granddaughters, nieces and other girls between the ages of 11 and 20. To RSVP, contact Dianne Rahn at 251-5626 or momron40@gmail.com.

Kegs and Eggs on Sunday

All proceeds from the first annual Kegs and Eggs, and a portion of drinks, at the Green Turtle on Sunday will benefit the Nassau Humane Society. The event will take place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. (or when supplies run out). Breakfasts of eggs, bacon and English muffins will be available for donations of \$10. The bacon was donated by Kiobassa Provisions Company of San Antonio, Texas and the Eggs by The Salty Pelican. Live music will be from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Volunteers are also needed for the event to help sell T-shirts, collect the donations for breakfast and sell raffle tickets.

'Justice for Joleen' event Sunday

A "Justice for Joleen" charity event to raise funds for the children of missing Nassau County resident Joleen Cummings will be held 4-8 p.m. Sunday, July 22, at Sliders Seaside Grill, 1998 S. Fletcher Ave. in Fernandina Beach. A live auction featuring state Sen. Aaron Bean will begin at 7 p.m. and squares for a "quilt of memories" will be sold to raise funds. The quilt will be put together and donated to Cummings' children. Anyone wishing to donate items for the auction should call 206-9330. For information about the quilt, call 678-830-9693.

Conversation on digestive health

Starting Point Behavioral Healthcare will host "How Your Digestive Health Impacts Your Mental Wellness: A Community Conversation" for participants to learn about and discuss the connection between your brain and your gut 5:30 to 7 p.m. July 30 at the Peck Center, 516 S. 10th St. in Fernandina Beach. You have probably had a "gut feeling" or some stomach upset when you were stressed. Now, scientists are learning that there is actually a "second brain" in your gut that influences how you think and feel. In fact, studies show the "little brain" in your gut actually includes more than 100 million nerve cells that controls digestion. It is called the Enteric Nervous System (ENS) and it communicates with our big brain, impacting our mental health. Julie Schaefer, director of Health Partnerships at Baptist Health, will be the keynote speaker. Her presentation will include an overview of the neurological connections between the two, and how you can influence the health of both. The audience is invited to join in the conversation following her presentation. The event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. To register, contact dforbes@spbh.org or 225.8280, ext. 428.

Blood drive Aug. 19 at St. Francis

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Mission at 86000 St. Francis Way in Yulee will be holding a blood drive between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 19. All donors will receive a free OneBlood beach towel and a wellness check-up that includes blood pressure, temperature, iron count, pulse and cholesterol screenings. All donors also receive a coupon for BOGO admission to the Jacksonville Zoo. Sign up online at oneblooddonor.org and use sponsor code "34851." Walk-in are also welcome.

Arthritis exercise program

The Northeast Florida Area Health Education Center is offering the Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program at no charge 10-11 a.m. Wednesdays and Fridays from Aug. 1 to Sept. 21 at 37002 Ingram Road in Hilliard. The program offers low-impact physical activity proven to reduce pain and decrease stiffness. Sessions will include gentle range-of-motion exercises that are suitable for every fitness level and ability. For more information and to pre-register, contact Northeast Florida AHEC at 482 0189.

Scholarships for FBCA available

FBCA has announced that the school is accepting scholarships from the AAA Scholarship Foundation. This nonprofit organization awards annual scholarships for tuition and fees and is privately funded to assist eligible students attend an eligible private school of their choice. The Foundation works with schools in several states, including Florida, to make "Academic Achievement Accessible." Scholarships are income-based, offering a broader range of quality education to eligible families. For private school opportunities, visit Fernandina Beach Christian Academy located at 1600 S. Eighth St. in Fernandina Beach or call 491-5664 to schedule an appointment.

Beach task force needs volunteers

The Amelia Island Beach and Marine Life Protection Task Force is seeking volunteers

Interim county manager meeting with public

Interim County Manager Mike Mullin will be holding regularly scheduled meetings from 3 to 4 p.m. on the second Tuesday and fourth Thursday of each month to make himself available for anyone to ask county-related questions and/or address county issues. The meetings will take place in the Commission Chambers, located in the James S. Page Governmental Complex at 96135 Nassau Place in Yulee.

to remove litter from the beaches before it is ingested by animals. Volunteers will work one or two evenings a week, through August, for one to two hours between 5:30 and 8 p.m. at local beaches. For more information, email charmontaskforce@gmail.com or aibeachprotectiongroup@gmail.com.

Hearing group facilitator needed

Can you help people adapt to a hearing-impaired world? Nassau County Volunteer Center is looking for a hearing loss support group facilitator. This unique individual will schedule meetings and speakers, update social media, and participate in traditional marketing techniques. This person would have a social work, facilitation, hearing or audiology background. If you fit the bill, go to volunteer-nassau.org and volunteer.

Unbiased help with Medicare

The UF/IFAS Nassau County Extension Service is offering weekly individual consultations at the Barnabas Center, located at 1303 Jasmine St. in Fernandina Beach, for Medicare beneficiaries. If you will be new to Medicare, have questions about Medicare or want to know if you qualify to save money on your Medicare drug costs, Medicare monthly premium, deductibles and copays, call Meg McAlpine at 530-6359 to schedule your private appointment. Appointments are being scheduled Fridays from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Diabetes support group

A diabetes support group for those with Type 1 or 2 diabetes meets every Thursday at 11 a.m. on the second floor of the MCCI building located at 449621 U.S. 301 in Callahan. Varying topics are presented with informal support and discussion. A registered dietitian and a mental health counselor will facilitate some sessions. Today, participants will prepare a healthy meal to take home and cook.

To register, contact Melanie Hadden at 507-2692. There is no cost to attend.

Sexual assault support group

A free support group for survivors of sexual assault meets the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at Family Support Services in Yulee. For more information, contact Lori Armstrong at 716-5390 or larmstrong@womenscenterofjax.org.

Healing Hearts meetings

Healing Hearts is a local support group for those who have lost a spouse. The group meets twice a month on the second Monday at 11:30 a.m. for lunch at the Marina Restaurant and again on the fourth Monday at 6 p.m. for dinner at the Marina Restaurant. For more information, contact Mary Mercer at 415-1881 or Joni Reid at 556-6767.

Alcoholics Anonymous

Visit nelfaa.org/wiktor/meetings or call 904-399-8535.

District schools satellite offices

Do you ever have the need to visit the Nassau County School District administration office located at 1201 Atlantic Avenue in Fernandina Beach? Do you find yourself 90 driving 20 plus miles to get there? Is it a trip that takes you more than an hour these days? The Nassau County School District now has two satellite offices. The westside location is at 45021 Third Ave. in Callahan and the Yulee location is at 86207 Felmore Road in Yulee. The offices will provide a place for parent meetings, employee meetings, staff meetings, and support. If you have questions or would like to schedule a meeting, call 491-9900.

Project documenting POWs

A documentary film maker has put out a call for Vietnam-era POWs. Thuy Diem, whose father was in the South Vietnamese Army, is producing *The Unforgotten*. Her father was captured and escaped during the war before finally coming to the United States. Veterans who would like to share their wartime POW experience can contact Diem at aspotbellypig@gmail.com.

Volunteering for NHS

NHS Second Chance Resale Store and its sister clothing store, NHS Second Chance Closet, are looking to grow their team of volunteers in all areas. 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.org and click on Volunteer. For information, call 321-0022.

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Wednesday, 5 p.m.
Church Notes: Tuesday, 5 p.m.,
People and Places: Wednesday, 3 p.m.

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* Monday holidays the Classified deadline will be Friday at 5 p.m.

ORDER *Continued from 1A*

instead of taking time to read and study the bill. Now he's having second thoughts. Really? He is nervous about the upcoming elections. That is why he came to Nassau County last Thursday. He wants to come up here and save face. That executive order is just what it is. It can be overturned by another governor. I don't know where he gets that an executive order is going to stop anything."

Phillips said the issue of public access to Florida's beaches is bringing people together in a time of political divide in the country.

"In a county that is deep red, we came together as one united front, red and blue, to fight this bill," she said. "They are nervous about it, and they should be because what they did was wrong. These beaches need to be left alone."

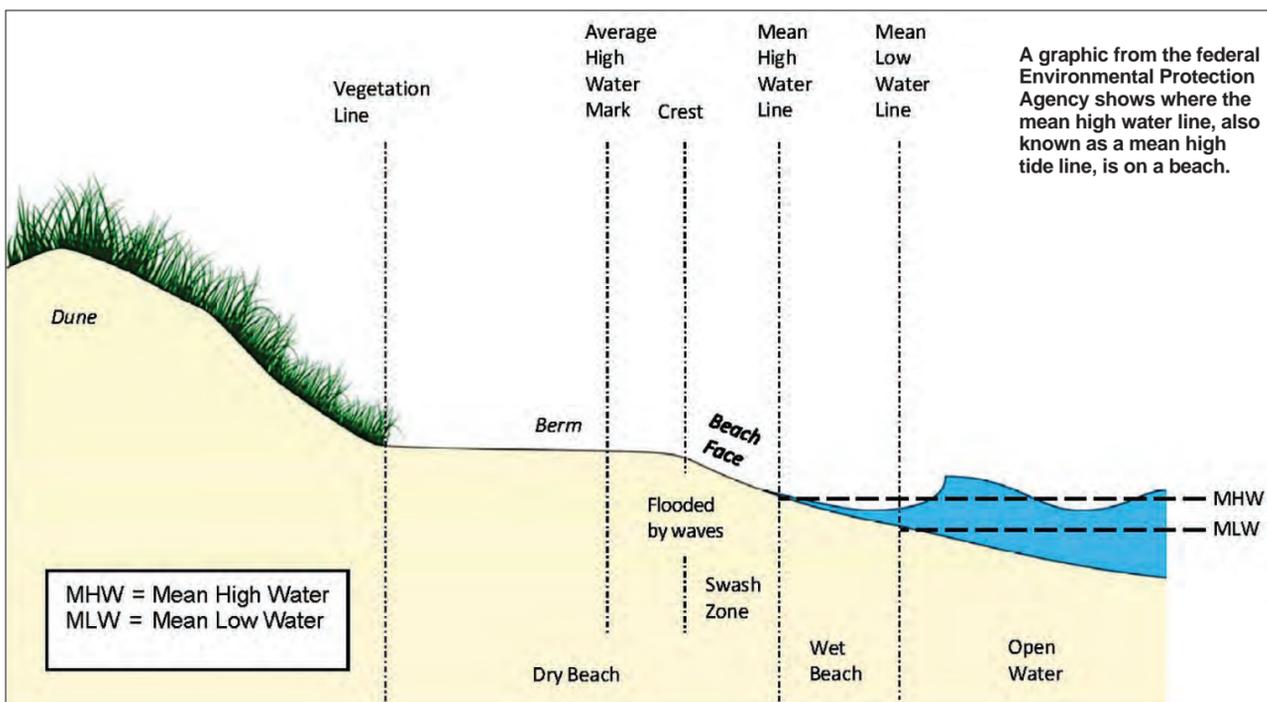
After the public backlash against HB 631 gained momentum, a flurry of activity was seen from local political bodies across the state, including the Nassau County Board of County Commissioners and the Fernandina Beach City Commission. Each passed ordinances attempting to ensure continued use of the dry sand areas by residents and tourists.

Scott's executive order directs all state agencies that are under the governor's power "not to adopt any rule restricting public access to any Florida beach that has an established recreational customary use." It can be read in its entirety at <http://bit.ly/2zNorM9>.

HB 631 says private property owners can stop the public from accessing or using the dry sand area of the beach that is on their property unless "the recreational use of the sandy area adjacent to the mean high tide has been ancient, reasonable, without interruption and free from dispute, such use, as a matter of custom, should not be interfered with by the owner."

The executive order does not prohibit governmental entities from adopting ordinances that would restrict beach access, but he does "urge" them not to do so, as well as urge all state attorneys to ensure public beach access. "HB 631 ... creates a uniform legal process for local governments seeking to expand the public's access to beaches," the order states.

The order further directs the FDEP and



state park system to establish an online reporting tool to track violations of public beach access and give a report based on those violations to the Florida legislature by the end of the year, and to serve as a liaison between local governments and the public.

Nassau County Attorney Mike Mullin said he believes Scott's executive order was issued in reaction to the outrage Floridians have expressed about HB 631.

"He's getting some heat, so he issued the order," Mullin told the *News-Leader*. "He says that HB 631 was a good thing, and that it was not meant to privatize our beaches. I don't agree with that. It says it will expand access. That seems strange to me, as it doesn't expand it."

According to the *Tampa Bay Times*, "Scott's office said phone calls from citizens were opposed to (HB 631) by a margin of 8-to-1, and that the office received a petition opposing the bill signed by 783 people."

Fernandina Beach City Attorney Tammi Bach said the executive order strengthens the city's position on beach access and has no effect on its customary use ordinance.

"The Executive Order by Governor Scott regarding public access to beaches does not have any affect on the City of Fernandina Beach's assertion that dry sand areas of beaches are public and can be accessed by the public via public beach accesses," Bach wrote in an email.

State Sen. Darryl Rouson of St. Petersburg said

he would file a bill to repeal HB 631.

"Restricting beach access impedes upon the freedoms we enjoy as citizens and will hamper Florida's attractiveness as a destination," Rouson said in a statement. "The bill I've filed will repeal language and put into place this year so that Floridians will once again have the unfettered access to our beaches that they deserve."

In a statement, Scott said HB 631 is simply misunderstood: "Unfortunately, the legislation has now created considerable confusion and some have even interpreted it as restricting beach access," the statement said. "Government's job is to help solve problems, and in Florida, when there is an issue or confusion surrounding legislation, we take action to address it."

TRASH *Continued from 1A*

deep into that. I'm picturing people taking their trash to those large receptacles at the beach access points. It's already hard to get to the beach access points with all the cars. In the summer is when you have the problems with people stacking garbage all around the garbage cans. I'm envisioning that two-lane road on A1A, trucks stopping at every beach access while the guys have to figure how to get all that trash around the cars that are there, into the truck, and put the thing back to go to the next stop. It's hard to drive down A1A, with people stopping to write down numbers on for sale signs."

Kreger believes Snelling's efforts toward collecting items prohibited by Leave No Trace are not sufficient.

"There's two real problems here," Kreger said. "Number one, you have a substandard performance by an individual who is under contract who does nothing but cry and tell us it's hot and it's heavy work. The second problem is that the specifications under that contract really aren't what we want in the first place, the level of service we need. I think we have to work out those things."

Kreger said he agreed with Miller that having garbage trucks collecting beach trash on South Fletcher would be "a disaster," but that it could work out on the north end of the island.

"(Rollins Snelling) has recently established a 24-hours rule. They don't pick them up until the second 24 hours. That's if their truck doesn't have a flat," Kreger said. "We specified to have them pick them up at sunset and it doesn't stay out all night. We have 13 miles of beaches, and the county has a Leave No Trace contract. With

one and a half guys, it just can't happen."

