



Fast track rejected in fight over districts

JIM SAUNDERS
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE – An appeals court Tuesday rejected a request by voting-rights groups to fast-track a congressional redistricting fight to the Florida Supreme Court.

The decision by the 1st District Court of Appeal was a blow to the groups and other plaintiffs trying to block a redistricting plan pushed through the Legislature by Gov. Ron DeSantis.

Leon County Circuit Judge Layne Smith on May 12 issued a temporary

injunction against the plan, but the state appealed and Smith's ruling was put on hold. With this year's elections approaching, plaintiffs filed a motion to effectively send the temporary-injunction dispute straight to the Supreme Court, a move known as seeking "certification" to the Supreme Court.

But in the one-paragraph decision Tuesday, the Tallahassee-based appeals court rejected the certification request. It remains unclear when the appeals court will issue a ruling in the underlying dispute about the temporary injunction. But as it stands now, the DeSantis-backed plan would be used in this year's election.

"As the court has previously intimated, this appeal involves a wholly procedural matter relating to the permissible scope of temporary injunctions, which the Supreme Court has repeatedly and clearly addressed," the appeals court's decision said. "Due to the limited scope of this appeal and record, there does not appear to be a basis for certification under the criteria set out" in part of the Florida Constitution.

The case has spawned a series of procedural moves, at least in part because of the short timeline before this year's elections. A qualifying period for candidates will be held in mid-June, with primary elections Aug. 23.

In seeking certification, attorneys for the plaintiffs pointed to "urgency" as the elections near.

"This appeal, therefore, cannot wait for briefing, argument and judgment in this court (the 1st District Court of Appeal), even under an expedited schedule," the May 13 motion said. "No matter how quickly this court moves, the time the parties would spend briefing the issues at stake and the court would spend weighing their competing arguments, would severely subtract from the time available for the Supreme Court to receive the same briefing and complete the same analysis in order to provide final word on the constitutionality of the enacted plan."

In a separate move, the plaintiffs went to the Supreme Court on Monday



DeSantis

'SEE YOU IN COURT'



MARISSA MAHONEY/NEWS-LEADER

Hundreds of concerned residents descended on Monday night's Nassau County Board of County Commissioners meeting to fight 11 proposed high-rise condos on the south end of Amelia Island by Riverstone Properties.

County commissioners vote to block 85-foot-high condos

MARISSA MAHONEY
News-Leader

Nassau County is potentially steamrolling toward a lengthy and expensive legal battle with Riverstone Properties after the Nassau County Board of County Commissioners decided Monday to stand firm with its 45-foot height limit for buildings in unincorporated Amelia Island.

Conflict ensued after county commissioners passed an ordinance limiting building heights to 45 feet in unincorporated areas of Amelia Island last year. Riverstone rebuked the county's decision as the developer announced plans to construct 11 high-rise condominium towers, each 85 feet tall, across 50 acres on the south end of the island.

In response to this ordinance approval, Riverstone filed a lawsuit through its legal counsel, Rogers

Towers, on June 25, 2021. The developer invoked the Bert Harris Property Rights Act, which protects property owners if they believe their land is inordinately burdened, resulting in a reduction of value.

Riverstone asserted the land value would be \$72 million if allowed the 85-foot exception; however, the Nassau County Property Appraiser currently lists it at \$44 million market value with an assessed value of \$28 million.

The developer also claimed this ordinance will reduce the number of oceanfront properties and eliminate units with "premium oceanfront views." Riverstone's lawsuit seeks \$27 million compensation to account for property value lost with a 45-foot building height restriction.

"The Bert Harris Act is relatively new, and any new law is going to be subject to all sorts of lawsuits to ferret out its interpretation," resident Bonita Gardner

said Monday. "The interpretation that is being proffered by the Riverstone group is basically one that challenges hundreds of years of law with respect to zoning. Zoning ordinances have always allowed local communities and municipalities to govern the way we want our communities to look."

This month, a proposed settlement agreement with Riverstone began circulating in which the county expressed its desire to "avoid the expense, delay, risk and uncertainty of lengthy litigation" and agreed with Riverstone that the maximum building height for permitted structures on the property is 85 feet.

Despite its stance in the proposal, the county reached out to attorney Susan Erdelyi regarding the Bert Harris Act claim and the different ways Nassau County can approach Riverstone's threat.

COURT Continued on 11A

County fire service prepares for influx of people

KATHIE SCIULLO
Nassau County Record

Nassau County Fire Rescue looks to refurbish existing fire stations and build new ones to accommodate growing neighborhoods.

Fire rescue Chief Brady Rigdon highlighted the department's short-term goals to address fire protection services as housing and population needs expand.

He assumed leadership of fire rescue in 2017, overseeing eight fire stations.

"The growth is coming," Rigdon said. "It's already here. I hear people say that the developers have discovered Nassau

County."

In June 2021, the \$3.2 million three-bay Station 71 officially opened with a dedication ceremony. The blueprint will be used for the construction of a new Station 90 on State Road 2 in Hilliard. Station 70 on State Road 200 will also be rebuilt from the same plans. Bid proposals will go out this year. NCFR Station 30 will be relocated from Pages Dairy Road to Wildlight Commerce Park. The donation agreement was finalized in February.

"They're donating 4 acres to us to build that station on, and they'll be about a quarter-mile west of where they

currently are," Rigdon said. "So that's coming too. So the focus has been on getting a lot of our existing infrastructure replaced and rebuilt. And of course, with the growth coming, we're going to have to look at expanding the department going forward."

The town of Callahan has more than 200 new dwellings planned, with some underway. Western Nassau is prepared to handle the impending growth.

"For example, if there is a fire, then units from other stations will be responding as well, so they will show up with the

COUNTY Continued on 11A



KATHIE SCIULLO/NASSAU COUNTY RECORD

Nassau County Fire Rescue Station 90 sits on State Road 2 near County Road 121 in Hilliard. The station was relocated there in 2014 after Volunteer Fire Station 9 closed. Using the same blueprint as NCFR Station 71 in Yulee, a new firehouse should be completed within the next two years.



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LOOKING BACK 25 YEARS

Panos Hotel Group said it was 80%-85% likely to build a 100- to 110-bed hotel on the corner of Ash and North Second streets.

May 28, 1997

WEEKLY UPDATE

Vietnam veterans to host monthly meeting

The Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1088, will host its monthly meeting 11 a.m. Saturday, May 28, at the Nassau Arc, 86051 Hamilton St. in Yulee.

The program will award five scholarships to the winning Nassau and Camden counties area students who will read their essays. A social hour will begin at 10 a.m. with light refreshments. Guests and new members are welcome.

For information, call 904-432-7006.

Hearing Loss Support Group meets June 7

Nassau County Council on Aging's next meeting of the Hearing Loss Support Group is noon-1:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 7, at the Janice Ancrum Senior Life Center, 1901 Island Walk Way in Fernandina Beach.

Michelle Christie, a hearing care professional with Connect Hearing Center, will address many hearing loss-related topics. Members will also share information about their own experiences with hearing loss.

For information, contact Nassau County Council on Aging Volunteer Coordinator Frances Bartelt at 904-775-5484 or fbartelt@nassaucountycoa.org.

NAMI Nassau County offers support groups

NAMI Nassau County FL offers free support groups for those with mental health challenges, and for the family and friends of those with such challenges.

Friends and Family Support Groups are:

- 6:30-8 p.m. the first Tuesday of the month at the Alachua Club, 32 N. Third St. in Fernandina Beach.
- 6:30-8 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month at The Journey Church, 95707 Amelia Concourse in Yulee.
- Noon-1:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month at The Journey Church, 550974 U.S. Highway 1 in Hilliard.

Peer Support Groups (for those with mental health challenges) are:

- 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. every Friday at the Nassau County Council on Aging, 1801 Island Walk Way in Fernandina Beach.

Anyone 18 years or older is welcome. Meetings are structured, confidential, inclusive and led by trained facilitators.

For information, email contact@naminaassauflorida.org, visit naminaassauflorida.org, or call 904-277-1886 and leave a message.

Senior organization to host 'Great Giveaway 2.0'

Because of the popularity of last year's "Great Giveaway," Nassau County Council on Aging will host a similar event – "Great Giveaway 2.0" – 9 a.m.-noon Friday, June 10, at the Janice Ancrum Senior Life Center, 1901 Island Walk Way in Fernandina Beach.

Free items will include bathroom aids, grab bars, bed rails, wedge pillows, bed pads, incontinence supplies, wheelchairs, transfer chairs, rollators, walkers, crutches, canes, KN95 face masks, hard plastic see-through masks, face shields, hand sanitizer floor units and more.

For information, contact Nassau County Council on Aging Volunteer Manager Margo Morlock at 904-775-5490.

Leadership Nassau Class 22 applications available

The Nassau County Chamber of Commerce is accepting applications for its Leadership Nassau Class 22.

During the 10-month program, students engage in activities that connect them with local leaders, while simultaneously helping them form a lifelong bond with fellow classmates.

More than 340 members of the Nassau County community have participated in Leadership Nassau, with graduates ranging from circuit judges to small business owners and everything in between. The program is open to any resident of Nassau County, but recruitment targets individuals with diverse backgrounds and seeks a racial, gender and age mix that is reflective of the local population.

For more information and to receive a Class 22 application, contact Leadership Nassau Coordinator Lynne Starling at lynne@nassaucountyflchamber.com or call 904-261-3248. Interested parties may also download a copy of the application on the website at NassauCountyFLChamber.com. The deadline to apply is 5 p.m. Thursday, June 30.

Blood drive set for July 3 at Yulee church

A OneBlood blood drive is scheduled for 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Sunday, July 3, at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Mission, 86000 St. Francis Way in Yulee.

Donors will receive a \$20 eGift card, T-shirt, wellness check-up and health screenings.

To register, visit oneblood.org/donate-now and use sponsor code #34851.

American Legion to distribute red poppies

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 401 will be distributing bright red poppies in honor of National Poppy Day from noon-6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at Winn-Dixie in Hilliard.

The Flanders Fields poppy has become an internationally known and recognized symbol of the lives sacrificed in war and the hope that none died in vain. The American Legion Family called upon Congress to proclaim the Friday before Memorial Day as National Poppy Day, which was officially designated as such in 2017.

For information, call 904-845-7300 or 904-452-6962.

Light of Unity conference set for this weekend

The Light of Unity Global Conference is Saturday and Sunday at the Peck Center, 516 S. 10th St. in Fernandina Beach.

The Light of Unity conference will be an "ongoing wave of grassroots discussions and action-taking projects," according to a flyer advertising the event.

To register or learn more, visit LightOfUnity.vip or call Stan Stan Liteborn at 904-704-0568.

Low Vision Support Group meets Wednesday

Nassau County Council on Aging's next meeting of the Low Vision Support Group is 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. today at the Janice Ancrum Senior Life Center, 1901 Island Walk Way in Fernandina Beach.

This month's presenter is Candy Solomon, a representative from FSC Vision Education & Rehabilitation, with a continuation of a discussion on "How to Make Life Easier and Safer for Seniors with Low Vision." The group will also discuss the Talking Books Program for the Visually Impaired and Blind. In addition, members will share information about their own experiences with vision loss.

For information, contact Nassau County Council on Aging Volunteer Coordinator Frances Bartelt at 904-775-5484 or fbartelt@nassaucountycoa.org.

Support group meets twice a month

Nassau County Council on Aging's Caregiver Support Group meetings are held twice each month – 3:30-5 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesday (with the exception of November and December) – at the Janice Ancrum Senior Life Center, 1901 Island Walk Way in Fernandina Beach.

Meetings sometimes feature guest speakers on various topics to help caregivers and their loved ones live each day to the fullest. All meetings offer support and education for caregivers, as well as time to share experiences and challenges with the group. Respite care is available for loved ones during each meeting.

Twice monthly meetings are free, and no membership is required. The respite care activity during the meetings is also free and available by reservation.

For information and respite care reservations, contact Emily Kunzelmann at 904-775-5472 or ekunzelmann@nassaucountycoa.org.

Free financial workshops set for June

The Nassau Racial Equality Coalition is hosting free financial empowerment workshops.

Scheduled meetings are:

- Noon-3 p.m. Saturday, June 4 – Story & Song Bookstore Bistro, 1430 Park Ave. in Fernandina Beach.
 - 3-5 p.m. Saturday, June 18 – \$1,000 Start-ups Consortium, 212 S. Eighth St., Unit B, in Fernandina Beach.
 - 2-4 p.m. Saturday, June 25 – Location to be announced.
- This three-part event will offer guidance from a variety of life perspectives. To register or receive a Zoom link, email arla-joux@capitalexpertservices.com or nreccexec@gmail.com.

Yulee Lions Club hosts meetings, bingo

The Yulee Lions Club hosts a social meeting with guest speakers and a pot luck dinner at 6 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month at 851023 U.S. Highway 17 in Yulee.

The club also hosts bingo at 2 p.m. on Sundays. All proceeds

from Sunday bingo help fund charitable giving.

For information, call 904-530-5121 or email info@yuleelionsclub.org.

American Legion Post 54 needs parking lot paved

American Legion Post 54 is hosting a fundraiser to pave its parking lot.

The post's parking lot is in need of repair. The post is offering fundraising levels and raffle tickets through June 20.

A 65-inch TV is being auctioned. Tickets are \$10 apiece or five for \$40.

Additionally, the post is offering donor plaques and stamped pavers.

For information, call or text Rob Taylor at 904-806-1269.

Starting Point hosts support group meetings

Starting Point Behavioral Healthcare's Family Support Group meetings are 5:30-7:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at The Journey Church, 95707 Amelia Concourse in Fernandina Beach.

The Family Support Group is a bereavement group for family members and friends who have lost a loved one to suicide or overdose. It is an open support group, facilitated by a mental health professional from Starting Point Behavioral Healthcare.

For information, contact Kayla Woodie at 904-225-8280, ext. 473, or kwoodie@spbh.org.

Newcomers Club meets monthly

The Newcomers Club of Amelia Island is a local ladies social club whose purpose is to extend a friendly hand to all women who currently reside in Nassau County. It offers many social and service activities in the community and an opportunity for developing new friendships.

It holds a monthly introduction and welcome meeting on the second Tuesday of every month. Visit newcomersamelia.org for information on how to register and attend.

Callahan Lions Club hosts monthly meetings

The Callahan Lions Club hosts a monthly social meeting at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month.

The club meets at 543514 U.S. Highway 1 in Callahan.

The club is a group of volunteers who provide free eye exams, eyeglasses and hearing aids for those who qualify.

For information, 904-613-8595 or info@callahanlions.org.

Substance abuse support group meets

A new parent support group, Parents of Addicted Loved Ones (PAL), meets every Thursday at Northeast Florida Baptist Association, 851035 U.S. Highway 17 in Yulee.

The group meets weekly for education about adult children dealing with substance addiction and peer-to-peer support. Participants must be 18 or older.

For information, contact Latashia Davis at 904-703-7847 or visit palgroup.org.

Volunteers needed at Community Hospice

Are you looking for a meaningful opportunity to volunteer? Community Hospice & Palliative Care provides volunteers with multiple ways to share skills and talents to help make a difference in the community.

There are many ways you can get involved including pet therapy, veterans projects, thrift shops, music therapy, bereavement outreach, patient and family support, spiritual care, front desk greeter, sending cards to patients, making quilts and heart pillows, and administrative duties. There's a place for you to create meaningful experiences and memorable moments with our patients.

The Community Hospice & Palliative Care volunteer services department will work with volunteers to match their skills to current needs in the best way possible.

To apply online, visit volunteer.communityhospice.com or call Volunteer Engagement Coordinator Tony Ross at 904-610-7468.

Amelia Island museum seeks volunteers

The Amelia Island Museum of History is actively recruiting for a variety of volunteer opportunities.

For information, contact the museum's Education Director Thea Seagraves at thea@ameliamuseum.org or 904-261-7378, ext. 105.

To learn more about the museum, visit ameliamuseum.org.

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City Scoop

Memorial Day Ceremony
May 30, 2022
11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Veterans Memorial at Front and Centre Streets (Bring your own chair)

VFW Post 4351 will host the annual Memorial Day Ceremony to honor fallen soldiers and POWs. Ceremony will include speeches, a performance of TAPS as well as the laying of the wreath (wreath laying occurs at north end of dock).

This is a free event. All welcome!

OBITUARIES

Elizabeth "Betsy" Whitaker Millen

Elizabeth "Betsy" Whitaker Millen was born Aug. 30, 1950, to Colie Bartow Whitaker Jr. and Nina Bell Whitaker in Atlanta, Ga. Betsy, 71, died peacefully in her home in Bradenton, Fla., surrounded by her family on Saturday, May 21, 2022.

Betsy was a devoted wife of nearly 40 years, a loving mother to three daughters, and the proud grandmother of four grandchildren. Betsy is a graduate of Northside High School in Atlanta and Georgia State University. After raising her family in Marietta, Ga., she spent 16 cherished years in Amelia Island, Fla., before moving to Bradenton to be close to her grandchildren. She enjoyed traveling, boating, golfing, playing bridge with friends, spending time with family and contributing to her community. She served as a mentor with Take Stock in Children, and she was the Amelia Community Theatre Guild president, the president of the Plantation Ladies Association, and the president of the Long Point Women's Golf Association. She was also an active member of the Amelia Island Chapter of the Daughters of the American

Revolution and the Bradenton Country Club WGA.

Betsy is survived by her husband, Donald W. Millen; their three daughters, Libbie Arnold, Jennifer Batson and Micki Despard; and their four grandchildren, Mary-Elizabeth Arnold, Millen Batson, Alcie Despard and Hayes Batson, all of Bradenton, Fla. She is also survived by her sister, Julianne Whitaker, and brother, Colie Bartow Whitaker III, both of Atlanta, Ga.

A memorial service will be 11:30 a.m. Thursday, June 9, 2022, at Christ's Episcopal Church, 4030 Manatee Ave. W in Bradenton, Fla. Friends are cordially invited to attend Betsy's celebration of life at Bradenton Country Club immediately following the service.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests tribute donations to either Saint Stephen's Episcopal School at https://www.saintstephens.org, where three of her four grandchildren attend and one of her daughters teaches, or Take Stock in Children at https://www.takestockinchildren.org/.

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NEWS DEADLINES: Community News: Wednesday, Noon
Letters to the editor: Monday, Noon
Church Notes: Tuesday, 5 p.m. **People and Places:** Wednesday, 3 p.m.

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BUSINESS

VyStar Credit Union president/CEO joins advisory board

For the News-Leader

VyStar Credit Union announced President/CEO Brian Wolfburg has accepted an invitation to join the USO Southeast Region Advisory Board, a role in which he will work to expand the credit union's support for military members, veterans and their families.

The 36th Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, Gen. George Casey (Ret.), is the chairman of the USO Board of Governors and appointed Wolfburg to the new role. Wolfburg will focus on providing resources to assist the USO with military members tran-

sitioning to civilian life, share his network with the USO to connect like-minded individuals and assist the USO in acquiring additional corporate support.

"It is a tremendous honor and privilege to represent VyStar Credit Union on the USO Southeast Region Advisory Board," Wolfburg said. "Our credit union was founded 70 years ago at Naval Air Station Jacksonville to serve military members, civil service employees and their families. As VyStar expands throughout the Southeast and serves current and former service members across the country, I can think of no greater way to



honor our organization's heritage than by working with the USO. It is truly humbling to connect with an organization that has such a long and distinguished history of supporting the brave men and women who serve our country."

VyStar has a longstanding partnership with the USO PathfinderSM Military Transition Service Center at its NAS Jacksonville branch. Part of Wolfburg's goals for joining the board include expanding that partnership, both in Jacksonville and across the Southeast, by linking individuals with the services

they need to create the life they want for themselves and their families. VyStar will also continue to develop career opportunities for veterans as well as develop initiatives such as its Military Heroes Mortgage Program, which was created for those who protect, serve and care for our country.

Wolfburg joined VyStar in 2017 and has more than 20 years of experience and leadership as a senior executive in the credit union and diversified financial services industry. His vision for supporting the military com-

munity aligns with VyStar's heritage. Founded as Jax Navy Federal Credit Union in 1952, VyStar remains true to its roots in support of the military community. In 2021, VyStar gave more than \$6.8 million in community support to more than 300 non-profit organizations, more than ever before. That included more than \$800,000 to more than 30 military-themed initiatives.

Wolfburg would like to expand on those partnerships by connecting the USO with like-minded organizations and individuals. VyStar also regularly supports large-scale events, like the River City Smoke Show in Jacksonville, where hundreds of veterans received free tickets from VyStar. Other military-themed initiatives supported by VyStar include the National POW/MIA Memorial and Museum, Wounded Warrior Project, mili-

tary appreciation luncheons in Jacksonville, Gainesville and Orlando, the NAS Jax Air Show featuring the Blue Angels and VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena. VyStar also offers discounts to events and attractions for the military and their families in multiple cities.

"We are pleased to welcome Brian Wolfburg as the newest USO Southeast Region Advisory Board member," USO Southeast Regional President Jim Whaley said. "As an accomplished business leader, Brian's leadership and passion for serving the military community will be an essential asset to the USO Southeast Board as the USO celebrates 81 years of serving our troops and their families throughout the Southeast region."

For information about VyStar, visit vystarcu.org.
Submitted by VyStar Credit Union

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT 2.55 – Safe School Officers

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REVISE 2.51 – Safe and Secure Schools 5.79 – Student Records 7.58 – Emergency Disaster

In compliance with the Administrative Procedure Act, Chapter 120, Florida Statute, a public hearing may be held if requested within twenty-one (21) days of this notice at the place, time, and date indicated below:

Place: Nassau County School Board
1201 Atlantic Ave.
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034

Time: 6:30 P. M.

Date: May 26, 2022

No significant economic impact is anticipated.

Copies are located in all schools, and the School Board office.

Ellianos Coffee announces two-unit deal in Nassau

For the News-Leader

Ellianos Coffee, a Southeast-based drive-thru coffee chain, is broadening its footprint in the Northeast Florida region, announcing a two-unit deal in Nassau County, including Yulee and Amelia Island.

Ellianos reports it signed a two-unit development agreement with current franchisees Spencer and Kacie Hutchison. They currently own and operate two Ellianos Coffee stores in Douglas, Ga., as well as one in Kingsland, Ga., and will soon welcome an additional store in St. Marys, Ga. This two-unit deal in Nassau County will total five operating stores under the husband-and-wife duo and will make thousands of coffee con-

sumers happy.

The popular coffee drive-thru brand already has a foothold in the Jacksonville market, with one store currently operating on Lane Avenue and another in Orange Park off Blanding Boulevard. There are also several store agreements in the pipeline for the Jacksonville market, all planned to open within the coming years.

Ellianos Coffee offers specialty espresso drinks, smoothies, latte freezers and other drinks to satisfy any member of the family. They also serve various food items, such as hearty breakfast grit bowls, breakfast sandwiches, bagels, cookies, brownies, chicken salad croissants and more.

Ellianos was founded in 2002 with the mission to serve "Italian quality at America's pace."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Founders Scott and Pam Stewart have continued their dedicated work of expanding the franchise while making everyone feel like part of the family. The franchise is experiencing exponential growth but remains true to its

core values and mission. There are currently 22 operating store locations with several others on deck to open their doors.

To learn more, visit ellianos.com.

Submitted by Ellianos Coffee

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Callahan second-graders tell tales of pizza

KATHIE SCIULLO
Nassau County Record

Callahan Elementary School students artfully collaborated to craft their list of ingredients necessary to create the perfect pizza.

"Our Pizza The Story" unfolded as 19 second-graders from Kristal Zarcynski's class contributed, adding illustrations and text to perform an interactive class presentation Thursday morning.

In her fifth year at CES, Zarcynski's students complete a book each year. But this year, the project changed when student Ryder Santana asked to write a play.

"We kind of started there, and this whole thing transformed into a book," Zarcynski said.

Santana spoke of the ease he found in writing his script ideas. "All it takes is a good mind, and a pencil or a piece of paper, then you're done," he said.

Starting in November, the class added all the ingredients to comprise a winning pizza, with each child writing a page, and leading the audience through the processes from pizza-making to home delivery.

The story includes dialogue from pizza ingredients that tell how they stand out, with characters such as Wheezy Cheesy, Mr. Banana Pepper, Patricia Pepperoni and Maddy the Oven

talking about their importance.

Kaley Fralick was Chloe the Crust. Her favorite part of the project was "working all together and (Ms. Z) letting us have this amazing experience."

The room was decorated in the colors of Italy's red, green and white, with table coverings and balloons all indicative of a pizzeria. An arch of faux brick wall-paper and signage "Welcome to Z's Pizza" was placed near the room's entrance.

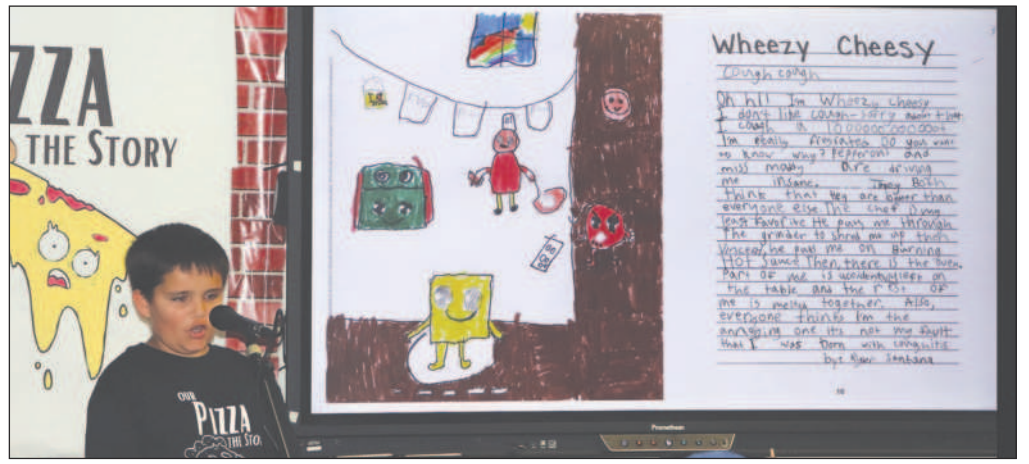
Mom Tina Davis told of how daughter Brynn and her classmates were excited about their work.

"It was totally their idea to throw this whole thing together," Davis said. "Ms. Z presented them with the project, and they took off with it."

She was impressed with the book's scope and how the students finessed the final product.

"I think it's awesome," Davis said. "I think that Ms. Z has poured her heart into these babies and they have been so excited for this and it means so much."

Each child was featured on a photo wall that included a brief autobiography. Following the book's presentation, the young authors gathered to autograph copies and mingle with their fans. The published work will be available for check-out in the



PHOTOS BY KATHIE SCIULLO/NASSAU COUNTY RECORD

Left, Teacher Kristal Zarcynski displays a copy of the book. Building on her idea, the class of 19 students wrote the play's content and contributed illustrations to complete the book project. Above, Callahan Elementary School's Ryder Santana, 9, portrays "Wheezy Cheesy" during the second-grade play, "Our Pizza The Story," Thursday morning.

school library. Students can also take Accelerated Reader tests on the book.

The authors also include Addelynn Higginbotham, Cole Aspinwall, Rylee Martin, Amirah Lamb, Christopher Frey, Jacob Parm, Cypress Leblin, Vincent Costello, Kelley Vandever, Autumn Anderson, Riley Green, Paislee Goethe, Mason Burch, Joseph Long, Jackson Fleming and Sydney Long.

CES Principal Melissa Johnson spoke of how the book contained multiple learning elements.

"For me, it just means putting

student learning into reality," she said. "The students have worked so hard over the past couple of months. Back before Christmas, Kristal came to me with this idea, and I was in 100% support of her just having the students take the opportunity to use what they have learned from her in the classroom and actually make it a reality and make it into a book.

And so, I think it just brings purpose; it brings meaning to students' learning and it helps them see that the sky is the limit." Johnson praised the story's underlying message that the students' similarities and differences complement each other in a way that "we're all pizza perfect, together."

"So that totally describes the

culture and the environment in Kristal's room," Johnson said. "They are all family. She really does a great job of creating relationships with students. Sometimes they're difficult students that are hard to reach, and she goes above and beyond and reaches those students. And each of these kids in the classroom feel the love, just as we did today."

DISTRICTS

Continued from 1A

seeking a stay of an appeals-court order that placed Smith's ruling on hold. That request is pending.

The case centers on Congressional District 5, a sprawling North Florida district that was drawn in the past to help elect a Black member of Congress. DeSantis argued that continuing with such a district would involve racial gerrymandering and violate the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution.

The Legislature approved DeSantis' proposal to revamp the district, condensing it in the Jacksonville area. But Smith ruled that the plan violated a 2010 state constitutional amendment - known as the Fair Districts amendment - that barred diminishing the ability of minority voters to "elect repre-

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What do you think about the redistricting battle over congressional districts in North Florida? Email Letters to the Editor to editor2@fbnewsleader.com. Letters must include the writer's name, address and daytime phone number.

representatives of their choice."

The overall redistricting plan passed by the Republican-controlled Legislature is expected to increase the number of GOP members of the state's congressional delegation from 16 to 20, based on past voting patterns. District 5 is currently held by U.S. Rep. Al Lawson, a Black Democrat, but the revamped district likely would flip to Republicans.

Smith's temporary injunction

ordered use of a map that would keep the current sprawling shape of the district, which stretches from Jacksonville to west of Tallahassee. Using that map also would affect some other districts.

But in issuing a stay that put Smith's ruling on hold, the appeals court indicated it did not agree with the temporary injunction.

"Based on a preliminary review, the court has determined there is a high likelihood that the temporary injunction is unlawful, because by awarding a preliminary remedy to the appellees (the plaintiffs) on their claim, the order 'frustrated the status quo, rather than preserved it,'" the appeals court said, quoting a legal precedent.

The appeals court also cited the "exigency of the circumstances and the need for certainty and continuity as election season approaches."

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NASSAU COUNTY CORNER
Community Meeting for Chester Road Area Drainage Study

Last year, the County initiated a drainage study on Chester Road due to drainage issues in Glen Laurel Subdivision. The study was completed by Peters Yaffee, a consulting firm specializing in engineering design. The study analyzed the historical and current conditions of the drainage basins associated with the wetland areas surrounding Glen Laurel Subdivision, Blackrock Hammock Subdivision and Heron Isles Subdivision.

The drainage report has been finalized and Engineering staff is ready to share the findings with the community. The results will be discussed at a Community Meeting scheduled for Monday, June 6, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. in the Commission Chambers located at 96135 Nassau Place, Yulee, FL 32097.

Members from Peters Yaffee and Nassau County's engineering staff will be in attendance. In addition to discussing the results of the study, County staff will share plans on how to move forward in addressing issues that have been identified.

If you have any questions, please contact Engineering Services at (904) 530-6225.

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DAY AT THE BALLPARK



The Nassau County Sheriff's Office K-9, Motor and Marine units attended the Yulee Little League's Closing Day Celebration on May 14. Deputies spent the day with the young ballplayers and answered questions about all the neat equipment that they use in the field. The K-9 Unit also shared how its amazing K-9 partners are able to track criminals and substances the average officer wouldn't be able to track on their own.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



NOTICE OF QUALIFYING PERIOD FOR CANDIDATES FOR THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE AMELIA NATIONAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

Notice is hereby given that the qualifying period for candidates for the office of Supervisor of the Amelia National Community Development District will commence at noon on June 13, 2022, and close at noon on June 17, 2022. Candidates must qualify for the office of Supervisor with the Nassau County Supervisor of Elections located at 96135 Nassau Place, Suite 3, Yulee, Florida 32097 (telephone: 904-491-7500). All candidates shall qualify for individual seats in accordance with section 99.061, Florida Statutes, and must also be a qualified elector of the District. A qualified elector is any person at least 18 years of age who is a citizen of the United States, a legal resident of the State of Florida and of the District, and who is registered to vote with the Nassau County Supervisor of Elections. Campaigns shall be conducted in accordance with Chapter 106, Florida Statutes.

The Amelia National Community Development District has two (2) seats up for election, specifically seat 2, seat 5. Each seat carries a four-year term of office. Elections are nonpartisan and will be held at the same time as the general election on November 8, 2022, in the manner prescribed by law for general elections.

For additional information, please contact the Nassau County Supervisor of Elections.

NOTICE OF COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on **Monday, June 13, 2022** at 6:00 PM, or soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, the Nassau County Board of County Commissioners will hold a public hearing for adoption of the proposed amendment, CPA21-007 at the Commission Chambers, James S. Page Governmental Complex, 96135 Nassau Place, Yulee, Florida 32097 concerning the following described property in Nassau County.



AN ORDINANCE OF NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; PROVIDING FOR THE RECLASSIFICATION OF APPROXIMATELY 112.13 ACRES OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED SOUTH OF WILLIAM BURGESS BOULEVARD, FROM AGRICULTURE (AGR) TO TRANSECT DISTRICTS DEFINED IN THE WILLIAM BURGESS DISTRICT CONTEXT AND CONNECTIVITY BLUEPRINT AS T-3.5 URBAN TRANSITIONAL ZONE, T-3 SUBURBAN ZONE, T-2.5 RURAL TRANSITIONAL ZONE, AND T-1 CONSERVATION ZONE; PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Public hearings were previously advertised and held on this amendment by the Planning & Zoning Board on March 15, 2022 and by the Board of County Commissioners on April 11, 2022 for recommendation and transmittal of the amendment for review by state agencies pursuant to Ch. 163.3184, Florida Statutes.

All interested parties are invited to attend the public hearings and to be heard. Copies of the proposed Ordinance and supporting information are available for inspection in the Planning Department, 96161 Nassau Place, Yulee, FL 32097. Comments may also be directed in writing to the Planning Department, e-mailed to planninginfo@nassaucountyfl.com, or received by telephone at (904) 530-6300. All comments will become part of the record in this matter and subject to Florida's public records law.

Individuals with disabilities needing a reasonable accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the office of the County Manager at least two days prior to the proceeding at (904) 530-6010 or, if the hearing impaired, Florida Relay Service at 1-800-955-8770 (v) or 1-800-955-8771 (TDD).

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO BE PRESENT AND BE HEARD. IF A PERSON DECIDES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE BY THE BOARD, AGENCY OR COMMISSION WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT SUCH MEETING OR HEARING HE/SHE WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS AND FOR THAT PURPOSE, MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS IS MADE, WHICH RECORD INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH APPEAL IS TO BE BASED.

The Board of County Commissioners may continue hearings on this matter.

Aaron C. Bell, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

John A. Crawford, Ex-Officio Clerk

ARREST REPORT

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

■ Yusiel Rafael Rodriguez, 30, 252 Bowery Lane, Folkston, Ga., May 6, vehicular homicide.

■ Anthony Earl Skobic, 40, 2337 S. Fletcher Ave., Fernandina Beach, felony driving while license was suspended with knowledge.

■ Charity Hope Hatch, 32, 95033 Hendricks Road, Fernandina Beach, May 12, possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia with residue, and driving while license was suspended or revoked.

■ Linda Marie Banks, 50, 40 Paul Parker Drive, Weaverville, N.C., May 13, possession of cocaine and introducing contraband into a jail facility.

■ Melissa Sue Hilliard, 41, 54055 Debra Lane, Callahan, May 15, possession of methamphetamine, possession of alprazolam and possession of a controlled substance.

■ Gonzalo Andres-Garrido, 39, 27545 Hwy. 119, Taft, Calif., May 15, failing to stop at an agriculture inspection station, possession with intent to sell, manufacture or deliver a controlled substance, and trafficking in more than 25 pounds of marijuana.

■ John Harold Lehman, 60, 3980 Val Del Road, 5, Hahira, Ga., May 15, depriving 911 communications.

■ Crystal Nell Baisden, 35, 56256 Colby Drive, Callahan, May 16, possession of methamphetamine, tampering with or destroying evidence, possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia with residue and driving while license was suspended or revoked.

■ Farris Sinclay Melton, 43, 45121 Luther St., Callahan, May 16, use of a two-way communication device.

■ Donald Michael Palmer Sr., 56, 85236 Linda Road, Yulee, May 16, possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia with residue.

■ Christopher Dale Crews, 39, 1500 Tomlinson Road, Hilliard, May 16, possession of a controlled

substance and possession of a weapon by a convicted felon.

■ Daryl Lee Smith, 41, 22078 Crews Road, Hilliard, May 17, possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia with residue.

■ Shellie Lorene Stiles, 52, 27056 Michael Lane, Hilliard, May 17, habitual traffic offender.

■ Latif Dalair Haneef, 53, 608 Estes Road, Jacksonville, May 17, theft and driving while license was suspended with knowledge.

■ Marcus Edward Williams, 25, 44192 Pinebreeze Circle, Callahan, May 17, possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia with residue.

■ Lisa Mulvaney Baisden, 56, 2704 Dunn Creek Road, Hilliard, May 17, possession of methamphetamine.

■ Edward Adolph Garcia Jr., 55, 86195 Yulee Hills Road, Yulee, May 17, trafficking methamphetamine while armed with a firearm, possession of a controlled substance with intent to sell, possession or use of a weapon to commit a felony, possession of drug paraphernalia with residue and sale of methamphetamine.

■ Hector Manuel Ordenez Jr., 21, 1920 Dean Road, 62, Jacksonville, May 17, theft and trespassing on a posted construction site.

■ Raymond Louis Crews, 65, 551609 U.S. Hwy. 1, Hilliard, May 17, sale of methamphetamine.

■ Michael Allan Couey, 52, 1407 Ian Drive, Fernandina Beach, May 18, one count each of possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia with residue, two counts of the sale or delivery of fentanyl and three counts of possession of a controlled substance.

■ James Ryan Hiorns, 32, 85417 Rose Marie Road, Yulee, May 18, sale of methamphetamine.

■ Rasean T. Mbaye, 31, 16 Clinton St., Patterson, N.J., May 18, two counts of possession of a controlled substance, and one count each of possession of more than 20 grams of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

■ Megan Leigh Peters, 42, 1655 Lime St., 2A, Fernandina Beach, May 19, possession of methamphetamine.

■ Timothy David Murphy, 27, 96650 Blackrock Road, Yulee, battery on a law enforcement officer and threat against a public official.

COURT REPORT

The following report was compiled by the News-Leader from the May 17-19 court docket of the Circuit Court for Judge James H. Daniel.

■ Derek Linzmeyer Baker admitted to violation of probation for two counts of grand theft of a motor vehicle and one count of driving while license was suspended or revoked. He was adjudicated guilty and sentenced to 12 months in Nassau County Jail with credit for time served. Probation was revoked and terminated, and he was ordered to pay \$1,600 in restitution.

■ A motion to revoke was denied for Leslie Leigh Thompson for aggravated battery with a deadly weapon and domestic battery. She must have a GPS device in place, remain in Nassau and Duval counties, continue with therapy and medications at Starting Point, and have no contact with the victim. If she violates any special condition, original or added, it will result in no bond.

■ Carl Wardell Johnson pleaded no contest to aggravated assault, felony battery and obstructing or opposing a police officer without violence. He was adjudicated guilty and sentenced to 12 months in Nassau County Jail with credit for time served. He also pleaded no contest to criminal mischief. He was adjudicated guilty and sentenced to time served. Restitution was reserved. He was ordered to pay

\$418 in court costs, \$100 to the State Attorney's Office, \$150 to the Public Defender's Office and \$352 in surcharges.

■ Marcus Laquan Jones pleaded guilty to one count of the sale or delivery of cocaine, and four counts of the sale, manufacture or delivery of a controlled substance. He was adjudicated guilty and sentenced to seven years in Florida State Prison with credit for time served. He also pleaded guilty to two counts of possession of cocaine. He was adjudicated guilty and sentenced to five years in Florida State Prison. He also pleaded guilty to possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana. He was adjudicated guilty and sentenced to one year in Nassau County Jail. He was ordered to pay \$2,072 in court costs and \$400.

■ Jake Ryan Litecky pleaded guilty to resisting arrest with violence and possession of a controlled substance. Adjudication was withheld. He also pleaded guilty to felony DUI and driving while licenses was suspended or revoked. He was adjudicated guilty. He was sentenced to time served followed by 18 months of probation with special conditions. He must complete level 2 DUI school and substance abuse evaluation and follow-up, and he must have the interlock device installed in his vehicle for two years. His driver's license was suspended for 10 years, and his tag was impounded for 90 days.

He was ordered to pay \$518 in court costs, \$100 to the State Attorney's Office, \$150 to the Public Defender's Office and a \$2,000 fine.

■ Mucio Macias pleaded guilty to tampering with a witness, victim or informant in a felony case and felony battery. He was adjudicated guilty and sentenced to eight months in Nassau County Jail with credit for time served. He was ordered to pay \$418 in court costs, \$100 to the State Attorney's Office, \$150 to the Public Defender's Office and \$352 in surcharges.

■ Brandon Shawn pleaded guilty to grand theft of a motor vehicle. He was adjudicated guilty and sentenced to 18.75 months in Florida State Prison with credit for time served. He was ordered to pay \$418 in court costs, \$100 to the State Attorney's Office and \$150 to the Public Defender's Office.

■ James Casey Vaughn pleaded no contest to false imprisonment. He was adjudicated guilty and sentenced to 12 months in Nassau County followed by three years' probation.

■ Probation was revoked and terminated for Jamar Akeem Williams after completing terms and conditions.

Jennifer Ann Wylie admitted to violation of probation for grand theft. She was adjudicated guilty and sentenced to six months in Nassau County Jail with credit for time served. Probation was revoked and terminated.

■ Probation was extended for six months for Dontavious Latrae Bradford for two counts of the sale or delivery of cocaine. He must maintain or be actively seeking full-time employment, and he must comply with original and added conditions.

■ James William Bunch admitted to violation of probation for three counts each of possession of a controlled substance and possession of controlled substance paraphernalia, and one count of attached tag improperly or not assigned. He was adjudicated guilty and sentenced to 90 days in Nassau County Jail. He also pleaded guilty to possession of methamphetamine, possession of a controlled substance and possession of controlled substance paraphernalia. He was adjudicated guilty and sentenced to 90 days in Nassau County Jail, to run concurrently, with credit for time served. He was ordered to pay \$518 in court costs, \$100 to the State Attorney's Office and \$150 to the Public Defender's Office.

■ Clifton Delaine Cook pleaded guilty to one count each of trafficking in methamphetamine, possession of a controlled substance, the sale, manufacture or delivery of a controlled substance, and introducing contraband into a county jail, and two counts of possession of a controlled substance. He was adjudicated guilty and sentenced to 4.5 years in Florida State Prison. He also pleaded guilty to driving while license was suspended or revoked. He was adjudicated guilty and sentenced to time served in Nassau County Jail. He was ordered to

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

The Nassau County Sheriff's Office gives notice of intent to bid the following Surplus Property beginning, June 06, 2022 on www.govdeals.com, pursuant to Section 274.06, Florida Statutes. Referenced site explains details of bidding and payment process. Brief descriptions of items listed below but more detailed listing with photos will be available on the Govdeals website once auction begins

Approximately 40 items of miscellaneous IT equipment.

All equipment sold "As Is" with no guarantees.

For any questions, contact Paula DeLuca @ 904-548-4057 or Dell Hodges, @ (904) 548-4037.

Bill Leeper, Sheriff
Nassau County Sheriff's Office

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VIEWPOINT / JEREMIAH GLISSON / FERNANDINA BEACH

Perspective can bring clarity to a community

“We can complain because rose bushes have thorns or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses.” – President Abraham Lincoln

Lincoln recognized the importance of having a healthy, balanced perspective, and I think that most would agree that this was evident during his presidency. It always impresses me how problems that we encounter in our lives can, if we allow them, can change our world view.

Reflecting on some of the recent problems that have surfaced in this community speaks to the quality of life that we all enjoy here. You know the recent issues like E-bikes being used in the Egans Creek Greenway, excessive tire tracks on the beach, loud music from restaurants, removal of a play structure or the foul smell of garbage trucks. While all these concerns are deemed important by some and do merit attention from the governing authority, these issues speak to a community that is rife with first-world problems.

Maybe I choose the silver lining here. As some communities deal with tainted water, high crime, severely crumbling infrastructure, dwindling population and massive homeless population, it's wise to recognize the absence of more pressing community problems. It is always noteworthy when we have the occasional brush with a hurricane or even the waves of the pandemic hit our county, how the fussiness seemingly subsided for a while. When facing loss of home, property or livelihood, the first-world problems suddenly disappear. It's strange how quickly your perspective can change when more pressing problems surface.

The question is how someone can maintain a balanced, accurate perspective when we live in an era that is absolutely riddled with misinformation. Despite having much of the world's information available at our fingertips, the amount of misinformation that is disseminated through modern-day communication platforms is astounding. The old adage of “seeing is believing” no longer carries the checkmark of veracity that it once did. Check out DeepFake Tom Cruise as an example!

I recently observed an inaccurate narrative about a city park concept plan get shared nearly 800 times on social media before the conceptual drawing was even shared for the first time. It is ironic how many of the same persons that fault the “fake news” mainstream media employ the same unresearched tactics that they hold in derision.

The laborious process of gathering information and then carefully distributing said information seems to be a dying art. All it takes now is a mindless and distracted flick of the thumb. I often wonder if we, as a species, have not suf-



Glisson

ficiently evolved or matured enough to have such a wealth of information that is so easily accessible. If you ignore it all, you are uninformed. If you follow it all, you are misinformed. What is the long-term consequence of being inundated with too much information?

I recently spent some time roaming the Rocky Mountains in Colorado. I spent one night in a small town of Granby, which is about 80 miles north-west of Denver. Not until I saw a book for sale at a local coffee shop the following morning did I realize this was where the Killdozer incident occurred. For those of you that don't know, back in 2004 a local resident of Granby became highly frustrated with the local government and the local news media. He painstakingly built an armor-clad bulldozer and on June 4, 2004, he destroyed more than 12 buildings in the town, including the city's town hall. After two hours of destruction, the rampage came to an end. While his story lives on, Marvin Heemeyer's life did not. Fortunately, no other lives were lost that day.

I think we can all agree that a healthier perspective may have not led to such an act of violence. While this account of a disgruntled resident is an extreme example, it serves as a reminder of how someone can be carried away with frustrations of life. All life inconveniences can turn into stressful problems if we allow them. The key word there being “if.”

All too often the difference between something stimulating or stressful is just a matter of perspective. Reflecting on some of the recent problems that have surfaced in this community speaks to the quality of life we all enjoy here. The quality of life and the attractiveness of this community really are superb, which is why Amelia Island and Fernandina Beach is a destination spot for hundreds of thousands of people each year.

One of our bigger community challenges is related to growth. That's right – our community is literally too attractive to those from outside. We have rich history, a beautiful greenway, pristine beaches, a bustling historic downtown and many parks to explore. Balance your perspective and don't forget to buy your loved ones a few of those thorny bushes!

Jeremiah Glisson is the Public Works director for the city of Fernandina Beach.

zglisson@bfl.org

Still on top of his game

It always amazes me how so many successful people from different professions have quietly relocated to Amelia Island. For example, whenever I have questions about what is really going on in the political world, my best source of information is Neal Freeman.

Freeman has been involved as a journalist, editor, television producer, media owner, campaign manager and member of the Republican's conservative movement for more than 50 years. His relationships, which in the past included President Ronald Reagan and his friend Bill Buckley, continue today.

About five years ago, when President Donald Trump made one of his first major appointments, I called Freeman to get his assessment. “There are a few flies on him professionally, but politically he's a wet,” he said. “My late polymathic friend Herman Kahn used to say there are two kinds of people – those who care what *The New York Times* says about them and those who don't. He is one of the former.” Not unusual was my need to then research what Freeman meant.

So, for those of you who don't know Freeman and wonder why I am so impressed with his insights, let me provide some background. Born in 1940 and brought up in New York City, he graduated with a bachelor's degree from Yale in 1962. He married Jane Metz of Harriman, N.Y., in March 1966. Their son, James Freeman, is an editor with *The Wall Street Journal* and one Fox News personality I enjoy.

After beginning his career with the New York publisher Doubleday & Company, Freeman joined Hearst, becoming executive editor in 1968. In 1976, he founded Jefferson Communications, a radio-television production and media consulting firm in Reston, Va. Jefferson contributors won five Pulitzer Prizes, and Freeman served as president and CEO until the firm was sold.

Freeman became founder and chairman of the Blackwell Corporation, an advisory firm with clients in the communications, defense and wealth management businesses. As a television producer, Freeman has produced more than 1,000 programs for national broadcast. His productions won many awards for journalistic excellence, including the Peabody, an Emmy, and for three consecutive years, the Documentary Medal of the International Film and Television Festival.

Reagan appointed him in the mid-1980s to the Board of Directors of the Communications Satellite Corporation, where he became the principal architect of Reagan's signature privatization initiative.

Freeman first was well-known to me because of his association with Buckley, who for many is seen as the father of the Conservative Party. My best memories of Freeman are as editor and columnist for National Review magazine and founding



COACH'S CORNER

Howard Pines

producer of the “Firing Line” television series. He was also editor and syndicator of the Buckley newspaper column, manager of the “Buckley for Mayor” campaign in New York City, and for 38 years a director of *National Review*.

After all these accomplishments, it would be easy for Freeman to sit back

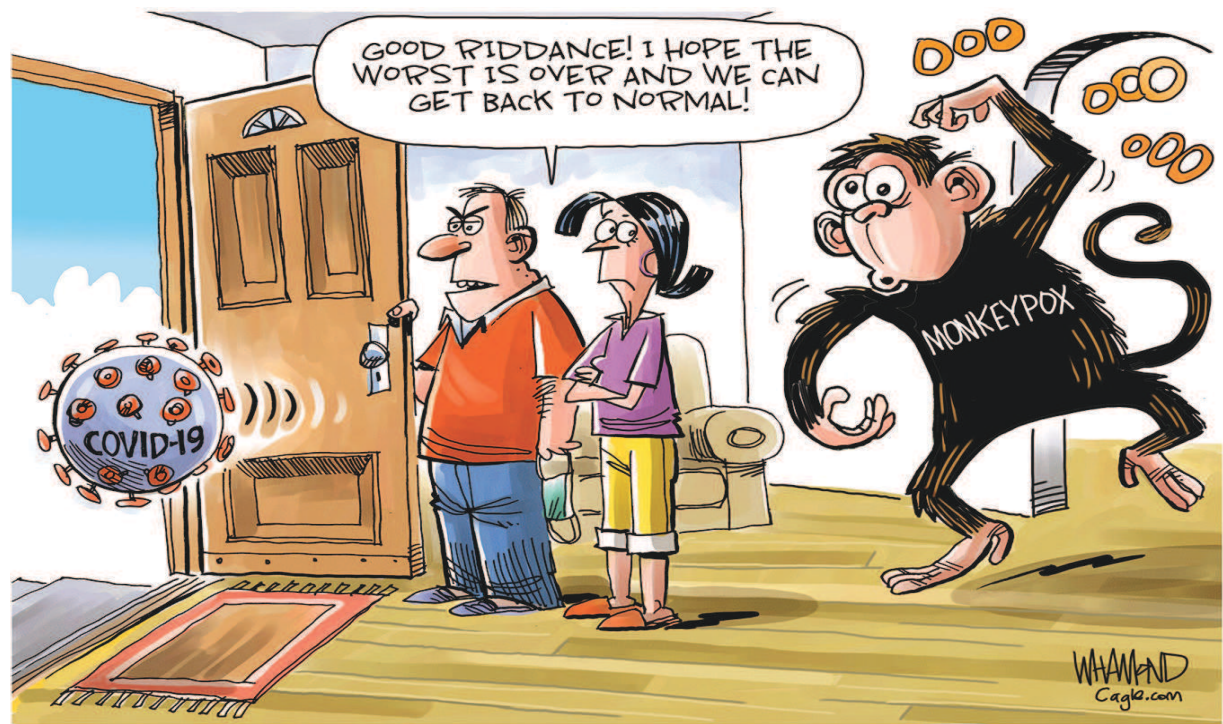
and enjoy the surroundings while directing his and Jane's Fernandina Beach private grantmaking foundation. However, he probably needs to keep his intellectual juices going. He said, “Basically, I am doing now what I helped Bill Buckley do a half-century ago, trying to put together a coalition of groups capable of forming a governing coalition of the right-center. Today, just as it was back in Bill's day, there are too many ‘me-first,’ ‘my way-or-the-highway’ factions and not enough folks willing to bend a tad in the larger interests of the coalition.”

In this regard, he sent me two of his recent articles in the *American Spectator*. In one, he discusses where we should place the locus of power in a free and ordered society. He states, “At any moment in political time – theirs (Thomas Jefferson's and Alexander Hamilton's), ours or our grandchildren's – the trick is to strike the right balance between the competing claims of order and liberty. It is never right to choose one to the exclusion of the other. Why? Because it is axiomatic that if one side wins, both sides lose: Order without liberty becomes tyranny, just as liberty without order becomes anarchy.”

In his second article, he discusses to his surprise how many conservatives have become emotionally attached to Hungary's right-wing leader, Victor Orban. Orban is an old-school strongman and a supporter of Vladimir Putin, and when the market displeases him, he achieves his goals, as with immigration, by intervening and imposing order. Freeman points out that we always have to remember that the most priceless equity in our world is not order but freedom.

It soon came to me that in my writings, I try to convey many of the same thoughts, but Freeman states them more eloquently.

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



VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Some letters should have disclaimer

Everyone has their own opinion and that's great. That's what makes the world go round.

But I wish there was a little disclaimer at the bottom of some of the Letters to the Editor stating something like, “Everyone has a right to their opinion, but this is not a fact nor true,” or just “false.” That's hard to do on a general letter, but when there's misinformation, I think it's called for.

This is in direct response to the letter in the May 18 edition, “Godless America harming our children.”

Valerie Curtis
Fernandina Beach

Solution needed for loud train horns

Have you ever told someone, perhaps your kids, they are making so much noise you can't even think?

Imagine trying to talk on the telephone at work, and there is so much noise you have to tell the person on the other end of the line to please wait until the noise stops.

Imagine that the sound you hear is that of a train horn 500 feet away, and when it blasts for 15-20 seconds, you can't hear, and no one else can either.

Imagine no further. This is a daily occurrence downtown. I hate loud noise as a general principle, but when it is excessively annoying and perhaps detrimental to my hearing, it is much more.

I can hear the defenders of the train horns now: “It's for safety, it's the law, it's not too long and it's not too loud, and so on.” Yes, it's a federal rule, technically Train Horn Rule (49 CFR Part 222), which states in part, “locomotive engineers must begin to sound train horns at least 15 seconds, and no more than 20 seconds, in advance of all public grade crossings,” and the rule states the maximum volume level for the train horn is 110 decibels.

I do not know what the decibels are for the trains crossing adjacent to downtown or near any residences, but looking at a description of 110 decibels, it's apparently equivalent to a jackhammer, and for contrast, an ambulance siren is 120 decibels, give or take. Incredibly, I have actually heard the train horn out in the middle of Cumberland Sound (between Cumberland and Amelia islands), but I have never heard a jackhammer, nor an ambulance, out on the same body of water. Maybe we could get a certified professional to analyze the decibels of the train horns on Amelia Island and especially within the city limits of Fernandina Beach.

And consider this: Why is it that when a train is backing across a crossing (with the locomotive far at the other end), there is no horn? Instead, there is a trainman walking along with the first car, with a radio (presumably to communicate with the engineer way back there in the locomotive). If it is a requirement to blare a horn, why the exception? Is it because the trainman can be there in lieu of the horn? I don't know, but it seems plausible. And if that is the case, why can't the noise be abated when a locomotive is in front and approaching a crossing in a slow-speed residential area by the same process

as the other end of the train?

Lastly, in my very lay research, I found another possible solution to the blaring of horns in residential and business areas, which I found while reading about Train Horn Rule (49 CFR Part 222). There is an option for the establishment of “Quiet Zones,” which provides an opportunity for localities nationwide to mitigate the effects of train horn noise by establishing “new quiet zones.”

I hope that instead of getting the expected “pushback,” the railroad, the city and the county could come up with a policy that respects the quiet enjoyment of our community, while still keeping our crossing safe. All it takes is an open mind and open ears – if they are not ringing from the excessive decibels.

Coleman Langshaw
Fernandina Beach

New group might have sinister motives

You may have recently seen a Viewpoint column published in this newspaper by a group calling themselves Common Sense Fernandina Beach. Authored by Jack Knocke, the piece noted that a Polk County-based organization named County Citizens Defending Freedom wants to build a “national network of counties” to include Nassau.

Knocke noted that Common Sense Fernandina Beach is now affiliated with CCDF and encouraged the good people of this county to jump on the bandwagon. The piece goes on to explain that the local affiliate will “continue to watch budgets and spending, provide timely research to residents and elected officials, promote election integrity and watch the schools to protect our children.”

CCDF, the parent organization, has already fought to convince the Polk County Public Schools to require parental approval if their students want to borrow 16 books from school library shelves in that district. The group's leaders said the content in some books were sexually explicit or inappropriate for students, but opponents of the change – including teachers – argued it was important to preserve access to the books' material, some of which contain such recently “taboo” subjects as LGBTQ+ and race. These books reflect our multifaceted world, but the CCDF wants to turn back the hands of time.

According to Knocke's letter, “following Matthew 18:15 principles helps us build healthy relationships as the first step to resolution and only escalating when absolutely required.” Escalating to what? The people of Nassau County are already represented by duly elected officials, school board members, law enforcement officers and other leaders. We're fine and don't need you to lead us down a slippery slope to censorship or worse.

To get a better idea of their intentions, just take a look at the CCDF website. Dig a little. See who's behind the group.

Nassau County – please look before you leap into the arms of a seemingly innocent organization. Let's move on. It's 2022, and haven't we all suffered enough?

Evelyn McCormack
Fernandina Beach



COURT *Continued from 6A*

pay \$1,554 in court costs, \$300 to the State Attorney's Office, \$450 to the Public Defender's Office and a \$50,000 fine.

■ Jeremiah Wayne Doyle pleaded no contest to violating

an injunction protection, possession of a controlled substance, and trespassing in a structure or conveyance. He was adjudicated guilty and sentenced to time served. He was ordered to pay \$936 in court costs, \$200 to the State Attorney's Office and \$300

to the Public Defender's Office.

■ Gary Norman Montgomery pleaded guilty to two counts of the sale, manufacture or delivery of a controlled substance, and one count of trafficking in methamphetamine. He was adjudicated guilty and sentenced to 7.5 years in Florida State Prison with credit for time served. He also pleaded guilty to possession of less than 20 grams of cannabis and use of a two-way communication device. He was adjudicated guilty and sentenced to time served. He was ordered to pay a \$50,000 fine, \$1,554 in court costs, \$300 to the State Attorney's Office and \$450 to the Public Defender's Office.

■ James Evan Robinson admitted to violation of probation for possession of a controlled substance and DUI. He was adjudicated guilty and sentenced to six months in Nassau County Jail with credit for time served.

■ Marquis Finnell Williams admitted to violation of probation for one count of armed burglary of a dwelling, two counts of armed burglary and three counts of grand theft. He was adjudicated guilty and sentenced to 24 months in Florida State Prison. He also pleaded guilty to aggravated fleeing and eluding. He was adjudicated guilty and sentenced to 24 months in Florida State Prison with credit for time served, followed by 36 months OF probation with special conditions. He must seek care and after-care from Phoenix House. Probation may be terminated

early upon petition of court. He also pleaded guilty to DUI with property damage or injury and leaving the scene of an accident involving property damage. He was adjudicated guilty and sentenced to time served. He was ordered to pay \$418 in court costs and \$100 to the State Attorney's Office.

■ Lonnie Lee Austin pleaded guilty to a possession of a controlled substance. He was adjudicated guilty and sentenced to time served. He must forfeit firearms seized at the time of arrest. He was ordered to pay \$518 in court costs, \$100 to the State Attorney's Office and \$150 to the Public Defender's Office.

■ Kimberly Nicole Cochran pleaded not guilty to possession of a controlled substance and DUI.

■ Karen Rae Emerson pleaded not guilty to battery on a law enforcement officer and petit theft.

■ Probation was modified and reinstated for Abbey Lauren Freeman for four counts of possession of a controlled substance, and one count each of possession of controlled substance paraphernalia and DUI. She must enter Sober Living Program, complete treatment program and live with her parents afterward.

■ Richard Allen Garrett pleaded guilty to uttering forged bills. He was adjudicated guilty and sentenced to time served followed by 12 months of probation. He must pay \$1,860.64 in restitution. He was ordered to pay \$418 in court costs, \$100 to the State Attorney's Office and \$150 to the Public Defender's Office.

■ Robert Gene Harris Jr. pleaded not guilty to tampering or fabricating with physical evidence and driving while license was suspended or revoked.

■ Guss Antonio Holcey pleaded not guilty to possession of cocaine, keeping a public nuisance structure for drug activity and possession of less than 20 grams of cannabis.

■ Jackie Marie Howard pleaded not guilty to tampering or fabricating with physical evidence and permitting an unauthorized operator to drive.

■ Nathan William James pleaded guilty to possession of a controlled substance and possession of controlled substance paraphernalia. Adjudication was withheld, and he was sentenced to time served. He was ordered to pay \$518 in court costs, \$100 to the State Attorney's Office and \$150 to the Public Defender's Office.

■ Steven Benjamin Krause pleaded guilty to possession of controlled substance with citation and possession of a controlled substance. Adjudication was withheld, and he was sentenced to time served. He was ordered to pay \$518 in court costs and \$100

to the State Attorney's Office.

■ Gregory Robert Lanning pleaded not guilty to written threats to kill or do bodily harm and violation of an injunction protection order.

■ Darien Jovon Owens pleaded not guilty to the sale, manufacture, delivery or possession of a controlled substance within 1,000 feet of a school and possession of a controlled substance.

■ Derrick Lemar Parker pleaded not guilty to three counts of battery by a person detained in a prison or jail facility.

■ Bond was forfeited for Patrick Donovan Stokes Jr. for charges he obtained goods or services by unlawfully obtaining a title.

■ Robert Lee Vanwey pleaded not guilty to possession of methamphetamine.

■ Genevieve Lynne Wallace pleaded not guilty to four counts of possession of a controlled substance.

■ Douglas Allen White stepped down from involuntary commitment to conditional release. He will reside with his grandfather in Jacksonville and report regularly for his services at Starting Point in Yulee.

■ Luis Anthony Wittrien pleaded not guilty to possession of methamphetamine.

■ Kevin Andrew Yeager pleaded not guilty to two counts of aggravated assault, and one count each of fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer and obstructing or opposing a police officer without violence.



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Fruit: Nature's dessert should be eaten in moderation

In last month's article, I discussed the hazards of too much fructose in the diet, leading to high uric acid levels that raise havoc with the metabolic system. This damaging fructose source is caused primarily from high-fructose corn syrup found in most processed foods and sweetened beverages. Too much fructose overwhelms the liver, causing insulin resistance and non-fatty liver disease. That is affecting 25% of adults and 5%-10% of children today. If a label lists "high-fructose corn syrup," leave it on the shelf.

But what about fructose from fruit itself: nature's perfect dessert? We've been told to eat our fruits and veggies. That is sound advice, because the fructose found in whole fruit like apples provide many health benefits. Fruit contains soluble fiber, which makes you feel full and feeds the friendly bacteria in the gut, sweeping out the intestines. So it's all good, right?

Yes, fruit is definitely good, but like anything, it should still be eaten in moderation, especially if you have prediabetes, diabetes or are struggling with your weight. When choosing fruits, it's best to eat more of those containing slow-absorbing carbs, meaning their sugar is released gradually into the bloodstream.

To determine which fruits are best, it helps to understand the difference between the glycemic



WELLNESS WEDNESDAY

Kym Dunton

index (GI) and the glycemic load (GL). The glycemic index is a scale that measures how a particular food affects your blood sugar. The glycemic load is a more reliable way to measure a food's impact on your insulin output. For example, watermelon rates a high 72 on the glycemic index, where a score of 100 is pure glucose. However, it has a glycemic load of only 4 because it is mostly water and fiber. Calculating the glycemic load is found by looking at the glycemic index, multiplied by the grams of carbs divided by 100. The range is low at 0-10, moderate 11-19 and anything over 20 is high.

With glycemic load as a guide, try for a GL under 11. Some of the low GL foods in addition to watermelon are wild blueberries, nectarines and oranges. In contrast, dried fruits have a GL of 30 – the same as chocolate cake.

The best fruits are berries because of their antioxidants and phytochemicals, and they have the lowest impact on blood sugar, so enjoy blackberries, wild blueberries and raspberries. The only negative is the risk

of pesticides. According to the Environmental Working Group (EWG), there are nearly 150 different pesticides on fruits and vegetables, even after washing and peeling. You can look up EWG's dirty dozen and clean 15 list of the fruits and veggies with the least and most pesticide residue.

I use that guide when I decide which ones I need to buy organic. The two worst offenders are conventionally-grown strawberries and apples, as they rate highest for pesticides.

In the off-season, it is easier and less expensive to purchase fruit frozen. Not only is it less expensive, but the fruit is flash-frozen at the peak of nutrition, making it a healthy option. In some cases, it is healthier than fresh fruit that might have sat on the truck too long, losing its nutritional value.

As for fruit juices, remember how quickly they raise the blood sugar and proceed with caution. An orange peeled and eaten has a GL score of 3, while a glass of orange juice comes in at 12. While the most refreshing summer drink for me is squeezing a fresh grapefruit into some sparkling water, it only happens if I squeeze it myself.

Likewise, use caution with the "healthy green juices" on the market, too. While they might look healthy, most contain more sugar than a can of soda. There

are exceptions, such as Farmers Juice, whose claims of not raising blood sugar are true, but most are misleading.

It's easy and much less costly to make your own smoothies using the low-glycemic fruits like berries and lemons with lots of kale, spinach, cucumber, avocados, seeds and nuts. Experiment and come up with your own healthy concoctions.

The best fruits with a low glycemic load are all the berries, plums, cherries, peaches, oranges, mandarins, apricots, lemons, limes and other citrus, pomegranates, kiwis, pears, papayas, goji berries, dragon fruit and the "healthy fat" fruits, such as avocados, coconuts and olives. My husband's favorite fruit is the apple. He could easily eat a half dozen each day, but he now eats only two a day, specifically organic Granny Smiths. They are tart with less sugar, only a 4 on the GL, and his perfect treat – especially with a spoonful of peanut butter.

Other fruits that are healthy but should be eaten in smaller quantities include grapes, melons, mangos, bananas and pineapples. Try to keep it to about half a cup a day because of their higher GL.

Summer is here, and fruit has rightfully earned its place in a balanced and healthy diet. There are plenty of pick-your-own places locally, as well as the beautiful

rainbow of fruits and veggies found at our farmers market and fruit stands. They really are nature's dessert.

Kym Dunton is a registered

nurse, certified health coach and fitness instructor who lives on Amelia Island. For questions or comments, she can be reached at kym.dunton@comcast.net.

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Nassau 4-H brings home more wins again at Area North 2022

For the News-Leader

This year, Nassau County sent five riders and two "crew" 4-H members to the Area North Horse Show.

All participants qualified for the State Horse Show in Tampa this summer.

In addition to qualifying, the Nassau team won second in the Educational Display contest.

Rider highlights included:

- Jackson Norstem: Junior Western High Point Champion with his pony, "Merrie". He placed fourth in Western Dressage,

third in Mares at Halter-pony, second in Junior/Intermediate Western Showmanship, second in Junior/Intermediate Western Pleasure-pony and first in Junior/Intermediate Western Horsemanship.

- Emma Norstem rode "Blue" in Hunter classes. She finished fifth in Senior Training Level Dressage, sixth in Senior Hunter Showmanship, third in Senior Hunter Hack, fifth in Senior Hunter Under Saddle and fourth in Senior Hunt Seat Equitation.
- Charlie Norstem rode "Rio"

in Ranch and cattle classes. He finished third in Senior Ranch Ground Handling and fifth in Ranch Roping.

- Rebecca Blalock, a first-year competitor, rode her horse, "Thunder." She finished third in Halter, sixth in Senior Western Showmanship, first in walk/jog Western Pleasure and first in walk/jog Western Horsemanship.
- Raelin Tew competed with her self-trained horse, "Rein," riding Hunter. She was second in Dressage and second in Hunter Hack.

Submitted by Nassau County 4-H



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Nassau County's 4-H club brought home plenty of awards from the Area North 2022 competition.

ROTARY SCHOLARSHIPS WINNERS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Fernandina Beach Rotary club recently awarded college scholarships to Nassau County students. In 30 years, the rotary has awarded 262 scholarships valued at \$527,200. The Rotary Scholarship Program Committee for this year was chaired by Pam Brenner and includes Dennie Pendergrass, Dr. Pedro Tamayo, Debra Connelly, Elzie Black, Barb Gingher, Ron Heyman and Bradley Bean. Winners of scholarships this year were Fernandina Beach High School's Kiawa Dempsey, Alina Qiu, Adam Wilking, Kaylee Stacy, Anira Richards, Nadia White and Reagan Webber, Yulee High School's Kayla Drake, and West Nassau High School's Katie Green and Brooke Parkerson.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Susan Childers represented the GFWC Woman's Club of Fernandina Beach at Fernandina Beach High School's awards ceremony to present \$1,000 scholarships to Maggie Lanscell, Gracyn Frederick, Nadia White, Ella Weepie and Reagan Webber.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

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West Nassau Historical Society to host art classes

For the News-Leader

The West Nassau Historical Society is offering a series of children's art classes this summer.

Each class is age-specific and will be held at the historic Callahan Train Depot, 45383 Dixie Ave. Art supplies will be provided by the historical society. A signed parental/guardian permission form and nominal fee are required for each child attending the classes. The classes being offered are:

- 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, July 9 – Ages 8-12, \$12 fee
- 1-3 p.m. Saturday, July 9 – Ages 13-17, \$15 fee
- 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 13 – Ages 5-7, \$12.

A \$2 handling fee will be added to credit card payments.

Classes July 9 will be taught by retired Nassau County educator Erica Dodge. With 21-plus years of experience in art education, Dodge specializes in fiber art and enjoys incorporating unusual materials into her art. She wants the viewer to spend time searching her art and enjoying the surprises they find inside. Since retirement, Dodge has been busy working in her studio, specializing in fiber arts and glass fusing.

The July 13 class will be taught by West Nassau Historical Society director Elizabeth Karoly, a retired instructor of art from the New York state school system. Karoly earned her Master of Fine Arts degree from Long Island University in New York. She also served on the faculty of Long Island University, Stony Brook University and Nassau Community College in Long Island. Her art has been exhibited extensively in the New York area.

Class sizes are limited to 12 students, so preregistration is required. A registration form is available from the West Nassau Historical Society website at whnsfl.org or by calling 904-879-3406.

The children's artwork will be exhibited at the West Nassau Historical Society Ice Cream Social/exhibition 6:30 p.m. Friday, July 15.

Classes are funded in part by Arts and Culture Nassau, an advocacy for art and culture throughout Nassau County.

Submitted by the West Nassau Historical Society

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COURT *Continued from 1A*

“(The Bert Harris Act) is a law that I think it’s important to say was a creature of the Florida Legislature,” Erdelyi said. “It’s a pretty aggressive law to protect the rights of private property owners to the detriment of local government.”

County Attorney Denise May proposed four options to the commissioners at Monday’s meeting. The two most prominent routes were to either accept the settlement offer as is (option one) or accept the settlement offer, but maintain the county’s 45-foot ordinance (option three).

Commission Chairman Aaron Bell spoke before public comments to share his stance on how the county should handle Riverstone’s legal threats.

“This is in my commission district,” he said. “I do understand the concern of folks who live here. I live there. I cannot and will not support the settlement, and my vote will be for option three where the county tells Riverstone to pound sand and see you in court.”

Lyn Pannone, founder of the Amelia Tree Conservancy, orchestrated a grassroots operation with other Nassau County residents after seeing the proposed settlement agreement. The group of concerned residents sought legal

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What do you think about the Nassau County Board of Commissioners voting 3-2 to not allow 85-foot-high condominium towers in South Amelia Island? Email Letters to the Editor to editor2@fbnewsleader.com. Letters must include the writer’s name, address and daytime phone number.



counsel from land use and governmental attorneys at Gray Robinson, who subsequently determined Riverstone’s case lacked merit and “could be easily beaten by the county.”

“We understand that you are nervous about a potential lawsuit, but we also understand that your constituents, the same people who voted for you, are dead set against this settlement as proposed,” Pannone said.

The residents argued there would be no property value lost if Riverstone developed 35 luxury single-family homes instead of the proposed 11 towers.

“Riverstone can still come away a winner. The recent appraisal from Mike Wilson, a licensed certified appraiser with 40 years’ experience in Northeast

Florida, clearly shows that single-family luxury homes would earn Riverstone as much profit as high-rise condos,” Pannone said.

Monday night’s commissioners meeting saw hundreds in attendance with dozens of speakers expressing concern over the preservation of Amelia Island’s “unique, natural ambiance.”