Kreger said the city, the Amelia Island Tourist Development Council, and the county need to sit down together and address the issue. Gil Langley, who heads the TDC, said there is a meeting scheduled for Aug. 1 between the company and county staff to explore using a different vendor.

The City Commission also approved on Tuesday night a contract with Fender Marine Construction for the rehabilitation of the south basin of the city's marina, heavily damaged by Hurricane Matthew almost two years ago.

The city received two bids for the project and awarded Fender the contract for \$6.1 million. After reimbursement from FEMA, the city will pay roughly \$770,000 toward the repairs, which will use a new type of docks manufactured by MARINTEK. The type of docks proposed by Fender Marine is different from the current dock system - structural concrete pontoons without high-maintenance components such as structural timber, subsystem hardware, cables and through rods with nuts and bolts, Martin explained.

Also approved at the meeting was a contract for \$64,200 to Applied Technology & Management for bidding, evaluation and negotiations relating to that project, which will include dredging.

In other business, the commission:

- Heard a presentation regarding the city's Parks & Recreation Department from Eric Bartelt, who chairs the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee;
- Approved a facilities use contract with Driving Dynamics



Two trailers overflowing with garbage collected from area beaches were parked in the grass beside the Peters Point parking lot the weekend before the Fourth of July holiday.

to use airport property for a defensive driving course;

- Denied an appeal by Steve Skidmore of a decision made by the Historic District Council regarding a parking area at his home;
- Approved on second readings an amendment creating the Beach Rangers program and an ordinance governing news racks in the downtown Historic District;
- Gave final approval to a replat of the North Pointe subdivision and the plat of the Hickory Ridge subdivision;
- Passed a resolution creating a marina advisory board;
- Appointed Carol Kish to Arts and Culture Nassau;
- Entered into a grant agreement with the Florida Department of Environment

Protection for \$450,000 for shoreline stabilization;

- Entered into a grant agreement with Florida Emergency

Management for \$103,324 for a downtown drainage project; and

- Accepted \$275,000 from the Florida Department of

Transportation toward the design and construction of the airport terminal.

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City funds explained

The 2018-19 budget is due to the city commissioners next week. I anticipate that my article next Friday will be the budget message that accompanies the proposed budget, offering a summary of the highlights. I further expect to provide a short presentation of the budget highlights at the Aug. 7 City Commission meeting. To provide a foundation for those budget summaries, let me offer a description as to how the annual city budget is organized.

The city's finances are organized as "funds." Consider these funds as separate and distinct "pots" of money. The city has seven different such pots. In the actual budget document, these funds are presented in this order: General Fund, Enterprise Fund, Special Fund, Debt Service Fund, Capital Fund, Internal Service Fund, and Trust Fund. For this overview, however, I'll review in the reverse order.

The Trust Fund is the city's pension accounts. The city's total annual budget is nearly \$150,000,000, but more than a third of that total amount is associated with funds reserved for pension costs (without the Trust Funds, the budget falls below \$100,000,000). The monies in the Trust Fund are generated by city and employee pension contributions as well as interest and investment earnings.

The Internal Service Fund can best be described as the city paying itself for services – more specifically, fleet maintenance and utilities. As will be described later, the main users of these services are the city's Enterprise Fund activities (golf course, airport, wastewater, water, storm water, and marina). Those operations, like city residents and businesses, are treated as customers of the city, and those operations pay for the city services through their user fees.

The Capital Fund provides for the large-scale, long-term needs of the city, primarily land, facilities, vehicles, and other equipment. Each department prepares and maintains a five-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to assist with long-term planning. The most significant source of funding for these projects is property taxes (transferred from the General Fund; described later), although additional funding can be secured through grants, other governmental agencies, and loans.

The Debt Service Fund manages the city's long-term debt. The city has several debt obligations, including obligations associated with software, public safety, golf course, airport, marina, and utilities. With the anticipated marina repairs, additional debt will be added to the budget.

The Special Fund captures the revenues and



CITY NOTES

Dale Martin

as separate "business entities": the intent is to fund their operations through user fees, not property taxes. The golf course, the airport, wastewater, water, storm water, and the marina all charge user fees. The revenue from those fees (and other revenues such as grants) is, in theory, supposed to cover expenses related to their operations. In the case of the airport and the utilities, revenues do exceed expenses; the golf course and marina, however, require subsidies from the General Fund, mainly due to debt service costs, not operational costs.

The General Fund is the "grand-daddy" of the city's funds. This is the city's primary operational fund, gaining the preponderance of revenues from city property taxes. Property taxes are calculated based upon the value of property (as determined by the Nassau County Property Appraiser) and the millage rate, or tax levy, set by the City Commission. The operating millage rate for the current year was set at 6.0000 mills (\$1 for every \$1,000 of value). The proposed budget is based upon a slightly lower millage rate to accommodate from rising property values, but the City Commission has yet to establish the "tentative" millage rate which may be different. The tentative millage rate is scheduled to be set at a special meeting of the City Commission on July 31.

Other General Fund revenue sources include licenses and permits; grants; county, state and federal contributions; and fines, rents, and reimbursements. The expenditures in the General Fund include all city departmental operations. Over half of General Fund expenditures are related to public safety: police, fire, building, and code enforcement.

I look forward to providing additional nitty-gritty details of the budget in my budget message next week.

Dale Martin is the city manager of Fernandina Beach.

expenditures of a variety of operations that are somewhat unique. These operations include law enforcement forfeiture funds, federal and state block grants, water and wastewater impact fees, utility taxes, cemetery operations, and the city's Community Redevelopment Area.

The city's Enterprise Fund has several components (as mentioned earlier). As has been discussed previously, these components are treated



H-A-L-T before you respond and regret it

How can you learn to better manage your emotions? Well, instead of being emotionally reactive, you need to learn to be emotionally responsive.

The key first step in this process is halting. Back away from an escalating conflict. Hold your tongue when you are about to lash out. Do not answer an emotionally loaded question on the spot. Wait to make an important decision. Do not say or do anything until you take time to process your feelings. Practice setting a boundary by saying, "I will get back to you on that." Or, "Let me think about it first."

This is especially important when you are under stress. If you think about it, it is when you have been over-stressed that you are particularly vulnerable to a lapse of self-control and saying something hurtful or making a decision you regret or misusing alcohol, food, or something else.

So be prepared to H-A-L-T and to not say or do anything for a while if you are:

- Hungry
- Angry
- Lonely (or hurt)
- Tired (or under time pres-



MENTAL FITNESS

Janice Clarkson

conditions at the same time, then you are in an even more dangerous place and really need to halt.

When you halt, you need to "contain" your feelings that are coming up. Keep your feelings inside so that you do not escalate a conflict, rush an important decision, or say or do something that you will regret later. You want to hold onto these feelings until you can get the support you need to help you respond in a way that you will feel good about.

Examples

What if at the end of long and exhausting day your partner loses his temper at you and

sure) Halt and eat the meal you skipped, calm down if you are angry, do not isolate if you are lonely or hurt, and take a break if you have been overworking. Obviously, if you are in two or more of those

criticizes you for how you handled a problem with one of your kids? If you are not careful, you might react in anger and escalate the conflict between the two of you. You are tired and you are upset that he did not appreciate your efforts with your child and was so critical. Time to halt. Better to talk this issue through later when you are not so tired and upset. You might say, "I would like to talk with you about this situation later when I have more energy. Can we talk in the morning about this?"

Or, if you are lonely and you find yourself thinking about food, then halt. Instead of acting out of your loneliness by eating, talk to a friend about how you feel. Or sit down and write out your feelings in a journal or pray to a spirit or your God about how you feel. It will not give you a quick sugar high or numb out your pain, but in the long run it will be better for you.

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.

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This store is more than just hardware. The Turner Ace gift shop has something for everyone, including Simply Southern clothing, Mojo clothing, Oakley & Maui Jim sunglasses, Woodwick, Capri, Kringle candles, Lampe Berger fragrance lamps and oils, Willow Tree angels and much more.

The Turner family has been in the hardware business in Jacksonville for 4 generations. Steve Turner leads a devoted and knowledgeable staff who is dedicated to helping customers with all of their hardware needs.

The staff also is available to help get your home and business to-do lists DONE! The greenhouse, offers a plethora of lawn and garden accessories, such as a huge selection of ceramic pots, fountains, wind chimes, birdbaths, decorative benches, stepping-stones and plants galore, including shrubs, trees, roses, annuals, perennials, orchids, palms, tropicals, vegetables, herbs and much more.

Inside, customers will find the latest products such as the new Benjamin Moore-Aura paint with no VOCs and no odor. Other top-of-the-line brands include Stihl power equipment, Toro Mowers, Myers pumps, Weber and the Big Green Egg Smoker and Grill, Egg accessories, Traeger, Green Mountain and Delta Heat grills (assembly & delivery available). Yeti coolers and Yeti cups in decorative colors, Hunter and Rainbird irrigation accessories, Kingsley Bate, casual furniture, CRP Poly Furniture. Large Birding dept! Whole corn, layer, scratch, and Taste of the Wild dogfood, Case & Benchmark knives. Turner Ace now features the Ace Rewards program, in which customers receive money-saving coupons and additional discounts on many items each month.

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Dozer, a mixed breed dog described as a "Pit bull" in a news release from the Fernandina Beach Police Department, is shown with the grandson of Mustafa Ba. Ba's dog was killed after getting away twice and attacking another dog, a service animal owned by James Strickland. Strickland shot Dozer with a handgun he is permitted to carry.

DOG *Continued from 1A*

women were weeping. Several people I didn't even know came up afterward and hugged me, telling me they were sorry about my dog."

Ba said the family had raised Dozer from a puppy and that the dog slept with him and was a

playmate for his young grandson.

"That dog was (Ba's) best friend," Scott said.

The reported official owner of the dog is Ba's wife, Althea Brown. She was not at the scene.

Witnesses told the responding officers that no person was

in harm's way when Strickland shot his weapon.

"Florida Statutes 767.03 provides for defense in killing a dog if it is believed that the attacking dog is intent on killing a domestic animal or livestock. When interviewed, Mr. Strickland felt strongly that this attack would be fatal for his dog."

ZIMMERMAN

Continued from 1A

its constituents. He said that, when he spoke publicly against it to the Nassau legislative delegation and at a meeting of the Nassau County Board of County Commissioners, he was accused of "fear mongering."

"When you created that stewardship district, you opened Pandora's Box," Zimmerman said. "That stewardship district has much to do with the water table. Where they built Wildlight is a swampland. You have to figure out what the environmental impact of that is going to be. Nobody listened. This bill was just pushed through."

"I spoke about this to the Nassau County legislative delegation. I spoke at the Nassau County commission. It was like I was talking to the wall, talking to deaf ears. If you ask the constituents if they want to be responsible for Wildlight's development costs, they are going to say 'no.' That huge amount of growth is a problem, because now you have to provide services for it. But, that bill lets Wildlight establish their own law enforcement, to create their own taxation. It allows them what is called administrative rule-making authority. What this means is they can effectively establish ordinances."

Zimmerman said the bill that created the stewardship is written to prohibit any changes to it, but, he said, hope springs eternal.

"I don't think it's ever too late," he said. "At this stage in the game the first thing I would do is, I would make sure that amendment does not come back to Nassau County, and that those taxpayers do not get saddled with tens of millions of dollars in debt. I think the goal for me now will be to first see if there's a way I can repeal that bill, and secondly, make sure the taxpayers aren't on the hook for the cost of that development."

Construction on State Route 200/A1A, which is meant to ultimately solve the congestion issue plaguing the Yulee area, has been "a disaster," Zimmerman said.

"You have, essentially, contractors working there, and the contractors saying that, if people get damage to their vehicles, the contractor will decide if that damage was caused by them and if they are going to pay that claim," he said. "It's a fox guarding the henhouse. It's completely backward. It has not been handled well."

Zimmerman said that the road construction is affecting tourism, and issues with it are indicative of the lack of support in Tallahassee of the hospitality industry. Zimmerman is the owner of an information technology business and a former restaurateur.

"Hospitality is the largest employment sector in House District 11, with Jax Beach, Atlantic Beach, Neptune Beach — all tourist-centric locations," he said. "The same thing with the south end of Amelia Island, Fernandina Beach — these

are all tourist-focused areas. Hospitality is our biggest sector. We have no support for hospitality in the legislature."

He said giving support to the hospitality industry would help address another issue facing the district: affordable housing.

"I think the legislature could address affordable housing by getting rid of some of these regulations that stand in the way of allowing restaurants and businesses to grow, and creating a level playing field," he said. "We need to make sure that we are supporting servers and bartenders and restaurant managers and hotel service personnel and their managers, that we're bringing them to the table and saying, 'What do you need to provide better wages to make livable income for the folks who live here to help you grow your restaurant?'"

Zimmerman believes county and state governments need to work together to address the issue of affordable housing.

"The county has been exploring affordable housing for over a year, and one of the things they are looking at is how they can create partnerships to build more affordable housing," Zimmerman said. "I know one of the ideas is to have density bonuses, and as their state representative I'd be committed to helping local government find funding solutions. I know this issue affects people in the service industry as well as seniors, which is a growing segment of our population that shouldn't be overlooked."

He said looking out for the senior segment of the population would be a priority.

"The population of baby boomers and senior citizens in Nassau County — we need to make sure we are caring for them," Zimmerman said. "If you talk to some of the local nonprofits, they are overwhelmed by demand. The state representative needs to be aware of the constituents up here and make sure we are finding solutions for these people."

Asked if he is intimidated by running against a well-known incumbent, Zimmerman does not hesitate.

"I did it knowing it would be an uphill battle, going after a sitting incumbent," he said. "Ultimately, I hear from constituents that they're not getting the representation that they want. That's truly why I got into the race."

He said he learned from the local efforts to combat the effects of HB 631 that community support can make a difference.

"Campaigns run on one of two things," Zimmerman explained. "Some campaigns run on money. Some run on grassroots effort. I think the fact that you have those petitions and you have those people, led by Mac Morriss and Lowell Hall, you have people who went and said, 'This is not what we want for Nassau County and for our district.' I think you have a grass fire here."

Zimmerman said political skills can get attention, but that

Taylor gets certified

Nassau County Commissioner Justin Taylor has received the designation of Certified County Commissioner following completion of a comprehensive study program developed by the Florida Counties Foundation, according to a news release. Taylor received his designation along with 38 other county commissioners during an awards ceremony held at the Florida Association of Counties Annual Conference in Orange County.

"The coursework associated with this program has provided me with additional knowledge I need to effectively represent my district, as well as Nassau County," Taylor said in the release.

The Certified County Commissioner Program is a voluntary program of study designed for county commissioners to learn information and enhance skills relevant to their duties and responsibilities through a series of courses totaling 45 hours. Coursework covers a variety of topics, such as ethics and Sunshine Law, county government roles and responsibilities, county government structure and authority,



SUBMITTED

Nick Place, left, dean and director of the UF/IFAS Extension, congratulates County Commissioner Justin Taylor on his certification.

financial management, growth management, negotiation skills, economic development, and effective communication.

The University of Florida/IFAS Extension sponsors the Foundation's educational programs.

Tree aids hatchlings

When Hurricane Matthew toppled a live oak at Red Maple Lake at the Amelia Island Plantation, it eliminated a critical landing spot needed by bluebird fledglings learning to fly, according to a news release.

Red Maple Lake is one of 17 areas on the Amelia Island Plantation property that are home to the community's bluebird nesting boxes. Managed by volunteers Candice Bridgewater and Jean Middleton, the bluebird program monitors the nesting and hatching of the Plantation's vibrant bluebird colony.

When a new family of bluebird hatchlings was identified in late April, the Amelia Island Plantation Community Association reached out to Omni Area Managing Director Donald Stamets to assist in purchasing and planting a tree in time for the hatchlings' first flight. Working with the AIPCA and Amelia Island Plantation Foundation, Stamets was able to have a 12-foot bald cypress tree planted at the Red Maple Lake location for residents and birds to enjoy, according to the release.

"The Amelia Island Plantation community is designed to be in harmony with nature. Omni Amelia Island Plantation Resort is thrilled to contribute to projects like this that will serve the natural ecology of our community for years to come," said Stamets in the release.



SUBMITTED

Omni Area Managing Director Donald Stamets, left, had a 12-foot bald cypress tree planted at the Red Maple Lake location for residents and birds to enjoy.

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The 2018 Florida Forestry Teacher's Tour included stops in Nassau County at the Rayonier Forest Resources property and the WestRock paper mill.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Teachers learn about Florida forestry

Forty teachers from all over Florida met in June in Fernandina Beach for the 2018 Florida Forestry Teacher's Tour, which provided a unique opportunity for educators to look at the role Florida's forest industry plays in everyday lives, according to a news release.

"There are more than 5,000 products that come from Florida forests and the industry supports thousands of jobs and communities," Florida Forest Service Jacksonville District Manager Jennifer Hart explained in the release. "Every part of the tree is utilized in some way and each year more trees are planted than harvested, ensuring this valuable renewable resource will be available for future generations. We want educators to see that sustainability is the key to responsible forestry."

Tour stops were chosen to highlight the many facets of the forest industry from the small family tree farm to large industrial operations.

In Clay County, teachers visited

Jennings State Forest for a prescribed fire demonstration, a small family owned tree farm, and Camp Blanding to learn about ongoing conservation efforts.

In Nassau County, teachers visited Rayonier Forest Resources property for presentations on tree genetics, timber volume measurements and harvesting. The papermaking process was detailed at the WestRock paper mill and box plant in Fernandina Beach.

In Duval County, teachers visited the West Fraser Saw Mill in Whitehouse and the Symrise chemical plant to learn how papermaking byproducts are used to produce flavorings and scents for thousands of products manufactured throughout the world.

The tour also went to Alachua County to visit Austin Cary Memorial Forest and learn about the Project Learning Tree curriculum and forestry career paths from the University of Florida.

Teachers received a variety of educator

materials and lesson plan ideas that they can incorporate in the classroom. All meals and lodging were provided and teachers earned 30 continuing education units for their time.

The annual tour is made possible through sponsorships from the forest industry, private citizens, landowners, the Florida Forest Service and others. If you would like to participate in the 2019 Florida Forestry Teacher's Tour or make a donation, visit floridaforest.org/programs/teachers-tour.

The Florida Forest Service, a division of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, manages more than 1 million acres of state forests and provides management assistance on more than 17 million acres of private and community forests, while protecting homes, forestland and natural resources from the devastating effects of wildfire on more than 26 million acres. You can learn more at FloridaForestService.com.

Local musician a 'special treat' at Saturday's market

JUDIE MACKIE
For the News-Leader

The Fernandina Beach Market Place farmers market will be open 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday – rain or shine. Located on North Seventh Street between Alachua and Centre streets, the farmers market offers about 40 booths of fresh seasonal produce, baked breads, honey, jams, beef, salmon, shrimp, and much more.

Returning this week with a seasonal flavor is Tucker with Topsy Toffee. His s'mores of July flavored toffee is made with gluten-free graham crackers and marshmallows atop his popular milk chocolate. Jay's Marketplace is back this Saturday with chopped olive salad that is great in a muffuletta, or mixed with cream cheese and spread it on a cracker for an amazing appetizer. Their olive juice is perfect for an afternoon of dirty martinis, and Bacon's Select Produce has brought back their popular European seedless cucumbers due to customer demand.

Come and get your natural bath and beauty supplies at the farmers market this Saturday with foot reflexology products from Amelia Naturals and all natural lotions and soaps from Element Earth Works. This week we also have a new vendor – Hairy Farmgirl. They will be bringing 100-percent goat milk soap, goat milk lotion, beard oil, linen spray, lip balm,



JUDIE MACKIE/FOR THE NEWS-LEADER

Bacon's Select Produce will be at Saturday's farmers market with their popular European seedless cucumbers.

sugar scrub, and doo-doo spray.

We have a special treat in our musician this week. Dylan Bailey is a local singer-songwriter from Fernandina Beach. He has recorded and produced five albums and is the youth worship leader at First Coast Christian Center in Jacksonville. Dylan's primary instrument is an acoustic guitar, which he has been playing for more than 10 years. If he's not playing a calming, instrumental piece, he's singing an original song he wrote.

Come out Saturday morning and hang out in the fresh air under the Spanish moss-draped oak trees. For information, visit FernandinaBeachMarketPlace.com.

Boys & Girls Clubs recognize youths for May

■ Miller Freedom Center: Brianna Scarboro, aka "Miss Popularity," is known by everyone here at The Boys & Girls Clubs' Miller Freedom Center, both staff and members alike. She is well-

mannered, witty, fashion savvy and very talented. Scarboro is a bright 10-year-old young lady who is full of energy and always up for a challenge. She loves math and science and excels in those subject areas at Emma Love Hardee Elementary School. She is full of life and always cheerful and outgoing. Her favorite program areas are the games room and the gym. You can really see her personality shine through as she enjoys playing, singing and dancing. When it comes to games of all sorts, Scarboro is your girl! It's actually one of her family's favorite activities. She sees a true role model in her mom, so much so that – like mom – she wants to work in the dental field when she gets older. Scarboro exhibits the ability to lead and direct small groups while doing so with care and compassion. Her future is certainly promising.

■ Roberts Learning & Achievement Center: Jhanja Williams is a model teen attending the Roberts Learning & Achievement Center. This 18-year-old senior at Fernandina Beach High School has maintained a 3.9 GPA and A-B Honor Roll for the 2017-2018 school year. Since 2014, Williams has been a proud member of the Tipping the Scale program, where she was mentored by one of the Baptist Medical Center Nassau's professional staff. Upon graduation, Williams received a few amazing awards: a scholarship from the Tipping the Scale program as well as a Take Stock in Children scholarship. Intelligent and caring are just a few character traits that describe Williams. These qualities have helped her earn a CNA certification which is instrumental for career advancement as a nurse. She enjoys after-hours teen dance parties as well as interacting and volunteering with the members of the 6-7 age group. Williams is already making steps forward as a productive member of society and her future has more in store to enlighten and make those around her proud.



Scarboro



Williams



About 40 teachers from all over Florida participated in the tour which also visited Clay, Duval and Alachua counties.

CAMPUS NEWS

■ Gwenyth Stromdahl of Fernandina Beach recently graduated with an Associate of Arts in Equestrian Studies from the University of Findlay in Ohio.

■ Clemson University named Savannah Eileen Christianson of Fernandina Beach to its President's List for the spring 2018 semester. She is majoring in biological sciences.

■ The University of Alabama named the following Fernandina Beach students to its Dean's List for the 2018 spring semester: Savannah Belle Blouin and Landyn Aubrey Williams.

■ The University of Alabama named the following Fernandina Beach students to its President's List for the 2018 spring semester: Caroline C. Clark, Connor B. Fasel, Claire A. Manderfield, Gabrielle Healani Nobles, and Brodie Tucker Wallace.

■ Mercer University named Madison Moore of Fernandina Beach to its Dean's List and Corinne Wooten of Yulee, both for the spring 2018 semester.

■ Elizabeth Pensabene of Fernandina Beach recently graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Health Science Studies from

Quinnipiac University.

■ Erik Joseph Bergkvist of Fernandina Beach recently graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science with minors in mathematics and business minor from Clarkson University.

■ The following Fernandina Beach residents recently graduated from the University of Alabama: Caroline Clark, B.S. in Nursing; Connor Fasel, Bachelor of Arts; Claire Manderfield, Bachelor of Arts; Stephanie McBurnett, B.S. in Human Environmental Science; and Brodie Wallace, B.S. in Aerospace Engineering.

Do People See Jesus in You?

Now no one after lighting a lamp covers it with a bowl, or puts it under a bed, but he puts it on a lampstand, in order that those who come in may see the light.

Luke 8:16

Weekly Bible Trivia
How long did the children of Israel wander in the wilderness?
(answer found in this week's scripture reading)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thurs.	Friday	Saturday
Exodus	Exodus	Exodus	Exodus	Exodus	Exodus	Exodus
16:1-3	16:4-9	16:10-15	16:16-20	16:21-24	16:25-29	16:30-36

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NEWS LEADER

AMELIA ISLAND • FERNANDINA BEACH • YULEE • NASSAU COUNTY

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FLORIDA'S OLDEST WEEKLY
NEWSPAPER ESTABLISHED IN 1854

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.

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VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Continuous, unfettered access

Lowell Hall is a living community treasure and protector of Fernandina Beach and Amelia Island's public beaches. His thought-provoking Viewpoint, “A beach remembered” (July 6), provides an excellent historical perspective regarding the public beach access issue and his unselfish role in successfully serving the common good interests of the people in our community for many years.

Beginning with the post-Civil War reconstruction, “carpet-baggers” and other “damn Yankees” discovered the numerous opportunities that our beautiful little island had to offer. Many stayed and made important contributions that benefited their new community.

More recently people have been attracted to move here because it is so inviting when compared to where they come from, especially in terms of quality of family life and the beaches. Others come here because they also like it, but no sooner are they here than they want to change things, too often not for the better.

I am a sixth-generation Floridian and my family are proud pioneer Fernandina residents who have enjoyed continuous, unfettered access to all of Amelia Island's beaches for more than 150 years. Although recent beachfront development has made beach access more inconvenient in some places, there is no place on the Atlantic side of Amelia Island where I do not feel like I have a right to enjoy the beach. The beaches are for the recreational use of the public, as it has always been. The beaches are the crown jewels of Amelia Island.

Mr. Hall's thoughtful article concludes with the question, is it “incompetence or intent” and asks the reader to decide. Clearly, any property owner or legislator who thinks that public beach access and right of way should be privately owned and controlled, to exclude the continued historic access and enjoyment of the public, are out of step, fools and manipulators. I imagine that makes it both the twin demons of incompetence and intent, for which there are no excuses.

Samuel Jefferson Kennard
Amelia Island

Best of the best ballot

It is a great idea to do this. It gives the average person who uses these services a chance to show whom they feel does excellent work. However I do not understand the 75 percent fill in before the votes count. From a personal point of view, my family only uses about 25 percent of the categories enough to make an honest assessment.

We would have to just fill in the blanks, based on an uneducated assessment, which I believe would defeat the purpose of this. When I look at the final results, I am skeptical of the results because I wonder how many uneducated answers were counted just to get the 75 percent requirement.

Donald R. Kirk
Yulee

Many thanks and a ‘job well done’

Recently, an impaired driver decided to take a joy ride through the North Hampton neighborhood. After terrorizing the clubhouse parking lot, they were unable to negotiate a turn and drove into our yard, completely destroying the mailbox and post. Not stopping, they continued toward the exit of the neighborhood.

A young woman, Julia D. (who lives in the neighborhood) and her male companion, Jordan R., were driving in the opposite direction and witnessed the incident. Rather than continuing on their way, they turned around and followed the car. They obtained the license number and called 911. They continued to follow the car and provide the current location of the vehicle. This enabled Deputy Jesse Shook of the Nassau County Sheriff's Office to very quickly locate and arrest the individual within only minutes of the incident.

We were out of town at the time, so our next-door neighbors took pictures for insurance purposes and notified us. In addition, after meeting with Officer Shook, they took the time to clean up the mess in our yard.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our neighbors, both extended and next-door, and Officer Shook. This is a fine example of neighbors helping neighbors, young citizens getting involved, and the quick response of a first class police department. This very likely prevented this driver from doing more damage or worse, causing an accident. This is another good example of why Fernandina Beach is a great place to live.

Anita and Wayne Tamme
Fernandina Beach

Trees cut by mistake

Mr. Mullin, good morning. It is my understanding that it is not possible to communicate directly with Nassau County Code Enforcement Board members. I am requesting this communication be read by you, shared with all members of the Nassau County Code Enforcement Board and entered into the record.

As a resident of Nassau County, Amelia Island specifically, I am greatly dismayed at the canopy and tree destruction and the damage done to remaining trees at the 2246 Sadler Road site.

Amelia Island is a rare occurrence; a barrier island with a maritime forest. Aside from the beauty our maritime forest provides, although that is hardly an “aside,” our maritime forest anchors our island, helps to protect it from wind and storm, sequesters and stores potentially damaging water. It increases our property values and soothes our souls.

Yes, mistakes happen. But it is the responsibility of contractors and developers to properly train and educate employees – all employees – as to the requirements of any particular job. This training clearly failed to happen, resulting in what appears to be almost a clear cutting of valuable maritime forest at the 2246 Sadler Road site.

I applaud the county's issuing of a “stop work order.” That kind of cost seems to be one of the few penalties that “gets their attention” and brings developers and contractors to the table. Would that it had not been necessary.

To the members of the Code Enforcement Board: please stay strong; please declare for protecting our valuable, irreplaceable resource; please send a message to those developers yet to apply for permitting; please show them they will not be allowed to disregard our building and planning codes; show them they will not be allowed to destroy our island's individuality. Please.

In the interest of full disclosure, I am forwarding this letter to the *News-Leader's* editorial section in the hope that it might be printed, fully or edited.

Jo-Ann Leimberg
Amelia Island

The pros and cons of paying to park

Fernandina Beach seems to have as many street signs as mosquitoes. You can spray away the mosquitoes, but metal signs are harder to eradicate (and they are rapidly multiplying).

Signs in the city are everywhere, ubiquitous. There are signs practically reminding you to read the other signs. In some places, there are so many signs in succession that an Evelyn Wood speed-reader could not comprehend them.

However, there is one sign you don't or won't see in the Fernandina Beach city limits. It's a sign telling you to pay to park.