Marian Phillips, a former Fernandina Beach City Commission contender, stressed how important this land is for the “worker bees” of Nassau County.

“I was a teenager when the (Amelia Island) Plantation came in and took away our rights to access that beach, and as long as I have breath in my body, I’m going to ask that we protect those rights so that I can continue to go down on that beach,” Phillips said. “To me, the end of the island is one of the most beautiful places we have. When you go to Jacksonville and you come home that way, it’s very relaxing to look over there and see those trees and you know that you’re home.”

Another major concern among residents is the inevitable influx of traffic if Riverstone builds condos on the south end of the island.

“I live off Scott Road. Traffic has gotten so horrendous on A1A that I can sit at the stop sign 15 minutes sometimes

before I can get a window to get out,” Fernandina Beach resident Jack Booth said. “I’ve been going to the south end fishing at the rocks for more years than I’d like to even count. It’s one of the few places locals can go and it not be packed with tourists. ... Our availability to the beach has shrunk.”

Chadd Charland of Keep Nassau Beautiful recited a portion of Nassau County’s Vision Statement 2032 to remind commissioners of their commitment to help the county grow while maintaining its character and natural splendor.

“When it comes to this Riverside (sic) development, you don’t have to make a decision. All you have to do is follow your Vision Statement, and it’s right out there in the hallway with the hundreds of other people who are sitting out there with me,” Charland said. “What’s on the line here is more than a way of life, community, trees, turtles, birds and two-lane roads versus four-lane roads. This is a question of representative democracy and whether or not you believe in that system of government.”

Two hours into Monday’s meeting, Bell paused public comment to begin discussion among commissioners. District 1 Commissioner John Martin quickly made a motion to approve option three, defend-

ing the county’s 45-foot building height restriction. District 5 Commissioner Klynt Farmer seconded the motion.

District 4 Commissioner Thomas Ford spoke in favor of settling with Riverstone to avoid a potential loss in court and owing the developer \$27 million plus attorney fees. Ford was especially concerned about how his constituents would react if there was any financial burden placed on residents in West Nassau County.

District 3 Commissioner Jeff Gray expressed similar concerns, but honed in on the recent increase in personal expenses due to gas inflation and rising living costs.

“Things are getting expensive. People that have a lot of money, it may not affect them as much. People that live on fixed income, social security ... their first priority is pay their electric bill, pay their doctor bills, buy their medicine, pay for this gas that’s almost \$4.50 per gallon,” Gray said. “It’s the taxpayers’ dollars that we’re talking about here. It could be in jeopardy of a lawsuit.”

The commissioners voted 3-2 to go with option three and accept Riverstone’s offer while maintaining Nassau County’s 45-foot building height ordinance. Ford and Gray were the two dissenting votes.

mmahoney@fbnewsleader.com

COUNTY *Continued from 1A*

right amount of people to tackle the fire and fight whatever the emergency is,” Rigdon said.

Station 50 has three engine and two rescue unit personnel assigned around the clock.

Callahan Volunteer Fire Department shares the building with NCFR personnel, as the county leases the space from the town. A new \$1,800 monthly lease agreement was recently approved. It will run retroactive from Oct. 1, 2021 through Sept. 30, according to Nassau County spokeswoman Sabrina Robertson.

The station’s location is ideal, according to Rigdon.

“You don’t get any better than right there in the middle of town,” he said.

The town of Hilliard has also seen numerous homes built in recent years. A 350-home community with mixed commercial use was recently approved inside town limits. It will take several years before the mixed-use development is complete.

Station 40 serves the area with five personnel per shift. Station equipment includes a water tanker. The Hilliard Volunteer Fire Department is available to assist when necessary. The fire chief explained how NCFR stations support each other.

“I do know that Station 90 supports Station 40 because 40 is busy and they go out quite a bit,” Rigdon said. “But that’s no different than over here on the East Side or anywhere else. If a station is out, the next closest station backs them up and fills in the gap, so to speak, when they’re busy on another call.”

He continued, “So that happens all around the county. That’s just normal procedures. But yes, growth is coming. And again, the pace of development, the population increase, things like that are things that we need to study going forward to determine, OK, do we need to increase staffing? Do we need to put another station in somewhere no matter where it is in the county? Those are all things we need to look at.”

The NCFR’s total operating budget for 2021-22 is \$25,716,000. The overall budget in 2020-21 was \$23,920,000.

Personnel challenges

Fire calls have emergency responders on the go. In 2021, Station 50 responded to 2,216 alarms, with an average response time of 8.27 minutes. The average response times vary depending on location. NCFR Station 20 responded to 1,028 calls with an average response time of 7.49 minutes, while Station 90 responded to 392 calls with an average response time of 11.34 minutes.

The NCFR responded to 82 structure fires in 2021 and 92 structure fires in 2020.

The National Fire Protection Association determines how many personnel should be at each station.

Crews work in A, B and C shifts, with 47 responders on duty at a time and 141 on the payroll. The plan is to raise the number to 150, providing three personnel on each engine and four per ladder.

“They say that on an engine company, there should be four people, and on a ladder company there should be four people,” Rigdon said. “Four-and-a-half years ago, we had two people on everything. And one of the things that the (Nassau County) Board of County Commissioners has supported us with was a plan to increase our staffing on all of our vehicles. So currently, we have three people now on all of our engines, with the exception of two, and three people on our ladder.”

At minimum, each station opens with an engine and a rescue vehicle. Staffing issues arose

2021 Average Response Times

Station	Total Alarms	Minutes to Arrive
20	1,028	7.49
30	2,305	9.13
40	1,542	10.30
50	2,216	8.27
60	307	10.76
70	1,329	7.99
71	1,092	8.67
90	392	11.34
Mutual Aid	258	10.85

• Station 20 is on Amelia Island, 30 is on Pages Dairy Road in Yulee, 40 is in Hilliard, 50 is in Callahan, 60 is in Bryceville, 70 is on State Road 200 in Nassauville, 71 is at Chester Road in Yulee and 90 is on State Road 2 in

a few years ago and still plague the department.

The department advertises locally and online to attract personnel.

“We look for them anywhere we can get them,” Rigdon said.

New hires are then trained through NCFR’s six-week program to determine their readiness with policy and procedures, equipment use and safety protocols. “Once the instructors are confident that they’re ready to go, we put them in the streets,” Rigdon said.

Slow supply chain

Supply chain issues are affecting the Nassau County Fire

Rescue’s ability to receive parts and equipment necessary for the fleet. Due to an inability to receive chassis, new ambulance deliveries are on a two-year lead time.

“That hurts when we’re on a regular fleet replacement program and so we’re trying to replace our vehicles in the way we should,” Rigdon said. “What we typically do is when we get a new vehicle, we put the new vehicle on the front line and, depending on the vehicle it’s replacing, we’ll take that vehicle and plug it in as a spare. So when one of these frontline vehicles breaks down, we’ve still got backup units. It’s still capable of

being used; it just doesn’t need to be used every day.”

The life span of a fire engine in the busiest parts of the county is about six to eight years. One engine is replaced each year. Rescue units are replaced on a revolving basis, with one unit replaced one year and two units the next year. Well-worn vehicles are sold to help offset costs for new ones.

“But now with supply chain issues the way they are and being told it’s a two-year lead time, we may need to adjust that,” Rigdon said. “But it’s hard to do, because of the budget scenario we’re in. Because we’re working now on the budget, the numbers, the quotes that I’m requesting are for next year’s budget that doesn’t start until Oct. 1. So I can’t take a quote that a vendor gives me today and say, ‘OK. Go ahead and order it.’ Because the budget hasn’t been approved, so I don’t know if commissioners, you know what I mean, they could completely change the budget between now and then and say, ‘We’re not buying any more vehicles.’ And then we’ve committed to buying a fire engine or rescue unit that we’re not going to buy now.”

The quotes for equipment purchases are only good for a certain time period, which means costs for fire engines or

other items could increase before the equipment is purchased and ready for delivery.

“It’s kind of uncharted territory for a lot of people,” Rigdon said.

Student Summer Art Classes

SATURDAY, JULY 9, 1 PM - 3 PM
AGES 13 - 17: - \$15 FEE

SATURDAY, JULY 9, 10 AM - NOON
AGES 9 - 12: - \$12 FEE

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 10 AM - 12:30
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NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT
8.30 – Recording of Parent-Staff Meetings

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REVISE
2.34 - Smoking and Other Use of Tobacco
5.47 – Use of Time-Out, Isolation, Secured Seclusion, and Physical Restraint for Students with Disabilities

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REPEAL
5.50 – Manual Physical Restraint

In compliance with the Administrative Procedure Act, Chapter 120, Florida Statute, a public hearing may be held if requested within twenty-one (21) days of this notice at the place, time, and date indicated below:

Place: Nassau County School Board
1201 Atlantic Ave.
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034

Time: 6:30 P. M.

Date: June 23, 2022

No significant economic impact is anticipated.

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SUBMITTED PHOTOS

The Black Pearl, the Fernandina Beach dance team, competed in a variety of competitions this year and performed during halftime of Fernandina Beach High School boys basketball games.

The Black Pearl has successful first season

For the News-Leader

The Fernandina Beach dance team – the Black Pearl – is coached by Jeni Cochran and includes nine dancers from Fernandina Beach middle and high schools.

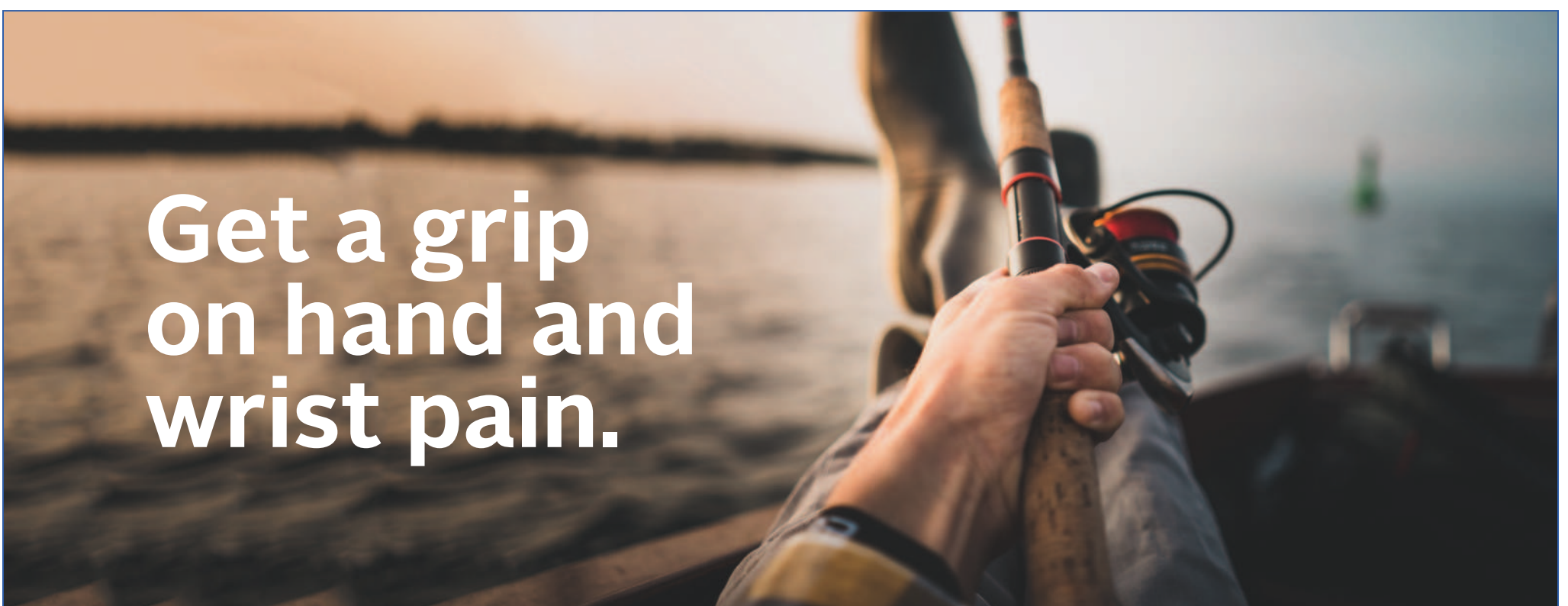
Black Pearl performed at the high school's boys basketball games and competed with a Beetlejuice-themed hip hop routine.

Black Pearl placed and performed in a variety of competitions this year.

Members of the Black Pearl included Lauren Wortham, Emma Barone, Dana Rojas, Jasmin Rojas, Zoe Stidham, Teagan Cochran, Brittany Cochran, Maren Frederick and Olivia Schopf.

To sponsor the team, contact Coach Jeni Cochran at jenicochran@aol.com.

Submitted by the Black Pearl



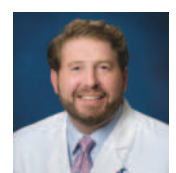
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Nassau County athletes compete in State Summer Games

Five Nassau County Special Olympic cycling athletes and one unified partner competed in the annual 2022 Special Olympics Florida State Games Friday and Saturday at ESPN Wide World of Sports in Lake Buena Vista.

The state games consist of a wide range of sports, including track and field, soccer, volleyball, tennis, bocce, cycling and wheelchair events, and more than 1,500 athletes, 375 unified partners and 800 coaches and other delegates representing more than 40 Florida counties competed in this year's event.

Nassau County athletes competing in cycling events included Geoffrey Brauda, Kristopher Mitchell, Zachary Sculthorpe, Stephanie Willaford and Isaac Youmans.

Unified partner Glenn Sculthorpe and his son, Zachary, competed on a tandem bicycle in the 2K competition. Coaches Kirk Mitchell and Glenn Sculthorpe and adult chaperones Tony Brauda, Melinda Willaford and Doug Youmans accompanied the athletes.

Nassau County cycling athletes logged more than 40 hours of combined training leading up to the state games. Their training paid off with 11 awards in cycling, including four gold, five silver and two bronze medals. Although opening ceremonies were canceled



Pictured are, from left, Geoffrey Brauda, Kirk Mitchell, Zachary Sculthorpe, Glenn Sculthorpe, Kristopher Mitchell, Stephanie Willaford and Isaac Youmans.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

because of inclement weather, Kristopher Mitchell and Glenn Sculthorpe were to be awarded the Inspirational Athlete and Inspiration Unified Partner, respectively.

The mission of Special Olympics Florida is to provide year-round sports training and competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for people with intellectual disabilities

who wish to participate, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills and

friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

Special Olympics Nassau County currently offers sports training and competition in

track and field, cycling, surfing, bowling and basketball. For information, visit <https://www.specialolympicsflorida.org/> and select the Northeast Region program.

PIRATES TACKLE TROJANS IN SPRING GAME



PHOTOS BY BETH JONES/NEWS-LEADER

The Fernandina Beach High School football team hosted Ribault's Trojans Thursday night in a spring matchup. The visitors prevailed 12-0. "I'm excited about the upcoming season," said Apollo Wright, the new head coach for the FBHS Pirates. "The players played hard and did a great job competing. Of course, there are a lot of things we need to clean up and execute at a high level, but glad to see our guys trying to execute what was asked. Need a strong commitment to get better going into the season." The Pirates open the 2022 season at Hilliard. The preseason classic kicks off at 7 p.m. Aug. 19. The season opener is Aug. 26 at Providence. The district and home opener is Sept. 9 with Baldwin. At halftime Thursday, FBHS honored student-athletes who advanced to the state level this school year and their coaches.

HORNETS PEN TO PLAY



Yulee High School had two student-athletes recently sign national letters of intent to play on the next level. Kevin Schmidt, a soccer player at YHS, above with his athletic director, coach and family, will play at North Arkansas College. Golfer Alanis Santiago-Maldonado, pictured with her family and coach, right, will play at Young Harris College.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

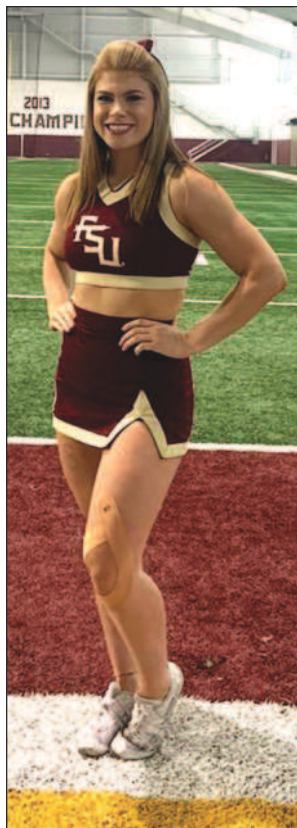


DuBose to cheer for Florida State



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Makayla DuBose, 20, a 2020 graduate of Fernandina Beach High School, made the all-girl cheer team at Florida State University, which cheers for football and basketball. DuBose, who competed for nine years at Fantastic Gymnastics and five years with the River City Allstars cheerleaders, gave up cheering in 2019, but after transferring from the University of Central Florida to FSU in January, DuBose decided to try out for the FSU squad. She is a junior at FSU pursuing an undergraduate degree in pre-clinical professions en route to a career as a neonatal physician's assistant. DuBose also cheered and was a member of the varsity track and girls weightlifting teams at FBHS.



SPORTS SHORTS

Yulee Allstars named

Yulee Little League has announced Allstars for its 9- to 11-year-old baseball team and its 10- to 12-year-old team. The 9-11 team, managed by Allen Nelson, includes Reid Nelson, Ryver McCoy, Jacob Garza, Braxton Krauss, Tyler Townsend, Noah Fisher, Zachary Brazauskas, Kye Wortham, Aiden Spence, Chandler Dixon, Gray Shively, Brayden Taylor and Jackson Fitz. The 10-12 team, managed by Trey Reynolds, includes Braden Valenteen, Colton Herbert, Jacob Davis, Gracen Prewitt, Jaxon McGee, Carson Richards, Brantley Bowen, Luke Carter, Liam Hice-Jones, Noah Jackson, Wyatt Herbert, Dash Home and Jamie Sorenson.

Cross the Line paddle

The fourth annual Cross the Line Paddle for Veterans will be held from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. June 25. Register at www.paddleguru.com. Participants will paddle from St. Marys, Ga., to Fernandina Beach, and proceeds will be donated to One More Wave, which provides disabled and wounded veterans with ocean therapy through custom-designed surf equipment. Visit www.1mwave.com to learn more about this nonprofit. Pick up packets and drop off kayaks 3-7 p.m. June 23 and 8 a.m. to noon June 24 in the vacant lot across from the entrance to the Salty Pelican restaurant on Front Street. Amelia River Cruises will transport participants from the city marina to St. Marys at 7 a.m. the day of the event. No kayaks will be transported on the river cruise. The paddle will begin at 8 a.m. in St. Marys. An after-event party will be held at 1 p.m. on Leddy's Porch on South Third Street. Visit www.crossthelinefoundation.com for information.

of Atlantic Avenue and 11th Street) Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. and most afternoons on week-days. Pétanque (pay-tonk) is a cousin of both horseshoes and bocce, the Italian bowling game. The public is always welcome. Call 491-1190.

Play pickleball

Scheduled play at the pickleball courts at Central Park in Fernandina Beach is posted at the courts and at www.fbpickleball.com. An introduction is 3-4 p.m. Sundays. There is no fee, and all are welcome. Attendees are to wear court shoes and athletic attire. Loaner paddles are available. Schedule: Sunday 4-6 p.m. social play; Monday 8-10 a.m. ladies; Monday 4-6 p.m. advanced play (3.5 and above); Tuesday 8-10 a.m. and 10 a.m.-noon group; Wednesday 4-6 p.m. group (3.0 and above); Thursday 8-10 a.m. men; and Friday 8-10 a.m. and 10 a.m.-noon group play. Visit www.fbpickleball.com, Fernandina Beach Pickleball Pirates on Facebook or email fbppirates@gmail.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. Boat ownership or sailing skills are not required. Club activities throughout the year may include day/overnight excursions by water and/or land, sailboat racing and social activities as well as assisting with local conservation and environmental efforts in waters surrounding Amelia Island. Visit www.ameliainsland-sailingclub.wildapricot.org.

NSFA meetings

The Nassau Sport Fishing Association holds its monthly business meetings on the second Wednesday, and the monthly social get-together is held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at Kraft Ten Acres, 961023 Buccaneer Trail, Fernandina Beach. Call 556-5531 or email info@nsf-ash.net for information.

Skateboarding in Jax

Street League Skateboarding, the world's premier professional skateboarding organization, will kick off its 2022 SLS Championship Tour July 16-17 at VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena in Jacksonville. Purchase tickets at www.StreetLeague.com. Fifty of the sport's best skaters and biggest personalities, including defending champions Jagger Eaton (United States) and Pamela Rosa (Brazil), SLS icons Nyjah Huston (United States) and Rayssa Leal (Brazil) as well as the full Tokyo Olympic Games podium — led by gold medalists Yuto Horigome (Japan) and Momiji Nishiya (Japan) — will vie for a chance to raise the most coveted trophy in street skateboarding, the 2022 SLS Super Crown World Championship.

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. Lunch is optional. Call 678-613-2074 or visit www.ameliainslandcycling.com, www.ameliainslandtrail.org or www.nfbc.us.

Boules Club

The Amelia Island Boules Club holds pétanque pickup games on the pétanque courts at Central Park (corner

SUMMER YOUTH CAMPS

Yulee volleyball

The Yulee High School volleyball team, the 2019 and 2020 district champions, will host its fifth annual camp from 9 a.m. to noon June 15-16 in the gym for students going into sixth through eighth grade. Groups will be divided according to age and skill level. The cost is \$50 per camper. To register, make checks payable to Yulee High School Volleyball and drop-off or mail to Yulee High School, 85375 Miner Road, Yulee, FL 32097. Payments must be received by May 20. Campers should bring knee pads, water bottles, snacks and athletic shoes. For information on the camp, email nelsonje1@nassau.k12.fl.us or call 904-225-8641, ext. 5690.

must bring their own soccer balls, shin guards, and drink containers. Cost is \$199 for the first family member, \$189 for the second. Register at the Atlantic Center.

YHS baseball

The Yulee High School baseball team will host its annual camp, the Hornet Academy Baseball Camp, from 9 a.m. to noon June 20-24 at the YHS baseball field. The camp is open to ages 5-14. The cost is \$75, and all campers receive a T-shirt and more than 12 hours of instruction. All campers need to bring a glove, bat, hat, cleats, sunscreen and water or Gatorade. The concession stand will be open. Fred Matricardi is in his fifth season as head coach at YHS. The team had its first 20-win season in school history with a 20-9 record and the 2018 district championship. Matricardi has 197 career wins and 26 years of baseball experience on the high school, college and professional levels. The camp is geared toward the fundamentals of hitting, fielding, pitching and base running skills. Campers will learn the fundamentals of baseball and the tools needed to become a better baseball player. For information, contact Matricardi at 904-894-1488 or fredmatricardi@yahoo.com.

Soccer Made In America

The Soccer Made In America training camp is from 9 a.m. to noon June 20-24 at Hickory Street Park. It is open to boys and girls ages 4-17. The camp offers professional soccer training, covering technical and tactical training, with a renowned program and professional coaches. All participants receive camp T-shirts, and awards are given during the week for "Most Creative Player" and juggling contests. Participants



A Public Service Announcement by The News-Leader

PRO GOLF WEEKLY UPDATE

Golf News, Tips, Trivia & Stats

This Week in Pro Golf

The PGA Tour makes its final Texas stop of the season, visiting historic Colonial Country Club. The PGA Tour heads to the Perry Maxwell and John Bredemus design in Fort Worth, Texas, for the Charles Schwab Challenge. It's the longest-running non-major to be contested on the same course. Many of the PGA Tour's best who teed it up at the PGA Championship will be treated to a double dose of Maxwell, as the Oklahoma designer was the chief behind Southern Hills Country Club as well. Shot-making and accuracy will be the keys to success once again at Colonial.

Course Stats
Yards: 7,209
Par: 70
Course record: 61
Tournament record: 259
Defending champion: Jason Kokrak

Day	Time	Network
Thursday	4:00pm-7:00pm	GOLF
Friday	4:00pm-7:00pm	GOLF
Saturday	2:00pm-5:30pm	GOLF
Saturday	5:30pm-7:00pm	CBS
Sunday	1:00pm-2:00pm	GOLF
Sunday	2:00pm-6:30pm	CBS

Top News Stories

ESPN's Sage Steele, Aaron Wise each hit with errant tee shots at Southern Hills on consecutive days. ESPN anchor Sage Steele was struck in the face with an errant tee shot from Jon Rahm on Thursday at Southern Hills. The incident occurred at the par-4 third hole, where Rahm badly hooked his tee shot and immediately screamed "Fore left!" Steele, who was in Tulsa covering the PGA Championship for ESPN's "Sportscenter", was standing underneath a tree in the left rough when Rahm's ball hit her in the face. An eyewitness said they saw Steele "on the ground, holding her nose, mouth, or chin area" and her hands were "covered in blood." In a strange coincidence, or perhaps an alarming trend, Aaron Wise was also struck in the head with an errant tee shot less than 24 hours later. Wise appeared okay after his round, though he was seen icing the back of his head.

Last Week in Pro Golf

Justin Thomas won the PGA Championship. Justin Thomas won his second PGA Championship, rallying from seven shots back on Sunday to force a playoff with Will Zalatoris, then beating him with two birdies and a par in their three-hole aggregate at Southern Hills. Zalatoris, who began the day three back of Mito Pereira, finished a rollercoaster round of 71 to match Thomas. Pereira threw away a one-shot lead on the 18th with a tee shot into the water.

Player	Score	Earnings
1. Justin Thomas (playoff)	-5	\$2,700,000
2. Will Zalatoris	-5	\$1,620,000

Lessons from the Golf Pro

We talk all the time about how to gain strokes on our golf game and working around the green is a vital component. However, one of the areas that we hardly ever work on is the very short wedge. We are talking anywhere from the 20-yard to the 50-yard shot that is very difficult because we never take a full swing like a pitching wedge or with our irons. Here are a couple of drills to practice to improve your short wedge game. The first drill is to set a goal for yourself on the range or around the green and practice hitting the ball consistently that distance. This helps you get a feel for how much backswing you need to hit the ball the appropriate distance. The other drill is to roll golf balls underhand a set distance in order to try to develop a rhythm for those tricky short pitch shots.

FedEx Cup Standings

Through May 22, 2022

	1) Scottie Scheffler	2,842 pts. / 7 top tens
	2) Cameron Smith	1,603 pts. / 5 top tens
	3) Sam Burns	1,601 pts. / 6 top tens

Player	Points	Top 10s
4) Justin Thomas	1,568	8
5) Hideki Matsuyama	1,544	5
6) Patrick Cantlay	1,410	6
7) Max Homa	1,401	3
8) Tom Hoge	1,309	4
9) Jon Rahm	1,279	5
10) Jordan Spieth	1,277	3

Pro Golf Trivia

Who was the oldest golfer to win the U.S. Open?

a) Phil Mickelson c) Sam Snead
b) Tony Jacklin d) Hale Irwin

Answer: d) Hale Irwin won the 1990 U.S. Open at 45 years, 15 days old.

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OUTDOORS

The fastest horse wins

"We had to cancel the tournament this past Saturday because of heavy rainstorms and lots of wind," Steve Pickett Sr. said. "However, this past Sunday morning we had 16 bluewater tournament boats head out of Amelia Island and nearby inlets for a day of blue water fishing."

The weather wasn't much better Sunday, with winds blowing seas up to 5 feet.

Team Loggin' Off took several waves over the bow of their 31-foot tournament boat during their entire day of blue-water fishing.

"We stayed knee deep in water all day long," Wainright said. "Seas were running from 3-5 feet with the occasional 6- to 7-foot wave. It certainly was not the weather conditions that we hoped for while trying to keep our trolling spread free from tangles, as well."

"We were only able to locate one solid floating sargassum weed line. Most of the weed lines were broken up because of the rough seas, which also scattered the fish and made fishing conditions tough."

Many of the tournament boats left as early as 2:30 a.m.



OUTDOORS

Terry Lacoss

Sunday, taking into consideration the long, rough ride that was ahead of them.

Team Finnikki made the 60-mile run offshore, where water depths drop

off sharply from 175 feet to over 1,000 feet in less than a mile. Typically, sargassum weed lines build up to large floating masses, where a variety of game fish school.

During the month of May, dolphin weighing over the 50-pound mark are numerous, along with wahoo, tuna, blackfin tuna, sailfish and the rare blue marlin.

"We made the run in a little over an hour, running at 50 miles per hour," team captain and boat owner Padgett said.

His 47-foot Freeman catamaran sport fishing boat, powered by quad 450-hp Mercury racing outboards, simply ran through 3- to 5-foot waves, beating the rest of the tour-



PHOTOS BY TERRY LACOSS/SPECIAL

Sal Lamantea, Don Frattle, Luis DeSouzq, Carson Mullaney, Marc Padgett and Spencer Ross, from left, took top honors in the 26th annual Amelia Island Bluewater Shootout over the weekend. Padgett's 47-foot Freeman, powered by four powerful 450-hp Mercury racing outboards, out-ran and out-fished a competitive field of blue water fishermen.

namment boats to first-place honors.

Team Finnikki weighed a 12.88-pound blackfin tuna, 26.46-pound dolphin and a 17.84-pound dolphin for a total of 57.18 points and first-place honors. Beer Money took second place with 57.02 points, and Loggin' Off took third with 44.16 pounds.

The weigh-in was held at the Amelia Island Yacht Basin, and the awards reception and dinner took place at the Down

Under restaurant. The Steve Pickett family once again did a wonderful job organizing the popular event.

Before the weekend, cobia were running offshore at FA and FB artificial reefs, where big concentrations of cigar minnows and Spanish sardines are present.

Fishing boats have been navigating straight to these popular fish havens and looking straight down in the water for cobia that will often swim right

up to their fishing boat.

Offshore fishermen can simply jig up some live minnows with Sabiki bait catcher rigs and live bait fish for cobia and other species of pelagic game fish.

The low outgoing and low incoming tides at the St. Marys jetty rocks have been providing excellent fishing action for redfish, sea trout, flounder, tarpon, ladyfish, sharks, tarpon and the occasional king mackerel. Jetty fishermen have been cast netting live menhaden just offshore

of Cumberland Island and then fishing them dead on the bottom with a fish finder setup.

The popular fish finder setup includes a 2- to 4-ounce egg weight threaded onto the terminal fishing line, followed by a plastic bead, two-way swivel, two-foot length of 60-pound fluorocarbon shock leader and a 6/0 circle hook.

When a jetty game fish picks up your bait, do not set the hook. The circle hook will set itself. Good luck!



Left, Ross Ferrell, Trent Wainright, Jacob Popham and Dillon Veal, from left, took a close second place with a nice catch of dolphin and blackfin tuna. Right, pictured, from left, are Jonathen Griffis, Enzo Gambo, first-place junior angler George Moeller, Dwight Griffis and Walker Palmer.



RECREATION ROUNDUP

The city of Fernandina Beach Parks & Recreation Department offers the follow-

ing activities. Visit www.fbfl.us.
• Open adult co-ed volleyball at Peck Gym Tuesdays

and Fridays from 7-9 p.m. Informal team games on two courts. Teams selected each night. Ages 16 and up (16-17 must have parental consent form signed and notarized before participating). Tuesday is competitive night, aimed at higher skilled players with high school, college and league experience. Tuesday night volleyball is postponed until Aug. 2 because of Men's Basketball League games). Friday is recreational night. Cost is \$3/day for city residents, \$5 non-city.

• Youth team volleyball at Peck Gym 3-7 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays. Two courts available. For school and club teams. Players must have adult coach or adult supervision. Call 310-3353 or 310-3354 to reserve courts. Cost is \$3/day for city residents, \$5 non-city.

• Open basketball at Peck Gym Monday and Thursday from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. (court

closes at 5:30 p.m. for adult leagues in winter and summer); Wednesday from 11 a.m.-5:15 p.m.; and Tuesday and Friday from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., based on court availability due to organized team activities. Persons under the age of 16 must be accompanied by adults of the age of 18 or older. Photo ID required.

• Open adult indoor soccer at Peck Gym Wednesdays from 6-8 p.m. Informal team games. Teams selected each night. Ages 16 and up (with parental consent for 16-17). \$3 for city residents, \$5 non-city.

• Open roller hockey at the Main Beach Multi-Purpose Court. Adult/older teens skate Tuesdays from 5-6 p.m. (beginner) and Saturdays from 4:15-4:45 p.m. (easy) and 4:45-6 p.m. (advanced). Family skate Tuesdays from 4-5 p.m. and Saturdays from 3-4 p.m. Call Ray Matz at 215-852-7038.

• Summer group swimming lessons at the MLK Jr. Pool. American Red Cross Levels 1, 2, 3 and 4 offered. Full sched-

ule of lessons for the summer available at the Atlantic Center or by emailing Kaitlyn Rivera (krivera@fbfl.org). Register at the Atlantic Center. Levels 1 and 2 (one-week duration). Cost is \$45 for city residents, \$56 non-city. Levels 3 and 4 (two-week duration). Cost is \$65 for city residents, \$81 non-city.

• Summer group swimming lessons at the Atlantic Center. Register at the Atlantic Center. American Red Cross Levels 1, 2, 3 and 4 offered. Full schedule of lessons for the summer available at the Atlantic Center, or email Kaitlyn Rivera (krivera@fbfl.org). Levels 1 and 2 (one-week duration): \$45 city residents, \$56 non-city. Levels 3 and 4 (two-week duration): \$65 city residents, \$81 non-city.

• Atlantic Pool schedule through Aug. 7: Monday-Friday, lap swim and water exercise from 6-8:30 a.m.; lap swim and public swim from noon to 6 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays (May, July and August), lap swim from 9-11

a.m.; Kiddie Pool open 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; lap swim and public swim from 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

NOTE: For the month of June and July 2, the Atlantic pools will be open 2-6 p.m. on Saturdays to accommodate swim due to swim team meets in the mornings. Cost is \$3/day for city residents, \$5 non-city. Monthly rates also available.

MLK Jr. Pool schedule through Aug. 7: Monday, Wednesday and Friday, public swim and Kiddie Pool from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, public swim and Kiddie Pool from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, public swim and Kiddie Pool from noon to 5 p.m. Closed Sundays. Cost is \$3/day for city residents, \$5 non-city. Monthly rates also available.

• Scuba classes at the Atlantic pool. Try Diving Experience, a one- to two-hour introductory experience that consists of a short classroom session and trying scuba in the pool with a certified scuba diving instructor or divemaster. Open to ages 8 and up. Call 310-3350 to schedule. PADI scuba open water certification. Private and group instruction available. City course fee is \$250 and includes administration and instruction (additional check-out dive fee). PADI eLearning registration is \$202 and includes online academic training, use of scuba gear and certification card. Participants must provide their own masks, snorkels, fins, booties and weight belts. Open to ages 10 and up. Visit Atlantic Center.

• Aqua aerobics at MLK Jr. pool, 1200 Elm St. Boot camp at 3 p.m. Monday; Circuit on Wednesday and Friday at 3 p.m.; HIIT on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 4 p.m.; S'Wet class on Saturday at 10 a.m.

• Beach wheelchairs can be reserved at the Atlantic Center. There is a \$100 refundable damage deposit per chair. Rental fees are \$30 per chair for city residents, \$38 non-city.

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FERNANDINA BEACH TIDES

Tides, Sun & Moon: May 25, 2022 - June 1, 2022

Day	High	Low	Moonrise	Sunrise	Moonset
Wed. 5/25	5:43A 7.48'	11:39A 1.41'	3:44A	6:25A	4:05P
Thurs. 5/26	6:13P 7.87'	--P --'	4:12A	6:25A	5:02P
Fri. 5/27	12:16A 1.96'	6:34A 7.37'	4:12A	6:25A	5:02P
Sat. 5/28	12:27P 1.33'	7:03P 8.11'	4:12A	6:25A	5:02P
Sun. 5/29	1:08A 1.85'	7:22A 7.28'	4:11A	6:25A	5:59P
Mon. 5/30	1:13P 1.28'	7:49P 8.27'	5:11A	6:24A	6:56P
Tues. 5/31	1:57A 1.74'	8:06A 7.20'	5:11A	6:24A	8:21P
Wed. 6/1	1:56P 1.29'	8:31P 8.33'	5:11A	6:24A	8:21P

A combined 77% of respondents say they read a newspaper that covers their local community

A combined 77% of respondents say they read a newspaper that covers their local community (a slight increase from a 65% average, 2017-2019), consumed via printed edition and online edition, as well as these additional online options that were not in previous surveys: Facebook, YouTube, TikTok or other social media platform.*

*Based on a March 2022 survey of 1,000 adults from rural and urban communities across the U.S. conducted by Susquehanna Polling and Research Inc., Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, for the National Newspaper Association and NNA Foundation of Pensacola, Florida, studying news and information consumption habits and opinion of public notices and advertising.



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Andy goes to school for his manners

Good manners are important. We learned that growing up. Good manners are important for our pets, too. Andy, our 1 1/2-year-old Labradoodle, is going to school to learn manners. We have found that Labradoodles are very smart and quick learners. Sociable is an understatement; they love everybody and their tails rarely stop swishing. We enrolled our boy in a class that prepares dogs for the American Kennel Club's Canine Good Citizen certification class.



FROM THE PORCH

Dickie Anderson

the biggest challenge is to curb his enthusiasm. He wants to jump up and hug, and wiggles with excitement until a "sit" command is enforced.

Treats are essential in training dogs. Sometimes, toys are good rewards for appropriate behavior. The goal should be to use fewer treats. Andy had one classmate – a large white fluffy Samoyed named Mariah. The two were eager to play, but had to focus on the basic requirements which include:

- Greeting a friendly stranger.
- Sitting politely for petting.
- Welcoming being groomed and brushed; allows paws and ears to be handled.
- Walking as directed on a loose leash.
- Moving politely through a crowd.
- Sitting, lying down and staying in place on command.

- Coming when called.
- Behaving politely around other dogs.

Coordinating a pet therapy program for the Nassau County Council on Aging has taught me there is an amazing range in dog behavior. Different breeds have very different personalities. In training, you must understand your dog's natural behavior patterns and adjust.

We have learned a lot from our current dog. One complication is the resident 4-year-old Yorkie named Kate, also known as "the Brat." She, too, has gone to school and learned some basic commands. Recognizing breed characteristics, our little girl, a terrier, is independent, a barker, an enthusiastic digger, sometimes destructive, determined and courageous. Terriers are bred to hunt out vermin and will be the first to alert you to just about anything. At our house that includes the Amazon van, UPS truck and just about anyone that comes near the front door. No amount of training and tricks has made a difference. We have disconnected the doorbell, which helps, and tried correcting collars to no avail.

Yes, good manners are important, but sometimes we



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Andy, left, and Kate are the author's two dogs.

just have to put up with bad manners in our dogs, just like we have to do with some people. So, when Andy and Kate defend us from people trying to

deliver packages, we just smile and tolerate a little noise and treasure our two pretty well-mannered dogs.

To receive her weekly news-

letter or get information about her books including her four "From the Porch" books, contact Anderson at dickie.anderson@gmail.com.

A DESIRE TO SERVE

Local real-estate agent helps women in Uganda



A culinary student at Sonrisa Culinary School and Bakery cooks stew over a stovetop at the school.

IMAGES COURTESY OF SONRISA CULINARY SCHOOL AND BAKERY

Students laugh and visit as they cook their favorite foods together.



HOLLY DORMAN
News-Leader

When Pam Graves first visited Uganda, she had no idea of the impact it would come to have on her. For years, memories of the people she met drew her back to a desire to help them. Now, one year after the opening of her culinary school there, Graves is headed back to witness the school's first graduation.

"It's one thing to see it on TV or read about what's going on in those countries," she said. "But to be there and to see it and feel it and smell it. You can't not be changed."

Although she felt an immense love and desire to help the people of Uganda, Graves was at a loss. She felt small and that her efforts would mean little to nothing in the big picture. After all, what could one real-estate agent in Fernandina Beach really do to help people half a world away?

All the same, she persevered. She reached out to people she met while she was there with her family, and her friend, Mary Apio, came back with an idea.

"I've always wanted to open a culinary school," she said.

The idea for a culinary school went far beyond a simple love of cooking and baking for Apio. At the age of 14, she was sexually assaulted and forced to marry her assailant. With no way to provide for herself or the three children she had with him, Apio stayed with him for 10 years.

Finally, she ran for her life with nothing but the clothes on her back. She eventually managed to bring her children

along with her, but she still had no means to provide for them. One day, she asked a neighbor if she could borrow his rolling pin. She wanted to make chapati (like a Mexican tortilla) for her children and to sell in the market. That rolling pin started Apio down a path with a passion for culinary arts.

Now, she and Graves have made a difference for other survivors through the Sonrisa School of Culinary Arts and Bakery.

The school is open to all, but a special emphasis is placed on accepting survivors of child marriages. UNICEF reports there are more than 5 million child brides in Uganda alone. Of those, 1.3 million were married before the age of 15. Many of them are not as lucky as Apio.

Together, Graves and Apio have been able to teach students about farm-to-table cooking. They use fresh ingredients and learn to grow their own vegetables. Not only can these skills be used to feed their families, but students are also encouraged to take their goods to market and earn money. The next step for Sonrisa is to open a retail location in town for students to use together.

In the past year, Graves and Apio have learned just what obstacles are involved with starting a ministry overseas, including lack of funding and corrupt government officials.

"I'm so grateful for the team we have in place," Graves said. "(Apio) has a board of directors there, and I have a

board of directors here in the (United) States. So it's been very, very helpful to have very trustworthy and reliable people on the ground there."

"There's just no resources there for these girls," Graves said of the survivors in Uganda. "It happens all over the world. However, I've never known anyone personally that has been through it and survived and been through what (Apio's) been through. ... You know, she and I were connected for a reason."

hdorman@fbnewsleader.com

Association hosts May luncheon

For the News-Leader

The Plantation Ladies Association recently hosted its May luncheon in the Atlantic Room at the Amelia Island Club. Club President Brenda Price introduced Nassau Habitat for Humanity Vice Chairwoman Cindy Jacoby, and Jacoby presented the association a gift for its donation.

Community Outreach Chairwoman Peg Kolasa introduced 4th Judicial Circuit Guardian ad Litem President Creighton Hoffman to guests.

The court appointees sole responsibility is to advocate for the best interests of children who are under the supervision of the Department of Children and Families and are in the foster care system due to abuse, abandonment or neglect.

During dessert, Kristine Ochu led the group in a workshop, "Creating Your Amazing Life."

The luncheon ended with Price handing over the gavel to incoming president Nancy Jones.

Submitted by the Plantation Ladies Association



Plantation Ladies Association President Brenda Price and Community Outreach Chairwoman Peg Kolasa present a \$1,250 check to 4th Judicial Circuit Guardian ad Litem President Creighton Hoffman and Child Advocate Manager Michelle Benton.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

COMMUNITY SCRAPBOOK

Garden club book donation

The Bartram Garden Club of Amelia Island presented 20 "Worlds of Wonder" garden and nature workbooks to Micah's Place in February for the benefit of the children temporarily residing there. Micah's Place Outreach Advocate Madrina Addison, left, accepts the workbooks from Bartram Garden Club of Amelia Island's Garden Therapy Chairwoman Jill Guenther. The workbooks, compiled by the Bartram Garden Club, were created to help children under stress achieve emotional balance through nature's healing powers.

SUBMITTED PHOTO



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Scout leader earns honor

Assistant Scout Master Bruce Landrum, right, was awarded the District Award of Merit from the Boy Scouts of America at Scout Troop 152's Court of Honor in Yulee. Landrum has been the troop's assistant scout master for more than 10 years, and has been a scout master, crew adviser, chapter adviser of the Order of the Arrow, Eagle Scout and ship adviser. He is also a retired U.S. Marine. With Landrum is District Executive Rick Grunz.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Newcomers hit the waterways

The Newcomers Club hosts a regularly scheduled cruise of the backwaters of Amelia Island. Members enjoy nature with plenty of time allowed for socializing, sightseeing and an opportunity to take photos of the beautiful nature surrounding the island. For information, visit newcomersamelia.org.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Passing the gavel

Bruce Gruber, center, was elected president of the Men's Newcomers Club at the club's May annual meeting and receives the gavel from outgoing president Paul Pierson, right. Jim Ramsey, left, was elected vice president.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Circle of Honor

Bob Weintraub, center, and Don Leary, right, were elected to the Men's Newcomers Club's Circle of Honor, which recognizes the contributions of members who had a significant impact on the club. Weintraub and Leary have been involved with the club for about 20 years. With Weintraub and Leary is outgoing President Paul Pierson.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Donation to Children's Tumor Foundation

Local author Capt. John Pulsinelli presented a check for \$500 to Michelle Holbrook and Terri Turner for the Children's Tumor Foundation at a recent presentation and book signing at the Fernandina Beach Public Library. All proceeds from the sale of the recently published book, "St. Michael's Parish, Celebrating 150-years in Fernandina Beach, Florida," are being donated to St. Michael Academy and to the Children's Tumor Foundation in the name of Turner's grandson, Nicholas. The book was published pro bono by Giro di Mondo publishing of Fernandina Beach. The book is available at the Amelia Island Museum of History, the author's website at captpulsinelli.com and St. Michael Academy.

Amelia Community Theatre welcomes new managing artistic director

For the News-Leader

Stephen Carver has joined the staff at Amelia Community Theatre as the new managing artistic director.

"Our search committee and the ACT board feel fortunate to have found someone with Stephen's experience and expertise in leading community theaters," Amelia Community Theatre board President Jayne Jeney said. "We are excited to begin working with him as we prepare for our 42nd season."

Carver is the fourth generation of his family to work as a community theater professional. He knows first-hand the positive



impact theater can have on its community, having led community theaters for more than 20 years.

"It's the family business, but it's also my life's passion because it's all about building and celebrating community," he said.

He was the executive director of the Kalamazoo Civic Theatre with a 15-show production season and multiple venues and was the executive director/artistic director of the Longmont Theatre Company in Colorado,

which was housed in an historic 1930s movie theater. A member of the Screen Actors Guild, he has been a working professional actor with credits in film, television and theater in Los Angeles, Chicago and New York, including recurring TV roles in "Star Trek: The Next Generation," "Golden Palace" and "General Hospital."

Carver especially enjoys the educational aspect of theater, with an emphasis on coaching and training directors and actors, both youth and adult. He is a certified festival adjudicator for the American Association of Community Theatre, of which ACT is a longtime member. He earned a bachelor's

degree in fine arts in theater performance from Denison University in Granville, Ohio.

He and his wife, Krista Carver, a dance and yoga instructor, relocated to the area from Melbourne.

"Stephen is looking forward to meeting ACT volunteers and audience members and getting to know our community," Jeney said. "We can't wait for you to meet him."

To learn more about Amelia Community Theatre, located at 207 Cedar St. in historic downtown Fernandina Beach, visit AmeliaCommunityTheatre.org or call 904-261-6749.

Submitted by the Amelia Community Theatre



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Stephen Carver is the new managing artistic director at Amelia Community Theatre.

OUT & ABOUT

THIS WEEK

"The Color Purple," based on the beloved Alice Walker novel and movie of the same title, is coming to the Amelia Musical Playhouse, 1955 Island Walk Way in Fernandina Beach.



Directed by Deirdre Wallace and Ann Walsh, with musical direction by Chad Miller, this musical features an amazing cast, a live pit orchestra and beautiful voices.

Show dates are 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2:30 p.m. Sunday.

For tickets, visit 904tix online or call the box office at 904-277-3455.

Love good wine, travel, learning about other cultures and food traditions around the world? At Story & Song Bookstore Bistro, 1430 Park Ave. in Fernandina Beach, at 5 p.m. Thursday visitors will travel to two regions of the world, learning about the wine, food, culture and people.

Explore the world with five wine tastings and four tapas plus photos and stories. Tickets are \$45.

For information or tickets, call 904-601-2118.

Fernandina Beach Main Street will sponsor a new fundraiser in addition to its signature event, Island Hop Craft Beer Fest.

From 4-7 p.m. Sunday, Fernandina Beach Main Street will host the "Stripes & Star, Let's Hit the Bars" bar crawl. Nine downtown bars and restaurants will par-

ticipate and offer drink and food specials for registered participants.

Registration includes a map of participating bars and restaurants, a wristband for food and drink discounts, event swag, and an opportunity to win door prizes at the after-party. Attendees are encouraged to dress in red, white and blue. Prizes will be awarded for biggest group, most creative and judge's favorite.

Registration will be in the courtyard between Café Karibo and Duck Pinz Bowling on North Third Street. Participants must be at least 21 years of age, and proof of age is required. Tickets are \$25 in advance or \$30 the day of the event. To purchase tickets in advance or information, visit islandhop-craftbeerfest.com.

UPCOMING

Amelia Musical Playhouse is hosting auditions for the musical melodrama, "Dastardly Deeds at Harmony House" at 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 31, at the playhouse, 1955 Island Walk Way in Fernandina Beach.

Show dates are Sept. 9-11.

The musical is the story of a villain trying to hoodwink a slew of investors with a bogus tin mine in the canyons above Orange County, Calif.

For information, visit ameliamusicalplayhouse.com or call 904-277-3455.

The Amelia Island Museum of History will host local artist Shameera Wiest's presentation "The Shape of History" for its June Brown Bag Lunch lecture noon Wednesday, June 1, at Peck Center Auditorium.

Wiest will discuss her sculptural work with found



materials. She will share her motivations, process and product of impact and conservation-driven art, which consists largely of reclaimed plastic. This lecture will be held offsite at Peck Center Auditorium, as a traveling Smithsonian exhibit is on display in the museum's lecture hall.

Attendance is free and open to the public, and attendees may bring their lunch. Seating is limited on a first-come, first-served basis. This program is wheelchair accessible. Watch this program remotely at twitch.tv/ameliaislandmuseumhistory.

For information, contact Summer Bias at 904-261-7378, ext. 102, or Summer@AmeliaMuseum.org.

Amelia Island Dance Festival will premiere a short film, "Birds of Amelia," and three other nature-inspired films at 2 p.m. Friday, June 3, at Story & Song Bookstore Bistro, 1430 Park Ave. in Fernandina Beach.

At 3 p.m., voice actor Ron Kurtz will read a bird-themed selection at Story Time for Grown-ups. And at 4 p.m., University of Florida Director of Avian Research and Conservation Ken Meyers will talk about efforts to save endangered species.

All programs are free. For information, call 904-601-2118.

Two of Nashville's best-known singer/songwriters, Don Henry and Jon Vezner, perform at the next "Evening of Story & Song."

They're both gifted musicians and storytellers, and together as The DonJuans, their harmonies and banter make for an entertaining concert. The DonJuans will perform 5 p.m. Saturday, June 4, and 2 p.m. Sunday, June 5 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$25.

To purchase tickets, visit StoryandSongArts.org or call

904-601-2118.

The Les DeMerle Drum and Rhythm Summer Camp is 10 a.m.-noon June 6-8 at Arts Alive Nassau, 96072 Chester Road in Yulee.



Sponsored by Arts Alive Nassau and the Amelia Island Jazz Festival, the cost is \$60. DeMerle will teach children the basics of drum and rhythm skills, leading toward a final-day jam session for family and friends.

For information or to sign up, email Kimrust.artsalive@gmail.com or call 904-310-9243. The deadline to register is May 27.

The Fernandina Beach Library is hosting a One Book, One Community event, "Sweets with Nana Teresa!" at 6 p.m. Thursday, June 9.



The event is sponsored by the Amelia Island Book Festival, Friends of the Fernandina Beach Library and the Nassau County Public Library.

Come hear the history of Nana Teresa's Bake Shop. Teresa Markarian will also share baking tips.

Tickets are \$20 and will include four specialty cookies and Nana Teresa's sugar cookie recipe. Tickets can be purchased by cash or check at the Fernandina Beach Library, 25 N. Fourth St.

For information, visit nassaureads.com or call 904-530-6500.



Amelia Community Theatre will present the powerful drama "Radium Girls," which is based on the true stories of dial painters in

a radium plant in the 1920s and their fight for justice when they become mysteriously ill.

Performances are at 7:30 p.m. June 10-11, 16-18, 23-25 and 2 p.m. June 12 and 19 at 207 Cedar St. in Fernandina Beach.

Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for students, and available at AmeliaCommunityTheatre.org or by calling 904-261-6749.

The Fernandina "Throw Down" Pottery Show and Sale is 3-7 p.m. Saturday, June 11, at Studio 1651, located at 1651 S. Eighth St. in Fernandina Beach.

Several talented local potters participated in a challenge to create pottery pieces inspired by another culture – whether ancient or modern. This is the third year for this group's annual challenge.

ONGOING

The Nassau County Board of County Commissioners' James S. Page Governmental Complex, 96135 Nassau Place in Yulee, is hosting the "2020 – A Look Back" photo exhibit through Nov. 14.

In January 2021, a group from Plantation Artists' Guild & Gallery solicited photos from the public that depicted how Nassau County residents faced these new challenges. The community responded and an exhibit of about 100 images was curated.

The photo exhibit's organizers designated Arts Alive as the recipient of any revenues resulting from the project.

The public can view the exhibit 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday, except for holidays.

The Yulee Library is hosting a knitting workshop from 1-2 p.m. the first and third Tuesday of each month.

Beginning knitters will learn basic knitting and essential stitches. Yarn and needles will be available for

practice at the meetings, or visit can bring their own. Experienced knitters are welcome. The Knitting Workshop will be led by Debbie Novak, a member of the Friends of the Yulee Library.

Visit nassaureads.com for more information. The library is located at 76346 William Burgess Blvd. in Yulee.

American Legion Post 54 is hosting bingo from 6-8 p.m. every Thursday at the legion headquarters, 626 S. Third St. in Fernandina Beach.



There is limited seating. Social distancing and masks are required.

Food will be available from the cantina for patrons to purchase.

A regular bingo packet is \$25, and early bird cards are \$1 apiece or six for \$5.

For information, contact the American Legion at 904-261-7900.

Due to popular demand, **American Legion Post 54 will host line dance lessons from 7:30-9:30 p.m. every Friday.** There will be no line-dancing classes on Christmas Eve. The cost is \$5, and instructions are provided by professional line dance instructor Lee Harrison.

American Legion Post 54 is located at 626 S. Third St. in Fernandina Beach. For information, call 904-261-7900.

The Amelia Island Duplicate Bridge Club, an American Contract Bridge League-sanctioned club, plays 1 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays in the Grand Hall at the Nassau County Council on Aging's Janice Ancrum Senior Life Center, 1901 Island Walk Way in Fernandina Beach.

The games are suitable for every level of bridge player.

For information, contact Ben Dickens between noon and 5 p.m. at 904-556-2808.

PUZZLES

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SUDOKU SOL. 5.20

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PUZZLE SOL. 5.18

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- CROSS**
- Mauritania's neighbor
 - St. Louis tourist attraction
 - Displeasure on one's face
 - Rainbow color
 - Root of nihilism
 - Set right
 - "Stand _____," film based on "The Body"
 - "Rita _____ and the Shawshank Redemption"
 - Bibliographical abbr. (2 words)
 - Risky business, pl.
 - "Is" in Paris
 - Hispanic American
 - Boss, in Swahili
 - Rides the waves
 - Buck
 - "Auld Lang Syne" poet
 - "Children of the Corn" cult leader Chroner
 - Subsection of a poem
 - "Rhinestone Cowboy" singer
 - Kind of change
 - Mistake
 - Oceanic trenches
 - *Rabid Saint Bernard in Stephen King book
 - Mogul rider
 - *Nicholson in "The Shining"
 - Foolish
 - Not bright
 - Subtlety
 - Plumber's concern, pl.
 - Crying like crow
 - Type of cap, pl.
 - Chilled (2 words)
 - Same as solos
 - Yuletide
 - Paddington Bear's homeland
 - Beginning of a story?
 - Grand _____
 - *Like a Stephen King story
 - "Platoon" setting
- DOWN**
- Catchall abbr.

STEPHEN KING

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PET ADOPTIONS

ANIMAL SERVICES

From 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Nassau Animal Animal Care and Control will host a pet adoption event at Petco in Yulee. All adoptions will be sponsored by the store. New pet parents will receive a \$450 coupon book for discounts on

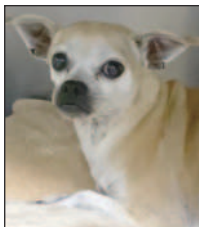


Petco services and merchandise. Stop by Petco Saturday and meet your next best friend.

Kitten kaboodles! Kitten season is here, and we got lots of them. Kittens are like socks; it is best to have a pair. Our feline adoption fees are \$25 for kittens and \$9 for adult cats. Our adoption fee includes spay and neuter surgery, vaccinations, testing and an ID microchip – a \$250 value.

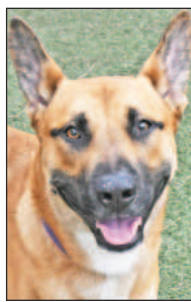
Cutie K was picked up as a stray by our officers, and her owner didn't come for her, so now she is looking for a new home. She only weighs 12 pounds, and we think she is 5 years old. She deserves a loving home where she can get some TLC.

Call the shelter at 904-530-6150 to schedule an appointment to visit these pets. To see photos and descriptions of our available pets, visit our Facebook page. We are located at 86078 License Road in Yulee. Visiting hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 1-6 p.m. Wednesday, and 11 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturday.



HUMANE SOCIETY

Morpheus was said to be the god of dreams.



Our Morpheus is a dreamy Shepherd mix, and he's dreaming of a forever home with you. Our staff says he's super-sweet and very friendly. He's about 1 1/2 years old, and fully housetrained. He's very attentive and will sit right in front of you to wait for his commands. He's a big guy who's loving life with playful puppy energy.

He recently went on a field trip and did great in the car, walked confidently and loved the ocean. You'll love his tan coat with white markings, including on his chest and toes, alert ears and "mascara" eyes. Bring your dog over for a meet and greet. He's already neutered, microchipped and up to date on his shots. Please come meet Morpheus and make your doggie dreams come true.

Farris is a sweet cat who loves people. He has a soft, beautiful black coat and gorgeous eyes. He's a domestic short hair mix, about 7 years old and medium-sized. He's a bit wary of other cats in the cattery right now, but he likes to play, and we know he'd love a forever home with you. He's neutered, microchipped and up to date on his shots, and ready to go home with you. Please come meet lovable Farris. If you're interested in seeing him, please call us at 904-321-1647 or visit NassauHumane.org to see if he's at our cattery or one of our remote adoption locations.

Our adoption center at 639 Airport Road in Fernandina Beach is open from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Fridays and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays and



Sundays. Closed Mondays. Call us at 904-321-1647, email us at info@nassauhmane.org, check out all of our great adoptable pets anytime at NassauHumane.org and follow us on Facebook. Please check our Facebook page or website for updates on cats' availability.

CATS ANGELS

Simply ear-resistable Dora is ready for a new home. This long-eared beauty, who is about 8 months old, walked into a trap. She definitely was not feral, but quite friendly. Dora is a petite gal who is playful, sweet and enjoys the company of other cats. She has been spayed and is now awaiting adoption. Dora wants to "h-ear" a Cats Angels visitor say, "Come my way Dora, it's your lucky day."

Cats Angels is a volunteer-based organization helping since 2001 with low-cost spay/neuter services and TNVR (Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return to Caregiver). We receive no local or federal government funding, and operate solely on private donations, fundraising, grants and sales from our Thrift Store. Your support is appreciated. If you want to know more about how to support or donate to Cats Angels, visit catsangels.com and click on "How To Help," where you will find many ways to lend a hand.

Recycle your aluminum and cat food cans at the bins in our parking lot at 709 S. Eighth St. We graciously accept donations for cat care and resale items for our Thrift Store. Information about our spay/neuter, TNVR and adoption programs is on our website. Cats Angels welcomes volunteers to help us care for the cats and as retail clerks in our Thrift Store. Our Volunteer Application is online or you can call.



SPECIAL ADOPTION EVENT

If you're thinking of adopting a pet, the Memorial Day weekend might be the perfect time. The Nassau Humane Society is holding a "red, white or blue" adoption special May 27-29. Adoption fees will be half-off for animals



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

ages 1 year or older who are predominantly red, white or blue. For example, there's Lena, a 2-year-old dog who loves to snuggle and has a red and white coat. Snow White is a 2 1/2-year-old cat with a gorgeous, snow-white coat. Freya is a 5-year-old cuddler whose coat is blue and white. You can see NHS's adoptable dogs and cats in living color at NassauHumane.org (click on "Adopt") or visit the shelter at 639 Airport Road in Fernandina Beach. It's open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Fridays, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays and closed Mondays.



PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE ADVERTISING DEADLINE IS NOON THE FRIDAY BEFORE THE NEXT PUBLICATION. CALL 261-3696 FOR INFO.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 2022-CA-099 DIVISION: A

LEAH SPAULDING, formerly known as LEAH BELLAR Plaintiff, vs. HOUSON C. AKINS AND ELEANOR F. AKINS, HIS WIFE, AND ALL OTHERS CLAIMING BY, THROUGH AND UNDER HOUSON C. AKINS AND/OR ELEANOR F. AKINS, Defendants.

AMENDED NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: Each and every one of the above named defendants and any unknown spouses, heirs, devisees, grantees, judgment creditors and all other parties claiming by, through, under, or against any of said defendants, and all unknown natural persons, if alive, and if dead or not known to be dead or alive, their several and respective unknown spouses, heirs, devisees, grantees and judgment creditors or other parties claiming by, through or under those unknown natural persons and all claimants, persons or parties, natural or corporate or whose exact legal status is unknown, claiming under and of the above named or described defendants or parties or claiming to have any right, title or interest in the property described in this complaint, YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to quiet title to the following property in Nassau County Florida:

EXHIBIT A

The land referred to herein below is situated in the County of NASSAU, state of Florida, and described as follows: Tract 107, YULEE HILLS, recorded in Plat Book 4, Page 31, of the current public records of Nassau County, Florida. Together with that certain mobile situate thereon, has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on J. Thomas McKeel, Esq., Plaintiffs attorney, whose address is 303 Centre Street, Suite 103, Fernandina Beach, Florida 32034 by 05-27-22 and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiffs attorney or immediately thereafter, otherwise a default will be entered against you the relief demanded in the Complaint.

DATED this 20 of April, 2022. John A. Crawford NASSAU COUNTY CLERK OF COURT

By: Taylor Hendrix As Deputy Clerk FNL 4T 05-04-11-18-25-2022 #701538

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA INVITATION TO BID

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County, Florida invites sealed proposals for: NASSAU AMELIA ISLAND INFILTRATION & INFLOW REDUCTION PROJECT SOLICITATION NO. NC22-016 ELECTRONIC BIDS RECEIVED UNTIL JUNE 8TH, 2022 10:00 AM EST

For detailed information regarding the due date and requirements for this solicitation, please visit the Nassau County website at <https://pbsystem.planetbids.com/portal/49083/portal-home>. Solicitation information and documents can be obtained free-of-charge via the Countys vendor portal. ATTEST: JOHN A. CRAWFORD EX-OFFICIO CLERK THOMAS R. FORD CHAIRMAN

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA FNL 4T 05-04-11-18-25-2022 #701831

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA INVITATION TO BID

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County, Florida invites sealed proposals for: CR- 108 Middle Road to US-17 SOLICITATION NO. NC22-018 ELECTRONIC BIDS RECEIVED UNTIL THURSDAY JUNE 23RD, 2022 BY 10:00 AM

For detailed information regarding the due date and requirements for this solicitation, please visit the Nassau County website at <https://pbsystem.planetbids.com/portal/49083/portal-home>. Solicitation information and documents can be obtained free-of-charge via the Countys vendor portal. ATTEST: JOHN A. CRAWFORD EX-OFFICIO CLERK AARON C. BELL CHAIRMAN BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA FNL 5T 05-18-25-2022 & 06-01-08-15-2022 #704770

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA INVITATION TO BID

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County, Florida invites sealed proposals for:

Parking Lot Repair, Sealcoat & Re-Stripe SOLICITATION NO. NC22-023 Electronic Bids Received until June 23, 2022 -10:00 am Pre-Bid Meeting June 9, 2022 @ 1:30 pm

For detailed information regarding the due date and requirements for this solicitation, please visit the Nassau County website at <https://pbsystem.planetbids.com/portal/49083/portal-home>. Solicitation information and documents can be obtained free-of-charge via the Countys vendor portal. ATTEST: JOHN A. CRAWFORD EX-OFFICIO CLERK THOMAS R. FORD CHAIRMAN BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA FNL 5T 05-25-2022 #705952

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA INVITATION TO BID

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County, Florida invites sealed proposals for:

CITRONA DRIVE PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS LAP PROJECT SOLICITATION NO. NC22-013 ELECTRONIC BIDS RECEIVED UNTIL WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8TH 2022 10:00 AM

For detailed information regarding the due date and requirements for this solicitation, please visit the Nassau County website at <https://pbsystem.planetbids.com/portal/49083/portal-home>. Solicitation information and documents can be obtained free-of-charge via the Countys vendor portal. ATTEST: JOHN A. CRAWFORD EX-OFFICIO CLERK AARON C. BELL CHAIRMAN BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA FNL 4T 05-04-11-18-25-2022 #701989

NOTICE OF AGENCY ACTION TAKEN BY THE ST. JOHNS RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Notice is given that the following permit was issued on May 9, 2022 Exchange Wildlight Apartments, LLC 3300 NorthEast Expy NE Bldg 6 Atlanta, GA 30341-3937 Wildlight 1 Rayonier Way Wildlight, FL 32097-0002 permit #139976-68. The project is located in Nassau County, Section(s) 50, 41 Township(s) 3N, 3N, Range(s) 27E, 26E. The permit authorizes Construction and operation of a Stormwater Management System for a 22.17-acre project known as Exchange at Wildlight Modification as per plans received by the District on March 20, 2022. The receiving water body is Plummer Creek.

A person whose substantial interests are or may be affected has the right to request an administrative hearing by filing a written petition with the St. Johns River Water Management District (District). Pursuant to Chapter 28-106 and Rule 40C-1.1007, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), the petition must be filed (received) either by delivery at the office of the District Clerk at District Headquarters, P.O. Box 1429, Palatka FL 32178-1429 (4049 Reid St, Palatka, FL 32177) or by e-mail with the District Clerk at Clerk@sjrwmd.com, within twenty-one (21) days of newspaper publication of the notice of District decision (for those persons to whom the District does not mail or email actual notice). A petition must comply with Sections 120.54(5)(b)4. and 120.569(2)(c), Florida Statutes (F.S.), and Chapter 28-106, F.A.C. The District will not accept a petition sent by facsimile (fax). Mediation pursuant to Section 120.573, F.S., may be available and choosing mediation does not affect your right to an administrative hearing.

A petition for an administrative hearing is deemed filed upon receipt of the complete petition by the District Clerk at the District Headquarters in Palatka, Florida during the Districts regular business hours. The District's regular business hours are 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., excluding weekends and District holidays. Petitions received by the District Clerk after the District's regular business hours shall be deemed filed as of 8 a.m. on the Districts next regular business day. The District's acceptance of petitions filed by e-mail is subject to certain conditions set forth in the Districts Statement of Agency Organization and Operation (issued pursuant to Rule 28-101.001, Florida Administrative Code), which is available for viewing at floridaswater.com. These conditions include, but are not limited to, the petition being in the form of a PDF or TIFF file and being capable of being stored and printed by the District. Further, pursuant to the Districts Statement of Agency Organization and Operation, attempting to file a petition by facsimile (fax) is prohibited and shall not constitute filing.

The right to an administrative hearing and the relevant procedures to be followed are governed by Chapter 120, Florida Statutes, Chapter 28-106, Florida Administrative Code, and Rule 40C-1.1007, Florida Administrative Code. Because the administrative hearing process is designed to formulate final agency action, the filing of a petition means the District's final action may be different from the position taken by it in this notice. Failure to file a petition for an administrative hearing within the requisite time frame shall constitute a waiver of the right to an administrative hearing. (Rule 28-106.111, F.A.C.). If you wish to do so, please visit <http://floridaswater.com/nordec/> to read the complete No-

tice of Rights to determine any legal rights you may have concerning the District's decision (s) on the permit application(s) described above. You can also request the Notice of Rights by contacting the Director of Regulatory Support, 4049 Reid St., Palatka, FL 32177-2529, tele. no. (386)329-4570. FNL 1T 05-25-2022 #705173

NOTICE OF SMALL-SCALE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Monday, June 13, 2022 at 6:00 PM, or soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, the Nassau County Board of County Commissioners will hold a public hearing at the Commission Chambers, James S. Page Governmental Complex, 96135 Nassau Place, Yulee, Florida 32097 to consider an amendment to the Nassau County Comprehensive Plan - Future Land Use Map (FLUM) application No. CPA22-001 concerning the following described property in Nassau County.

Location for the above described property is: on the east side of Old Nassauville Road, south of Mashburn Lane, Parcel # 27-2N-28-0000-0010-0000. CPA22-001 proposes to amend the Nassau County Comprehensive Plan - Future Land Use Map (FLUM). The property is currently classified on the FLUM as Low Density Residential (LDR) and a change is requested to High Density Residential (HDR) for approximately 19.3 acres.

This application is filed by: SREIT Enclave on Woodbridge LLC, c/o Starwood Capital Group, 591 West Putnam Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06830, Owner; Nassau County Government, 96161 Nassau Place, Yulee, FL 32097, Agent. All interested parties are invited to attend the public hearings and to be heard. Copies of the Application and supporting information are available for inspection in the office of the Planning Department, 96161 Nassau Place, Yulee, FL 32097. Comments may also be directed in writing to the Planning Department, emailed to planninginfo@nassaucountyfl.com, or received by telephone at (904) 530-6300. All comments will become a part of the record in this matter. Individuals with disabilities needing a reasonable accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the office of the County Manager at least two days prior to the proceeding at (904) 530-6010 or, if the hearing impaired, Florida Relay Service at 1-800-955-8770 (v) or 1-800-955-8771 (TDD).

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO BE PRESENT AND BE HEARD. IF A PERSON WISHES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE BY THE BOARD, AGENCY OR COMMISSION WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT SUCH MEETING OR HEARING, HE WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS AND FOR THAT PURPOSE, MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS IS MADE, WHICH RECORD INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED. The Board of County Commissioners may continue hearings on this matter.

Aaron C. Bell, Chair Nassau County Board of County Commissioners FNL 2T 05-25-2022 & 06-01-2022 #705739

NOTICE UNDER FICTITIOUS NAME LAW PURSUANT TO SECTION 865.09, FLORIDA STATUTES NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of KENTS TRUSS DESIGNS AND ENGINEERING located at 85064 BLACKMON RD., in the county of NASSAU COUNTY, in the city of YULEE, Florida 32097 intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations of the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida.

Dated at YULEE, Florida, this 19TH day of MAY, 2022. JAMES KENT MUSIC FNL 1T 05-25-2022 #705826

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA IN AND FOR NASSAU COUNTY CASE NO. 45-2022-CA-000085

ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS INC., Plaintiff, vs. MICHELLE KRULISH A/K/A MICHELLE ANN KRULISH, et al. Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION To the following Defendant(s): ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST THE ESTATE OF SHERI ANN KRULISH, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS ADDRESS: UNKNOWN YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Foreclosure of Mortgage on the following described property:

THAT CERTAIN PIECE, PARCEL OR TRACT OF LAND, LYING AND BEING PART OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 31, TOWNSHIP 2 NORTH, RANGE 25 EAST, NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: FROM THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 31, NORTH 00 DEGREES 01 MINUTES 34 SECONDS WEST, BY AND ALONG THE WEST BOUNDARY OF SAID SECTION 31, A DISTANCE OF 1320 FEET; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 58 MINUTES 26 SECONDS EAST, A DISTANCE OF 377 FEET TO THE EASTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY OF U.S. HIGHWAY #301 AND THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE LANDS OF ITT RAYONIER SOUTHEAST TIMBER DIVISION FOR A POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE, CONTINUE NORTH 89 DEGREES 58 MINUTES 26 SECONDS EAST, BY AND ALONG THE SOUTHERLY BOUNDARY OF SAID LANDS, A DISTANCE OF 694.63 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 05 DEGREES 10 MINUTES 55 SECONDS EAST, A DISTANCE OF 295.0 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 66 DEGREES 24 MINUTES 24 SECONDS WEST, A DISTANCE OF 390.95 FEET; THENCE NORTH 70 DEGREES 02 MINUTES 56 SECONDS WEST, A DISTANCE OF 585.61 FEET TO THE EASTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY OF FOREMENTIONED U.S. HIGHWAY #301; THENCE NORTH 36 DEGREES 51 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST, BY AND ALONG SAID EASTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY, A DISTANCE OF 312.57 FEET TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID ITT RAYONIER LANDS AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING; AND, ALSO: ALL OF THAT REAL PROPERTY LYING AND BEING PART OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 31, TOWNSHIP 2 NORTH, RANGE 25 EAST, NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND KNOWN AS LOTS 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 AND 27, BLOCK 3, SECTION 31, TOWNSHIP 2 NORTH, RANGE 25 EAST, NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA, LESS

AND EXCEPT ANY PORTION PREVIOUSLY CONVEYED.