The city has not charged for parking downtown in recent memory, or at the beach. However, paid parking has been on the table before. This time it has taken a seat at the table over the dalliance of a new revenue stream for the city. It's apparently a sign of the times.

Certain arguments make sense about charging to park at, or on, the beaches (not for residents, however). Some contend visitors should pay to use the beaches – since residents pay taxes to clean them and repair them and monitor them.

Downtown parking fees are harder to justify. We want to draw visitors to downtown, like curious moths to a light. It's good for business. The competition outside of town is getting keener, in case you just washed ashore and didn't have time to notice.

More people are coming to the island than ever before as growth surges in Yulee and tourism rages. So more visitors will use our beaches. And taxpayers must shoulder mounting maintenance costs.

The new bike path has provided a new route for excessive signage. It runs through Fernandina Beach and onto the south end of the island, where signs are limited and attractively blended with the terrain.

The south end has consciously avoided rampant signage. Signs, while necessary, can litter the roadways, the landscape. Motorists here must slow down, impeding traffic, to read all the signs.

So we really need fewer signs. Now enters a new world of signs commanding a fee to park at the beaches or on them. City officials are not reticent about their intention – it's to raise revenues to defray costs



STEVE'S MARKET PLACE

Steve Nicklas

of maintaining the beaches as usage increases.

This sounds reasonable, except when you realize the city's property tax receipts have increased by 50 percent over the past six years. This is due to property values exploding and generating more revenues. Meanwhile, the population of the

city has grown, but not to this degree.

City officials have already designated a “Beach Committee” to recommend how to handle beach parking. There are 900 parking spaces associated with the city beaches. The main parking lots are at Main Beach, North Beach and Seaside Park (near Slider's Restaurant). The rest are spread between the smaller beach-access points.

The feeling right now is that the paid-parking scheme could begin at these three main lots, including cars parked on the beach. The beach access lots could be added to the list later.

In addition, city officials are talking about charging everyone to park – even residents. The parking fees would be uniform in that sense. This may not fly with locals used to accessing the beaches without cost or interference.

The Beach Committee will bring its final recommendations to the City Commission on Oct. 31. It'll be a true test for city commissioners to sign off on such a controversial plan – that again impacts our beach access. And adds to the signage.

Steve Nicklas is a financial advisor and a chartered retirement planning counselor for a regional U.S. firm who lives on Amelia Island. He is also an award-winning columnist. His business columns appear in several newspapers in North Florida and South Georgia, and on his personal website at SteveNicklasMarketplace.com. He has published a book of his favorite columns from the last 20 years, *All About Money*. The book is available in local stores and on Amazon. He can be reached at (904) 753-0236.

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Special veteran-related dates of note in July

The month of July brings together celebrations of not only historical events, but life changers: The Fourth of July celebration of the founding of our great country, National and Local Parks and Recreation Month, the birthday of the U.S. Army Chaplain Corps, and the end of the Korean War.

On the Fourth of July, it is virtually impossible not to notice the red, white and blue decorations, clothing, signs and flags, the parades, gatherings, cookouts, and try to think of anyone that doesn't watch fireworks, either in person or the events on our TV sets. May God continue to bless our country!

July is also National and Local Parks and Recreation Month. Many have explored our national, state and local parks for years, either camping or on day trips to learn about our many treasures throughout this great country. Anytime, during every season, is a great time to recognize what all our parks have to offer and to learn more about how history, personal health, and the environment contribute to the wellbeing of our communities.

Would you believe that many members of our community have not been to our own phenomenal Fort Clinch, right here in Fernandina Beach? This outstanding state park is within minutes of most everywhere. It offers great campsites, the friendliest park rangers, and a terrific look at the restored fort from the pre-Civil War era. It has great re-enactors and printed material for a history lesson about our exceptional existence and about many of the eight flags that have flown over this area for more than 400 years! More than 180,000 people visit this park each year. Be one of them. Veterans can receive a 25-percent discount on annual state park passes and veterans with service-related disabilities can receive a free lifetime military entrance pass. Surviving spouses and parents of deceased veterans who fell in combat can also receive a free lifetime military entrance pass.

Go to floridastateparks.org/AnnualPass for more information, or call Fort Clinch State Park



VETERAN'S VOICE

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JOHN SCHERER

for more information about the park in Fernandina Beach: (904) 277-7274.

This month also celebrates and recognizes the 243rd birthday of the U.S. Army Chaplain Corps. As long as there have been soldiers in America, there have been chaplains. It is the second oldest branch of the Army, created by the Continental Congress on July 29, 1775 to ensure that our soldiers would always have spiritual, moral, and ethical guidance close to their service as well as their families. Whether these outstanding individuals were ordained ministers or minister assistants for virtually every denomination, each has a call to serve God and our country. The Chaplain Corps is very diverse, but all have the same mission, whether here at home or around the world, in peacetime or in conflict.

Most chaplains of every branch of our services serve outside of our view and the limelight, but there are many who paid the ultimate price of military service, such as the “four chaplains” of the USS Dorchester and others who gallantly served their fellow men and women during times of severe conflict, going above and beyond the call of duty, such as Chaplain Frances Duffy, assigned to New York's Fighting 69th Infantry.

We owe more than we will ever know to those religious soldiers who gave their lives, spirits, and beliefs to serve so many. As God's word tells us, “Man has no greater love than to give of his life for another.” Please go online or to your local library and learn more about the Chaplain



DAVE GRANLUND-POLITICALCARTOONS.COM-CAGLE CARTOONS

Corps. While in the Washington, D.C. area, please visit “Chaplain's Hill” and Arlington National Cemetery.

July also marks the 65th anniversary of the end of active fighting in the Korean War. Remember the military men and women who sacrificed so much during the “Forgotten War” between June 25, 1950 and July 27, 1953, when the armistice was signed. Those brave service members from all walks of life were subject to many harsh and deadly conditions that we may never understand or imagine. The cost reached well over 50,000 U.S. lives in only three years and there are more than 8,500 soldiers still missing in action today. There has been much debate and controversy over the years regarding what could

have or should have been done at that time, but in the here and now, please meet, visit with, and thank each of the veterans who survived the hell of Korea.

Last July, I had the honor and privilege to write an article about the Korean War and to meet and speak with many Korean War veterans who live right here in our communities. It was an experience I cannot adequately describe in the proper words after hearing their stories and the look in their eyes that was as if they were still over there even after all these years. Please, at any time, recognize the service of these outstanding veterans who gave so much for us! Learn more about the Korean War online or at your local library.

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MEMORIAL HOOPS TOURNEY



PHOTOS BY BETH JONES/NEWS-LEADER

The third annual Jim Snyder Memorial Basketball Tournament will be held Aug. 11 at the McArthur Family YMCA on Citrona Drive in Fernandina Beach. Snyder was a Y member who loved basketball and was very active in supporting local youth leagues. There are 3-on-3 divisions for middle and high school. Registration for those age divisions is free, and those divisions compete Saturday morning and afternoon. There is a 5-on-5, double-elimination tournament that will take place over the course of the weekend. Cost is \$20 per person. Register online via the YMCA website or in person at the front desk. Registration is required for the youth divisions even though there is no charge.

▼ FOOTBALL

Sharks launch membership program for 2019

The Jacksonville Sharks announced the launch of the Shark Nation Membership Program for the 2019 season. The program is designed to provide exclusive benefits to the team's loyal fans and starts as low as \$75.

"We are excited for our 10th anniversary season. We're always looking for unique ways to give our fans a great value," Sharks Executive Vice President Steve Curran said. "Our latest promotion is something that I don't believe has ever been done before in Jacksonville or in other markets around the country."

"Free kids season tickets. We have been family affordable fun for a decade, and now we are just taking the affordable to another level."

Fans just need to purchase a Sharks Nation White Membership (red section only) and each family will get a free child's season ticket. Children must be 12 years and under to qualify.

Additionally, membership prices have decreased in all membership levels.

Shark Nation Memberships are divided into five tiers — Diamond, Yellow, Red, White and Black, corresponding to different seating locations at the Veterans Memorial Arena. All Shark Nation memberships include season tickets, including the first-round home playoff game (if applicable), access to the Never Wasted Ticket Exchange Program, discounts on Sharks merchandise, a Sharks welcome mat as well as access to exclusive fan experiences.

The 2019 Sharks Nation memberships experiences include a locker room tour, chalk talk with the coach, on-field experience, player introduction experience, Shark Walk, and a bus trip to an away game. Shark Nation members will be allowed to choose an experience of their choice or may choose multiple experiences based on their Shark Nation membership level.

For information, call 621-0700 or visit www.jaxsharks.com.

The Jacksonville Sharks are members of the National Arena League. The 2017 NAL Champions and ArenaBowl XXIV Champions and play all home games at the Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena.

Follow the Sharks on Facebook at facebook.com/jaxsharks and on Twitter and Instagram @jaxsharks, as well as the Attack Dance Team at facebook.com/sharkattackdance and Chum at facebook.com/chumsharks.

▼ GOLF

Lights-out match on Amelia course

The Men's Golf Association of the Golf Club of Amelia Island held its Individual Stableford Match on Saturday. A local power outage knocked out electricity to the course but did not stop the event.

Competitors were divided into three flights. In the first flight, Richard Haskew posted the best score for first place with Eddie Claxton placing second. In the second flight, Steve Ritter placed first with Jeffry Bohn in second. In the third flight, Jerry Koss was first and Henry Bettendorf was second.

Winners of the closest-to-the-pin competitions winners were Ted Hissey and Ray Burruss.

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SPORTS/FITNESS
OPEN ADULT VOLLEYBALL at Peck Gym 7-9 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays. Informal games on two courts. Teams selected each night. Ages 16 and up (ages 16 and 17 must have parental consent form signed by parents and notarized). Fees are \$2/day city resident, \$5 non-city.

YOUTH TEAM VOLLEYBALL at Peck Gym Tuesdays and Fridays 3-6 p.m. for school and club teams. Players must have adult coach or adult supervision. Call at 24 hours in advance to reserve courts, 310-3353. Fee is \$2/day city resident, \$5 non-city.

OPEN ADULT INDOOR SOCCER at Peck Gym Wednesdays 5:30-8 p.m. Informal team games. Ages 16 and up (ages 16 and 17 must have parental consent form signed by parents and notarized before participating). Fees are \$2 city residents, \$5 non-city residents.

OPEN BASKETBALL at Peck Gym Monday and Thursday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. (court closes at 5:30 p.m. for adult leagues in winter and summer); Wednesday 11 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.; and Tuesday and Friday 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., based on court availability. Persons under the age of 16 must be accompanied by adults age 18 or older. Photo identification required.



BETH JONES/NEWS-LEADER

Pickleball is offered at the Central Park courts most days.

PICKLEBALL at the Central Park multipurpose court 3 p.m. Sunday, beginner and social play; 5 p.m. Sunday, intermediate and advanced play; 9 a.m. Monday, women's open play; 8 a.m. Tuesday, intermediate and advanced play; 10 a.m. Tuesday, social play; 11 a.m. Tuesday, beginner play and lessons;

3 p.m. Wednesday, intermediate and advanced play; 8 a.m. Thursday, men's open play; 10 a.m. Friday, social play; 11 a.m. Friday, beginner play and lessons. Email dcultice@yahoo.com.

OPEN ROLLER HOCKEY at the Main Beach. Adult skate Tuesdays and Saturdays 6-8 p.m. and family

skate Tuesdays from 5-6 p.m. and Saturdays from 9-10 a.m. Call Ray Matz at (215) 852-7038.

AQUATICS
SUMMER GROUP SWIMMING LESSONS. Register at the Atlantic Center. American Red Cross Levels 1-2 (1-week classes): \$40 city residents, \$50 non-city. Levels 3-4 (two-week classes): \$55 city residents, \$68 non-city. Morning lessons at Atlantic pool on Atlantic Avenue, evening lessons at MLK Jr. pool on Elm Street. Visit the Atlantic Center or www.fbfl.us.

JUNIOR LIFEGUARD EXPLORATION program for ages 9-13 (participants must be able to swim one full length of the pool unassisted and tread water for two minutes). Classroom and water sessions from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. July 23-27 (meet at the Atlantic Center). \$150 city residents, \$187 non-city. Register at the Atlantic Center or call 310-3350, ext. 1. Email krussell@fbfl.org for information.

PRIVATE SWIMMING LESSONS, age 2 to adults, 30-minute single session, \$25 city resident, \$31 non-city; four-pack, \$75 city resident, \$94 non-city. Schedule at Atlantic Center.

AQUA 1 and DEEP WATER AEROBICS at Atlantic pool. Aqua 1 (shallow water) classes are Monday-Friday from 10-10:55 a.m. Aqua Gym (combination of shallow and deep water) classes are at the MLK Jr. pool on Elm Street Monday and Wednesday from 4-4:55 p.m. and 5:15-6:10 p.m. Deep Water classes

(aqua fitness belts required) are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11-11:55 a.m. and Tuesday and Thursday from 9-9:55 a.m. Monthly, one class/day, \$50 city residents, \$63 non-city residents; monthly, two classes/day, \$65 city residents, \$81 non-city; \$5/day for one class, city residents, \$6 non-city; \$10/day for two classes, city resident, \$12 non-city. Aqua Gym monthly fees are \$30 city residents, \$38 non-city.

Water Aerobics/Fitness combination passes available (includes use of Atlantic Fitness Room). Inquire at the Atlantic Avenue Recreation Center.

SCUBA CLASSES at Atlantic pool.

• TRY DIVING EXPERIENCE: A one- to two-hour introductory experience that consists of a short classroom session and trying scuba in our pool with a certified scuba diving instructor or divemaster. Ages 8 and up, \$50/person city residents, \$62 non-city; \$80/couple city residents, \$100 non-city; \$150/group city residents (up to six people), \$188 non-city. Scheduled at your convenience.

• PADI SCUBA OPEN WATER CERTIFICATION: Private and group instruction available. Standard course: \$275 (additional check-out dive fee). eLearner course: \$205. Participants must provide their own masks, snorkels, fins, booties and weight belts. Ages 10 and up. Information and training schedule for available at Atlantic Avenue Recreation Center.

SPORTS SHORTS

Redfish spot tourney

The Amelia Island Guides Association and Amelia Island Marina will co-host the fourth annual Redfish Spot Tournament Sept. 8 to benefit the Folds of Honor Foundation. The event will take place at the Amelia Island Marina, 251 Creekside Drive in Fernandina Beach, at the foot of the Shave Bridge.

The fishing tournament is open to all anglers fishing from powered boats, sail boats, kayak, canoe, the shore, bridges and piers, with 100 percent of the entry fees paid out in prize money. There will also be a youth division.

The captains meeting is Sept. 7.

The public is invited to listen to live music and watch the anglers present their fish for spot counting beginning at 2 p.m. on Saturday. There are also raffles, a silent auction and food.