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it, on McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC, Sara Collins, Attorney for Plaintiff, whose address is 225 East Robinson Street, Suite 155, Orlando, FL 32801 on or before June 17th, 2022, a date which is within thirty (30) days after the first publication of this Notice in the News Leader and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiffs attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demand in the complaint. WITNESS my hand and seal of this Court this 11th day of May, 2022.

John A. Crawford Clerk of the Court By Taylor Hendrix As Deputy Clerk MICCALLA RAYMER LEIBERT PIERCE, LLC 225 E. Robinson St. Suite 155 Orlando, FL 32801 Phone: (407) 674-1850 Email: MRSservice@mccalla.com FNL 2T 05-25-2022 & 06-01-2022 #705907

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 2022-CA-000119

CARRINGTON MORTGAGE SERVICES, LLC, Plaintiff, vs. ROBERT BURTON; et al., Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: ROBERT BURTON 44030 Pine Breeze Circle Callahan, FL 32011 UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF ROBERT BURTON 44030 Pine Breeze Circle Callahan, FL 32011 SANDRA G. BURTON 44030 Pine Breeze Circle Callahan, FL 32011 UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF SANDRA G. BURTON 44030 Pine Breeze Circle Callahan, FL 32011 LAST KNOWN ADDRESS STATED, CURRENT RESIDENCE UNKNOWN And any unknown heirs, devisees, grantees, creditors and other unknown person or unknown spouses claiming by, through and under the above-named Defendant(s), if deceased or whose last known addresses are unknown. YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose Mortgage covering the following real and personal described as follows, to-wit: LOT 1 OF MEARES MEADOWS, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 6, PAGE 17, 18 AND BEING A PART OF SECTION 4 & 5, TOWNSHIP 1 NORTH, RANGE 25 EAST AS RECORDED IN THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA. TOGETHER WITH THAT CERTAIN SKYLINE MOBILE HOME 1/4/1995, MODEL NUMBER WMN1401, 64 X 27, SERIAL NUMBER: 3462-0403AHBA, WHICH BY THE INTENTION OF THE PARTIES AND UPON RETIREMENT OF THE CERTIFICATE OF TITLE AS PROVIDED IN 319.261 FLA. STAT., SHALL CONSTITUTE A PART OF THE REALTY AND SHALL PASS WITH IT. has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defense, if any, to it on Suzanne V. Delaney, Storey Law Group, 3670 Maguire Blvd., Suite 200, Orlando, FL 32803 and file the original with the Clerk of the above-styled Court on or before 30 days from the first publication, June 23rd, 2022 otherwise a Judgment may be entered

LEGAL NOTICES CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Additional legal ads may be found at
fbnewsleader.com or floridapublicnotices.com

LEGALS CONTINUED
FROM THE PREVIOUS PAGE.

against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. WITNESS my hand and seal of said Court on 17th day of May, 2022.

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

JOHN A. CRAWFORD
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
By: Taylor Hendrix
Deputy Clerk
FNL 2T 05-25-2022 & 06-01-2022
#705757

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR NASSAU COUNTY FLORIDA. CASE NO.:45-2021-DP-06

IN THE INTEREST OF:
B. V. C.
DOB: 10/18/2012
MINOR CHILD
SUMMONS AND NOTICE OF ACTION BY PUBLICATION FOR TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS
THE STATE OF FLORIDA
TO: Travis Wayne Criswell
Address unknown
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Petition has been filed in the above-styled Court by the STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES for termination of parental rights and permanent commitment for subsequent adoption of the above-named male child B.V.C. born on October 18, 2012 in Nassau County, Florida. You are hereby commanded to appear before the Circuit Judge Lester B. Bass at the Robert M. Foster Justice Center, 76347 Veterans Way, Yulee Florida 32097 at the hour of 9:00 a.m. on June 10, 2022. You must appear at the hearing on the date and time specified.

YOUR FAILURE TO PERSONALLY APPEAR FOR THIS ADVISORY HEARING CONSTITUTES CONSENT TO THE TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS TO THIS CHILD. IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR ON THE DATE AND TIME SPECIFIED YOU MAY LOSE ALL LEGAL RIGHTS TO THE CHILD NAMED IN THE PETITION PURSUANT TO SECTION 39.801(3)(d), FLORIDA STATUTES. Pursuant to sections 39.802(4)(d) and 63.082 (6)(g), Florida Statutes you are hereby informed of the availability of private placement with an adoption entity, as defined in section 63.032(3), Florida Statutes. You have the right to be represented by an attorney in this matter and by court-appointed counsel if you are indigent.

Individuals with disabilities needing a reasonable accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the ADA Coordinator as soon as possible, telephone (904) 548-4600; or if hearing or voice impaired call 711.

WITNESS my hand as clerk of said Court and the Seal thereof, this 22nd day of April, 2022.

John Crawford
as Clerk of Said Court
By: Amy B. Ennis
As Deputy Clerk
L. Ann Hendricks, Esquire
Senior Attorney/Childrens Legal Services
Florida Bar No.: 0834394
STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
96026 Lofton Square Court
Yulee, FL 32097
(904)557-9102
FNL 4T 05-04-11-18-25-2022
#701263

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION

Case #: 22CA000064AXYX
DIVISION: A
JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association
Plaintiff,
-vs.-
Kerry K. Britt; Robert L. Britt, Jr.; Unknown Spouse of Kerry K. Britt; Unknown Spouse of Robert L. Britt, Jr.; The Homeowners' Association of Timbercreek, Inc.; Unknown Party in Possession of the Subject Property
Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF ACTION
FORECLOSURE
PROCEEDINGS-PROPERTY
TO: Kerry K. Britt; LAST KNOWN ADDRESS: 76304 Long Leaf Loop, Yulee, FL 32097, Robert L. Britt, Jr.; LAST KNOWN ADDRESS: 151 West 119th Street, Apartment 1F, New York, NY 10026, Unknown Spouse of Kerry K. Britt; LAST KNOWN ADDRESS: 76304 Long Leaf Loop, Yulee, FL 32097 and Unknown Spouse of Robert L. Britt, Jr.; LAST KNOWN ADDRESS: 151 West 119th Street, Apartment 1F, New York, NY 10026
Residence unknown, if living, including any unknown spouse of the said Defendants, if either has remarried and if either or both of said Defendants are dead, their respective unknown heirs, devisees, grantees, assignees, creditors, lienors, and trustees, and all other persons claiming by, through, under or against the named Defendant (s); and the aforementioned named Defendant(s) and such of the aforementioned unknown Defendants and such of the

forementioned unknown Defendants as may be infants, incompetents or otherwise not sui juris.

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

LOT 143, TIMBER CREEK PLANTATION PHASE ONE, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 6, PAGES 394 THROUGH 398, INCLUSIVE, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA.

more commonly known as 76304 Long Leaf Loop, Yulee, FL 32097.
This action has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defense, if any, upon LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP, Attorneys for Plaintiff, whose address is 2424 North Federal Highway, Suite 360, Boca Raton, FL 33431, within thirty (30) days after the first publication of this notice and file the original with the clerk of this Court either before with service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

WITNESS my hand and seal of this Court on the 5th day of May, 2022.
John A. Crawford
Circuit and County Courts
By: Karen J. Lockett
Deputy Clerk
If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator at (904) 548-4600 press 0, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

Phone- (904) 548-4909
Fax- (904)548-4949
TTD/TTY- Dial 711
E-Mail:
calewis@nassauclerk.com
FNL 2T 05-25-2022 & 06-01-2022
#705313

NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE AMELIA WALK COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Supervisors (Board) of the Amelia Walk Community Development District (District) is scheduled to hold a regular meeting on Tuesday, June 14, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. at the Amelia Walk Amenity Center, 85287 Majestic Walk Boulevard, Fernandina Beach, Florida 32034 where the Board may consider any business that may properly come before it (Meeting). The Meeting is open to the public and will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Florida law for community development districts. An electronic copy of the agenda for this meeting may be obtained from the District Manager, 475 West Town Place, Suite 114, St. Augustine, Florida 32092 (and phone (904) 940-5850) and is expected to also be available on the Districts website at www.AmeliaWalkCDD.com. The Meeting may be continued to a date, time, and place to be specified on the record at such Meeting. There may be occasions when one or more Supervisors will participate by telephone.

Any person requiring special accommodations at the Meeting because of a disability or physical impairment should contact the District Managers Office at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the Meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service by dialing 7-1-1, or 1-800-955-8771 (TTY) / 1-800-955-8770 (Voice), for aid in contacting the District Managers Office.

Each person who decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at the Meeting is advised that person will need a record of proceedings and that accordingly, the person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, including the testimony and evidence upon which such appeal is to be based.
Daniel Laughlin
District Manager
FNL 1T 05-25-2022
#705855

Notice of Public Sale
Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will sell, to enforce a lien imposed on said property, under the Florida Self Storage Facility Act (Section 83.801-83.809) at public sale by competitive bidding on www.storage-treasures.com ending on June 10, 2022 at 10:00am for units located at:
Compass Self Storage
2641 Bailey Road
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034 (Nassau County) (904-261-5700)

The personal goods stored therein by the following may include, but are not limited to the items listed below. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of purchase. Compass Self Storage reserves the right to refuse any bid. Sale is subject to adjournment.
All units listed below contain household items.

Units

1004 Madison Brown
3172 Edgar Aguilar
FNL 2T 05-25-2022 & 06-01-2022
#706100

RIVER GLEN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Supervisors (Board) of the River Glen Community Development District (District) will hold a regular meeting on Thursday, June 16, 2022 at 2:00 p.m., at the River Glen Amenity Center, located at 65084 River Glen Parkway, Yulee, Florida 32097.

A copy of the agenda may be obtained by contacting the District Manager, c/o Rizzetta & Company, Inc, 3434 Colwell Avenue, Suite 200, Tampa, FL 33614 (District Managers Office) or by emailing the District Manager at lgallagher@rizzetta.com and/or by telephoning 904-436-6270 during normal business hours. The meetings are open to the public and will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Florida law for community development districts. The meetings are open to the public and will be conducted in accordance with the provision of Florida Law for Community Development Districts. The meetings may be continued to a date, time, and place to be specified on the record at such meeting.

Any person requiring special accommodations in order to access and participate in the meeting because of a disability or physical impairment should contact the District Managers Office at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service by dialing 7-1-1, or 1-800-955-8771 (TTY) / 1-800-955-8770 (Voice), for aid in contacting the District Managers Office.

Each person who decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at the Meetings is advised that person will need a record of proceedings and that accordingly, the person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, including the testimony and evidence upon which such appeal is to be based.

Lesley Gallagher
District Manager
FNL 1T 05-25-2022
#706129

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO CONSIDER ENACTMENT OF AN ORDINANCE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Nassau County Board of County Commissioners will conduct a public hearing on Monday, June 13, 2022 at 6:00pm or soon thereafter as the matter to be heard regarding the proposed Ordinance. The public hearing will be held at the James S. Page Governmental Complex, 96135 Nassau Place, Yulee, Florida 32097.

ORDINANCE 2022 -
AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA AMENDING LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE SECTION 28.14(J) TO WAIVE APPLICATION FEES FOR CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS FOR MOTHER-IN-LAW DWELLINGS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

All interested parties are invited to attend the public hearing and to be heard. Copies of the proposed Ordinance and supporting information are available for inspection in the Planning Department, 96161 Nassau Place, Yulee, FL 32097. Comments may also be directed in writing to the Planning Department, e-mailed to planninginfo@nassaucountyfl.com, or received by telephone at (904) 530-6300. All comments will become part of the record in this matter and subject to Floridas public records law.

Individuals with disabilities needing a reasonable accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the office of the County Manager at least two days prior to the proceeding at (904) 530-6010 or, if the hearing impaired, Florida Relay Service at 1-800-955-8770 (v) or 1-800-955-8771 (TDD).

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO BE PRESENT AND BE HEARD. IF A PERSON DECIDES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE BY THE BOARD, AGENCY OR COMMISSION WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT SUCH MEETING OR HEARING HE/SHE WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS AND FOR THAT PURPOSE, MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS IS MADE, WHICH RECORD INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH APPEAL IS TO BE BASED.

The Board of County Commissioners may continue hearings on this matter.
Aaron C. Bell, Chair
Nassau County Board of County Commissioners
FNL 2T 05-25-2022 & 06-01-2022
#703320

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO CONSIDER ENACTMENT OF AN ORDINANCE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Tuesday, June 7, 2022 at 6:00 PM, or soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, the Planning and Zoning Board of Nassau County will hold a public hearing regarding the proposed Ordinance. The pub-

lic hearing will be held at the James S. Page Governmental Complex, 96135 Nassau Place, Yulee, Florida 32097.

ORDINANCE 2022 -
AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA AMENDING CHAPTER 29 OF THE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, SUBDIVISION AND DEVELOPMENT REVIEW, SECTION 29-46, PUBLIC USES; SPECIFICALLY AMENDING SECTION 29-46 (b)(3), TRAILS, TO ADD PROVISIONS OF THE ADOPTED FEE-IN-LIEU OF REQUIRED TRAIL CONSTRUCTION POLICY; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

All interested parties are invited to attend the public hearings and to be heard. Copies of the proposed Ordinance and supporting information are available for inspection in the Planning Department, 96161 Nassau Place, Yulee, FL 32097. Comments may also be directed in writing to the Planning Department, e-mailed to planninginfo@nassaucountyfl.com, or received by telephone at (904) 530-6300. All comments will become part of the record in this matter and subject to Floridas public records law.

Individuals with disabilities needing a reasonable accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the office of the County Manager at least two days prior to the proceeding at (904) 530-6010 or, if the hearing impaired, Florida Relay Service at 1-800-955-8770 (v) or 1-800-955-8771 (TDD).

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO BE PRESENT AND BE HEARD. IF A PERSON DECIDES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE BY THE BOARD, AGENCY OR COMMISSION WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT SUCH MEETING OR HEARING HE/SHE WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS AND FOR THAT PURPOSE, MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS IS MADE, WHICH RECORD INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH APPEAL IS TO BE BASED.

The Planning and Zoning Board may continue hearings on this matter.
Linda Morris, Chair
Nassau County Planning and Zoning Board
FNL 2T 05-18-25-2022
#704040

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO CONSIDER ENACTMENT OF AN ORDINANCE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Nassau County Board of County Commissioners will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, June 13, 2022 at 6:00pm or soon thereafter as the matter to be heard regarding the proposed Ordinance. The public hearing will be held at the James S. Page Governmental Complex, 96135 Nassau Place, Yulee, Florida 32097.

ORDINANCE 2022 -
AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA AMENDING ARTICLE 37 OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE, NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION; TO AMEND SECTION 37.05 LANDSCAPING STANDARDS FOR ONE AND TWO-FAMILY LOTS ADJACENT TO RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND STREETS; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

All interested parties are invited to attend the public hearing and to be heard. Copies of the proposed Ordinance and supporting information are available for inspection in the Planning Department, 96161 Nassau Place, Yulee, FL 32097. Comments may also be directed in writing to the Planning Department, e-mailed to planninginfo@nassaucountyfl.com, or received by telephone at (904) 530-6300. All comments will become part of the record in this matter and subject to Floridas public records law.

Individuals with disabilities needing a reasonable accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the office of the County Manager at least two days prior to the proceeding at (904) 530-6010 or, if the hearing impaired, Florida Relay Service at 1-800-955-8770 (v) or 1-800-955-8771 (TDD).

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO BE PRESENT AND BE HEARD. IF A PERSON DECIDES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE BY THE BOARD, AGENCY OR COMMISSION WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT SUCH MEETING OR HEARING HE/SHE WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS AND FOR THAT PURPOSE, MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS IS MADE, WHICH RECORD INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH APPEAL IS TO BE BASED.

The Board of County Commissioners may continue hearings on this matter.
Aaron C. Bell, Chair
Nassau County Board of County Commissioners
FNL 2T 05-25-2022 & 06-01-2022
#703313

NOTICE OF QUALIFYING PERIOD FOR CANDIDATES FOR THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE RIVER GLEN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

Notice is hereby given that the qualifying period for candidates for the office of Supervisor of the River Glen Community Development District (District) will commence at noon on June 13, 2022, and close at noon on June 17, 2022. Candidates must qualify for the office of Supervisor with the Nassau County Supervisor of Elections located at 96135 Nassau Place, Suite 3, Yulee, Florida 32097; Ph: 904-491-7500. All candidates shall qualify for individual seats in accordance with Section 99.061, Florida Statutes, and must also be a qualified elector of the District, as defined in Section 190.003, Florida Statutes. A qualified elector is any person at least 18 years of age who is a citizen of the United States, a legal resident of the State of Florida and of the District, and who is registered to vote with the Nassau County Supervisor of Elections. Campaigns shall be conducted in accordance with Chapter 106, Florida Statutes. The River Glen Community Development District has three (3) seats up for election, specifically seats 3, 4 and 5. Each seat carries a four-year term of office. Elections are nonpartisan and will be held at the same time as the general election on November 8, 2022, and in the manner prescribed by law for general elections. For additional information, please contact the Nassau County Supervisor of Elections. FNL 1T 05-25-2022
#704751

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned intends to sell the personal property (household goods, etc.) at public sale by competitive bidding on Friday the 27th day of May 2022 at 10:00 am on the premises where said property has been stored and which are located at Bridgeview Self Storage 474431 East State Road 200 Fernandina Beach, FL 32034 Nassau County the following:
Theresa Mummery 1076
William Nelson 1094, 5007
Ronald Mattox 1218
Trevor Senger 3131
Charles Lee Kennedy 1065
Lauren Wolfersteig 2189, 2190
Amy Lawser 1095
Purchases must be paid for at the time of purchase by cash only.
Dated this 05/18/2022 and 05/25/2022.
FNL 2T 05-18-25-2022
#704507

REZONING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Monday, June 13, 2022, at 6:00 PM. or soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, the Nassau County Board of County Commissioners will hold a public hearing at the Commission Chambers, James S. Page Governmental Complex, 96135 Nassau Place, Yulee, Florida 32097 to consider application No. R22-001 for rezoning of the following described property in Nassau County.
Location for the above described property is: west of the City of Fernandina Beach, south of St. Marys River. Parcel #s 17-3N-28-0000-0001-0000, 39-3N-28-0000-0002-0000.
R22-001 proposes to rezone approximately 563 acres to Open Rural (OR).
This application is filed by: Anne Kavanaugh, et. al., 112 North 6th Street, Fernandina Beach, Florida 32034, Owner. Anthony S. Robbins, AICP, Prosser, Inc., 13901 Sutton Park Drive South, Suite 200, Jacksonville, Florida 32224, Agent.

This hearing will be conducted as a quasi-judicial hearing. All interested parties are invited to attend the public hearings and to be heard. Copies of the proposed Ordinance and supporting information are available for inspection in the Planning Department, 96161 Nassau Place, Yulee, FL 32097. Comments may also be directed in writing to the Planning Department, e-mailed to planninginfo@nassaucountyfl.com, or received by telephone at (904) 530-6300. All comments will become part of the record in this matter and subject to Floridas public records law.

Individuals with disabilities needing a reasonable accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the office of the County Manager at least two days prior to the proceeding at (904) 530-6010 or, if the hearing impaired, Florida Relay Service at 1-800-955-8770 (v) or 1-800-955-8771 (TDD).

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO BE PRESENT AND BE HEARD. IF A PERSON DECIDES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE BY THE BOARD, AGENCY OR COMMISSION WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT SUCH MEETING OR HEARING HE/SHE WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS AND FOR THAT PURPOSE, MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS IS MADE, WHICH RECORD INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH APPEAL IS TO BE BASED.

The Board of County Commissioners may continue hearings on this matter.
Aaron C. Bell, Chair

Nassau County Board of County Commissioners
FNL 2T 05-25-2022 & 06-01-2022
#703292

NOTICE OF SMALL-SCALE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Tuesday, June 7, 2022 at 6:00 PM, or soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, the Planning and Zoning Board of Nassau County will hold a public hearing at the Commission Chambers, James S. Page Governmental Complex, 96135 Nassau Place, Yulee, Florida 32097 to consider an amendment to the Nassau County Comprehensive Plan - Future Land Use Map (FLUM) application No. CPA22-003 concerning the following described property in Nassau County.

Location for the above described property is: on the northeast corner of SR 200 and Cessna Drive, Parcel # 25-2N-28-0000-0002-0010.

CPA22-003 proposes to amend the Nassau County Comprehensive Plan - Future Land Use Map (FLUM). The property is currently classified on the FLUM as Industrial (IND) and a change is requested to Commercial (COM) for approximately 1.71 acres.

This application is filed by: Nassau Baptist Temple, 464069 S.R. 200, Yulee, FL 32097, Owner; Emily Pierce, Rogers Towers, P.A., 1301 Riverplace Boulevard, Suite 1500, Jacksonville, FL 32207 and H & T Consultants, 9310 Old Kings Road South, Suite 1001, Jacksonville, FL 32207, Agents.

All interested parties are invited to attend the public hearings and to be heard. Copies of the proposed Ordinance and supporting information are available for inspection in the Planning Department, 96161 Nassau Place, Yulee, FL 32097. Comments may also be directed in writing to the Planning Department, e-mailed to planninginfo@nassaucountyfl.com, or received by telephone at (904) 530-6300. All comments will become part of the record in this matter.

Individuals with disabilities needing a reasonable accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the office of the County Manager at least two days prior to the proceeding at (904) 530-6010 or, if the hearing impaired, Florida Relay Service at 1-800-955-8770 (v) or 1-800-955-8771 (TDD).

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO BE PRESENT AND BE HEARD. IF A PERSON WISHES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE BY THE BOARD, AGENCY OR COMMISSION WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT SUCH MEETING OR HEARING, HE WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS AND FOR THAT PURPOSE, MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS IS MADE, WHICH RECORD INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED.

The Planning and Zoning Board may continue hearings on this matter.
Linda Morris, Chair
Nassau County Planning and Zoning Board
FNL 2T 05-18-25-2022
#703307

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN That CELIA HERNANDEZ The holder of the following certificate(s) has filed said certificate(s) for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number(s) and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the name(s) in which it is assessed are as follows:

Parcel Number:
09-3N-24-0000-0022-0010
Certificate Number: 441
File Number:
22TD000001AXYX
Description of Property:
IN OR 790 PG 1794
Assessed To:
JAMES A ANDERSON

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

Unless such certificate(s) shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold electronically at www.nassau.realtaxdeed.com on the 14th DAY OF JUNE 2022 between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. The Clerk of Courts Office Policy is to hold the sale at 11:30 a.m.

JOHN A. CRAWFORD,
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER
BY: TAMARA SLOAN,
DEPUTY CLERK
FNL 4T 05-11-18-25-2022 & 06-01-2022
#702229

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION

File No. 22-CP-185
Division

IN RE: ESTATE OF FELIX CHARLES, Deceased.
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of FELIX CHARLES, deceased, whose date of death was December 23, 2021, is pending in the Circuit Court for Nassau County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 76347 Veterans Way, Yulee, FL 32097. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

LEGAL NOTICES CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE.

CLASSIFIEDS



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

ANNOUNCEMENTS Lost & Found Personals Public Notice Miscellaneous EMPLOYMENT Help Wanted Business Opportunity	Work Wanted Services EDUCATION Schools & Instruction Tutoring Lessons/Classes FARM & ANIMAL Equipment	Livestock & Supplies Pets/Supplies Services MERCHANDISE Garage Sales Articles for Sale Antiques-Collectibles Produce	Appliances Home Furnishings Musical Instruments Auctions Wanted to Buy Free Items Miscellaneous	RECREATION Boats/Watercraft RVs/Campers/Trailers REAL ESTATE Homes for Sale Condominiums Mobile Homes Ocean/Waterfront	Lots & Land Farms & Acreage Commercial/Retail Investment Property Other Areas Wanted to Buy RENTALS Apartments	Condominiums Homes Rooms Mobile Homes Vacation Rentals Office Commercial/Retail Roommate Wanted	Wanted to Rent TRANSPORTATION Automobiles SUVs Trucks Vans Motorcycles/ATV's
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Public Notice

Advanced Towing & Recovery will be holding a Public Sale on JUNE 7th 2022 at 09:00 AM, 850700 US Hwy 17 Yulee, FL 32097, (904)491-8648 for the following vehicle:
04 TOYT 5TENM92N94Z448458

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

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

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

If you or a loved one worked around Roundup Weed Killer, (glyphosate), for at least two years and were diagnosed with lymphoma, you may be entitled to compensation. To see if you qualify, call now: 833-479-1286. ANF

MRC LAWN (GREG CREAMER) IF ANYONE WERE CLIENTS OF MRC LAWN (GREG CREAMER), PLEASE CALL BEN CREAMER AT 904-321-7016 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING YOUR ACCOUNT(S).

Miscellaneous

EARLY CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

Memorial Day Holiday

In observance of Memorial Day, the News-Leader will be closed on Monday, May 30th. The deadline to place a classified line ad in the Wednesday, June 1st edition will be Friday, May 27th at 5pm.

DON'T LITTER
SPAY ~ NEUTER
A Public Service Announcement by The News-Leader

EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted

COUNCIL ON AGING hiring CNA/Home Health Aides for Fernandina, Yulee, Callahan & Hilliard. Days, nights, weekends & holidays. Must have reliable transportation. HS diploma or GED. Level 2 background and drug screening required. Send resumes to donharley@nassaucountycoa.org.

EXPERIENCED CAREGIVER NEEDED - for elderly gentleman's meal preparation 4 days a week, 4-6 pm. Located on Amelia Island. Must have references. Please email all inquiries to caregiver2629@gmail.com

INTERVIEWING FOR A position involving companionship & care giving at a senior, luxury living facility on the island for private family. Positions available full & part-time per diem. Vaccination is a requirement. Call (904)753-2029.

Newspaper Jobs - Looking to join a team that is dedicated to building strong communities? Community Newspapers Inc. is looking for reporters, advertising sales representatives, graphic designers and pressmen to help us tell the stories that shape our communities in Western North Carolina, Northeast and Coastal Georgia and Florida. Visit cnnewsletters.com/careers for current openings.

WORSHIP LEADER Heaven's Point International (Church of God) is looking for a part-time worship leader who is spirit filled, anointed, authentic, and loves the Lord. We are located in St Marys, Ga. If you are interested, please contact us: Heavenspointint@yahoo.com

WORSHIP LEADER Heaven's Point International (Church of God) is looking for a part-time worship leader who is spirit filled, anointed, authentic, and loves the Lord. We are located in St Marys, Ga. If you are interested, please contact us: Heavenspointint@yahoo.com

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MERCHANDISE

Garage Sales

ESTATE SALE - Beautiful ladies clothing sizes 16W to 3X. All new with tags, name brands, new shoes, new makeup, leather reclining sofa, flat screen TV's (7), art work, lamps, decorative items, boxes, lots of jewelry, 84 pieces of Mikasa china, selection of Lenox Christmas, Singer sewing machine, Bicox sewing, wine refrigerator, new luggage, gliders, new silk flowers, lamp tables, chests, shelving, office items, linens, purses, full kitchen charbroil deep fryer, Keuring, Wolfgang, Gourmar, Imperial, West Bend, Hamilton Beach, Foreman, microwaves (3), tools, garage full. May 26, 27 & 28th, Thurs, Fri and Sat., 8-3. 95023 Village Drive, Marsh Lakes, Do Not Block Drives and Respect Properties. Mask optional. Follow red & white signs,

Articles For Sale

WESTLAKE TIRES - Set of 4. 225/70 R15. 3/4 of tread left. \$150/OBO. (904) 504-7674

Antiques-Collectibles

HOUSE OF COLLECTIBLES - 131 So. 8th St. (904)624-7497. Large collection of records, books, CDs, DVDs, toys, cards, comics, jewelry, art, dolls, & more.

Wanted To Buy

PAYING TOP CASH FOR MEN'S SPORT WATCHES! Rolex, Breitling, Omega, Patek Philippe, Heuer, Daytonna, GMT, Submariner and Speedmaster. Call 888-937-6497. ANF

TOP CASH PAID FOR OLD GUITARS! 1920-1980 Gibson, Martin, Fender, Gretsch, Epiphone, Guild, Mosrite, Rick-enbacker, Prairie State, D'Angelo, Stromberg. And Gibson Mandolins / Banjos. 833-860-0454. ANF

Miscellaneous

ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS! Inogen One G4 is capable of full 24/7 oxygen delivery. Only 2.8 pounds. FREE information kit. Call 866-925-2362. ANF

Miscellaneous

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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

2BR Mobile Home - for rent. In a secluded part. Garbage, water & lawn service included. \$1,100/mo (904) 753-1691

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

Roommate Wanted

Looking For Employed Roommate - Access to whole house. No smoking inside. Please email me at shrmthr@gmail.com. \$1,000/mo and half of utilities included.

TRANSPORTATION

Automobiles

2013 2.5L VW CABRIOLET - 13,700 miles, like new, beige. \$33K. Call (904) 441-9227.

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Congratulations,

CLASS OF 2022!



Fernandina Beach High School



Mitchell Aarons



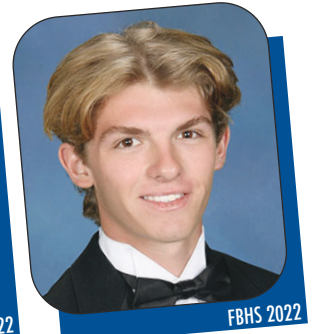
Michael Ahl



Asa Alderson



Ryan Alter



Alec Antczak

Graduation will be held Saturday May 28th at 9 a.m. at the Fernandina Beach High School Football Field



Taylor Arnett



Michael Awad



Macy Ayscue



Cameron Bailey



Georgia Bailey



Jesse Bailey



Joshua Balak



Anthony Balsamo



Philip Balyeat



Emma Beard



Skyler Beattie



Hannah Bedford



Morgan Benge



Amanda Bennett



Kejuan Bennett



Riley Bennett



L. Bermudez



Allyn Bessee



Keegan Bille



Harrison Blalock



Gavin Bocian



Tytus Boston



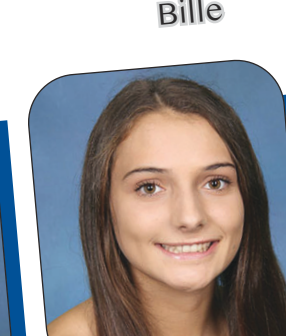
Nicholas Brown



Connor Bryant



William Bryant



Marina Bush



Sydnee Calder



Duarte Alanis Cavallo



Chandler Cavan



Devyn Childres



Noel Chrzanoski



Willie Coleman



Joseph Coles



Gracy Copley



Conner Craig



Dalton Cruz



Melanie Cueto



Karah Culley



Trey Dallas



Marleah Dampier



Samantha David



Tiffany Davis



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Fernandina Beach High School



Wyatt Deaton



Brianna DeGrove



Alixondra Delfs



Kiawa Dempsey



Jordan Dennis



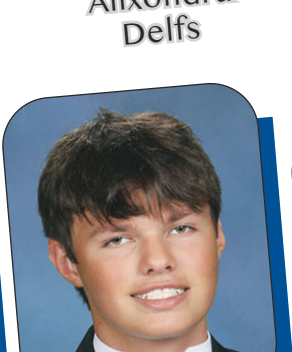
Matthew Devane



Kaitlyn Dillingham



Benjamin Draper



Myles Edgy



Ella Eliason



Jalay Evans



William Evatt



Kaydance Fedroff



Tyler Fellows



Kailey Forell



Mason Fortenberry



Gracyn Frederick



Madison Funch



Natalie Futch



Robert Gaines



Fiona Garber



Cheyla Garcia



Hanna Garner



Emma Gerhold



David Gibbs



Jason Giddens



Graham Godfrey



Casey Gonzalez



Kadin Graham



Kayli Graves



Noah Gros



Olivia Hall



Owen Hamilton



Sabrina Hansen



Rory Hayden



Joshua Heath



Matthew Hickox



Orion Hocking



Emma Hogan



Joi Hunt



Goerge Jenkins



Karina Jimenez



Kallie Johns



Aliyah Johnson



Callie Johnson



Kenneth Jones



Maxwell Jones



Romalis Joseph



Francisco Juan Andres



Alexis Karakadze



Gabrielle Kennedy



Dylan Keys



Samuel Kunkle



Stephen Kunkle

Fernandina Beach High School



Trevor Lane



Ryan Laphorn



Margaret Lascell



Livia Lavino



Remington Law



Alanna Lee



Brett Lee



Richard Lee



Trinity Lee



Luke Lyle



Anjali Mann



Gabriel Martinez



Diego Martinez-Brown



Luis Martinez-Brown



Haillie Mason



Jayden Matthews



Marsha Maxwell



Sophie McEachern



Wendy Mendez Raymundo



Nicholas Millett



Ethan Moore



Dylan Morgan



Shaydonel Newman



Alden Newsome



David Nguyen



Talia Nichol



Lochlan Nicol



Jody Odom



Jordan Odom



Charles Palmer



Edmund Pauly



Isaiah Perkins



Margrette Phillips



Jackson Pickett



Tamyra Pierce



Emily Pipkin



Sophia Pittman



Sophia Platt



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Dane Puca



Alina Qiu



Keydi Ramirez Reyes



Destannie Ramos



Daniel Reasor



Camron Redding



Jaylen Register



Adeline Renner



Hanna Rhatigan



Anika Richards



Reagan Richert



Kristan Rix



Demetrius Roberts



Thomas Roberts



Landon Robinson

Fernandina Beach High School

A grid of 42 student portraits, each with a name and 'FBHS 2022' below it. The students are arranged in 6 rows and 7 columns.

Alexander Rodriguez Rollins	Joseph Romack	Todd Rushing	Isabella Saldana	Seth Schrick	Brianna Schultz	Joanna Selph
Olivia Senger	Vincent Sheppard	Gabriel Sjostrom	Kylee Smith	Kaylee Stacy	Brett Steffen	Isabell Sturges
Anna Swarm	Caden Swanson	Ashton Sweatt	Bradee Taylor	Lauren Taylor	Vega Taylor	Kyline Terrero Quiroz
Louis Tharin	Abby Thompson	Cooper Thompson	Michael Tingle	Maya Turner	Makayla Veal	Garrett Vitori
Reagan Webber	Ella Weepie	Katelynn West	Nadia White	Adam Wilking	Denim Williams	Dietrich Woods

From the
George Crady Bridge
 to **Boulogne**
 and
Everything in Between...