Folds of Honor, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is committed to the families of the armed services who have been disabled or killed while serving our great nation and to ensure no military family is left behind or forgotten.

Since its inception in 2007, Folds of Honor has awarded more than 16,000 scholarships to children and spouses of fallen or disabled military men and women in all 50 states. Make a donation to the Folds of Honor Foundation directly on their web site at www.foldsofhonor.org.

Visit www.ameliainlandguidesassociation.com. To donate to the raffle/silent auction or have a booth at the event, contact Capt. Scott Thompson at 430-6014.

Sign up for soccer

Amelia Island Youth Soccer is holding fall registration through Aug. 1 for age divisions U4-U14 (season runs through November) and U15-U19 (season runs through October to accommodate high school soccer).

Register at www.aiysoccer.com. Email registrar@aiysoccer.com for information.

Fishing Rodeo

The 36th annual Fernandina Beach Fishing Rodeo, presented by the Nassau Sport Fishing Association, will be held Aug. 4 at the Fernandina Harbor Marina. It is sanctioned by the Southern Kingfish Association as part of their 2018 Tournament Trail national championship series. There is a kingfish division and an in/offshore division. Every entrant can fish one or both divisions.

The traditional silent auction and raffle will be going on full swing Friday and Saturday. For food, there will be barbecue along with the fully-equipped Scoops ice cream stand. The Budweiser Beer Wagon will be on hand along with other non alcoholic beverages to help handle the summer heat.

There will be live entertainment on Friday and Saturday evening featuring Larry and the Backtracks on stage. There will be several boats of various sizes on display along with some brand-new trucks from local dealers.

The weigh-in is from 2-5 p.m. Saturday. Jacksonville captain Rick Ryals, Florida Sportsman TV and radio personality, will be the emcee.

Online tournament registrations are encouraged, but checks will also be accepted. Five days are needed to process a check if it is mailed in, so send them early to receive the early registration fee rate.

See all of the registration information and instructions at www.nsfafish.net. VISA, MasterCard, American Express and Discover credit cards are accepted.

Early entry deadline is today; fees are \$350 for the kingfish division and \$100 for the in/offshore division.

Cash prizes up to \$10,000, based on the number of boats registered, will be awarded in a special presentation that will begin at 7:30 p.m. Saturday. This year, tournament organizers added a second-place cash prize for each species in the in/offshore division part of the tournament.

For information, visit www.nsfafish.net or call the tournament committee at 277-8889.

FBHS football camp

Fernandina Beach High School head football coach Jude Swearingen and his staff will conduct a youth camp from 5-7 p.m. July 23-25 at the Fernandina



The fourth annual Redfish Spot Tournament Sept. 8 includes a youth division. The event will be held at the Amelia Island Marina and benefits Folds of Honor.

Beach Pop Warner fields at Buccaneer Sports Complex on Beech Street. Cost is \$50. Registration is 30 minutes prior to the start of the camp.

FCA camp

Faith Christian Academy is offering a boys flag football camp and a girls volleyball camp July 23-27 for rising fifth through 12th graders at the FCA Upper School Campus located behind New Life Baptist Church, 464067 SR 200 (at Blackrock Road).

Athletes have the option of attending three-day (\$65), four-day (\$85) or five-day (\$100) camps. Camp will run from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m., with extended care available until 4 p.m. for an additional fee (\$10/day, \$25/week).

A registration form must be completed for each participant. For information, contact Coach Glenn Parrish, athletic director for Faith Christian Academy, at 321-2137 or 412-1408.

Shark workshop

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is gathering public input on shore-based shark fishing.

There will be a workshop at 6 p.m. Aug. 21 at Jacksonville University, J. Henry Gooding Building, Swisher Auditorium, 2800 University Blvd. N.

If you cannot attend an in-person meeting, submit comments online at www.MyFWC.com/SaltwaterComments.

FWC staff is working on an advance copy of the presentation and a virtual workshop that should be available online soon. Additional details and updates will be posted at www.MyFWC.com/Fishing.

Youth lacrosse

Amelia Island Nassau County Youth Lacrosse is a developmental youth lacrosse program for boys and girls ages 8-15. Registration will begin Oct. 1 for the 2019 spring season.

No prior experience or knowledge of the sport is necessary. The club is a non-profit member of U.S. Lacrosse and volunteer driven.

Visit www.ameliainlandlacrosse.org or the club Facebook site, www.facebook.com/groups/AINC>YouthLacrosse for additional information and updates or contact Head Coach Carl J. Bazarian at carljbaz@gmail.com (703) 981-7703 or President Robby Allen at aincyouthlacrosse@gmail.com or (843) 263-0761.

Boules Club

The Amelia Island Boules Club holds petanque pickup games on the petanque courts at Central Park, corner of Atlantic Avenue and South 11th Street, Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. and most afternoons on weekdays.

Petanque (pay-tonk) is a cousin of both horseshoes and bocce, the Italian bowling game. The public is always welcome. Call 491-1190.

ALS tournament

The 14th annual ALS Amelia Island Golf Classic, held in memory of John Louis O'Day, will be held Aug. 3 at The Amelia Island Club at Long Point. Tournament proceeds benefit the ALS Association Florida Chapter.

Entry fees are \$200 per player or \$800 for a foursome. The reception only is \$50 per person. Sponsorships are available. Registration and warm-up with lunch buffet are from 10:30 a.m. to noon, with a shotgun start at noon. Format is a four-person scramble. The dinner reception is from 5-8 p.m. and includes beer and wine, raffle prizes, awards, silent auction and live music.

Contests include hole-in-one, longest drive and closest-to-the-pin (men and women)

and putting on putting green. Awards go to the first- through fifth-place net teams and first- and second-place gross teams. All players receive a complimentary goody bag. Raffle tickets will be available for five for \$20 or an entire arm wing span for \$100.

For information, contact Mark O'Day at 553-0576 or odaym25@aol.com or visit www.ALSGolfAmelia.com.

Sailing club meets

The Amelia Island Sailing Club meets the first Tuesday of the month at the Kraft Athletic Club at Ten Acres, located off Buccaneer Trail.

Social hour starts at 6:30 p.m., followed by a potluck dinner, business meeting and guest speaker presentation. Guests are welcome.

The AISC is a great way to meet new friends who share a love of the water and boating. Current boat ownership

or sailing skills are not prerequisites to joining. Club activities throughout the year may include day/overnight excursions by water and/or land, sailboat racing, social activities such as tubing, swimming with manatees, picnics and parties; as well as assisting with local conservation and environmental efforts in surrounding waters.

For information, contact Commodore Tom Maguire at (703) 298-1714.

NSFA meets

The Nassau Sport Fishing Association holds its monthly business meetings on the second Wednesday of each month. The monthly social get-together is held on the fourth Wednesday of each month. The location for both meetings is Kraft Ten Acres, 961023 Buccaneer Trail, Fernandina Beach. All are welcome.

The Nassau Sport Fishing

Association, founded in 1983, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization created to develop and promote saltwater fishing in the Nassau County area while adhering to state, federal and local regulations, to encourage compliance with rules of water safety by club members and the general public, and to promote youth-related community and other civic-minded activities.

Contact President Dennis Burke at (256) 453-4744 or email info@nsfafish.net.

Adult tai chi

Master Tom Gagne is offering adult tai chi classes at 6 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Email paksfermbch@yahoo.com or call 261-8660.

Organized bike rides

The North Florida Bicycle Club offers several organized bicycle rides each week at

various times and locations on Amelia Island and in Nassau County. Cyclists of all abilities are welcome.

Helmets and a bicycle in good working condition are required. Bicycle safety will be emphasized at the start of each ride.

Cyclists typically split into groups, depending on pace and skill level, and there are options to cut the ride short. Anyone who joins the group will not be left behind. Lunch is optional.

Call 261-5160, or visit www.ameliainlandcycling.com, www.ameliainlandtrail.org or www.nfbc.us.

Walk with Me

The McArthur YMCA offers Walk with Me, a program designed for people to walk with other people. The trail will be Amelia Park. The goal is a 50-minute walk with five minutes of stretching before and after the walk.

The program is held at 8 a.m. Mondays. Meet at the McArthur YMCA, 1951 Citrona Drive. Walkers of all ages and levels are welcome. Call 261-1080 for information.

Auxiliary meets

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Amelia Island Flotilla 14-1 meets the first Thursday in the Amelia Island Lighthouse Cottage, located on O'Hagan Lane on Lighthouse Circle. Call 261-1889 for information.

Bowling leagues

Senior league bowling is offered at 9:30 a.m. Wednesdays at the bowling alley off U.S. 17 in Yulee. The group also meets for Christian league at 6 p.m. Thursdays.

The News Leader Weather Summary

Fernandina Beach's Seven Day Forecast

Day	Forecast	Temp
Friday	Scattered T-storms	86 / 76
Saturday	Scattered T-storms	89 / 78
Sunday	Scattered T-storms	92 / 80
Monday	Scattered T-storms	91 / 78
Tuesday	Scattered T-storms	90 / 77
Wednesday	Few Showers	91 / 78
Thursday	Cloudy	92 / 79

Local UV Index

Index	Level
0-2	Low
3-5	Moderate
6-7	High
8-10	Very High
11+	Extreme Exposure

Weather Trivia

Do hurricanes develop over the equator?

Answer: No. The Coriolis force is too weak to allow their development.

Weather History

July 20, 1988 - The temperature at Redding, Calif. soared to an all-time record high of 118 degrees. Showers and thunderstorms produced much needed rains from New England to southern Texas. Salem, Ind. was deluged with 7.2 inches of rain, resulting in flash flooding.

Peak Fishing/Hunting Times This Week

Day	Peak Times		Day	Peak Times	
	AM	PM		AM	PM
Fri	6:53-8:53	7:17-9:17	Tue	10:02-12:02	10:26-12:26
Sat	7:40-9:40	8:03-10:03	Wed	10:50-12:50	--
Sun	8:27-10:27	8:50-10:50	Thu	11:14-1:14	11:39-1:39
Mon	9:14-11:14	9:38-11:38			

www.WhatsOurWeather.com

Sun/Moon Chart This Week

Day	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset	Phase
Fri	6:36 a.m.	8:27 p.m.	2:29 p.m.	1:23 a.m.	New 8/11
Sat	6:37 a.m.	8:27 p.m.	3:26 p.m.	1:59 a.m.	
Sun	6:37 a.m.	8:26 p.m.	4:21 p.m.	2:37 a.m.	
Mon	6:38 a.m.	8:26 p.m.	5:15 p.m.	3:16 a.m.	
Tue	6:38 a.m.	8:25 p.m.	6:07 p.m.	3:59 a.m.	
Wed	6:39 a.m.	8:25 p.m.	6:57 p.m.	4:44 a.m.	First 8/18
Thu	6:40 a.m.	8:24 p.m.	7:43 p.m.	5:33 a.m.	

Last Week's Almanac & Growing Degree Days

Date	High	Low	Normals	Precip	Farmer's Growing Degree Days
7/11	92	75	91/75	0.00"	Date Degree Days
7/12	92	76	91/75	0.00"	7/11 33
7/13	93	78	91/75	0.00"	7/12 34
7/14	88	79	91/75	0.00"	7/13 35
7/15	89	77	91/75	0.00"	7/14 33
7/16	93	77	91/75	0.00"	
7/17	92	76	91/75	0.00"	

Growing degree days are calculated by taking the average temperature for the day and subtracting the base temperature (50 degrees) from the average to assess how many growing days are attained.

Tides This Week

Fernandina Beach				St. Mary's Entrance				
Date	High	Low	Time	Date	High	Low	Time	
Fri	3:27 am	9:33 am	4:11 pm	10:15 pm	Fri	2:51 am	9:30 am	3:35 pm
Sat	4:21 am	10:26 am	5:08 pm	11:12 pm	Sat	3:45 am	10:23 am	4:32 pm
Sun	5:15 am	11:16 am	6:02 pm	None	Sun	4:39 am	11:13 am	5:26 pm
Mon	6:08 am	12:05 am	6:52 pm	12:05 pm	Mon	5:32 am	12:02 am	6:16 pm
Tue	6:58 am	12:55 am	7:38 pm	12:52 pm	Tue	6:22 am	12:52 am	7:02 pm
Wed	7:45 am	1:42 am	8:22 pm	1:38 pm	Wed	7:09 am	1:39 am	7:46 pm
Thu	8:29 am	2:27 am	9:03 pm	2:22 pm	Thu	7:53 am	2:24 am	8:27 pm

StarWatch By Gary Becker - One Small Step

I think everybody has a hero or someone they admire or aspire to emulate. One of mine was Neil A. Armstrong, the first human to walk on the moon. Neil unfortunately passed away last August 25 at the age of 82. I just finished James R. Hansen's authorized biography of Armstrong, First Man, which filled in a number of gaps and some misinformation I had about the reluctant hero, whose first small step onto the lunar surface on July 20, 1969 forever changed his life and people's perspective of the cosmos. "That's one small step for (a) man, one giant leap for mankind." This soft spoken and controlled human being, who paused to consider almost everything he said, forgot to say the "a" in that sentence. Without it, the words are redundant and make no sense, and although Armstrong insisted that the "a" was voiced, detailed audio analysis of that communication failed to reveal it. When were those words conceived in Armstrong's mind? Hansen gives a credible argument that it probably didn't happen until Armstrong had actually brought the Eagle safely down onto the lunar surface. There was no need to give it any serious consideration, according to Armstrong, until the landing had actually occurred, because Neil thought in his mind that the chances of accomplishing this feat were about 50/50. He gave the mission an overall 90 percent probability of successfully returning to Earth. Neil wasn't even concerned about whether he or his partner, Buzz Aldrin, would be the first to walk. It was all about successfully landing the Eagle. Buzz, on the other hand, lobbied hard for that first step, but in the end NASA administrators unanimously chose Armstrong as the better person to represent humanity's first explorer to set foot on another world. For Neil's sake, kindly remember the "a" in "...one small step..." That was something he really wanted the world to know. www.astronomy.org

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Just take a moment and fill out our Reader's Survey of your favorite places and become eligible for a \$250 cash drawing on August 1, 2018. All survey forms must be received at the News-Leader no later than July 27, 2018 and be 75% completed. All entries must include name, address, and phone number. Mail Entries to: The News-Leader, 511 Ash Street, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034. NO PHOTO COPIES! All survey forms must be mailed (only one per envelope), and no entries will be accepted over the counter.



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- Best Heating/Air _____
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- Best Home Boutique & Gift Store _____
- Best Hotel/Motel/Resort _____

- Best Home Builder _____
- Best Ice Cream _____
- Best Insurance Agency _____
- Best Jewelry Store _____
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- Best Mexican Restaurant _____
- Best Nail Salon _____
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- Best Sign Shop _____
- Best Steak in Town _____
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- Best Veterinarian _____
- Best Yoga Studio _____

INCLUDE NAME, ADDRESS, AND PHONE NUMBER

Name _____
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One Entry Per Person Per Week, Please!
 Must Complete 75% of Categories To Be Counted.



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The 13th annual Gullah/Geechee Nation International Music & Movement Festival will sound the drums Aug. 3-5 in Charleston, S.C. This year's three-day celebration of the history, legacy, culture, and music of the Gullah/Geechee Nation is themed "Disya da Gullah/Geechee."

Festival events will take place at the Charleston Music Hall and the Children's Museum of the Lowcountry. Event passes are available at www.GullahGeechee.info.

This year's edition of the Gullah/Geechee Nation International Music & Movement Festival will feature artist Quadré Stuckey and be a link between the Sea Islands and Barbados. The festival is partnering with Visit Barbados to host this official international celebration of the Gullah/Geechee Nation in South Carolina this year and next year in Barbados, where this historic reconnection will continue. Winston Farrell will be flying in to Charleston to represent his country through history, spoken word, and song.

Wona Womalan African drummers and dancers will lead the drum call, and Khetnu Nefer will lead a traditional dance class. The cast of *Gullah/Geechee Knows Emanuel* and Ernest Parks will provide dramatic presentations, and there will also be a showing of the new documentary *Protect* by Two Lane Films.

Queen Quet, chieftess of the Gullah/Geechee Nation who is a co-founder of the Gullah/Geechee Nation International Music & Movement Festival along with Kwame Sha of All Mobile Productions, will host the event. She will also do a Gullah/Geechee history-musical presentation. The entire event will be a choreopoem taking the audience on a journey through the Gullah/Geechee legacy.

All advance passes include Gullah/Geechee cuisine created by Chef Benjamin Dennis and Frydaddy of Chucktown Mobile. Advance passes are recommended and available at GullahGeechee.info.

The entire weekend will close with a massive drumming circle at the Children's Museum of the Lowcountry in downtown Charleston to honor the Gullah/Geechee ancestors who fought to hold on to their cultural traditions.



ALL IMAGES BY GULLAGEECHEE.INFO/SPECIAL
Left, Wona Womalan African drummers and dancers will lead the drum call during the 13th annual Gullah/Geechee Nation International Music & Movement Festival. Center, the cast of *Gullah/Geechee Knows Emanuel* will provide dramatic presentations. Right, Gullah/Geechee Nation Chieftess Queen Quet will host the festival.

Chef Benjamin Dennis, featured artist Quadré Stuckey and Bajan poet and dramatic artist Winston Farrell will all be special guests at the festival.

ON & OFF THE ISLAND

JAZZ FEST HISTORY

In partnership with the Amelia Island Jazz Festival, the Amelia Island Museum of History will hold its next 3rd on 3rd Street Presentation at 6 p.m. today, with world-renowned drummer, clinician, bandleader, and founder and artistic director of Jazz Festival, Les De Merle, who will present "The History of the Amelia Island Jazz Festival Talk and Live Rhythm Performance." The cost at the door will be \$10 for Museum members and \$15 for non-members. Seating is first-come, first-served with no advance reservations. For more information contact Joshua Whitfield at 261-7378, ext. 102, or joshua@ameliamuseum.org.



'GREATEST LOVE OF ALL'

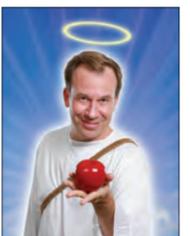
Tickets are still available for Saturday's production of *The Greatest Love of All: The Whitney Houston Show* starring Belinda Davids. The national tour will be at Jacksonville's Times-Union Center on Saturday, July 21, for one performance only. Tickets can be purchased at fscjartistsseries.org.

The tour follows star Belinda Davids' lauded performance on Fox TV's Showtime at the Apollo Christmas Special in December 2017, where her spine-tingling rendition of "I Will Always Love You" - on the very stage where Whitney Houston

filmed her famous Greatest Love of All film clip.

'ACT OF GOD'

Amelia Community Theatre will present David Javerbaum's irreverent adult comedy *An Act of God*, at 8 p.m. tonight, Saturday and July 26-28 and at 2 p.m. July 22 at 209 Cedar St. in Fernandina Beach. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students through college and available at AmeliaCommunityTheatre.org and 261-6749. Open seating in ACT's Studio 209 begins 30 minutes before curtain. This show has a suggested R rating.



OUT AND ABOUT

THIS WEEKEND

In partnership with the Amelia Island Jazz Festival, the Amelia Island Museum of History will hold its next 3rd on 3rd Street Presentation at 6 p.m. today with world-renowned drummer, clinician, bandleader, and founder and artistic director of Jazz Festival, Les De Merle, who will present "The History of the Amelia Island Jazz Festival Talk and Live Rhythm Performance." This year, the Jazz Festival is celebrating 15 years of jazz on Amelia Island with headliners that have included David Sanborn, Ramsey Lewis, Spyro Gyra, Buckwheat Zydeco. DeMerle will also introduce this year's festival line up, which will include Janis Siegel of the Manhattan Transfer. The cost at the door will be \$10 for Museum members and \$15 for non-members. Seating is first-come, first-served with no advance reservations. For more information contact Joshua Whitfield at 261-7378, ext. 102, or joshua@amelia-museum.org.

The winner of five Tony awards and seven Laurence Olivier awards – both including Best Play – plus numerous other accolades, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* will conclude its run this weekend at Amelia Musical Playhouse in Fernandina Beach. The show is adapted from the multiple prize-winning best-selling novel of the same name and ran for 799 performances in London's West End before enjoying a hugely successful two-year run on Broadway. Christopher Boone, the production's 15-year-old central character living in Swindon in the west of England, is what might be described today as "a high-functioning victim of autism or Asperger's Syndrome, though the book's author, Mark Haddon, has said that he somewhat regrets this label, and the events of the story are recorded in his diary. At the suggestion of Christopher's teacher, the diary becomes the basis of a play, delivering to audiences a "play within a play" that moves between the present and Christopher's recollections as his teacher reads the diary. In opening of the play, Christopher discovers the body of his neighbor's beloved dog and determines to discover what happened to the animal. During his investigations, a much more significant discovery prompts him to leave his comfort zone and travel alone to London on a new and more important mission. Despite its somewhat macabre opening, the show has a happy-ish ending. The show can be seen at 7:30 p.m. today and Saturday. Tickets are priced at \$15 for adults and \$10 for students and available by going online to ameliamusicalplayhouse.com

com or calling 277-3455. Some strong language in the first scene and scattered through the remainder of the play suggest a PG-13 rating for the show.

Amelia Community Theatre will present David Javerbaum's irreverent adult comedy *An Act of God*, at 8 p.m. today, Saturday and July 26-28 and at 2 p.m. July 22 at 209 Cedar St. in Fernandina Beach. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students through college and available at AmeliaCommunityTheatre.org and 261-6749. Open seating in ACT's Studio 209 begins 30 minutes before curtain. This show has a suggested R rating.

Auto Legends Amelia Cars and Conversation will meet 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, July 21, in the parking lot of Buygo's at the 100 block of South Eighth Street in Fernandina Beach. The event is open to anyone who enjoys cars. Unique and legendary autos will be on display and owners will be available to answer questions.

The American Legion Riders Steak Dinner will be held 5-7 p.m. Saturday, July 21. For \$12, you receive a N.Y. strip cooked to order with baked potato, salad, corn, and a roll. Dinners are open to the public. The Legion is located at 626 S. Third St. in Fernandina.

Story and Song Bookstore will host a book fair from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, July 22, to support Nassau Ferst Foundation. A portion of sales made during those hours will go to support early literacy for children under the age of five in Nassau County. The store has books for all age levels, special gifts and a bistro with inside and outside dining options. In addition, children who are registered with Nassau Ferst Foundation can bring a coupon from the organization's newsletter to receive a free book for attending the event. The Ferst Foundation's mission is to provide 12 books per year to each child in Nassau County until his or her fifth birthday. Story and Song is located at 1430 Park Ave. in Fernandina Beach.

NEXT WEEK

"The Bible Told Me So Show" will be the theme of this year's VBS at Amelia Baptist Church. There will be dinner, crafts, games, worship, and the Gospel of Jesus Christ delivered every night! The school will run July 23-27 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. To register, visit ameliabaptist.church-center.com/registrations. For more information, call 261-9527. The church is located at 961167 Buccaneer Trail on Amelia Island.

Former trial lawyer

'THE ROOMMATE'



SUBMITTED

Live Ink Theatre will present a lively staged reading of Jen Silverman's *The Roommate*, directed by Fran Hindsley and performed by Cynthia Riegler, Sinda Nichols and Sue Weiner. Performances will be at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 4, and at 4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 5, at Story & Song Bookstore Bistro, located at 1430 Park Ave. in Fernandina Beach. Tickets are \$15 and available online at livinktheatre.com, in person at Story & Song Bookstore Bistro or by phone at 601-2118. This thought-provoking dark comedy with plenty of surprises explores what it takes to re-route your life and what happens when the wheels come off. Sharon, recently divorced and living in Iowa, opens her home to Robyn from New York City, who needs a place to hide and a chance to start again. This is a play about aging, identity, friendship and much, much more. For more information, visit liveinktheatre.com and Live Ink Theatre's Facebook page. Pictured clockwise are Cynthia Riegler, Sinda Nichols, Sue Weiner, Fran Hindsley.

Jonathan F. Putnam, author of the Lincoln & Speed Mystery Series, will present "How the Young Lincoln Became Our Lincoln" at 11:30 a.m. July 23 at the Fernandina Beach Branch Library, according to a news release. The author will also sign copies of his latest book in the series, *Final Resting Place*. The book's plot is based on an actual 1838 sensational murder trial in which a young Abraham Lincoln, countered by the forceful prosecution of Stephen Douglas, defended a prominent local politician accused of murdering a rival. Douglas became Lincoln's principal political adversary for the next two decades, culminating in the famous Lincoln-Douglas debates of 1858. A recognized Lincoln scholar, Putnam's study has focused on the young Lincoln and his defining relationship with Speed. Complimentary sandwiches and lemonade will be served at this free event which is open to the public. Attendees are asked to RSVP by visiting thebookloftamelia.com/events.

New UF/IFAS Nassau Extension Service agent Justina Dacey has announced she will be hosting her first workshop on pond management 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, July 24, at the Extension Service's Callahan office, according to a news release. Participants will learn the proper ways to manage a recreational pond and are encouraged to bring pond weeds for free identification. Topics to be taught include pond stocking, fertilizing, how much and when, liming, water quality and aquatic weed identification. The Extension will also be giving away a limited quantity of pond-related supplies, and snacks and refreshments will be provided. Registration for the event is \$15 and can be completed online at <http://bit.ly/2Jth7oE>. Dacey has a Master's Degree in Marine Science from Jacksonville University and previously worked as a community engagement coordinator for the St. Johns Riverkeeper. She also is a Florida Master Naturalist instructor and can answer questions related to the Master Naturalist certification course, Florida natural ecosystems

and wildlife, aquatic and marine systems, invasive species management in wildlife areas and homesteading. Call 530-6353 for directions to the Callahan office.

The newest exhibition at the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens – "Urban Spaces, Open Skies: 20th-Century American Landscape" – will be on view July 27 through Feb. 3, 2019. Drawn from the Cummer Museum's extensive collection of works on paper, this presentation will feature more than 30 prints celebrating modern cities and the timeless charms of the country. Visitors can admire how artists have aptly captured the changing landscape of burgeoning cities like Chicago and New York, with its iconic Brooklyn Bridge, busy streets, workers, and harbors. In contrast to such images, the stillness and serenity of the countryside — with its wide open spaces, fields, and lakes — offer a welcome respite from the often chaotic urban life.

Applications for the UF/IFAS Nassau Master Gardener program are due by 5 p.m. Friday, July 27. For an overview of the volunteer program, see the Extension website at blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/nassauco/files/2017/07/MG_overview2018-1.pdf. The application is available at blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/nassauco/files/2017/07/MG_application2018.pdf. Prior to submitting your application, please complete the pre-test and submit with your application. The pre-test is at blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/nassauco/files/2017/07/MG_test_2018.docx. The application and pre-test must be submitted to the Extension office in Callahan or Yulee, or emailed to Extension Director Rebecca Jordi at rjordi@ufl.edu. For questions, call the Extension office at 530-6353.

Amelia Musical Playhouse will conduct auditions for a November production of *South Pacific* at 5 p.m. July 29 at the theater, located at 1955 Island Walkway in Fernandina Beach. Directed by Jill Dillingham with musical direction by Susan Raab of this Rogers and Hammerstein show, this Tony Award-winning musical is set on a Pacific island paradise during World

War II and follows two parallel love stories that are threatened by war and prejudice: Nellie, a spunky nurse from Arkansas, falls in love with a mature French plantation owner, Emile, and Lt. Joe Cable falls in love with Liat, an innocent Tonkinese girl. Those wishing to audition should be prepared to sing a one-minute song and to either read a one-minute monologue or read from the script. Accompaniment for the songs in the musical will be provided. If you want accompaniment for another song, leave the sheet music at AMP at least five days prior to the audition. A capella auditions are discouraged. If you are unavailable on the scheduled audition date or have other questions about the show or auditioning, contact Dillingham at ampplayhouse@gmail.com to arrange for an earlier audition. Show dates will be Nov. 1-4 and 8-11.

UPCOMING

Plantation Artists' Guild & Gallery will open a new show themed "Summer Reigns" from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Aug. 3. The guest artist for the month of August will be Fernandina artist Dante Deflorio, who paints in a variety of media including pastel, oil and acrylic. Refreshments will be served and artists present. The Gallery is located in the Omni Spa & Shops. For more information, visit artame-lia.com or call 432-1750.

The Newcomers Club of Amelia Island is hosting its monthly coffee at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 14. Women interested in joining the club who reside in Nassau County (no matter how long they have lived there) are welcome to attend. For further information contact coffees@NewcomersAmelia.org.

UF/IFAS Nassau Extension Director Rebecca Jordi will be conducting a three-day seminar, "Crash Course on North Florida Gardening," on consecutive Thursdays – Aug. 30, Sept. 6 and 13 – from 8 a.m. until noon at the Yulee county building (next door to the Yulee Extension office). The program will cover topics on proper landscape practices and plants for the Northeast Florida area with different information being presented each day. Notebooks, refreshments and plenty of garden material will be given away to participants. Classes will contain information on Florida-friendly plants, annuals, perennials, attracting wildlife, trees, shrubs, lawngrass, palms and citrus. Appropriate watering and fertilization methods will be discussed as well as proper pruning and plant selection. The cost is \$50 per person or \$75 per couple. Deadline for registration is Friday, Aug. 24, at 5 p.m. Registration must be completed online at <http://bit.ly/2Kmxipc>. For information, contact the Extension office at 530-6351 or rjordi@ufl.edu.