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U	B	E	A	C	H	E	S	E	D	F	O	F	O	R	E	F	S	E
L	E	D	T	A	I	Y	H	K	O	O	C	R	O	I	L	E	R	N
E	E	A	T	A	T	L	S	W	E	N	G	N	I	K	A	E	R	B
F	L	B	O	R	O	I	O	C	E	S	P	R	A	N	O	O	A	S
G	U	R	A	I	P	A	M	R	S	W	S	U	Y	G	T	T	N	Y
H	S	O	A	S	R	D	U	S	N	N	A	I	M	A	D	D	I	W
I	W	E	N	S	A	C	H	A	S	L	E	A	D	E	R	C	S	R
K	N	N	A	S	I	R	B	R	I	P	T	N	I	O	P	W	E	I
L	L	A	P	U	L	E	A	F	T	A	S	O	P	S	A	O	R	W
M	A	H	V	A	O	S	I	O	W	R	A	B	T	I	L	T	S	O
N	O	C	A	I	D	P	S	E	T	O	R	P	B	S	L	L	D	D
P	O	L	E	S	S	T	R	O	P	S	U	A	S	S	A	N	A	N
Q	L	L	V	A	L	S	D	P	E	R	S	W	E	N	F	U	A	G
R	L	A	L	E	A	T	T	R	O	P	E	R	S	W	E	R	U	C
S	I	C	A	E	U	I	S	P	H	R	A	E	S	O	D	R	S	T
T	H	O	M	O	D	N	A	L	S	I	A	I	L	E	M	A	E	E

AMELIA ISLAND CALLAHAN EDITORIALS LEISURE NEWS LEADER VIEWPOINT
 AROUND TOWN CLASSIFIED FERNANDINA LOCAL NEWS OUTDOORS WEDNESDAY
 BEACHES COURT REPORT FRIDAY NASSAU POLICE REPORT WILD WAYS
 BREAKING NEWS E EDITION HILLIARD NASSAU SPORTS RELIGION YULEE

SCRAMBLED WORDS
 S-2 L-18 B-7 D-7 H-14 D-18 M-17 F-18 P-11 O-17 H-16 C-7 G-15 M-7

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Yulee High School Hornets

Graduation will be held May 25th At 6 p.m. at the Yulee High School Football Field



Raymond Albury



Emily Alcorn



Noah Almeida



Authur Anderson



Nicole Arroyo



Veronica Arroyo



Christian Ash



Alonzo Autry



Brayden Bahr



Kylie Baker



Brice Baldus



Travis Barnard



Caleb Barthlemess



Colton Bartlett



Leo Bauer



Andrew Beach



Amelia Bell



Mariah Bergeron



John Blades



Savannah Bonacchi



Michael Bonilla



Caroline Brackens



William Bramstedt



Chase Brockman



Merrick Bromik



Deshawn Brown



Elliana Brown



Jaiden Brown



Kayla Brown



Miranda Brown-Emery



Jaheim Bryant



Brady Budds



Quajearia Burgess



Brianna Burke



Emma Burns



Ryan Burns



Holly Burtha



Hunter Burtha



Michael Shaun Buzzutto



Adriana Caicedo



Madison Calhoun



Brooke Callipare



Alex Campbell



Jakiya Campbell



Antonio Casillas



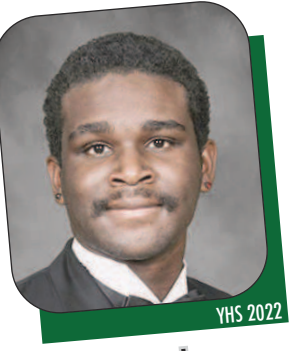
Alessia Chavez-Tafur



Micaela Chavez-Tafur



Abby Cheek



Johnathan Cistrunk



Chrisdiana Clayton



Mackenzie Clem



Amellya Clifford



Ashton Coffey



Destiny Coleman



Alyssa Comp



Linda Cook



Yulee High School Hornets





















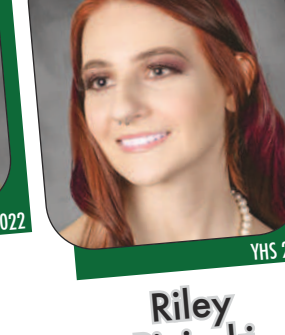


Yulee High School Hornets

 Rylee Hatch	 Emma Haus	 Emily Hawthorne	 Keith Heidinger	 John Heneka	 Caleb Henning	 Robert Henson
 Nadia Herbe	 Hunter Herrmann	 David Higginbotham	 Isabella Holton	 Jessi Hontz	 Brandon Hood	 Christina Jackson
 Elizabeth Jackson	 Kali Jackson	 Cameron Jacobs	 Irenna Jean-Baptiste	 Cheyenne Jenkins	 Joseph Jenkins	 Amari Jennings
 Alexis Johnson	 Jesse Johnson	 Lauren Johnson	 Summer Johnson	 Zachary Johnson	 Kendyll Jones	 Laura Beth Jones
 Nathaniel Jones	 Matthew Jordan	 Fedorov Jules	 Bethany Kear	 Wesley Keen	 Timothy King Jr.	 William Kinnebrew
 Lestat Lachapelle	 Ja-Nyia Latson	 Chloe Lawser	 Zachary Lea	 Sierra Lee	 Michael-Cory Lemon	 Brooke Lentz
 Melanie Levitt	 Carl Lindsey	 Liala Lopez	 Dustin Lovell	 Hayden Lowdenslager	 Avery Luft	 Emily Lunde
 Raegan Lutzen	 Andrew Lynn	 Madison Lysinger	 Kaylee Manning	 Jamahn Martin	 Madilyn Martinez	 Aaron Martyn



Yulee High School Hornets

 Erin McConnell	 Hanna McCormick	 Devon McDowell	 Brody McGee	 Areana McGlocking	 Jocelyn McGraw	 Keira McGuinnes
 Aicha McLarty	 Wade McMillan	 Caitlyn Metz	 Timothy Michael	 Joseph Michel	 Trevor Miles	 Alexa Mims
 Madeleine Mitchell	 Thailen Mitchell	 Joshua Mobley	 Joseph Momplaisir	 Jayden Montgomery	 Hunter Mooney	 Marc Moriconi
 Skylar Morris	 Alexis Morton	 Reese Mumbauer	 Kiley Murphy	 Morgen Murphy	 Emily Myers	 Olivia Myers
 Justice Myre	 Lindsey Nabors	 Hailey Naumow	 Tyler Nelson	 Isabella Nicholson	 Antonio Nieves	 Juliene Nipper
 Samantha Nix	 Triston Nolen	 Jonathan Norfleet	 Brady Nowell	 Dalton Ohlendorf	 Ke'ilah O'neal	 William Owen
 Spencer Page	 Macrae Parent	 Jamareion Parks	 Gabriella Parr	 Diana Pascual	 Kylyn Paton	 Caleb Peavy
 David Peck	 John Penrod	 Andrian Justine Perez	 Jamie Perry	 Riley Pininski	 Myles Pino	 Kalei Pizarro



Yulee High School Hornets



Jordan Pokiness



Olivia Polk



Kendall Pratt



Logan Press



Josiah Proffit



Ja'Cha Rainey



Ricky Rajkumar



Carter Ray



Wyatt Ray



Kiersten Reeder



Abria Richo



Gage Riley



Nicole Ritchey



Olivia Ritchey



Italy Ritchie



Jackelyn Piniche Rivera



Megan Robert



Bailey Roberts



Ernest Roberts



Nichole Rodriguez



Sebastian Roriguez



Gavin Rogero



Omar Romero



Jaelyn Rosario



Tyler Roshong



Leonard Ross-Tezmia



Logan Roughton



Emmanuel Salame



Miriam Sancey



Alanis Marie Santigo-Maldonado



Jackson Schafer



Evan Schantz



William Schlehr



Ashley Schmelling



Kevin Schmidt



Keaton Sexton



Kaitlyn Shay



Asa Shepard



Kaitlyn Shevokas



Elaysa Solis Perez



Isabella Spedaliere



Mackenzie Spires



Zachary Stafford



Laila Stancil



Ethan Starling



Christian Staver



Gillianne Stephens



Caden Sweat



Hazel Symanski



Bailey Tate



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Bradley Thomas



Tay'jon Thomas



Jordan Thronton



Barak Thrift



Breanne Thrift



Yulee High School Hornets



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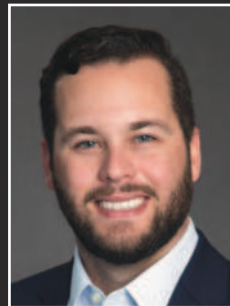
Today's graduates are tomorrow's leaders, and we're filled with hope and pride as the Class of 2022 celebrates this milestone achievement and takes the next step.

May you always remember the importance of hard work, integrity and kindness in your future roles and endeavors. Congratulations, best wishes and thanks for giving us so much to celebrate!

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The Nassau County Record, Callahan, Florida (904) 879-2727

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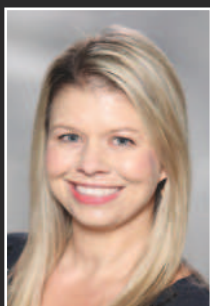
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40 UNDER 40

CELEBRATING NASSAU COUNTY'S YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Please join us in welcoming Nassau County's inaugural 40 Under 40 class. The *Nassau County Record* and *News-Leader* asked readers to nominate the county's community-driven young adults, whether rising entrepreneurs, educators, creators or motivators. We wanted to highlight the young adults who have a passion to achieve and leave a footprint on the local landscape.

Some may ask, "Why age 40?" The answer is simple: Because the younger generation needs to be involved to make a positive impact on the future of the area we all call home. The decisions made now affect future generations, so we must envision a brighter, better tomorrow, which is the goal of many members of this first class.

In addition to reading the profiles printed within this section, we also invite you to each newspaper's website, where we will share more in-depth profiles and additional photos of each member of Nassau County's first 40 Under 40. Follow along on social media as we post links to the various profiles. And, as always, thank you for your readership.

Amanda Ream, *Editor and Publisher, Nassau County Record*
 Scott J. Bryan, *Editor, News-Leader*

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RYAM congratulates **Bradley Bean** on being listed among Nassau County's "40 Under 40." The first-ever award honors exceptional young people who are shaping our community's future. We cannot imagine a better choice than Bradley, who never fails to distinguish himself as an engineer, a public servant, and a good friend.

We're **proud** of you, Bradley—and, like you, we're **proud** to call Nassau County "home."



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BRADLEY BEAN, 28

Engineer and City
Commissioner

Employer:

Rayonier Advanced Materials
and City of Fernandina Beach

Lives: Fernandina Beach

Community Involvement: President of Rotary Club of Fernandina Beach, board of the Nassau Humane Society, board of Leadership Nassau, auctioneer for various charities.

Why did you go into your particular field? I'm an engineer because I want to solve problems. That's the same reason I ran for office. At the end of the day, I want to help people.

At the mill I'm a shift supervisor, running the day-to-day production of the mill no matter what time. I was elected to office in 2020 to serve the people of Fernandina Beach as their city commissioner. You can read about these professional responsibilities in your local *News-Leader*.

What's the best advice you've ever received? My parents would always say that the most rewarding thing is usually the most difficult thing to achieve. I don't shy away from a difficult challenge.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? Mayor of Fernandina Beach, just like my dad.

What was your first job? I worked at Putt-Putt down by Main Beach. I could swirl a mean soft serve, but surprisingly it hasn't translated to playing full-size golf too well.

What's your favorite aspect of your job? Helping people – having a positive impact on my hometown is what I hope to achieve every day.

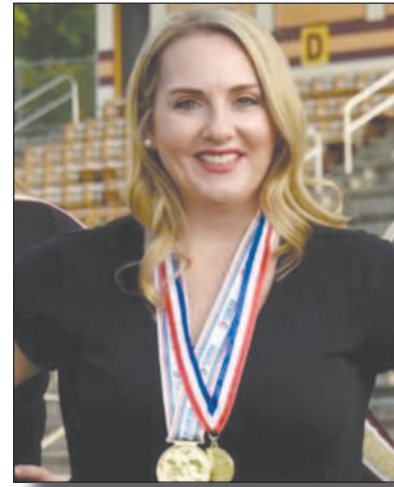
What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? I wish I knew that even the engineering world all comes down to people.

When you're not at work, what do you do? I enjoy emceeing and auctioneering for various charities around our community and the greater Jacksonville area. I love spending time with my beautiful fiancée, Alexia.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? Joan Bean, my grandmother, was my greatest mentor. She did a great deal in her life, and one of the things that rubbed off on me was her passion for local politics. At an age when she could no longer drive, she called me to drive her to city meetings. I remember one particular issue she got me involved in was the controversy surrounding Beach Access 33 being constricted. We spent an entire afternoon measuring the width of every beach access in the city to gather the data she needed for her public comment. After attending enough city meetings, I realized there was more I could do for my hometown by running for office.

What is something about you that most people don't know? I run a local food Instagram with my fiancée, Fernandina Flavor (@fernandinaflavor).

If you couldn't do what you're doing right now, what would you want to do? I am living my dream right now, living in my hometown, working a great engineering job and serving my community at the same time. If I wasn't here, I'd be trying to get where I am right now.



SAMANTHA BEAZLEY, 36

West Nassau High School
Cheerleading Coach and
Registered Nurse

Employer:

West Nassau High School and
St. Vincent's Riverside

Lives: Callahan

Community Involvement: As a team and as a program, we try to participate in our community as much as we can and as much as we're asked. We have, over the years, enjoyed cheering for local youth associations' football teams on Saturdays; opened car doors for students at Bryceville and Callahan elementaries and Callahan Intermediate School; raised more than \$7,000 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital; volunteered at the Brave Like Bronson Christmas Party; volunteered and participated in Reading Rallies at CIS; and many others. We have a strong sense of community and we know how lucky we are to grow up in not just a small town, but our town.

Why did you go into your particular field? I began coaching cheerleading at Sacred Heart School in Jacksonville just before I turned 18 years old. It was something that had just fallen into my lap, not necessarily something I sought out or, honestly, ever thought I would do. (I was very, very shy!) But I quickly fell in love with sharing my passion of cheerleading with those 15 special girls I had the privilege of coaching. Believing in kids and seeing them accomplish things they had never thought they could do brought me so much joy, and I was hooked.

I followed most of those kids as they moved on to high school at Bishop John Snyder High School and, at the age of 19, found myself having an entire program (JV & Varsity teams) to myself. I know it's cliché to say, but the rest is history. I've tried walking away and "retiring" from coaching many times – and I was when I got the call to coach at my alma mater, West Nassau, but it was always a dream for me to come back and coach and give back to a program that meant so much to me when I was in school.

What's the best advice you've ever received? When going through tough times/tough days: "You have survived and surpassed 100% of your worst days and worst moments in life and you've survived and overcome. I'd say those are pretty good odds!"

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? Initially, I wanted to be a teacher, then a lawyer.

What was your first job? I worked as an assistant at UBS Financial Services my freshman/sophomore year of college.

What's your favorite aspect of your job? I absolutely love watching my kids' faces light up when they've conquered a new skill, when they've accomplished something they've been working hard for, and maybe even thought they couldn't do. I also just love the process of getting to watch 13-20 kids become family – the bonds they create and love they have for each other, it's truly something special to be a part of and it reminds me just how lucky I am to be a small part of it all.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? Allow yourself some grace. Ask for help when you need it and accept offered help even if you don't need it. Utilize your resources. Take more pictures. Have tough skin, but keep a big heart.

When you're not at work, what do you do? Between coaching and my "big girl" job as a nurse, I like to use whatever time I have left with family. My children keep me and my husband especially busy with their sports schedules, so we're usually either at practices, games or competitions.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? Definitely my mother. Though I lost her 17 years ago, the love and lifelong advice she gave me are a constant voice in my head.

What is something about you that most people don't know? I love football. I used to want to be the first female referee in the NFL.

If you couldn't do what you're doing right now, what would you want to do? I couldn't imagine not coaching or not being a nurse. I would, however, love to open an athletic/recreational center in Callahan and work more with the youth.



HEATHER BENNETT, 37

Owner and Operator

Business Owner:

Paisley Grace Makery

Lives: Fernandina Beach

Community Involvement: Chamber of Commerce "Pallets for a Purpose" events through PGM to help raise money for charities and organizations, as well as various networking groups.

Why did you go into your particular field? I am maker at heart. I started PGM when I was 8.5 months pregnant and the direct sales company I worked for suddenly closed its doors. I went back to my love of art, a passion for woodworking, inspired by my grandpa, and teaching to create a mobile DIY paint party business. Being able to bring ready-to-do projects to people's homes and allow them to create together became a huge passion. After a year of amazing success, we expanded the business into a brick and mortar studio. It has been incredible to watch over 20,000 makers come through our doors to create one-of-a-kind decor and build relationships.

I am a business owner, business coach and mentor, hiring and training manager leads, and director of a management team in weekly and quarterly goals, monitoring sales and dynamically adjusting marketing and product offerings to the latest trends.

What's the best advice you've ever received? My dad taught me that you can't live in a state of "paralysis by analysis." Sometimes you just need to make the best possible decision you can and find the best path forward. It's easy to get overwhelmed by decisions; by applying this advice to my life, I've learned to not miss opportunities, even when all the answers weren't evident.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? I wanted to be a news anchor.

What was your first job? My first official job beyond babysitting was McDonald's when I was 14.

What's your favorite aspect of your job? I truly love watching people come together and create memories while making art. There is something magical about people stepping out of their comfort zone and finding their creativity that makes for amazing conversations and genuine friendships. I

love the challenge of keeping our designs fresh and new, and always learning new things. Recently, I've expanded into coaching fellow makers from around the country and helping to guide them into systems and strategies to grow their own DIY studios. Being able to teach others to achieve their goals has been incredibly fulfilling.

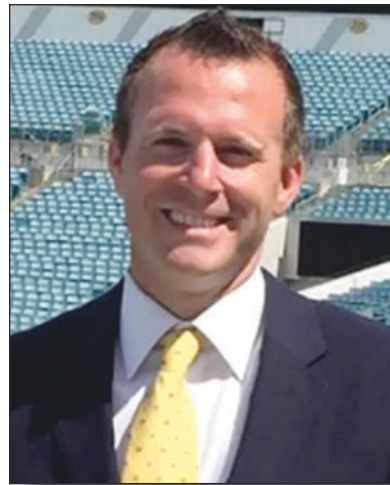
What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? I had no idea how many resources there were available for small business owners and support that could have made the first few years a little easier.

When you're not at work, what do you do? When I'm not in the studio, I love to spend time reading and traveling with my family. My children are virtual-schooled, which keeps my hands and my heart full. I believe experiences are the best gift of life and we try to soak up as many as possible with our adventures.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? I have been blessed with two mentors who have shaped me into the person I am today. My parents always encouraged me to work hard and do my best. My grandpa ignited a love of making things with my hands. Jackie Peterson-Smith and Kristy Dunaway taught me to always connect to my why and passion to reach others and not to limit my dreams. Jodi Henson and Stephanie Holt have helped me immensely in navigating the world of owning a small business and adapting to the changes and challenges it brings.

What is something about you that most people don't know? I studied abroad in Costa Rica and can speak Spanish.

If you couldn't do what you're doing right now, what would you want to do? If I couldn't work at Paisley Grace Makery, I would focus on expanding my coaching to be able to help other aspiring entrepreneurs find an easier path to chase their dreams. I have always had an interest in being a motivational speaker to help inspire others to know they can achieve anything they set their sights on.



GARY BLEIL, 39

Director of Recreation

Employer:

Omni Amelia Island Resort

Lives: Fernandina Beach

Community Involvement: Amelia Island Youth Soccer coach (three years), McArthur Family YMCA Board of Directors (2015 to present), Resort and Commercial Recreation Association (18-years active member), RCRA treasurer (2011-15), RCRA director at-large (2009-11), supporter of the Say Goodnight to Hunger through Omni Amelia Island Resort by volunteering at the Barnabas Food Pantry, participant in the Relay for Life of Nassau County, member of St. Michael Catholic Church.

Why did you go into your particular field? Being from a small town in Pennsylvania, I discovered the world of recreation and hospitality while traveling to our family's timeshare resort in Orlando each year. I was able to experience the fun and entertainment brought to resort guests and I thought it would be an interesting career.

I oversee nine different operating departments, which include Amelia's Wheels, Nature Center, Heron's Cove Adventure Golf, Beach Operations, Group Recreation, Pool Entertainment, Camp Amelia, Tennis Operations and Fitness Center. With my leadership team, we create unique experiences for holidays, special events and weekly programming to enhance the guest experience. The department consists of 50 full/part-time associates and about 50 new hires seasonally. I work with the Amelia Island Plantation Community Association for special events and the enhancement of the Amelia Island Club fitness and tennis programming.

What's the best advice you've ever received? Work like everyone is watching you. Even if no one is, the results will show in the end.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? Police officer or FBI agent.

What was your first job? My first job was a short-order cook at Dairy Queen at 16 years old.

What's your favorite aspect of your job? I am always on the move, doing something different each day. I have a stand-up desk and am constantly flowing from department to department to support the team to make their job more enjoyable. I can be creative, impact our guests' experience, build relationships with my team and help them grow.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? As you grow in your career, you realize you may have missed family moments and holidays and it is very important to establish work-life balance.

When you're not at work, what do you do? I enjoy spending time with my family outdoors at local parks. We love to travel and experience new places, and I like to wake up early and train for future endurance events. I cook/barbecue for friends and family on special occasions and holidays.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? My greatest mentor is Bruce Boliver, who was one of my professors at Slippery Rock University. He introduced me to the Resort and Commercial Recreation Association and really got me enthused about the recreation profession.

What is something about you that most people don't know? I have participated in over 25 triathlons (sprint and Olympic distances), eight half-marathons, as well as multiple 15K runs and 50-mile bike rides.

If you couldn't do what you're doing right now, what would you want to do? I would host my own Food Network show.



AMY BOEK, 38

Chief Marketing Officer

Employer:

Amelia Island Convention & Visitors Bureau

Lives: Fernandina Beach

Community Involvement: Board of Directors, Florida Restaurant & Lodging Association Northeast Chapter; Business Retention and Expansion Committee, Nassau County Economic Development Board; past Board of Directors, Fernandina Beach Main Street; past Marketing Committee, Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival; past Board of Directors, Destinations Florida, past Global Communications Committee, Visit Florida.

Why did you go into your particular field? I knew I wanted to work in mar-

keting, so I selected an industry to market that I had passion for - travel. As CMO, I am responsible for the strategic visioning and execution of the destination marketing program, which supports our destination's brand positioning and a vibrant tourism economy for our local community.

Those duties include strategizing communication and media plans, creating marketing campaigns and channels, overseeing the development of special events and programing, and implementing opportunities that help enhance our tourism economy.

What's the best advice you've ever received? Surround yourself with smarter people than yourself.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? As a young child, I wanted to work with animals, but in high school, I started pursuing marketing.

What was your first job? I worked in retail throughout high school, including a clothing store at the mall and local bridal boutique. My first professional position was in real-estate marketing for Amelia Island Real Estate.

What's your favorite aspect of your job? People spend so much time dreaming of their next trip or fondly remembering a vacation. In my position, I get to share the things I love about my home with those people who are excited to plan a visit to Amelia Island.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? The only constant is change.

When you're not at work, what do you do? I have two children under the age of 3, so my free time is spent trying to keep up with toddler energy.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? From my first boss, Richard Goldman, now CEO of the St. Augustine, Ponte Vedra & The Beaches Visitors and Convention Bureau, to my current leader, Gil Langley, I've been fortunate to have great mentors throughout my professional career. However, my late father was always a great role model, and I still call on his words of wisdom for guidance.

What is something about you that most people don't know? There's a 30-year age gap between my eldest sibling and myself as the baby.

If you couldn't do what you're doing right now, what would you want to do? Sit on a quiet beach with a drink in my hand.

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-Baylee and Carolina

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Love, mom & dad

Michael & Vickie Franklin
Family

Congratulations Brenton, on all your successes, & for many more to come.

- Papa Dewey & Mrs. Theresa

We are so proud of you and love you!

-Wayne, Callie, Rilynn Cale & Branson

Congratulations! we are so proud of you!

-Brad, Autumn, Emilee, & Hallee Dover

Brenton, congratulations on this achievement! It is very deserving! We love you.

- Granddaddy & Mimi

"Success is the fruit of good ideas pursued with energy, intelligence, and determination."

Brenton, Congratulations on the honor of 40 under 40!

- Uncle Clay, Aunt Jobeth & Reese!



ADAM BOLGER, 37

Lieutenant Firefighter/Paramedic

Employer:

Nassau County Fire Rescue

Lives: Callahan

Community Involvement: I have been volunteer coaching in the Callahan area since 2011, starting with Callahan Middle School football and leading into West Nassau High School wrestling. I have been a volunteer coach at the Callahan ballpark for baseball since 2017 and will be coaching the 6U Warriors in football this year.

Why did you go into your particular field? When I was a kid, my mother worked in an ER/trauma center, and after school I would ride my bike to her hospital and just hang out in the ER (free/cheap snacks and drinks). The paramedics would come in with their sunglasses on the back of their heads and they were all just cool to me. My grandfather on my mother's side was a World War II combat medic with the 12th Armored Division and he was such an influence on my life.

What's the best advice you've ever received? "Nothing comes from nothing."

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? I wanted to be an astronaut. I even wrote a letter to NASA explaining why they needed a kid in space. They wrote back and said my letter was hung up in the locker room that the astronauts used for inspiration. As a 9-year-old, I thought that was pretty cool.

What was your first job? I was a tool cleaner at a local mechanic shop. Twice a week after school, I rode my bike up to a local mechanic shop and would clean all the tools and machines. I was horrible at it and had no business sense. They paid me \$10 a day and let me shoot all the beer cans in the canal behind the shop with a BB gun. Seemed like a pretty cool gig at the time.

What's your favorite aspect of your job? My favorite aspect of my job is that I don't have a job. I have never felt that I woke up in the morning and had to go to work. I get to go to a second home and hang out with people I care deeply about, and we do what we can to prepare for the day, but we don't know what will happen today. One second, you could be cooking breakfast for your crew, and within minutes, you are cutting a car open using hydraulic equipment to get someone out of a motor vehicle accident.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? It's all going to be OK.

When you're not at work, what do you do? When I'm not at work, it is daddy/husband time. We spend so many hours at work, we miss the little things in life at the house (first steps, first words, etc.). I am constantly coaching and playing with the kids; it's really all I do. I have enough excitement at work. Home is my Zen Den.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? My grandfather, Nathan Glassman, has always been my biggest mentor. He was a chemist for the department of the Navy and was incredibly intelligent. He took the place as my father, and I will always love him dearly.

What is something about you that most people don't know? I beat all levels of every Guitar Hero and Rock Band video game on expert level with all instruments. I know, how cool is that, right?

If you couldn't do what you're doing right now, what would you want to do? I'm pretty sure I would be a model if I didn't do what I do now.



LARAE COLEMAN BROWN, MD, FACOG, 39

OB/GYN Assistant Professor,
Medical Director UF Health
Women's Specialists North and
Wildlight

Employer:

University of Florida

Lives: Yulee

Community Involvement: Barnabas Board of Directors and Fernandina Beach High School Foundation Board of Trustees.

Why did you go into your particular field? I became an OB/GYN physician to become an advocate for women and their families. I also get to help patients navigate joyous and, at times, difficult situations. I also get to perform surgery (which I love), deliver babies, and form lifelong relationships with patients and their families. I care for OB/GYN patients in the clinic and hospital settings at the UF North hospital and clinic, as well as the Wildlight Clinic, and am medical director for the clinical inpatient and outpatient practices and a member of UF College of Medicine Board of Directors.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? A physician. I knew I wanted to be an OB/GYN since I was 5 years old.

What was your first job? YMCA summer camp counselor.

What's your favorite aspect of your job? Being able to be present at some of the most memorable parts of my patients' lives. Being entrusted to keep them safe and healthy is an honor. I also enjoy being an administrator, because through my indirect actions, I can further the quality of care patients receive on a much larger scale.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? I wish I knew that it's acceptable to speak up even if I was nervous, even if I didn't think I was worthy or if I fit in. If I was invited to the table, someone thought that my voice mattered and it is my responsibility to share my voice.

When you're not at work, what do you do? Spend time with my family. I also enjoy traveling, watching true crime movies/shows, and attending professional, collegiate and my children's sporting events.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? My greatest mentor was Dr. Leon Haley Jr. He was the former dean and CEO of UF College of Medicine in Jacksonville. He tragically passed away last summer, but left an indelible mark on my life as a physician, a leader, and as a person. He was not only personable, but a remarkable innovator and brought people and ideas together to achieve goals that benefited the university as a whole. He was such a motivator for my career and personal growth, even though he is no longer with us, his ideals, teachings and legacy live on.

What is something about you that most people don't know? Most people don't know that I married my high school sweetheart and we have six children.

If you couldn't do what you're doing right now, what would you want to do? I would be a myriad of things - part-time hairstylist, part-time YouTube vlogger, and obviously I would continue as a full-time mom (but maybe staying at home a little more).

Congratulations

To Nassau County's inaugural 40 Under 40 class!
Nassau County Record

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MARCUS CARTER, 33

Lieutenant

Employer:

Fernandina Beach Fire Department

Lives: Fernandina Beach

Why did you go into your particular field? My father was a firefighter for the Fernandina Beach Fire Department, and growing up, I always wanted to be like him. I also wanted to serve the community I grew up and lived in.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? A firefighter.

What was your first job? Lawn maintenance.

What's your favorite aspect of your job? Going to work and not knowing what situations I will encounter during the shift. No two days are ever the same.

When you're not at work, what do you do? Spend time with my daughter, Aubrey, and play guitar.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? Captain Victor Russell. I have been lucky enough to work under his leadership the majority of my career. He has molded me into the officer I am today. I aspire to be the leader that he always has been to me.

If you couldn't do what you're doing right now, what would you want to do? Nothing. I am doing exactly what I always wanted to do.



JEREMY L.

COLEMAN MD, 36

Primary Care Sports Medicine Physician, Medical Director UF Health-Wildlight; Assistant Professor of Community Health and Family Medicine, University of Florida College of Medicine - Jacksonville; Correct Cares Solutions, Physician; Nassau County (Florida) Jail and Detention Center; Co-Owner of the Nassau Pride (ABA Basketball team)

Employer: UF Health

Lives: Fernandina Beach

What was your first job? Lawn care as a teen. Still to this day, I find few things more relaxing and instantaneously gratifying than working outdoors and cutting grass.

What's your favorite aspect of your job? Ability to help others by improving their health and prolonging their lives.

When you're not at work, what do you do? Try to spend every moment with my loved ones, occasionally watch, play and coach sports, and lawn care.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? My parents (Larry and Jacquelyn Coleman) and older sister, Dr. LaRae Brown, have been incomparable. I've been so fortunate to have a number of great mentors from Morehouse College to Duke University to local community leaders. But I've always looked up to my uncle, Bishop Thomas K. Coleman, and held him in the highest regard. As a spiritual leader, serial entrepreneur, community leader, volunteer and community servant, and champion for social justice, he sacrifices so much of himself to benefit our community with pure intentions and a smile. If I can do half of what he's done with similar fervor and integrity, it would be a life well-lived.

If you couldn't do what you're doing right now, what would you want to do? I would explore more artsy ambitions, writing poetry and the spoken word or producing jazz/blues music.

Community Involvement: Team physician at Yulee High School; started the Nassau County/UF Athletic Trainer (ATC) Program for Yulee and West Nassau high schools; Nassau County Racial Equity Coalition Steering Committee; Executive board and co-chair of the Health Advocacy Board.

Why did you go into your particular field? As a former athlete who experienced numerous injuries, my love for sports and wellness persisted well after my playing days ended. This experience, in addition to my love for science and improving the health and lives of others, spawned my interest in sports medicine.

I am a primary care physician with fellowship training in sports medicine. I serve as the medical director of UF Health Primary Care and oversee the clinical operations of the practice. I also care for patients at the Nassau County Jail and provide sports coverage for student-athletes at Yulee High School. Together, my team and I aim to deliver the most competent and compassionate care to anyone in need.

What's the best advice you've ever received? "To do good and do well." Use your talents for the betterment of society and give it your all. In that same vein, one of my favorite quotes comes from Benjamin E. Mays, "In everything you do, do it so well that no man living, no man dead, and no man yet to be born could do it better."

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? A physician or stay-at-home dad. I think I chose the easier route.

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CHRISTOPHER COLLINS, 32

Operations Assistant at the Amelia Island Museum of History
Customer Service Associate at Walgreens

Employer:

Amelia Island Museum of History and Walgreens

Lives: Fernandina Beach

Community Involvement: I am the cub master for Cub Scout Pack 152 and assistant scout master for Troop 152 and committee member for Troop 152. I have helped out in the sound booth at Amelia Baptist Church for the last 10 years. I am a member of the Amelia Arts Association, as well. I am also a staff volunteer of the Neutral Zone movie studios in Kingsland, Ga.

Why did you go into your particular field? I love history. I love interacting with people and always learning more about history. I am currently working on learning how to be an archivist at the Amelia Island

Museum of History, as well. I enjoy working and teaching our volunteers at the museum. For Walgreens, I enjoy the store and like helping other people and seeing people in the community I recognize.

I open, close, tally receipts, work the register, stock and make sure we have volunteers for the next day. I listen and answer guests' questions. I am attentive to detail and deliver the best experience possible.

What's the best advice you've ever received? Never give up. If at first you don't succeed, find another way.

As a child, what did you want to be

when you grew up? Ever since I learned that Star Trek was not real, I wanted to be a spaceship designer to make the reality of space exploration in Star Trek real. When I found out the amount of math required to become a space architect, I was unable to do it with my troubles in math.

What was your first job? I helped my friend, while living in Nebraska, shovel snow at different homes in fourth or fifth grade. But the first regular-paying job was working as the staff person on duty at the Amelia Island Museum of History. I had completed two internships at the museum and was asked to stay on once I graduated from UNF. I have been employed by the museum since 2014.

What's your favorite aspect of your job? I enjoy learning more about the objects and history. At Walgreens, I enjoy seeing people I recognize and getting to help out people who need help.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? I am always looking to learn more, and the best way to gain that is with experience. I know one of the things I have learned from my supervisor, Phyllis Davis, is if you see something out of place that you know you can fix yourself, then do it rather than leave it for someone else, because if you are the only one on duty, then you

might be the only one to fix those problems or it won't be resolved at all.

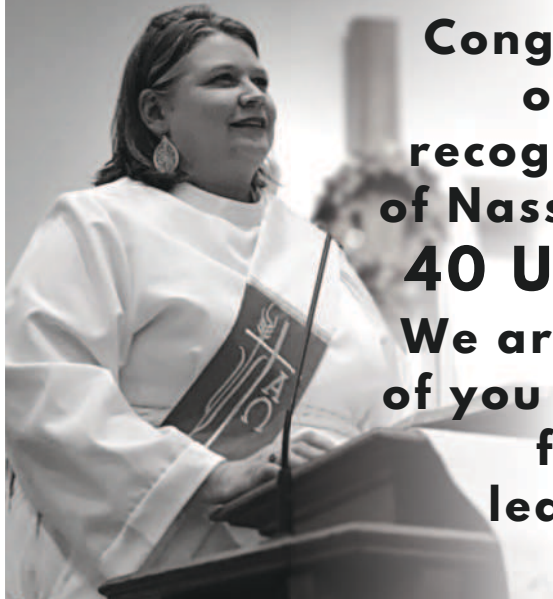
When you're not at work, what do you do? I do a lot. I stay busy with Scouts. Watch films since I am a movie buff. I draw, I edit and take photos, blog about movies. I collect coins, stamps and autographs. I also have worked backstage at the movie studio in Kingsland, Ga., The Neutral Zone. I really enjoy that as I learn new things about photography, sound, and lighting from professionals who fly in for shoots.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? My parents, Mom and Dad. They are where I get most of my ideology creed of beliefs. I was introduced to Star Trek, Star Wars, Indiana Jones, Christian beliefs, drawing, history and the military. Without them I would not know about right and wrong.

What is something about you that most people don't know? I love music and mixing it up with equalizers or enhancing the music or sounds, finding the details and listening.

If you couldn't do what you're doing right now, what would you want to do? I would like to work in the film industry behind the scenes, or work something space-related or work at Lego in the design department.

REV. CARRIE YODER



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A M E L I A I S L A N D
MUSEUM OF HISTORY



KATIE CONNORS, 25

Director of Marketing and Public Relations

Employer:

Nelson and Associates Insurance

Lives: Callahan

Community Involvement: Volunteer soccer coach at Callahan Soccer Club for several seasons, volunteer for Mercy Support Services and Operation Barnabas events in Clay County, Charity Work through the Nelson and Associates Insurance's Giveback Projects, including the inaugural Parade of Trees, the inaugural Love Your Community Giveback and the inaugural Health and Safety Expo at the Northeast Florida Fairgrounds.

Why did you go into your particular field? I had the opportunity to intern both at the news station and in corporate marketing for my last semester of college. I found that

I had interest in both fields. I self-taught myself marketing, and I was able to use my knowledge of journalism to set myself apart from other applicants. In doing so, I received a full-time marketing job upon graduation. Now, I continue to use my journalism knowledge, have been working in marketing for over four years and am also working in public relations.

My work responsibilities include developing social media posts for our company's social media brands across Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, TikTok and YouTube, creating and promoting marketing materials for outreaches and events, scheduling and conducting interviews with local health

professionals. This includes capturing and editing videos for our online health video series "Healthcare Timeouts." You can also find me researching and writing articles and blog content for our website, magazines and for the newspaper. I am the point of contact for all creative processes and company visuals.

What's the best advice you've ever received? The best advice I have received is from my dad. He engrained the words "Act. Don't react," into my mind from childhood and into my adult life. Business owner and a single father of five, my dad is living proof that the circumstances you are dealt don't have to define you.

He encouraged me to never let others dictate my success. It didn't matter if someone thought I was too young or discredited me for being a working female from a small town. To react to their opinions or prejudice would only limit my success and my dreams. He encouraged me to sell myself, to never take for granted the abilities God gave me and to work harder than anyone else in the room. If I didn't know how to do something, he told me to work hard until I did. I am not only grateful for this advice and where it has gotten me so far, I am grateful that I could learn firsthand from the best man I know.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? Young me always dreamed of being on TV. I was adamant that one day I would become an actress. I grew up participating in drama clubs and competed through my school and church. When it came to choosing a field of study in college, I chose to pursue broadcast journalism where I could fill the desire to be on camera with my love of writing. I am pleased to say I have been on television and continue to work in front of the camera to this day.

What was your first job? I was fortunate enough to have my first job as a broadcast intern at New4Jax (WJXT) in Jacksonville. Through this job, I was able to build confidence in front of the camera, gain knowledge of AP writing skills and develop some incredible network connections that I still carry with me to this day.

What's your favorite aspect of your job? My favorite aspect of my job is the people. I work with the best and most authentic team, a group of people whose focus is to serve the community we are a part of. No matter if it is the clientele I talk to in the office, business owners I interview in the community or residents I serve with our nonprofit partners, I get to go to work knowing every day has a purpose.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? Experience is everything. It sets

you apart. Internships help get you your first job and experience at your first job helps you get launched into your career. Learn from the people who have walked the path before you. Take the things that worked and avoid the things that didn't. Each day of experience and all the work put in will get you to the place you want to be. Your career may not be at the job you thought you would end up at. Take something from each day and work until you find what will make you truly happy.

When you're not at work, what do you do? If I am not at work, you can find me eating at new restaurants (I love to eat), spending quality time with family and friends, watching movies or at sporting events.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? I credit my father and my Uncle Ryan for mentoring me into the woman I am, and I credit my current boss, Kimberly Branham-Nelson, for being my greatest mentor in my professional career.

What many don't know is that I first met Kimberly when I was 12. She was my softball coach. One conversation between her and my father would lead me to move from my corporate job as content manager at 1-800-Flowers to director of marketing and public relations at Nelson and Associates Insurance. I remember very vividly Kimberly having a rose delivered to me at school after I scored the first time in a softball game. I have seen that same support, encouragement and appreciation from Kimberly 13 years later as her employee. Her ability to juggle being a mom, wife, sister, daughter and an authentically kind and driven boss is an inspiration. I couldn't thank her enough for the confidence she has in me and my career.

What is something about you that most people don't know? I have had some cool experiences thus far in my career. One being that the president of the American Institute of Floral Designers, the floral industry's leading non-profit organization (est. 1965), hired me to manage, edit and premiere a worldwide event on AIFD's Facebook page. This annual event is always held in person, but due to COVID restrictions, I was able to create their first virtual version, watched by thousands of people across the globe.

If you couldn't do what you're doing right now, what would you want to do? Is traveling the world an option? I would like to write a book or launch a brand that focuses on telling the stories of people who grew up with absentee or emotionally-abusive mothers. It wasn't until recent years that I understood how many people are impacted by this. My heart's desire is to use my experience and my story to connect with and help others through theirs.

Congratulations,
JUSTIN

President of Bryceville Sports Association
● ● ●
City of Jacksonville Rescue Captain Station 35

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JACKSONVILLE
ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS, LOCAL 122



NATHAN COYLE, 38

Airport Director, Fernandina Beach Municipal Airport

Employer:

City of Fernandina Beach

Lives: Fernandina Beach

Community Involvement: My family and I are proud members of First Baptist Church in Fernandina Beach.

Why did you go into your particular field? I was immersed in aviation while serving as an air traffic controller and airfield manager in the United States Air Force. It was this experience that motivated me to continue my career in aviation.

I am responsible for the maintenance, operation and planning of the Fernandina Beach Municipal Airport in accordance with the community's vision and state/federal regulatory requirements.

What's the best advice you've ever received? A close colleague once told me to work hard and laugh often. I endeavor to follow this advice and promote this atmosphere in the workplace.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? As a child, I wanted to be a large animal/farm veterinarian. I was way off.

What was your first job? My first job, at the age of 14, was as a farm-hand on a dairy farm in Pennsylvania where I earned \$15 a day and a countryside odor that required frequent showers.

What's your favorite aspect of your job? I am surrounded in my work environment by first-class city staff members and a supportive airport tenant and aviation business community. Working with and for these individuals has been my favorite aspect of the job in Fernandina Beach.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? Patience is a skill I wish I had mastered earlier in my career. I have come to learn that many of our greatest achievements take time, and that putting a plan in motion to benefit future generations is an achievement that can be celebrated now.

When you're not at work, what do you do? I spend my free time staying active with close family and friends. I can also be found cruising around town on my motor-cycle.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? My greatest professional mentor was Mr. Gene Drabinski (deceased) who served as my supervisor and city manager in McCall, Idaho. Gene was a thoughtful leader who demanded that his staff think strategically and "be bold" in their actions. At the end of Gene's career, he convinced me to compete and become selected as his replacement, which became one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of my professional career.

What is something about you that most people don't know? I am a bit of a crossword fanatic. Many of my family and friends save crossword puzzles from local papers and send them to me.

If you couldn't do what you're doing right now, what would you want to do? I would likely apply for any open position at an airport where I could still watch airplanes take off and land.



CASSIE CROSBY, 29

Outreach & Community Engagement Director

Employer:

Micah's Place

Lives: Fernandina Beach

Community Involvement: Co-chair of SHARE Nassau County's Coalition for Sexual & Domestic Violence (SHARE is Strength, Awareness, Hope, and Education). Honorary member of the GFWC Junior Woman's Club.

Why did you go into your particular field? After graduating college, I wasn't sure exactly where I wanted to be - but I knew for sure that I wanted to be helping people. I stumbled across the listing for a shelter advocate at Micah's Place and thought it would be a fulfilling job where I could help people in need. I don't know that I could work in a for-profit environment; nonprofit work is where my heart is. No one trying to make money off someone's misfortune or ignorance.

At Micah's Place, I oversee all our community education and awareness efforts. I get the chance to go out and break down the stigmas associated with domestic violence and educate people on Micah's Place services. I also manage our social media, donor relations, volunteers, youth prevention programs, answer general inquiries, as well as lead fundraising and marketing efforts. I've been with Micah's Place for seven years.

What's the best advice you've ever received? It's OK to take the blame and admit when you've messed up, that you made a mistake or were wrong. The best thing to do is take responsibility for your actions and learn from it. Do better next time, because excuses get you nowhere.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? I always wanted to be a teacher and that was my intention until my junior year of college after having my daughter. I switched from majoring in secondary social studies education to history so that I could stay home with my daughter while she was small. But the end result is still the same. Even though I'm not in a classroom teaching, I get the chance every day to teach our community about domestic violence and what Micah's Place does to help.

What was your first job? I first started working at the YMCA in Yulee during my senior year of high school and continued to work there during my summers home from college. I worked with children ages 5-8 during after-school care and summer camp. Those kids still have a special place in my heart.

What's your favorite aspect of your job? I most enjoy getting the chance to talk about all the great work Micah's Place is doing to help survivors of domestic violence.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? That while you may never know how much of an impact you've made on someone's life, it doesn't mean you didn't.

When you're not at work, what do you do? Spend time with my daughter and husband. Disney World is our happy place, and we go every chance we get. I also like going to concerts and traveling. I love trying out new foods and restaurants.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? Heather Jones, Micah's Place executive director (and my boss of seven years), has been one of my biggest mentors. She has always encouraged me to stay true to myself because, when you let your passion show through, people are much more likely to listen.

What is something about you that most people don't know? I'm pretty much an open book. Some people who only know me professionally may not know that I'm originally from York, Pa. I love all different kinds of music, but my favorite by far is rap.

If you couldn't do what you're doing right now, what would you want to do? I would love to work for the National Park System or in a museum setting as a historian. Otherwise, I would want to advocate for reproductive rights.



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CATHERINE DREW, 38

Chief Executive Officer

Employer:

Florida Psychological Associates

Lives: Yulee

Community Involvement: Chair, Board of Directors, Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition, 2015-17; Board of Directors, Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition, 2012-18; Chair, Behavioral Health Subcommittee, Nassau County Community Health Improvement Plan, 2016-18; Chair, Nassau Education Foundation, 2014

Why did you go into your particular field?

I am a licensed clinical psychologist who founded Florida Psychological Associates, where I continue to serve as the chief executive officer. My days are spent leading a team of 35 mental health professionals who collaboratively and compassionately guide our clients' journey from darkness to light through four locations in Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia.

From an early age, I have always had the calling to help others, especially people who are overlooked or marginalized. I am privileged to have been raised by a loving family here in Nassau County who instilled in me the knowledge that true leadership is earned through service to others. I was fortunate to find a career path where I could couple my passion for helping others with my skill of guiding people towards hope and eventually to improved mental health.

What's the best advice you've ever received? "Have a little fun every day." My dad, David Hardee, has whispered that advice to me throughout my entire life. As a recovering overachieving perfectionist, I'm proud to say I find playful ways to make sure I follow his advice every day.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? I explored many options - thank goodness I landed where I did. I worked toward everything from becoming a state's attorney to a teacher to the Peace Corp, always wanting to help!

What was your first job? My first job was a receptionist at Amelia Wellness Center (now Club 14 Fitness). I loved this job; it allowed me to immerse myself in a culture of physical health that set the stage for me to learn the importance of sweat and exercise, especially when stress is high.

What's your favorite aspect of your job?

The favorite part of my job is leading the team of mental health professionals at FPA. Everyone who joins our team are experts at the cutting edge, evidence-based techniques; what they often haven't had is a dynamic work culture where they are empowered to live their most authentic, healthy lives. Burnout for mental health professionals, especially in our current world, is real. I have the dream job of empowering our team so they can show up healthily and authentically for each of our clients.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career?

I worked so hard in the beginning of my career to be a perfectly polished, politically correct professional. I wish I could rewind the tape and share a spoiler alert with myself that the goofy, big-hearted, out-of-the-box minded young woman was exactly who and what I needed to be. I'm forever grateful to the experiences and people that led me back to that beautiful, authentic person.

When you're not at work, what do you do? I love to sweat my stress away with fun people - my two favorite locations are "Centered on Yoga" and "Peak Performance."

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? Lieutenant Governor Toni Jennings. My first adult job right out of high school was in Governor Bush's communication office. I loved that job and it offered me an opportunity to meet and eventually serve as an aide to Jennings. When I started the job, I was soft-spoken and unsure of myself; she modeled and cultivated in me the understanding of what powerful women are capable of doing.

What is something about you that most people don't know? I am a certified yoga instructor. If you know me, you know I am hilariously uncoordinated and fall a lot. I would have never thought I could excel at yoga, let alone teach it, but who knew all those laughs I had throughout life, being clumsy, translated to laughs in yoga and people seem to connect with that.



SARAH FARGO, 38

Loan Office/Mortgage Loan Originator

Employer:

PrimeSouth Bank

Lives: Amelia Island

Community Involvement: Rotary Club of Fernandina Beach (noon club), board member of McArthur Family YMCA, Fernandina Beach Lacrosse Club treasurer, ARC board member, Fernandina Beach Baptist Church children's serve team member, Eat the Frog Fitness (club member).

Why did you go into your particular field? I certainly didn't grow up thinking I was going to become a loan officer. I love people, and I love serving those around me. I love that this career uses my top skills, which are helping people, building relationships, crunching numbers and problem solving.

I am responsible for evaluating and authorizing the approval of real estate loans. I specialize in evaluating the financial status of loan applicants. Some of my duties include meeting with loan applicants to identify their needs and collect information for loan applications, analyzing active loan files, completing loan contracts, interviewing applicants to define financial eligibility and establish debt payment plans, prepare proposals, reject applications and explain deficiencies, respond to applicants' questions, operate in compliance with laws and regulations, and collaborate with other loan officers and bank presidents to meet Nassau County lending needs.

What's the best advice you've ever received? Surround yourself with the right people.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? Business owner.

What was your first job? Babysitting and bussing tables at the golf course.

What's your favorite aspect of your job? There are so many perks of my job. Building relationships with my clients and developing friendships is at the top of my list. I love working as a team with

real-estate agents, attorneys and insurance agents for a common goal of getting our clients to the closing table. This industry is a team game; it's all about working with quality people to make a successful team. On top of that, I have the flexibility to work from anywhere, anytime, and set my own schedule.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? How hard work-life balance would be. It certainly hasn't been easy finding the right balance. I have felt guilty for working too much, and I have felt guilty when I wasn't working.

When you're not at work, what do you do? I spend a lot of my time at the fields with my husband, watching our kids play sports. My tribe is so special to me, and I need them as much as they need me. I also enjoy cooking for my family, spending time outdoors gardening, golfing and staying active.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? My greatest mentor was my Mom. She always empowered me to be bold and balanced. She led by example on how to have a clear vision of your value and worth, and the strategies needed to build a fulfilling career of serving others.

What is something about you that most people don't know? I'm very accident-prone. I decided to bunny-hop our driveway last summer on a skateboard with my kids and ended up with a compound fractured and road rash.

If you couldn't do what you're doing right now, what would you want to do? I love all things real estate and making pretty choices. I would probably like to become a real estate agent or interior designer.



CONNOR B. FASEL, 26

Business Owner:

Millennial Touch LLC

Lives: Fernandina Beach

Community Involvement: I sit on the board of two local nonprofits, Fernandina Beach Pride and The \$1,000 Startups Consortium. I am also a big brother in Big Brothers Big Sisters of Nassau County, and represented Nassau County in the BBBS National Pride Initiative.

Why did you go into your particular field? After COVID began, I saw a need for a personalized approach to tech support in our community. I began with just a few clients, mainly helping people learn and be less intimidated by their technology. Soon a business was born, and I've expanded my services to include both personal and commercial tech support and social media marketing.

In 2020, I launched Millennial Touch, a small IT and social media/digital marketing company with a community focus and an emphasis on a hands-on personalized approach. I've happily served individuals, small businesses and nonprofits in the Nassau County area and beyond.

What's the best advice you've ever received? "Instead of admiring the problem, do something about it."

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? I always wanted to be a professor. Before I moved to Fernandina, I was in academia, but I fell in love with our community not long after I moved here. Once I saw how passionate people were, and how inspiring our small business community was, I realized I had found my home.

What was your first job? My first job was as a teaching assistant at a preschool. I worked several jobs in education over the years, and it helped me realize how much I loved helping people in a one-on-one setting. I think that has had the biggest impact on my business.

What's your favorite aspect of your job? I love problem solving. Usually the answer

is less about tech and more about how creative we can be. I love when a client comes to me with a new challenge; it keeps my job interesting.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? I wish I knew that life brings many new challenges and changes. I think I've always been obsessed with the destination. Starting my own business has made me realize that it's really about the journey.

When you're not at work, what do you do? When am I not at work? But I like to be involved in my community. When I'm off the clock, I'm usually working to support one of the nonprofits I am involved in. But any time I can spend at the beach on Amelia Island is time I treasure.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? This is impossible to answer with just one name. But if I can narrow it down to two, they would be Genece Minshew, president of Fernandina Beach Pride, and Leah Ward-Lee, founder of The \$1,000 Startups Consortium. Both of these women live in Fernandina and work hard to make our community better. Genece taught me that our community was worth fighting for, and Leah taught me to believe in myself as an entrepreneur. I am so lucky that I found both of these incredible community organizations.

What is something about you that most people don't know? Most people think of me as the tech guy, but at home I can actually be very low tech. I am always threatening to run off and live off the grid.

If you couldn't do what you're doing right now, what would you want to do? I spent a big part of my life working with kids, and I do miss that. I've always loved kids. I love any opportunity to mentor or help kids learn.



BRENTON FRANKLIN, 29

President

Employer:

Axis Management, Inc.; X Capital CRE, LLC; U.S. Joist & Lumber Co., LLC.

Lives: Hilliard

Community Involvement: Nassau County Economic Development Board member.

Why did you go into your particular field? Growing up around my dad's construction business (MFC Homes) influenced my path to the development/construction industry. Serving as president of Axis Management and managing member of X Capital LLC, my job is to identify tertiary locations suitable for new development

and investment, in conjunction with all construction activities on new developments. As president of U.S. Joist & Lumber, my role is to review business transactions and plant operations of the company.

What's the best advice you've ever received? The best advice I have ever received would come from Proverbs 1:7. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction."

Don't get distracted by the loudest person in the room. Oftentimes, the person with the most knowledge is the quietest.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? As a child, I wanted to be involved in any aspect of the military.

What was your first job? First job was to stack lumber for my dad's lumber company, Hilliard Lumber & Sawmill.

What's your favorite aspect of your job? My favorite aspect about my job is to create positive growth and housing for rural areas, for the use of new generations to reside where they were raised.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your

career? That land was cheap and now it is not.

When you're not at work, what do you do? When I am not working, I like to travel with my wife, Baylee, and my 5-month-old daughter, Carolina.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? My dad and God would be my greatest mentors. I seek wisdom from both and receive guidance to make decisions in my career.

What is something about you that most people do not know? I surprisingly would rather be working than hunting or fishing.



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KELLY N. GIBSON,
AICP, 39
 Director of Planning & Conservation

Employer:
 City of Fernandina Beach
Lives: Fernandina Beach

Community Involvement: Co-leader in the St. Michael Little Flowers Catholic Girls Club, former chair of the Economic Vitality Council and board member for Fernandina Beach Main Street.

Why did you go into your particular field? Growing up in South Florida, I was fascinated with how communities evolve and adapt. I watched my surroundings slowly change and always wanted to know why and how. I vividly remember the experience of living through the Category 5 Hurricane Andrew when I was 9 years old. In its aftermath, I watched our community come together to help each other and unite to rebuild stronger. I'm certain these experiences led me into my career.

As the director of the city's Department of Planning and Conservation, I provide overall leadership, direction, guidance and management in service of our beautiful community. I am responsible for providing professional and technical expertise to inform land use decision-making for public officials, residents and the development community. Our small team engages citizens to establish and achieve goals for the city of Fernandina Beach through best practices in land use planning and coordination of public land acquisition. My position establishes the strategic plan for the department, including developing, planning, organizing and directing staff and activities to meet established goals while ensuring sound urban planning and land use management practices are achieved. I am humbled to have served Fernandina Beach for the past 15 years, starting as a planner II.

What's the best advice you've ever received? Life is too short to be unhappy. Find what fills your heart with passion and joy, then do that every day.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? From an early age, my dream was to become an evening news anchor on TV.

What was your first job? My first job was at a smoothie shop. I enjoyed combining ingredients to make a healthy snack.

Now I make yummy smoothies for my family.

What's your favorite aspect of your job? The best part of my job is guiding others to realize their dreams, whether that's starting a new business or building their family home. It's incredibly satisfying to know that you were able to help in some small part with navigating often complex processes.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? Progress, not perfection. Early in my career I would spend countless hours drafting and revising policies, thinking that I must produce the perfect product and often it kept me from moving items forward quickly or not moving on them at all. Once I adopted a growth mindset, I felt much more confident in tossing out ideas and trying new things, knowing that they may not be perfect, but that I have moved the items forward in support of the community's needs and values.

When you're not at work, what do you do? At home, I get to be mom and I absolutely adore spending time with my children. Together, we enjoy crafting and building with Legos, playing outside with sidewalk chalk and bubbles, growing flowers in the fairy garden, searching for shark's teeth at the beach, and baking homemade treats. We love to be outside as much as possible and spend a lot of time at our awesome local parks.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? Personally, my parents and in-laws for their stellar examples of love, commitment, compassion, and most importantly patience in everyday family life. Professionally, I have two incredible women whom I have had the absolute privilege to call friends and mentors. Ms. Arlene Filkoff has always inspired me in her abilities to organize groups and facilitate meetings. Her call for civility in public dialogue has remained consistently at the center of my daily activities. Ms. Robin Lentz inspires the best in everyone

GIBSON CONTINUED ON 16



JUSTIN HAGER, 39
 Rescue Captain, Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department
 President, Bryceville Sports Association

Employer:
 City of Jacksonville, Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department
Lives: Bryceville

Community Involvement: I am the president of the Bryceville Sports Association and am so excited to take on this new challenge. I strongly believe that every child should be afforded the opportunity to play baseball. We are working really hard to make that happen and get more involved in the community. Y'all come out and see what the Bryceville Bobcats are all about.

Why did you go into your particular field? My brother, Dwayne Hager, was killed in a tragic logging truck accident on County Road 121 in Bryceville when I was 7 years old. He died at 13 years old. His untimely death shaped the trajectory of my life and encouraged me to pursue a career where I could help others deal and manage emergency situations and provide medical care to emergent medical conditions and issues.

I am a rescue captain with Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department and work at Station 35 in Oceanway. I am tasked with providing emergency medical services to individuals that contact 911. We respond to a variety of calls and must have the skills and knowledge needed to treat and assess the scene and patient. I have worked for JFRD for 18 years in October and take great pride in the level of emergency services JFRD provides the community.

I responded to the mass shooting at the Jacksonville Landing in August 2018 and received recognition from JFRD and the city of Jacksonville, as we were the first ambulance on scene and stabilized several injured on scene and transported victims to the hospital in the midst of a very chaotic, uncertain scene.

What's the best advice you've ever received? The best advice I have ever received was, "You can judge the character of a man by how he treats those who can do nothing for him." It is so important, especially nowadays, to remember to help each other out and to lift one another up.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? As a child, I wanted to be a crane operator. My dad was a crane operator and I can remember thinking how big those cranes were and how fun it had

to be to run them.

What was your first job? My first job was tying rebar for a local construction company. That was hard work.

What's your favorite aspect of your job? My favorite part of working as a rescue captain is definitely helping people, usually on their worst days, to get the medical help they need to stay happy and healthy.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? I did not anticipate seeing such tragedy and death, sometimes every shift. I have responded to shootings, overdoses, suicides, drownings, fatal car accidents and accidents involving children, which can be difficult to process and move on from.

When you're not at work, what do you do? When I am not at work, you can usually find me at the Bryceville Sports Association cheering on my children or flipping burgers in the concessions stand. When not at the ball field, I love to spend as much time with my wife and children as possible. We love to be outdoors, at the beach or on some type of adventure.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? My dad is my greatest mentor. He taught me the value of hard work, the importance of faith in God and the unending love of family. I hope to teach my children the same.

What is something about you that most people don't know? I love to fish. You cannot beat a day fishing in Nassau Sound, hunting the big drums. Hot, cold, thunderstorm or no bites, just get me on the water.

If you couldn't do what you're doing right now, what would you want to do? I cannot imagine myself doing anything else but being a firefighter! I guess if I had to choose another path, I would have followed my dad and been a crane operator. I am grateful for my career, my family and the choices I have made in life. It has brought me to where I am today, right now, and I cannot imagine any other life.



MARY HAMBURG, 38
Digital Communications Manager

Employer:
City of Fernandina Beach
Lives: Fernandina Beach

Community Involvement: Florida Municipal Communicator's Association Professional Development Committee chairperson, Fernandina Beach Main Street Promotions Council chairperson, Fernandina Beach Police Foundation secretary, Leadership Nassau Alumni Association board member, Exchange Club of Nassau County social media manager.

Why did you go into your particular field? I've always enjoyed meeting people and love learning how things work. Communications allows me to be involved in all aspects of an organization, or in this case, a municipality. Professional responsibilities include city social media account management: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn; city website maintenance, staff directory maintenance, news, notices and press releases; ensure the city's digital content and PDF/Word documents meet federal ADA compliance guidelines and standards; public, educational, government channel content creator; public, educational, government channel committee staff liaison; and Youth Advisory Committee staff liaison.

What's the best advice you've ever received? Fake it 'til you make it.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? A three-legged cat.

What was your first job? Cold Stone Creamery crew member - I was 15.

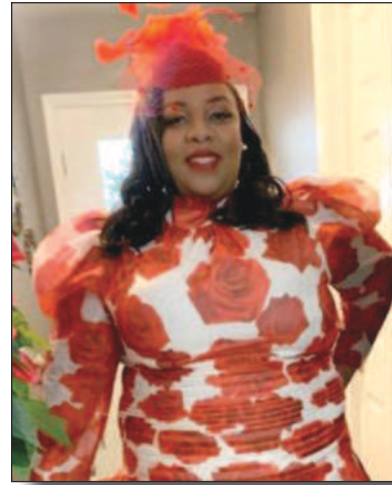
What's your favorite aspect of your job? I have the unique experience of getting to touch each city department. One of the first series I started when my city employment began five years ago was "Day in the Life," where I was able to shadow employees to get a glimpse of their responsibilities. Being able to experience so many moving parts has been incredible.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? Don't take criticism personally.

When you're not at work, what do you do? I credit Dance Trance/Stage Fitness for introducing me to all my friends on the island. It's a fun and social workout. Otherwise, I am at the beach with my boys, running or bike riding.

What is something about you that most people don't know? I am a borderline introvert and walking into a room of strangers is incredibly intimidating for me. I am one of two women to have ever climbed the city's water tower.

If you couldn't do what you're doing right now, what would you want to do? Curate playlists for Spotify.



TIFFANY T. HARRIS, 35
Loan Officer/4thculture President

Employer:
Bank of America
Lives: Jacksonville
(Fernandina Beach native)

Community Involvement: Founder of the annual Juneteenth Celebration in Fernandina Beach, NREC member, organizer for the Martin Luther King Jr. Parade, campaign manager, 4thculture president.

Why did you go into your particular field? The community has always held a special place in my heart. There is always a need to be resourceful and at reach. I currently work in the auto department of the bank, where I oversee approvals for auto loans.

What's the best advice you've ever received? Keep living!

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? I wanted to be a police officer.

What was your first job? The Loop Pizza Grill.

What's your favorite aspect of your job? My favorite part is when I give useful infor-

mation with options. The person doesn't feel like they only have one way of doing things.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? I wish I could have started earlier. But everything is in perfect timing.

When you're not at work, what do you do? Be in my community or work on 4thculture.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? My mother, Verna Haynes Bell. Her lesson then prepared me for now. I couldn't have been blessed more.

What is something about you that most people don't know? I can be shy sometimes, but no one believes that.

If you couldn't do what you're doing right now, what would you want to do? I would be a civil rights attorney, but it's never too late.

GIBSON CONTINUED FROM 15

she meets with her friendly effervescent personality. She models hard work with personal life balance in a way that is unparalleled. Both women seek excellence in all that they choose to pursue. Through their involvement in our community and shared life experiences with me, they have made me a better professional, leader and mother.

What is something about you that most people don't know? In my senior year of high school, I received the superlative of "Most School Spirited."

If you couldn't do what you're doing right now, what would you want to do? It is rare to find someone who genuinely loves what they do, but I am that person. Not only do I like my career a whole lot, but I also love serving our community. If I were not here, I think I would enjoy working for a nonprofit organization to support large scale public land acquisition in the State of Florida.



VERNON HIOTT, 39

Vice President, Business Development

Employer:

Rayonier, Inc.

Lives: Fernandina Beach

Community Involvement: Nassau County has been home for me since 2006 and provides ample opportunity to be involved in the community. I enjoy playing soccer and have coached with the Nassau United Football Club for a number of years. I serve on the board of directors for the Nassau Education Foundation, which is a nonprofit that raises and provides funding for programs and teacher initiatives that enhance public education, recognize teachers and inspire students. I am an elder of the First Presbyterian Church in Fernandina.

Why did you go into your particular field? I have always been drawn to the outdoors

from a young age. I grew up on a farm in rural South Carolina, which played a large role in my decision to pursue a career in forestry. Forestry is a unique profession where the goal is to manage a natural resource sustainably while providing investor returns, forest products, and other societal benefits such as clean water and air.

Rayonier is a publicly traded REIT, established in 1926, with 2.7 million acres owned in the U.S. and New Zealand. I am responsible for a team of industry-leading professionals who manage and continually advance a portfolio of businesses across Rayonier's U.S. footprint. These operations include hunting, mining, solar, pine straw and log exports

among others. Additionally, our team's economists provide market analysis and insights to Rayonier management and operational teams that help the company navigate the ever-evolving market dynamics in the U.S. and abroad.

What's the best advice you've ever received? The best advice has been that there is something to learn from everyone who crosses your path and some way that you can help them. The choice is yours as to what you do with the opportunities.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? I wanted to be either a farmer or a firefighter.

What was your first job? My first job was cutting grass for a neighbor when I was 11.

What's your favorite aspect of your job? I enjoy the variety of work that is inherent in business development and working with others across the industry.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? A key understanding that would have served me well early in my career is that change is constant and an opportunity.

When you're not at work, what do you do? I enjoy spending time with my family and

being outdoors. The folks at the Amelia Island Boat Club and Amelia Bait & Tackle keep me in the hunt for whichever fish is biting. I enjoy working out at CrossFit 32034. If traveling, I am likely in the RV camping with the family or back on the farm in South Carolina.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? I have had so many people invest their time and energy in helping me grow as an individual and professional that I would not point to just one. I have been blessed with a series of mentors from college professors, coworkers, bosses, people in my church and others that have all provided valuable fellowship. As it is said, "Iron sharpens iron."

What is something about you that most people don't know? Most people would not know that there is a story behind my name that is a little different. I was actually born en route to the hospital in the back of a Volkswagen car dubbed the Rabbit. My parents, having a sense of humor, named me Vernon Weston Hiott, where my initials would include VW.

If you couldn't do what you're doing right now, what would you want to do? If I wasn't working in forestry, I would focus on financial planning as a CFP or the something similar. That or join the fleet of fishing guides downtown.

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KATIE CONNORS

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JESSIE JARRELL, 35

Marketing Director

Employer:

Callie Kay's General Store & Outfitters

Lives: Hilliard

Why did you go into your particular field?

I love writing, photography and fashion. My responsibilities include, but are not limited to, creating content for Callie Kay's social media pages, billboards, newspaper and radio. I attend all social and professional events representing Callie Kay's as the face of the store. I coordinate and organize all donations and promotions, and respond back to emails, phone calls, direct messages and Google reviews.

What's the best advice you've ever received? Persistence is key.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? A movie star.

What was your first job? Krystal in Yulee.

What's your favorite aspect of your job? Meeting new people.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? It's OK to be yourself.

When you're not at work, what do you do? I like to do anything outdoors while hanging out with my family.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? Ashley Simmons, owner of Callie Kay's. Ashley is an amazing business woman, friend and leader. She always pushes me to strive for my best professionally and personally.

What is something about you that most people don't know? I don't like odd numbers, and while pumping gas or tipping on a bill, I always round to the nearest dollar.

If you couldn't do what you're doing right now, what would you want to do? I would like to be a news reporter.



BAILEE JONES, 31

Math Teacher

Employer:

Nassau County School District/
Fernandina Beach Middle School

Lives: Fernandina Beach

Community Involvement: Former head cheerleading coach at Fernandina Beach High School, head girls track and field coach at Fernandina Beach Middle School, announcer at Fernandina Beach Middle School football games.

Why did you go into your particular field? I have always wanted to make a positive impact in my community and make a difference in the lives of others, particularly young people. I mentor new teachers and assist in textbook adoption.

What's the best advice you've ever received? Believe in yourself and you can achieve anything.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? My mother was a high school teacher and cheerleading coach, and I always wanted to be like her.

What was your first job? Twisted Kidz! and Twisted Sisters!

What's your favorite aspect of your job? Helping young people as they navigate the complicated middle school years.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? You can't please everybody, so do what you know is right and do it to the best of your ability.

When you're not at work, what do you do? Spend time with my family and friends, play with my dogs, travel, go to Georgia Bulldogs football games.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? My mother. She has always been there for me whenever I needed her. Her experience teaching and coaching has been invaluable to me, especially when I was first starting my career. More than that, though, she showed me how to carry myself with respect, and to treat others with that same respect.

What is something about you that most people don't know? I spent my 17th birthday in Havana, Cuba, on vacation.

If you couldn't do what you're doing right now, what would you want to do? Something where I can give back to my community. This town has given so much to me and I want to return the favor. Fernandina Beach is my home and I want to help keep it as wonderful as it was when I was growing up.

Congratulations,

40 UNDER 40

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WENDALL K. MCGAHEE, 27

Assistant Director of Academic Services & Branch Manager

Employer:

Flagler College &
Funerals by T. S. Warden
Lives: Fernandina Beach

Community Involvement: My community involvement includes leadership roles in local organizations such as 4 The Culture, Inc. chair, Amelia Island Museum of History Board of Trustees, Fernandina Beach Police Department Advisory Board, and Nassau Racial Equality Coalition Stakeholder.

Why did you go into your particular field? I entered the field of funeral service because of my keen interest in the mystery of death. I entered the field of higher education because of my great passion to encourage and transform the lives of students in pursuit of bettering themselves and our society.

What's the best advice you've ever received? Keep God first and never lose faith in the reason you first believed.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? As a child, I wanted to be a mortician and judge.

What was your first job? My first job was as a funeral attendant at Huff & Battise Funeral Home.

What's your favorite aspect of your job? My favorite aspect of my jobs would have to be making an impact by serving others.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? One thing I know now that I wish I knew when I started both of my careers is that people won't always appreciate your hard work or efforts, but it is more important that even then, you still must serve to the best of your ability.

When you're not at work, what do you do? When I am not at work, I am usually enjoying quality time with family and friends.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? I would consider my mother my greatest mentor. She instilled in me the gift of knowing Jesus Christ and has been the greatest example of perseverance and love.

What is something about you that most people don't know? Most people do not know that I began working in funeral services at the age of 9 years old.

If you couldn't do what you're doing right now, what would you want to do? If I couldn't do what I am doing right now, I would want to travel the globe until I find a corner.



MARIA PINTO, 38

Founder & Owner

Business Owner:

Mindo Hats LLC

Lives: Fernandina Beach

Community Involvement: Newcomers Club of Amelia Island and GFWC Junior Woman's Club of Fernandina Beach.

Why did you go into your particular field? Born and raised in Panama City, Panama, I inherited my passion for fine hats from my father. My family, the Pinto family, traces its roots back to Ecuador. That is why I started working with experienced hat makers in Ecuador to produce the finest handmade, fair-trade and sustainable hats.

Founded in 2021 and based in Fernandina Beach, Mindo Hats is a premium headwear brand whose flagship products are Panama hats from Ecuador, South America. I am responsible for the overall direction of the company in North America. I develop and execute business strategies to position the brand and expand distribution across the United States. I am also deeply involved in the design of each of our hat styles, working closely with our hat makers to bring them to market.

What's the best advice you've ever received? Spend the majority of your energy on two things: developing a great product and spending time in the field learning about and listening to your customers. As a result, most of the other decisions you will need to make become much clearer.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? I wanted to be a doctor and I actually spent three years of my life in med school, but it just wasn't for me, so I changed to psychology.

What was your first job? My first job was as a psychologist assistant at the University of Panama.

What's your favorite aspect of your job?

I love providing one-on-one assistance to my customers. It provides me the opportunity to get to know my customers on a more personal level, share my knowledge about the product, and help with personal selection and fit.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? I wish I knew that I was capable of starting my own business where I was at the time and with what I had. It just takes some self-confidence and a willingness to get out of your comfort zone.

When you're not at work, what do you do? I take care of our young boy, work around the house and spend time with my husband.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? My sister and business partner, Melissa, who is the director of Mindo Hats Latin America. She has been a successful entrepreneur in Panama City for 15 years. I value her wisdom and look up to her as an entrepreneur role model.

What is something about you that most people don't know? I consider myself a servant. I have always been a volunteer in the community where I live. From volunteering with orphans and children rescued from child labor in Panama City, Panama, to volunteering in occupational health at the University of North Carolina Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center in Chapel Hill, N.C.

If you couldn't do what you're doing right now, what would you want to do? I would be serving the community at local nonprofit.



TACO E. POPE, AICP, 40

Nassau County Manager

Employer:

Nassau County Board of County Commissioners

Lives: Yulee

Community Involvement: Florida Association of Counties Trusts (FACT) Board of Trustees, Regional Community Institute of Northeast Florida Board of Directors, Northeast Florida Economic Resilience Task Force, Nassau County Public Schools Land and Growth Committee, Nassau County Council on Aging Growth/Expansion Committee.

What's the best advice you've ever received? Make decisions in the long-term best interest of the whole and pursue the greater common good.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? A fighter jet pilot. I wanted to fly a F-14 Tomcat like Maverick.

What was your first job? Publix, front-end associate.

What's your favorite aspect of your job? Improving the quality-of-life and quality-of-place of my community on a generational scale. In 2024, Nassau County will celebrate its bicentennial. The public policy we set today will play a formative role in the county's next 200 years.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? I wish that someone would have explained to me the construct of civic capacity earlier in my career. We can talk about civic engagement and participatory governance, but a shared governance structure can't be realized unless there is a level of civic capacity that allows for authentic collaboration to flourish. A critical aspect of civic engagement that is often overlooked is the educational component of the effort. It is a slow, methodical process that requires patience and perseverance. Nothing happens quickly ... nothing.

When you're not at work, what do you do? County manager is a 24/7 gig. When the phone rings, I have to answer. When I do have a couple hours of free time, my family and I typically just hang out at the beach or grab a meal downtown.