The Fernandina Beach High School Class of 1978 is planning its 40-year reunion. A meet and greet will be held at 5 p.m. Friday, Aug. 30, at Sandbar & Kitchen at Main Beach (no charge). Dinner and dancing will take place 6-10 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 1, at Walker's Landing (\$50 per person). For information, contact Johnny at 321-7875, Brenda at 753-0235 or Kim at 415-3243, or visit the FBHS Class of 1978 page on Facebook.

The West Nassau Historical Society will hold its fundraiser Hobos, Hot Rods, and Heroes Festival and Car Show on Saturday, Nov. 3. The nonprofit's second autumn celebration is an all-day event held in and around the historic 1881 Callahan

Train Depot and adjoining 1856 Florida Railroad bed. The arts and crafts and food vendors will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The car show portion is a judged contest in several categories and is presented by Cochran's Collision Center, Callahan Cruisers, and AB&B Auto Parts. It is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. followed by an awards ceremony on the depot's main stage. The kids' play area will start at 10 a.m. with a bouncy house and youth-oriented games. Joel Pace Music students will hold a hands-on instruments session on the front platform of the 137-year old station. The Historical Society will honor veterans at 11 a.m. Local live entertainment will perform from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with the final act following the car show awards ceremony.

Tours of the history museum, 1881 depot, turpentine artifact exhibit, and 1940s-era caboose will also be conducted. Inside the train depot museum the Historical Society will host a Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibit called "Crossroads: Change in Rural America." The six-week long exhibit is made possible by the Florida Humanities Council and will run through Dec. 8. The national display will be augmented with local quilters showing their works inside the depot annex along with the Historical Society's 8x8 history-themed model train layout. Sponsors and volunteers are needed to help make this fundraising event a success. For additional information on becoming a vendor, car show participant, volunteer, or sponsor to the 2018 Hobos, Hot Rods, and Heroes Festival and Car Show, visit www.wnhsfl.org or call festival co-chairs John Hendricks or Emily Baumgartner at 879-3406.

Fern and Dina's gallery is offering classes in July in clay hand-building basics, acrylic painting, water-based painting, fluid acrylic pour, and intro to cold wax, as well as a kid's art camp. Call 261-5566 for information or go to fernandinas.com.

ONGOING

The Island Art Association's Nouveau Art Show, themed "Chiaroscuro," is on view until Aug. 5. There are 58 entries in the show, judged by Lily Kuonen, associate professor of art at Jacksonville University. Georganna Mullis was chair of the show. The Island Art Association is located at 18 N. Second St. in Fernandina Beach. For more information, visit islandart.org or call 261-7020.

Local artist Lisa Inglis will host painting parties during the summer at The Green Turtle Tavern and PJD's Beer & Wine Garden. Cost is \$20 per canvas with several designs from which to choose. You start whenever you show up and work at your own pace. All supplies are provided.

- The Green Turtle Tavern, 14 S. Third St., Tuesdays 5-7 p.m. on July 10 and 24, Aug. 7 and 21 and Sept. 4 and 18.
- PJD's Beer & Wine Garden, 12 S. Second St., Thursdays 1-4:30 p.m. on July 12 and 26, Aug. 9 and 23 and Sept. 6 and 20.

Ballroom On Amelia offers two for Tuesday group classes with Night Club Two Step at 7 p.m. followed by Country at 8 p.m. Tuesday classes are \$10 per person or both for \$15. A dance workshop is offered 7-8:30 p.m. Thursdays for \$10 per person. Ballroom On Amelia is at 1897 Island Walkway at RAD Studios. Neither a partner nor a reservation is required. For information, call 624-0886 or visit ballroomonamelia.com or the Ballroom on Amelia Facebook page.

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Wednesday, July 18
Solution

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Theater group produces 'Young Frankenstein'

Participants in the FSCJ Artist Series 13th annual High School Summer Musical Theatre Experience will present six performances beginning tonight of a production of *Young Frankenstein* at the FSCJ Nathan H. Wilson Center for the Arts on Florida State College at Jacksonville's South Campus, located at 11901 Beach Blvd. in Jacksonville.

This program provides theater opportunities to seventh through 12th grade students in the First Coast area and allows them to work hands-on with some of the highest recognized local and regional theater professionals. This year, more than 70 student performers and technicians trained for the production of *Young Frankenstein*.

From the creators of the record-breaking Broadway sensation, *The Producers*, comes this monster new musical comedy. The comedy genius, Mel Brooks, adapts his

legendarily funny film into a brilliant stage creation – *Young Frankenstein!*

Grandson of the infamous Victor Frankenstein, Frederick Frankenstein (pronounced "Fronk-en-steen") inherits his family's estate in Transylvania. With the help of a hunchbacked sidekick, Igor (pronounced "Eye-gore"), and a leggy lab assistant, Inga (pronounced normally), Frederick finds himself in the mad scientist shoes of his ancestors. "It's alive!" he exclaims as he brings to life a creature to rival his grandfathers. Eventually, of course, the monster escapes and hilarity continuously abounds.

Every bit as relevant to audience members who will remember the original as it will be to newcomers, *Young Frankenstein* has all the panache of the screen sensation with a little extra theatrical flair added. It will surely be the perfect opportunity for a production company to showcase an array

of talents. With such memorable tunes as "The Transylvania Mania," "He Vas My Boyfriend" and "Puttin' on the Ritz," *Young Frankenstein* is scientifically proven, monstrosity good entertainment.

The show can be seen at 7:30 p.m. tonight, Saturday and July 27-28 and at 2 p.m. July 22 and 29.

Tickets are \$25 for reserved seats, \$20 for seniors over 60, military with valid ID and non-FSCJ students, and \$15 for FSCJ students and employees with valid ID. Discounts are limited to two tickets per ID. To purchase tickets, call the Wilson Center for the Arts Box Office at (904) 646-2222 or the FSCJ Artist Series Box Office at (904) 632-5000. Tickets can also be purchased online at fscjartistseries.org. Discounts are available for groups of 10 or more by calling (904) 632-5050 or emailing groupsales@fscj.edu.

Nassau student leveraged career education training

BRENT LEMOND
Special to the News-Leader

Caleb Fahlgren, a 2018 graduate from West Nassau High School, became the first Nassau County student to be named the Outstanding Secondary Career Education Student by the Florida Association of Career and Technical Education. He was chosen based on his entire high school résumé and honored this week at the FACTE ceremony in Orlando. Fahlgren's trail-blazing approach to high school distinguished him in several ways, and he will be reaping rewards for quite some time.

The Nassau County School District offers several options for high school students. While most students choose one program or a standard college-prep track, Fahlgren took a different approach. He viewed each class as an opportunity to explore careers and obtain credentials. While a standard college-prep high school diploma leaves roughly four to five classes for career preparation, West Nassau's block schedule allows for 12 to 13. Fahlgren didn't stop there: He enrolled in an early morning drafting/AutoCAD course, began the Digital Forensics Technical Certificate at Florida State College at Jacksonville through early admissions and worked on his own to work toward additional industry certifications such as Linux and IT security. By the time he graduated, he had earned seven industry credentials, multiple college credit hours, six college scholarships, and knew exactly what career field would allow him to achieve his financial goals.

While college tuition has increased significantly in recent decades, a four-year college degree is no longer a guarantee to higher wages. Now more than ever, students need to consider the marketability of specific degrees and evaluate education as a financial investment. With a maturity and foresight beyond his years, Fahlgren understood this and explained during a recent conversation how the school district's career education program offerings made a difference for him.

"I wanted to go into college knowing exactly what I wanted to do, and the way to do that was to take as many different classes as you can. I wanted to use my four years in college taking exactly what I needed, not exploring," he explained.

In the four years spanning eighth to 11th grade, Fahlgren

took courses in six different career education programs. This gave him exposure to marketing, finance, engineering, and computer science among other things. He settled with a combination of the final two, wireless engineering.

"In eighth grade I wanted to be a computer programmer. I didn't discover the security side until working in the Java course my junior year of high school. Cyber security is such a growing field. Remember the Target data breach and the huge impact it made on their business? I wanted to be on the cutting edge of that," Fahlgren said.

Having a narrowed career goal allowed him to proceed with a deliberate process of vetting college programs and planning his future. As he explored college track, Fahlgren took a different approach. He viewed each class as an opportunity to explore careers and obtain credentials. While a standard college-prep high school diploma leaves roughly four to five classes for career preparation, West Nassau's block schedule allows for 12 to 13. Fahlgren didn't stop there: He enrolled in an early morning drafting/AutoCAD course, began the Digital Forensics Technical Certificate at Florida State College at Jacksonville through early admissions and worked on his own to work toward additional industry certifications such as Linux and IT security. By the time he graduated, he had earned seven industry credentials, multiple college credit hours, six college scholarships, and knew exactly what career field would allow him to achieve his financial goals.

Choosing an out-of-state school meant additional expenses, so seeking out scholarships would be key. He approached this with the same sort of focus as he did his career exploration. Regarding winning scholarships, Fahlgren said, "It was less about AP courses and grades and more about being involved and well-rounded. Having participated in activities such as 4-H, FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America), the University of U.S., and the Jacksonville Bitcoin Club really mattered. Having a part-time job and industry credentials on my resume helped too. Clubs plus school plus job showed I could handle it all! SAT scores helped a lot too, of course."

He ended up with seven scholarships totaling \$39K for his freshmen year of college. This includes the FACTE award that garnered him \$1,000 courtesy of the D. C. Jaeger Corporation. The two largest awards Fahlgren received total over \$30K, are specific to Auburn's programs,

and can be renewed yearly. Problem solved – he won't have to take on debt to fund his education.

Last month, Fahlgren started his program at Auburn. Why wait until the fall when you intend to accomplish so much in your life! While his college experience is just beginning, he is already seeing other advantages from having chosen career education courses over additional AP or academic courses.

"AutoCAD help me a lot. I used AutoCAD in a bridge design project in my first college class. It allowed me to build a prototype with the computer so I could be sure everything was exact. Other students that are just starting engineering may have struggled with the project, but I knew that by using AutoCAD I could get everything exact. My CompTIA A+ certification prep helped me know where the computer industry is heading. The Java program was my favorite because I loved the real-world projects and team group projects. I think that one of the best ways to learn is through real-world projects. Video game design was a close second because you could bring your own knowledge and creativity into those projects."

For younger students hoping to achieve great things including landing scholarships and promising jobs, Fahlgren offered some parting advice: "Being well-rounded is so important. People get caught up on being valedictorian, but everyone applying for these awards has good grades. You have to make yourself unique by having projects or experiences that not everyone else has. Colleges want a diverse atmosphere, so want to see how you are different from the rest of the pack and how you are going to contribute to that atmosphere. They want to know you'll be involved in their extra-curricular activities and may even do research with professors."

Brent Lemond is director of Career and Adult Education for the Nassau County School District.



Caleb Fahlgren, center, a 2018 graduate of West Nassau High School, was named Outstanding Secondary Career Education Student by the Florida Association of Career and Technical Education. He is flanked by Nassau County School District Career Education Director Brent Lemond and Brian Simmons, a CTE teacher at West Nassau. SUBMITTED

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AMELIA LODGE AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS



Brothers of Amelia Lodge No. 47 awarded \$1,000 college scholarships to Jenna Edwards, left, of Fernandina Beach High School, and Roseann Walters, right, of Yulee High School, at the organization's Annual Community Service Recognition Night in June. Edwards plans to pursue a degree in biology at the University of North Florida, and Walters will also be a biology student at Florida Atlantic University. Members of Amelia Lodge's Scholarship Committee are, left to right, Danny Fullwood, Ed Woodby, and Steve Russo. SUBMITTED

ACT GUILD LUNCHEON



The Amelia Community Theatre Guild held its annual luncheon in June at the North Hampton Country Club. New officers for 2018-19 are Diane Monti, president; Caren Kapson, recording secretary; Beverlee McGowan, corresponding secretary; Pat Hillier, treasurer; Cindy Levin and Sheila Davidson, membership coordinators; and Carol Condit and Nancy Phillips, usher coordinators. The ACT Guild formed in 2003 to aid, promote and supplement all activities of the Amelia Community Theatre. New members are welcome. Pictured left to right are Monti, Levin, Hillier, McGowan, Davidson and Phillips. SUBMITTED

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Beef Brisket... \$11.95
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Rib (bone-in)... \$10.95
Turkey Breast (smoked)... \$11.95
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(Served with two sides)
Pork ... \$11.95
Beef Brisket ... \$14.95
Chicken (white meat) ... \$11.95
Chicken (dark meat) ... \$10.95
Rib (bone-in) ... \$14.95
Turkey Breast (smoked) ... \$12.95
Shrimp Dinner (slaw & FF) ... \$12.95

FRIED CHICKEN
(2 pieces with 2 sides & drink)
Dark ... \$7.95
White ... \$8.95
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11am - 3pm

LUNCH BUFFET
Monday - Friday 11am - 2pm

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RELIGION

Good neighbors are willing to get their hands dirty

In Luke 10:25-37, a lawyer asks Jesus, "What must I do to have eternal life?" Jesus confirms with the man that he must love God with all his heart, soul, and mind, and love his neighbor as himself.

The man, "desiring to justify himself," follows up, asking, "And who is my neighbor?" Instead of giving the lawyer a direct answer, Jesus tells him the story of the Good Samaritan.

PRACTICAL THEOLOGY

Richard Doster

The morals of the story run deep, but at the very least, Jesus' parable tells us four things: True neighbors get involved. They get their hands dirty. They understand that we're all God's image, deserving of dignity, regardless of race, sex, or social class. They spend their resources — time, money, and reputation — on behalf of others, and they do so generously.

The parable sprang to mind last week when I read about Safe In Place, a new seniors program that hopes to identify key seniors' issues, whether they're medical-, social-, environmental-, safety-, or crime-related. "We hope to ... recognize problems as they occur," said Police Chief James Hurley, "and react as needed."

Stories like this make me proud to live here. And they not only remind me of Jesus' parable; they're a throwback to an earlier era.

Alexis de Tocqueville in Democracy in America was struck by the fact that Americans were forever forming associations. He was fascinated by how they pooled their resources to build churches, distribute books, and send missionaries around the world. Americans form associations, he told his readers, to build hospitals, prisons, and schools. They form societies in order to proclaim a truth or "set an example of right behavior."

Tocqueville had never seen anything like it. In France, he said, "you'd find the government" and in England you'd find "some territorial magnate." In the United States, there was a private association.

Fifty years later, fraternal orders — the Odd Fellows, Elks, and Masons — became important vehicles for meeting neighbors' needs. As cooperative Good Samaritans, these groups formed mutual insurance programs to care for one another's health, and they were good at it. So good, in fact, that in 1894 an official at the New Hampshire Bureau of Labor wrote: "The tendency to join fraternal organizations for the

purpose of obtaining care and relief in the event of sickness and insurance for the family in case of death is well-nigh universal."

These voluntary organizations were a picture of what it means to love one's neighbor as yourself, and they provided a flesh-and-blood illustration of what it means to "do to others as you would have them do to you."

These groups did more than provide insurance. Author David Beito reports that in New York, at the turn to the 20th century, a survey of 112 Protestant churches in Manhattan and the Bronx revealed that these churches alone operated 48 industrial schools, 45 libraries or reading rooms, 44 sewing schools, 40 kindergartens, 29 small-sum savings banks and loan associations, 21 employment offices, 20 gymnasias and swimming pools, eight medical dispensaries, seven full-day nurseries, and four lodging houses.

All this was created by ordinary citizens who saw a need, and with their time and their money, stepped in to meet it.

Generally, these groups shared the same philosophy. In the words of the Security Benefit Association, they aspired "to promote the brotherhood of man, teach fidelity to home and loved ones, loyalty to country and respect of law, to establish a system for the care of the widow and orphans, the aged and disabled, and enable every worthy member to protect himself from the ills of life and make substantial provision through cooperation with other members, for those who are nearest and dearest."

Not surprisingly, many found inspiration in the Bible and the Christian faith. The Independent Order of Saint Luke, for just one example, not only took its name from the Gospel writer, its members swore to "be true and faithful to the Christian religion" and to devote leisure time to "searching the Holy Scriptures, so that I may become useful and true to all mankind."

One of the things that makes this a great place to live is that so many are willing to meet their neighbors' needs. At Hope House, Barnabas, the Council on Aging, Boys and Girls Clubs, local churches, and now Safe In Place — so many are willing to get involved, get their hands dirty, respect their neighbors, and give of their own resources.

It's comforting to know that you live among such good neighbors, isn't it?

Richard Doster lives in Fernandina Beach with his wife, Sally. He's the editor of byFaith, the magazine of the Presbyterian Church in America, and attends Grace Community Church in Yulee. Reach him at ddoster@icloud.com.

The Apostle Matthew, the 'Host with the Most'

JOHN SCHERER
Crisis Intervention Minister

What few people may realize is that the Apostle Matthew may have been the original Party Animal! "What was that? Are you speaking of 'THE' Apostle Matthew, the author of the first book of the New Testament?" The answer is that it appears so. Matthew, a man of great communicative people skills as a tax collector, also appears to be a "Gala Guru" with a plan for Jesus!

Tax collectors of the day were working for the Romans to mainly collect taxes for road use from merchants and travelers. One day, Jesus saw Matthew sitting at a collection point, looked him in the eyes and said to him, "Follow me," and Matthew arose and followed (Matthew 9:9). He then took Jesus to his home to rest and held a great dinner with his guest list looking like a who's who of his friends, other tax collectors, and sinners galore. The spiritual leaders of the time questioned how Jesus could sit and party among a house full of sinners like that. Jesus heard them and replied, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, only those who are sick." Go and learn what this means: "I desire mercy and not sacrifice. For I do not come to call on the righteous, but sinners to repentance" (Matthew 9:10-13).

As a tax collector, Matthew was detested by his peers. His profession perceived him as a liar, cheat, fraud, mercenary working for the Romans, traitor and a general lowlife who's only friends were prostitutes, beggars, criminals and other outcasts. Sounds like a tough handle to overcome, doesn't it? The other self-satisfied religionists like the Pharisees criticized Jesus for attending such a dinner party thrown by the likes of Matthew. But our Lord and Savior knew whom he had come to help and where to find them. In

Matthew, Jesus had a direct line into the underworld of society, a class of people untouched by the religious legalists, but deeply in need of a Savior! Jesus was neither condoning nor glorifying lifestyles of sin, but merely reaching out to people who knew that they were sick and completely lost. Matthew showed that Jesus can save anyone — that is, anyone who admits they need saving!

Jesus' life was not always an open book, readable by all. It is certain that He lived a perfect, model life. But even that in itself could not stand alone as an undeniable witness. His actions needed interpretation, so He supplemented His Good Deeds with Good News! In the same way, "we as believers must not only back up our words with a Christ-like lifestyle, but tell others and give meaning to our quiet walk and good deeds."

Perhaps the answer for all believers in all congregations is "relationship evangelism!" We need to invite others — believers, non-believers, neighbors, friends, co-workers, strangers and everyone we can — to hear us explain how our lives were saved by Christ! Perhaps every church should start up or stress more importance on a new evangelism project in "building friendships," if they aren't already! Building friendships is something we all have the opportunity to do every day, in our neighborhoods, our places of employment, with customers and strangers we meet, with the people we meet at lunch, in line at the grocery store, the bank, with our military personnel — the opportunities are endless. Perhaps we need to invite people to our homes for some BBQ, snacks or cookies and lemonade? Perhaps the church doors should be open wider with activities and social events? Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, we must do whatever it takes to reach every non-believer. It's a matter of eternal proportions and life-

saving importance. Many people think of a clean yard, a two-car garage with two cars in it, a closet full of clothes, going to church for an hour on Sunday, good food in the fridge and a thousand other things as "the good life." The real America is not always so pretty and simply comfortable. It underscores the urgency of our work as Christians. According to myhope.org, if you live in a typical community with average neighbors, here's what you're likely to find:

- 60 people who admit to not being born again;
- 14 people feeling crippled or trapped by fear and anxiety;
- Nine people struggling with the loss of a job;
- Seven people addicted to drugs or alcohol;
- Seven people struggling with depression for many reasons; and
- Three people grieving in some way for the loss of a loved one.

So many people are living under the burden of no hope. Sixty percent of Americans don't attend church regularly. Among youth in our churches, half think that many religions can lead to eternal life. In the last 23 years, the number of people who identify themselves as atheists or agnostics has tripled, according to myhope.org.

Here's a way to turn you into a "Matthew":

- LOOK AROUND and identify your friends, family, co-workers and others who do not know Jesus Christ.
- LOOK UP and pray daily for these people.
- LOOK OUT for opportunities to build relationships with these and other people.
- LOOK FORWARD to events and gatherings where you can give a brief testimony.
- LOOK AFTER those who give their lives to Christ and continue to build relationships.

RELIGION NOTES

'Old Times Religion Program'

There will be an Old Times Religion Program held at 7 p.m. Saturday, July 21, at the Third Mount Zion Church in O'Neal. We are inviting your church to come out and participate and join in the service like we used to have church. The speaker for the occasion will be Bishop Rufus Walker, pastor of Friendship Baptist Church in Yulee. Come out and hear the old hymns and songs and good, old-fashioned preaching. Bring your shouting shoes and let's get it on! Be there or be square.

Speakers at First Presbyterian

Each Sunday this summer, First Presbyterian is hosting a variety of presentations focused on cherishing God's creation here on our beautiful island. They are free to the public. Please come for coffee at 9:30 a.m. and stay for the presentation that begins at 9:50 a.m. and last approximately 50 minutes.

- July 22 — Amelia's Historic Trees with Margaret Kirkland, Amelia Tree Conservancy
- July 29 — "Look & See" with Rev. Dr. Wain Wesberry, pastor, First Presbyterian, Fernandina
- Aug. 5 — Solar Energy with Pete

Wilking, A1A Solar

- Aug. 12 — Bees and Beekeeping with Barb Kent, BuyGones
 - Aug. 19 — Appreciating our Wetlands with Ray Hetchka, Kayak Amelia
 - Aug. 26 — St. John's Riverkeeper with Executive Director Jimmy Orth
- The church is located at 9 North Sixth St. in Fernandina Beach with special needs parking space available in the FPC lot on North Fifth Street. For more information, contact 261-3837 or churchoffice@1stpres-fb.com or visit first-presbyterian-church-32034.org.

Hope House worship

Do you dream? Do you remember it when you awake? Do you wonder what it means? Does it mean anything? Do you ask someone to remember it for you? Interpret it? Well, there once was a powerful king who did just that — dreamed, lost the dream, demanded others remember it for him and then interpret it! Join us at 12 p.m. Tuesday, July 24, to worship, study and fellowship with other believers as we walk beside Daniel while he lives this crazy scenario out. The Salvation Army Hope House is located at 410 S. Ninth St., Fernandina Beach.

Back-to-school blessing

First Assembly of God will host a free back-to-school clothing event 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Aug. 4. As you get your children ready for school, help us bless others with your outgrown but good children's clothing and shoes. If your children are grown but you remember those days, go shopping for children's clothes and bless someone else's child. Also, if you would like to help us sort and display the clothing, we will be working all week before the sale. If the church is closed, drop your clothes donation in the large box at the entrance to the church.

Journey to the Catholic faith

Are you an adult who would like to become Catholic? Are you a baptized adult Catholic who has not yet received the Sacraments of First Eucharist and Confirmation? St. Michael Catholic Church will conduct an informative workshop at 6:45 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 14, in the second-floor Spanish classroom at St. Michael Academy for those interested in learning more about the RCIA process. Call the church office at 261-3472 to register or for more information.



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www.first-presbyterian-church-32034.org

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Thinking of Buying or Selling? Homes Are Selling Fast!
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NORTH HAMPTON 86523 No. Hampton Club Way, 5/4. 3,018 sf, Plantation shutters, fireplace and 3rd car garage. **\$450,000 #81081**



AMELIA SOUTH Unit#1E 2/2, 1,130 sf, "Turn Key" condo! Resort rentals allowed, great investment or 2nd home! **\$380,000 #81142**



PRICE MODIFICATION - Creekside 87239 Branch Creek 4/2.5, 2,375 sf. Clean and well maintained. Wide lot, on the pond. Low price per sf! **\$270,000 #80189**



OCEAN FRONT - 316 S. Fletcher, Sea Gate - a 4 unit complex steps to the ocean. Fully furnished, 2 Bdrm, resort rental approved, pets allowed. Ft Clinch, Downtown nearby **\$360,000 #80301**



OCEAN FRONT - 1131 Ocean Ave, 3 BR/ 2.5 BA, office, interior elevator, Ft. Clinch nearby, incredible ocean views, steps to water **\$799,000 #78719**



SEASIDE 3116B S Fletcher Ave, Oceanfront townhome, 3/3, 1,818 sf, Fully furnished, shared pool! **\$800,000 #81143**

Homesites For Your Dream Home

PINEY ISLAND
1 Acre with private pond & view of marsh. Near Bridge to Island. **\$86,000 #80273**

BLACKROCK HAMMOCK
96474 Southern Lily Dr. Great price for a 1 acre lot on a quiet cul de sac, gated neighborhood of custom homes. NO build time! Convenient to shopping, beaches and A1A. **MLS# 79169 \$77,500**

LANCEFORD CREEK
96134 Dowling Dr. 1.23 acre marshfront lot in Lanceford neighborhood. 80' road frontage w/ narrow path that leads to the water. **\$160,000 #76102**

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MERCHANDISE

Garage Sales

ESTATE SALE - 2 bedroom sets with large wardrobes, beautiful sofas & chairs, china cabinets, colorful lounge, wing backs, lamps, tables, dining table with 6 chairs, chest, dressers, art, kitchen, linen, many decorative pcs., vanity, re-diner, buffet, & so much more. Thurs. July 19, Fri. July 20 & Sat. July 21st, 8am-3pm. Corner 10th & Lime Sts., Fern. Bch. Follow the red & white signs.

GARAGE SALE - Thurs., Fri. & Sat., 9am-5pm. Hickory Village subdivision off Miner Rd in Yulee, 86263 Sand Hickory Trl. Misc. furniture, clothing, housewares, toys.

YARD SALE - Friday and Saturday at 804 Stanley Dr., 8am-1pm. Lots of stuff!

Articles For Sale

MEN'S CLOTHING - Black tuxedo pants 40R, coat 44L, \$45, Black suit 42R, coat 44L, \$35. Call (904)261-7822

Antiques-Collectibles

HOUSE OF COLLECTIBLES - 131 S. 8th St. 624-7497. Records, comics, books, DVDs, CDs, toys, games, jewelry, sports cards, Star Wars, figurines.

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Home Furnishings

FOR SALE - (2) Thomasville dub chairs, burgundy, \$50 each/OBO. Tan recliner, good condition, \$35. (904)261-7822

Auctions

Live & Online Public Auction Tuesday, July 24th at 10:00 AM 1883 Marina Mile Blvd. (SR 84), Ste 106, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315

Featuring Bankruptcy case assets: Mens authentic Omega watch, office equipment, flatscreen TVs, electronics, high-end executive chairs and more! 10%-13% BP. Featuring Assignment for the Benefit of Creditors case assets: Large qty. of desktop computers, laptops, tablets, office furniture, office equipment, mobile data collection equipment, 2013 Triumph Motorcycle, 2004 Ford E-350 Super Duty Cutaway Conversion Van, electronics, mens authentic Rolex watch and more! 15% -18% BP. Catalog and photos available at www.moeckerauctions.com Assets of various Cases (case numbers listed on our website) Preview: Day of sale 9 AM to 10 AM - \$100 refundable cash deposit to register. info@moeckerauctions.com AB-1098 AU-3219, Eric Rubin ANF

Miscellaneous

ARIENS RIDING MOWER 22HP Kohler Engine, 46 inch deck, purchased 2013. Needs new battery. \$500/ OBO. 732-908-9580

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REAL ESTATE

Homes for Sale

3BR/1BA ON AMELIA ISLAND - Fully remodeled, new kitchen, new bath, large screened-in patio, over sized fenced-in backyard. \$254,900. Brokers welcome. Call (404)509-6927.

Lots & Land

BLACKROCK HAMMOCK - YULEE 3.5 acre cul-de-sac lot with Private Pond and Preservation buffer. Gated. \$129,000. 904-201-1948.

Other Areas

Lake Property Foreclosure Resale

Originally sold for: \$109,900 Liquidation Price: \$29,900 Upscale Community. Watch Video: www.LakeLotsCloseout.com 877-712-3650 Florida Waterfront Marketing, LLC. ANF

Other Areas

Real Estate Auction - Sylacauga, AL, 515+/- acres in city limits, near US. Highways 280 & 231 offered in four parcels, combinations and/or entirety. July 26, 1:00 pm. Gtauctions.com. 1.205-326.0833. Granger, Thagard & Associates, Inc., Jack F. Granger, #873. ANF

RENTALS

Apartments

2/2 FURNISHED OCEANSIDE - Upstairs, \$2500/mo. 2/2 downstairs, \$2200/mo. Call (904)261-9129.

2BR/1BA APARTMENT - in duplex in downtown historic district available August 1st. Call Andrea (914)661-2636.

Homes

1BR FURNISHED APT. - attached to private residence with private entrance. Includes electric, water, sewer, garbage. No smoking. \$1,000/mo. Email for info to parkerbrave85@gmail.com

AMELIA PARK 2BR/2.5BA TOWNHOME. Fenced backyard with POOL. 2-car garage. Avail 8/1. 1-yr lease. \$1800/mo. + \$1800 sec. dep. (904)310-6773

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

Mobile Homes

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

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