Who do you consider to be your greatest

mentor and why? I am not sure that I can name a single greatest mentor. Our unique life experiences play a formative role in both our professional and personal development. We gain a little bit of knowledge and wisdom from every interaction and experience.

What is something about you that most people don't know? In the late 2000s, I represented the USA as a member of the USA Tomahawks (now the USA Hawks), the USA's representative team in Rugby League, for three years and earned a number of international appearances, including three Atlantic Cup championships and a World Cup qualifying match. I also played six seasons in the AMNRL/USARL with the Jacksonville Axemen rugby league team, winning a national championship in 2010. In 2014, I was placed into the Jacksonville Axemen Hall of Fame.

If you couldn't do what you're doing right now, what would you want to do? Several years ago I was faced with a decision, go to the private sector with a focus in urban planning and design or go into public administration. I obviously chose public administration. If I wasn't serving in public administration, I'd like to be an urban designer.

Why did you go into your particular field? After reflection, one could credit/blame youthful ideals for my career path. Upon graduation from the University of North Florida's Coggin College of Business in 2005, I had no desire to follow my peers into the abyss of retail management or coordinate shipments for a third-party logistics provider. Like many recent college graduates, I wanted to do something that had meaning, or at least was worthy of the time and effort required to be successful. For me, playing a role in shaping the future of my hometown, Nassau County, was not only a worthwhile endeavor but a task I had a genuine desire to pursue. However, I wasn't satisfied with the idea of writing editorials in the local paper, sitting on citizen boards, or standing at the podium pontificating on mat-

POPE CONTINUED ON 23



JENNY SCHAFFER, 37

CEO, Broker

Employer:

Summer House Realty

Lives: Fernandina Beach

Community Involvement: Former Fernandina Beach City Planning Board vice chair and Economic Vitality board.

Why did you go into your particular field? The book "Rich Dad Poor Dad" opened my eyes to financial literacy and building my career through real estate. I direct operations, train, coach, acquire and design new projects and am also in the field as a listing agent for residential and commercial properties.

What's the best advice you've ever received? By being intentional, clarifying and writing down your goals, it expedites your vision. Also, mentors help you skip levels.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? I gave myself three choices: senator, stay-at-home mom or flight attendant.

What was your first job? Pediatric dental office assistant. I prepared all the operatories and sat patients for Dr. Phil Miller in Augusta, Ga.

What's your favorite aspect of your job? Definitely designing our workspaces and one-on-one coaching with our real-estate

agents and masterminding with them their business plans. I love the hug and high-five at the end of transactions as well. When my clients are successful, then I am successful.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? Get a mentor. It helps you skip levels. And also, get a great assistant immediately.

When you're not at work, what do you do? I crave an antique shop or estate sale.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? My sister, Britnie Turner. She pushes me to dream bigger and figure it out.

What is something about you that most people don't know? I am obsessed with old cars and want to have my own TV show one day, rescuing them and fixing them up.

If you couldn't do what you're doing right now, what would you want to do? Cruising around Florida while living on a boat, working from my computer and visiting new spots and getting inspired.



JACKSON SELVIDGE, 30

Insurance Agency Owner

Business Owner:

Brightway, The Coastal Agency

Lives: Fernandina Beach

Community Involvement: Greater Nassau Rotary Club, Nassau County Chamber of Commerce, Amelia Island Nassau County Association of Realtors super-sponsor/affiliate.

Why did you go into your particular field? I wanted to find a rewarding career that allowed me to give back to the community in which I have grown up. I have been able to help countless neighbors, friends and so many more with their insurance needs that protect themselves and their greatest assets.

My professional responsibilities include creating and maintaining customer relationships, risk advising current and new customers, and personally shopping for and customizing homeowners, auto, flood and umbrella insurance quotes to best suit the customer's needs.

What's the best advice you've ever received? "There is no elevator to success. You have to take the stairs," from Coach Ken Roland. This has rang true in my career and throughout life. There is a lot of hard work behind the scenes that is not always visible to the outside eye.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? Oral surgeon.

What was your first job? Floor salesperson at Red Otter Outfitters starting at age 13 (family-run business).

What's your favorite aspect of your job?

Talking with and helping advise people on their insurance needs and giving back to the local community I grew up in.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? As a compassionate person, I have learned there are some situations where you simply have to say "no" for the best interest of everyone involved.

When you're not at work, what do you do? Spend time with family and friends, golfing and cooking.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? My parents have all been wonderful mentors throughout my life. I have seen them build successful businesses from the ground up and that has helped to give me the confidence to grow a business of my own.

What is something about you that most people don't know? I can solve a Rubik's Cube.

If you couldn't do what you're doing right now, what would you want to do? I'd love to have a career similar to the late Anthony Bourdain, traveling around the world, eating and drinking the local fare while soaking in all that their culture has to offer.



BRIAN SIMMONS, 38

Educator, Business Owner,

Volunteer Board Trustee

Employer:

Nassau County School District and Compute-This!

Lives: Callahan

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? Educator.

What was your first job? Monte's Pizza in Callahan.

What's your favorite aspect of your job? I enjoy sharing my knowledge about business and business education with students. Students love this subject area, especially when they are learning about financial components and unlimited potential as an entrepreneur. It is great to see how much they have learned at the end of the year.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? Keeping up with technological advancements can be very tiresome and requires a lot of time devoted to professional development.

When you're not at work, what do you do? When I'm not at my school job, I am usually doing work for my business, Compute-This!, or volunteer work for the Northeast Florida Fair. The last two years I have been completing an online master's program. Any other spare time consists of traveling, biking, camping and catching up on sleep.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? I don't have a specific mentor, but have been able to learn a lot from other great leaders, such as my parents, teachers, friends, other business owners and colleagues.

What is something about you that most people don't know? I wear many hats throughout a typical day. These include educator, bus driver, business owner, volunteer for the Northeast Florida Fair and master's degree student. I am also the treasurer for the Nassau Teachers' Association.

If you couldn't do what you're doing right now, what would you want to do? If I wasn't teaching, then I would work more on expanding my business.

Community Involvement: Program Manager for the Entrepreneurship & Marketing & Advisory Board for the Nassau County School District Career and Technical Education Department; Future Business Leaders of America chapter sponsor; Future Business Leaders of America District IV co-director; board member for the Young Professionals Initiative with the Florida Federation of Fairs; volunteer trustee for the Northeast Florida Fair Association, acting as coordinator for the talent show and Barnyard Olympics, marketing and advertising manager, gate manager and photographer chairperson.

Why did you go into your particular field? I have always had a passion for education. In high school, I enjoyed teaching others during group work. I have a strong interest in technology and enjoy the problem-solving skills needed to solve technical issues. Being an educator is a rewarding experience, especially when you look at how much your student's knowledge has grown through the school year.

As a career and technical educator, I teach the Marketing & Entrepreneurship and Marketing Program and Computer System Information Technology Program at the Nassau Technical Career Center, also known as the Bean Center. In the Entrepreneurship and Marketing Program, students earn certification in entrepreneurship and small business, Design For Delight, and QuickBooks. Students interact with more than 30 businesses across the Northeast Florida area throughout the school year. Students in CSIT earn CompTIA A+ certification and some Microsoft Technology Associate certifications.

As owner of Compute-This! my responsibilities include all aspects of running a successful business. I have also managed and assisted with other projects, such as training digital media/multimedia teachers, writing grants and coordinating a summer entrepreneurship camp.

What's the best advice you've ever received? If you can dream it, then you can do it.



JOSHUA SIMMONS, 35

Police Corporal

Employer:

City of Fernandina Beach

Lives: Yulee

Community Involvement: For several years, I was assigned as a narcotics investigator, and within that role, I understood the need for enforcement and education and became a board member of the Nassau Alcohol Crime Drug Abatement Coalition (NACDAC). I'm also a certified basketball referee at the local YMCA. In partnership with the Fernandina Beach Fire Department, I cofounded the Beyond the Badges Scholarship Fund, a program that raises funds to present scholarships to seniors graduating from Fernandina Beach High School. I have organized various sporting events to support this fund and several others. I assisted with developing the FBPD Drone Program, assisted with developing the FBPD Narcan Program and Training that has earned numerous lifesaving awards.

Why did you go into your particular field? I knew when I was graduating high school that I wanted to help people and wanted to remain in this community. When I first told my parents that I wanted to be in law enforcement, they were not thrilled, but understood and helped me achieve my goal.

In my current position with the FBPD, I am a corporal (first-line supervisor) assigned to the day shift patrol. I am certified as a general law enforcement instructor and a high liability instructor in the topics of defensive tactics and vehicle operations. I am also a certified commercial drone pilot and a member of the Fernandina Beach Police Department Honor Guard since 2009.

What's the best advice you've ever received? That if I want to see real change, I need to be committed to be part of that change. Also, "Nothing is given and everything is earned."

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? I always wanted to be someone that people could depend on and

look up toward when needed. I wanted to be a public servant.

What was your first job? I worked at the Winn-Dixie in Lofton Square as a bagger and a cashier from the age of 14 until I was 20.

What's your favorite aspect of your job? That every call for service is different and not routine. That I work a job that can be exciting and they make television shows from it. That you can effectively change someone's life without you ever knowing.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? That life is short, and when you blink, 13 years have passed in this career. That you need to enjoy every moment and cherish every memory.

When you're not at work, what do you do? I love spending time with my family and friends. I enjoy playing adult flag football and basketball on the weekends. I just purchased a boat, so I'm starting to like the boating life.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? My greatest mentor is my little brother, Jay. Because even though he is young, he pushes me to be the best person that I can be. He motivates me to stay positive and look at the good in each person that I reach. He always remains positive and does not harp on my mistakes. He keeps me motivated and humbled.

What is something about you that most people don't know? I am a good cook and cheat at keeping an accurate golf score.

If you couldn't do what you're doing right now, what would you want to do? I would be a firefighter or military drone pilot.



DAVID P. TAORMINA, 39

Orthopedic Surgeon

Employer:

Jacksonville Orthopaedic Institute

Lives: Fernandina Beach

Community Involvement: Jacksonville Grand Prix for Spina Bifida, Fernandina Beach High School Charity Golf Tournament and Fernandina Beach Roller Hockey.

Why did you go into your particular field? Being an orthopedic surgeon provides an incredible opportunity to care for sick or injured patients. I enjoy fixing broken bones and repairing tendons and ligament injuries. It is an incredibly rewarding opportunity to help and change people's lives in a very meaningful and tangible way.

As an orthopedic surgeon and physician at Baptist Medical Center-Nassau, I care for patients with orthopedic injuries and ailments. In some cases, it may be patients who present through the emergency room, otherwise it can be patients referred by their primary care physician or by an urgent care clinic to my office. This includes a variety of disorders ranging from trigger finger and carpal tunnel disorders, elbow complaints, fractures of all types, as well as injury and ailments of the hip and knee.

What's the best advice you've ever received? We all face challenges and adversity. Don't get too high with the highs or too low with the lows. Be consistent. Control the things under your control. Learn, grow and adapt every time life throws you a curve.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? I had a fairly broad range of interests as a child and thought I might become either a professional hockey player or a cardiothoracic surgeon. Instead, I became a surgeon who fixes the bones that hockey players break. Go figure.

What was your first job? My first job was doing stock, cleanup and cashiering at

a local retail pharmacy.

What's your favorite aspect of your job? I love helping people return to their lives and seeing the joy that they experience after recovering from orthopedic injury.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? There are a lot of people, issues, aspects of career and life pulling at you from every direction. But nobody is going to take care of you except yourself. Take a few minutes each day to work on your own health. Find time for good nutrition. Find time to exercise. Find time for sleep. The only way to provide the best care for everyone else is to not forget to take care of yourself in the process.

When you're not at work, what do you do? I enjoy hockey and music, listening as well as playing drums and piano.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? I have been fortunate to have a great many mentors, from surgeons I learned and trained with during residency and fellowship to professors throughout my academic studies. Overall, my biggest mentor has been my dad. He has, and continues, to work harder than almost anyone I know. Even in retirement, he is a machine. He is an amazing family man. There are so many incredible traits and attributes that, if not for him, would never have been instilled in me from childhood, even up to today.

What is something about you that most people don't know? I spent months in the Ukraine working as a researcher on the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

If you couldn't do what you're doing right now, what would you want to do? If I wasn't a physician, you might find me pursuing a career as a professional musician.



JUSTIN TAYLOR, 39
Director of Sales and Marketing

Employer:
Residence Inn by Marriott -
Amelia Island
Lives: Yulee

Community Involvement: Current and previous community associations include Greater Nassau Rotary Club (charter member), Leadership Nassau Alumni Board, Nassau County Essential Housing Advisory Committee, Take Stock in Children Board of Directors, Family Support Services Board of Directors, Florida's Children First Board of Directors, Department of Children and Families Task Force.

Why did you go into your particular field? I enjoy a challenge and doing something where I can have fun. My job at the Residence Inn allows me the balance of managing the sales team and also the opportunity to find creative ways to promote our hotel and support the community.

I direct the activities of the sales team, providing leadership and motivation to implement effective sales and marketing strategies. I establish goals and objectives to support hotel strategies and sales plan while maintaining good relationships with key clients and representatives of local com-

munity groups and companies.

What's the best advice you've ever received? I love quotes that are inspirational and help remind me that we should all work together and lift each other up. The best advice is actually a quote from my mom when I was 13, who passed away just a few days later. These words continue to inspire me. "Work hard, keep your faith, and never give up."

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? As a child, my dream was to be a rockstar in a highly successful band. However, after realizing that I don't sing well, I can't play an instrument, and I'm not as coordinated as I think I am, I realized my chances were slim.

What was your first job? When I was 14, I lived in a group foster home in Jacksonville. I was given an opportunity to earn money by working around the property and made my first \$300 that summer by raking leaves and feeding

POPE CONTINUED FROM 20

ters already decided. I wanted to be involved at the ground level, get my hands dirty.

At the time, I figured the most direct approach would be to work in local government. In 2005, I got my shot and took an entry level position as a code enforcement/zoning officer with the Nassau County Board of County Commissioners. Almost 17 years have passed and I now serve as the Nassau County manager. Along the way I have held a number of roles, including a staff planner, bicycle and pedestrian coordinator, planning director and assistant county manager. I have also had the opportunity to work on many rewarding and transformative projects at both the local and regional level.

Public sector planning provides an interesting and dynamic lens through which the constructs of shared governance and ordered liberty can be viewed. Public sector planning, when done correctly, is one giant collaborative exercise in balancing competing interests in pursuit of a common good.

Coming through the ranks as a public sector planner afforded me an incredible foundation to transition into management as many of the concepts related to a collaborative form of governance and the co-production of the public good came intuitively.

In the broader perspective, in terms of motivations, it is incumbent upon my cohort (those under 40) of professionally trained and classically educated public administrators to proactively push forward a value-centered, collaborative and inclusive form of governance that prioritizes the co-production and shared pursuit of the common good - a governance system predicated on deliberate and negotiated balance between conflicting interests. While I am certainly not experienced enough to make sweeping generalizations about the profession, this responsibility seems a difficult challenge with no easy fix. In an ever-evolving environment, there is only perspective and change. Similar to the natural world, those organisms that adapt with their environment survive. Those that don't - don't.

the horses and pigs.

What's your favorite aspect of your job?

There are so many reasons to love what I do. I get the opportunity to meet people from all over and hear why they chose to visit Amelia Island and how much they love their time here. In addition, I have the opportunity to work in the community to support local businesses and non-profits. One recent initiative we started was hosting Food Truck Fridays and using this as a way to raise money for local charities. Each quarter we will select a new charity to support. We proudly contributed nearly \$2,000 to the Nassau Education Foundation in our first quarter.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? I never knew how rewarding a career in hospitality would be. I get to work with a great team who works hard every day and supports each other along the way.

When you're not at work, what do you do? My best time is spent with my son, whether we're at the beach, walking trails, playing video games or eating at Fancy Sushi. He keeps me on my toes and makes me always proud to be his dad. In addition, I enjoy serving the community and have had many great opportunities to help in different areas, such as serving meals at Gracie's Kitchen with the Greater Nassau

Rotary Club, helping the Trinity Love Hoblit Foundation raise awareness for brain aneurysm research, and even emceed fundraising events for The Caden Project, Women of Influence and Fernandina Beach Middle School.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? There are so many who people who inspire me that it's difficult to name just one great mentor. My son, family, close friends, employers - all past and present. I take a piece from each person and try to use that to improve myself so I can turn around and help give back to others.

What is something about you that most people don't know? My mother was a single parent who struggled to make ends meet. When I was 13, she suffered a brain aneurysm and passed away. I then entered foster care for the next several years. In my 20s, I began using those experiences to travel the state and speak about my childhood struggles with legislators and community-based care agencies in hopes of improving the foster care system. In addition, I spoke with foster youth and encouraged them to work hard, keep their faith, and never give up.

If you couldn't do what you're doing right now, what would you want to do? There's always that dream of being a rockstar.



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DANIEL THOMAS, 34
Football Coach and Mentor

Employer:
Self-employed and
Hilliard Middle-Senior High School
Lives: Hilliard

Community Involvement: Local community coach training young athletes to prepare for the next level of competition.

Why did you go into your particular field: Coming from an athletic background, sports have been a major part of my life and have shaped me into who I am today. As a result, it is my job to relay all valuable information to the younger generation today in my community, who are in

pursuit of the same dreams I once had as a kid.

My professional responsibilities are based on the development of high school and collegiate student-athletes, from an athletic standpoint, mental health and academically.

What's the best advice you've ever received? The best advice I've ever received came from my parents stating, "Put God

first, have faith and work hard."

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? As a child, I had clear visions on becoming an NFL and NBA player.

What was your first job? My first job was playing for the Miami Dolphins (2011-16).

What's your favorite aspect of your job? My favorite aspect of my job is simply spending time with my student-athletes and witnessing growth on and off the field.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? I wish I were more mindful of the impact I had on kids in my community. I feel I could have been more involved. However, God's timing is perfect, and everything is right on time today.

When you're not at work, what do you do? When I am not working, my time is usually spent completing online courses for my degree.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? My greatest mentor is Myron Saunders. As a young kid, Coach Saunders introduced me to working out and taking my game athletically to another level, while being someone who I could trust and had my best interest. Still to this day, he is my trainer and mentor.

What is something about you that most people don't know? Something most people do not know about me is I love to sing.

If you couldn't do what you're doing right now, what would you want to do? If I could not do what I am doing now, from a career perspective, I would pursue becoming a guidance counselor.

Congratulations,
PASTOR ETHAN!

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Love,
The Anchor Church

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ETHAN THOMAS, 28

Youth Pastor

Employer:

The Anchor Church of God

Lives: Hilliard

Community Involvement: Callahan Middle School football chaplain, Ramblers for Christ, Westside Business Leaders.

Why did you go into your particular field? I became a minister because I have a passion for people. I want other people to know the Jesus that I have. I want them to know the Jesus that can transform their life. I want them to know the Jesus that can heal them. I want them to know the Jesus that can set them free of addictions and past hurts. I want them to know the Jesus that can change their life and make it better. I want them to know the Jesus that has a future home in Heaven prepared for them. My professional responsibilities are to minister, pray, counsel and support the students who attend Anchor Church and serve as social media director for the church.

What's the best advice you've ever received? Pastor Dwight Allen said this to me one day: "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care." Because of him telling me that, I strive every day to show each person that I meet just how much I care. I want people to see Jesus living in me.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? I wanted to be a police officer. As you can now see, God had completely different plans.

What was your first job? Go Auto Recycling in Jacksonville, Fla. I started working during the summers at the age of 15.

What's your favorite aspect of your job? I love getting to invest in the students that God places in my life. It's amazing to watch the transformation that occurs as they get closer to God.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? I wish I would have known just how hard ministry is. Many think that a minister is someone who works a 9-to-5 job that can just go home and shut everything out until the next workday. That is not the

case. Ministry is 24/7. At times I have missed special occasions for family members because of ministry. While working at a church in Pennsylvania, I had to miss Thanksgiving one year because it was too expensive to travel home to Hilliard for both Thanksgiving and Christmas. I have had to leave important family events because of the emergencies of other church people before. However, I am thankful for a family who understands the importance of being there for other people when they need it the most. My fiancée, Rachel, and I spend much of our personal time counseling and investing into students. We enjoy that, but at the same time we have to constantly remember to make time for ourselves, as well.

When you're not at work, what do you do? When I'm not at work, I love spending time with my fiancée, family, and close friends. I love skeet shooting, hunting and eating at Cracker Barrel.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? I have two. Pastor Mike Hicks, who gave me the opportunity to become his youth pastor in Pennsylvania at just the age of 19. He invested in me and brought me into his family like one of his own. Pastor Dwight Allen, because when I moved back to Hilliard, Pastor Dwight Allen took me under his wing, and for the last four years he has poured into me.

What is something about you that most people don't know? Believe it or not, I never get on TikTok (only my fiancée Rachel), but I do enjoy making funny, clean content videos in our spare time. It's hilarious to us, because out of just pure fun, and we now have over 270,000 followers on TikTok @ethanandrachel22.

If you couldn't do what you're doing right now, what would you want to do? I honestly couldn't imagine doing anything other than what I'm doing currently. I absolutely love spending time with our students and church family. It's comforting to know that I am doing exactly what God has called me to do.



MICHELLE THOMPSON, 39

Assistant Principal at Callahan Intermediate School

Employer:

Nassau County School Board

Lives: Yulee

Community Involvement: For the past two years, I have been getting treatment for malignant melanoma, therefore I have not been as involved with the community as I would like. I am a member of Nassau Future Leaders Academy for the Nassau County School District. I also am the summer administrator for Minds on a Mission. Minds on a Mission is the summer school program for Nassau County to help close learning gaps.

Why did you go into your particular field? I went into education to make a difference in children's lives. Every child needs a cheerleader and I want them to know I will always be that person for them. My professional responsibilities include assisting teachers with instructional needs, mentoring new teachers, leading professional developments at the school and district level, planning fundraisers, maintaining discipline throughout the student body, and assisting the principal in the overall administration of the school.

What is the best advice you've ever received? The best advice I've ever received is to talk less and listen more.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? As a child, I can remember wanting to be many things, such as an astronaut, orca trainer, nurse and teacher. I always wanted to do something that would impact the world. I was in middle school when my reading teacher told me I should be a teacher. That is where it all began for me, that one person that believed in me and gave me that little push I needed.

What was your first job? My first job was a cashier at K-Mart. I then went on to work at Marché Burette at Amelia Island Plantation. My first education role was at Faith Christian Academy as a first-and second-grade teacher.

What's your favorite aspect of your job? By far, the students are my favorite aspect of my job. Their smiles, fist bumps, high fives and hugs are what I live for. They get so excited to share their accomplishments with me (or any adult really). I have built so

many relationships on my campus with the students and they mean the world to me. They are the reason I love going to work, all 650 of them.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? I have spent a lot of time trying to please everyone, but I have learned that I can't make everyone happy. All I can do is my very best and I have to be OK with that.

When you're not at work, what do you do? When I am not at work, I am spending time with my family. My family and I like to go to Disney. We also like the beach and hanging by the pool. My big kids are getting to the age where they are too cool to be with their parents, so I'm just trying to enjoy the little moments with them.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? My greatest mentors are my parents. I have watched my parents overcome so much. They were determined to change their course in life. With three young children, they worked very hard to become a different version of themselves. My dad started a very successful business, and my mom became a labor and delivery charge nurse. My parents taught me to persevere, to never give up, to work hard for what you want, and that nothing is impossible.

What is something about you that most people don't know? For as long as I can remember, I have loved to write. I love to write poetry and sweet notes to my family and friends. What most people may not know is that I had my first work published when I was in eighth grade.

If you couldn't do what you're doing right now, what would you want to do? If I could not work in education, I would want to be a social worker. A lot of my time is spent getting to know children and their situations. I would love to help families, whether it be helping them learn to communicate or connecting the families with resources. My heart is with children, and I will do anything I can to help them.



ASHTON WHITSON, 32

Business Owner

Business Owner:

Small Town Rags Boutique & Gifts

Lives: Callahan

Community Involvement: I am a cheerleading coach at Callahan Sports Association for the 3- and 4-year-old team. We sponsor multiple athletes and teams at West Nassau, Callahan Middle, Hilliard Middle-Senior High and local associations. I have organized T-shirt fundraisers for many local families, including Trenton Fort, our employee Ashlynn Smith, and most recently fallen deputy Josh Moyers.

Why did you go into your particular field? It was actually my mom's idea. She has always wanted to own a gift or thrift store. When the opportunity came about to purchase an existing store, we knew it was fate. We saw a need for a store in Callahan that offered adorable trendy clothing and last minute gifts, so we made one. Being able to keep business in Callahan was important to help our community.

I am responsible for daily operations and behind the scenes at Small Town Rags. Responsibilities include purchasing and maintaining inventory, managing employees and financial management. Some of the more fun aspects include staging and merchandising clothing, taking pictures of new products, and working with my team for new marketing ideas and promotions.

What's the best advice you've ever received? "Say yes to opportunity and figure the rest out later."

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? As a child, I wanted to be a veterinarian because my grandma was always rescuing animals and I wanted to take them all home to help them.

What was your first job? In high school, I worked at Tan USA as a receptionist. This actually led to me owning my own tanning salon once I graduated high school.

What's your favorite aspect of your job? First, I absolutely love getting to work with my mom as my business partner. I love getting to help people find the perfect gift or outfit for something special. I have been so blessed to help dress families expecting a new bundle of joy as well as the honor of helping families dress their loved ones for

the last time. I love seeing the smile that our gifts bring to people on holidays and then just because.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? When I started my career, I wanted to do all the things and try everything at once so that I could try to please as many people as possible. I have learned now that it's OK to not do all the things and that you aren't going to please everyone. It's best to pick something and work hard to excel at that before taking on more.

When you're not at work, what do you do? I am a full-time college student and a mom, so even when I am not at work, I am busy. I coach my daughter's cheerleading team. I love to spend time with my family, just hanging out at home, too.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? I would consider my parents my greatest mentors. They are such hard workers and have instilled that work ethic in me. They have a great balance of work and family, too. Growing up, I was always put first. There was never a Friday night football game or a Saturday competition where my parents weren't sitting front row in the bleachers. My dad has been a successful business owner for more than 20 years. He has taught me to stay organized, treat your employees with respect and fairness, and always understand that you can't please everyone, but keep true to yourself foremost. My mom has always pushed me to go for it, no matter the obstacles.

What is something about you that most people don't know? I am the recipient of The Superior Civilian Service Award. This award is the second-highest award of the Department of the Army Honorary Awards. It was presented to me by Brigadier General Ryan at Fort Lewis in Washington. And just for fun, I can name all 50 states in alphabetical order. (It's like my party trick.)

If you couldn't do what you're doing right now, what would you want to do? I would like to work at the state attorney's office as a prosecutor.



REV. CARRIE YODER, 37

Associate Pastor

Employer:

Memorial United Methodist Church

Lives: Yulee

Community involvement: I serve as the vice chairperson for the ARC of Nassau board and am a member of the School Advisory Council for Yulee Primary School. I am an occasional member of the Nassau Community Band.

Why did you go into your particular field? I had a former boss tell me once to simply walk through the doors that were open to me. Following that path I took jobs, primarily in churches, that were offered to me. I then discerned a call to ordination and went through that process within the United Methodist Church. I have been blessed to work in some amazing churches and with amazing people.

My professional responsibilities include visioning and planning for discipleship and spiritual formation opportunities for the whole church. I teach classes, preach and assist in leading worship. I get to work with amazing people every day as we strive to connect others to God and community.

What's the best advice you've ever received? My mom has always told me to "pick your battles." I follow this advice in all parts of my life and work.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? I have always been fascinated by the medical field, so naturally I thought I would work as a doctor, but it turns out science is not my strong suit.

What was your first job? I started babysitting at a young age. Other than that, I worked as a Subway sandwich artist as a senior in high school.

What's your favorite aspect of your job? I meet, and get to work with, many different types of people in my line of work and, while this can be challenging, it also brings great joy. I love to listen to people, learn from their life experiences, and then help them connect more deeply to God and each other. I am passionate about teaching the Bible in a way that draws people deeper into the scriptures and closer to their creator. I want to help people discover and

rediscover the wonders of God found in the scriptures and in the people all around us.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? I wish I knew how attached I would get to people. In my line of work, people can come and go. It is very hard to fully invest in a relationship with people knowing you may not always be in each other's lives. I am not sure if I had known that at the beginning of my career that it would have changed how I invest in people's lives, but it may have helped me protect my own heart.

When you're not at work, what do you do? I genuinely love to hang out with my family and friends in my spare time. Whether around a good meal or a project, we love to be together. I am also working on my crocheting skills and would love to join a group of people to hone that craft.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? My grandmother, Mary Nancy Greene Carmichael. Though she died when I was 10 years old, her memories and legacy have lived on through my mother. She was a remarkable woman who had a degree in chemistry from Emory University, a Master of Divinity from Harvard Divinity School, was one of the first women to be ordained in the Methodist Church, and helped raise her five stepchildren after their mother died early in their lives. I wish she was still alive, but I feel her in so much that I do. A painting of her hangs on my wall in my home office to remind me of her legacy.

What is something about you that most people don't know? I learned recently, from my ENT, that I have a perfectly straight nose - it feels kind of like my superpower.

If you couldn't do what you're doing right now, what would you want to do?

I have always said that if I wasn't in ministry, I would want to play the music (clarinet) in the soundtracks for movies and television shows.



MELISSA YUCHASZ, 36

Operations Director

Employer:

YMCA of Florida's First Coast

Lives: Duval County

Community Involvement: Working for a community organization such as the Y, I have volunteered in many areas that are not included in my job description. I am a volunteer sports coach for youth basketball, youth soccer and youth flag football. I also volunteer at various Y events throughout the year. I volunteer to co-lead the Y's Military Outreach initiatives. Jacksonville is the third largest military city in the country. As a military spouse whose husband recently separated from the military, it is important to me to ensure our military community is supported through all stages of military life.

Why did you go into your particular field? During a certification course, I chose the Y as my internship. From there, I developed a passion for serving others. I found that the Y is truly a place for all people to feel welcomed and gain resources to reach their fullest potential. Being a part of a community-centered organization such as the Y gives me a sense of purpose.

My big picture responsibility at the Y is leading operations for YMCA at Wildlight. This includes many things, including ensuring we sustain high program standards for all that we do at the Y and lead a staff team of cause-driven leaders who are focused on serving the community.

What's the best advice you've ever received? My grandmother would often say, "Never go to bed angry." There is nothing positive that can come out of holding on to anger. For me this always meant trust in God's plan, pray for understanding and don't hold on to things that I cannot control.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? I wanted to be many things, but for most of my childhood I wanted to work in the medical field as a doctor or a nurse. As a very small child, I wanted to be a housewife who worked at the bagel shop like my mother.

What was your first job? Outside of babysitting, my first official job was waitressing.

What's your favorite aspect of your job?

The Y is a global organization that works very hard to meet our community's needs. What the Y can accomplish is incredible. When I go to work every day, I feel a sense of purpose and belonging.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? When I started my career, I was very concerned with fitting into a role within the organization. As I grew as a professional and had opportunities to move to new roles and have added responsibilities, I learned to fit my work around my skills/desires/passions and build a team of intelligent people who could complement my strengths while compensating for my weaknesses. No one person can do everything. It is important to be strategic where my valuable time is spent and cultivate a team to help push the work forward together.

When you're not at work, what do you do? I enjoy being outside and spending time with my family. I enjoy the beach and hiking. One of our favorite at-home activities is playing board games.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? Working at the Y, I have been blessed with many strong and helpful mentors. My greatest mentor is Annette King. She was one of my supervisors when I worked for YMCA of San Diego County. She had a long, successful career with the Y. Annette has always stirred me in the right direction when I worked under her leadership and still will always answer my call when I need someone to guide me. She is always honest and challenges me to consider factors that I would not think about on my own when making personal and professional choices.

What is something about you that most people don't know? Most people who know me as a professional community leader have no idea that I am an introvert. I seem to be very outgoing, outspoken and enjoy being in front of a crowd. I am all of those things professionally, but when the work day is done, I want nothing more than a quiet evening with my family.



JOE ZIMMERMAN, 36

Business Owner

Business Owner:

The Zimmerman Group

Lives: Yulee

Community Involvement: I have been really blessed to have had some great opportunities and worked with many organizations over the years, both locally and regionally. I'm involved with the Coalition for the Homeless of Nassau County and I'm extremely passionate about advocacy for shelter dogs. For the past couple years, I have had a lot of great help in raising money and donating supplies to animal shelters and rescues across Nassau County. We have been able to donate several tons of dog food, toys, treats and cleaning supplies to support their operations. Go adopt a shelter dog!

Lastly, over the years, I've also had the chance to learn a lot by sitting on several different boards, particularly ElderSource Florida. I have learned a lot about what they do in Northeast Florida to serve our seniors and those living with a disability.

Why did you go into your particular field? I really have an entrepreneurial spirit. I've always liked new beginnings. I think every day when you wake up is a chance to make a positive change in someone's life. Whether that is my family or that of a total stranger, it is important to me to do it every day. In the world where everyone's time is limited and tomorrow is not guaranteed, it is important to me to be the best I can be and make the most of every day. Just go out there and be nice!

I run the Zimmerman Group and the Coalition for the Homeless of Nassau County. I've run the Zimmerman Group since 2015. We are a diversified services company that started as strictly tech and expanded into public communications two years ago. This year we will be adding some retail. I like to think my responsibilities there are more creative. It is about bringing ideas to life. I oversee a small team that works with our clients to help them achieve their goals.

I am also thankful that the coalition has offered me an opportunity to help them. My primary responsibilities there focus on the successful oversight of business operations and efforts to expand service offerings beyond Amelia Island, into the rest of Nassau County.

What's the best advice you've ever received? I think I'd have to say it's that everything in life boils down to your ability to build

relationships. Everything. You can be the smartest person in the room, but if you aren't kind, respectful and thoughtful to other people, you can't expect the same out of them. It is possible to still be tough and convicted in your ideals - and still be collegial about it.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? An archeologist. I used to love ancient mysteries and dinosaurs. How cool would it be to have been Dr. Grant from Jurassic Park?

What was your first job? I was a cashier at Publix Supermarkets.

What's your favorite aspect of your job? I get a lot of new challenges. I like solving problems and creating solutions.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? They say if you do what you love, you never work a day in your life. This is 100% not true. You will work really hard even if you do what you love, and that's OK. Just stay focused.

When you're not at work, what do you do? I'm a big horror and sci-fi guy. If I'm not hiking or taking a weekend trip, I can be caught catching the latest "The Walking Dead" episode or watching reruns of "Star Trek: The Next Generation."

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? This is hard to answer for me. I've been very blessed to learn some lessons from a variety of people, either professionally or personally. However, I think my folks have taught me important lessons, particularly about having perseverance and about remaining calm and focused under pressure.

What is something about you that most people don't know? I performed in a four-piece band for years, playing drums and singing Big Bang standards.

If you couldn't do what you're doing right now, what would you want to do? In another life, I may have joined the police academy. My family comes from a long line of law enforcement.



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PREPARE FOR STORMS

Hurricanes pose significant challenges. Such challenges are considerably less difficult when business owners and families prepare for hurricane season in advance.

A proactive approach to hurricane season can minimize the effects of these powerful storms, which can cause costly property damage.

Hurricane season began Tuesday and continues through Nov. 30, so now is a great time for business owners and families to prepare.

Evacuation plan

Coastal regions tend to bear the brunt of damage caused by hurricanes, so anyone working and living in such areas should have a well-developed evacuation plan in place. It's a good idea to go over such plans with employees and family members at the start of each new hurricane season.

Make a list of accessible hotels and shelters where you can go should you need to evacuate, and make sure everyone has a hard copy of that list. Keeping the list on a smartphone notes app can be helpful, but hard copies are vital, as access to mobile networks or even electricity to keep phones charged is not guaranteed during hurricanes. Be sure to include detailed information about routes to take to get to safety and a prearranged place to meet if family members are separated while evacuating.

Supplies

The Insurance Information Institute notes that when hurricanes are in the forecast and warnings are issued, it's not uncommon for residents of areas in the eye of the storm to rush to stores to purchase supplies. A proactive approach to hurricane preparation can help people avoid that mad rush. The IliI recommends people stock up on certain supplies in advance of hurricane season.

- Such supplies include:
- Extra batteries
 - Candles or lamps with fuel
 - Matches, which should be kept in a part of the home that's likely to remain accessible and dry
 - Materials and tools for emergency home repairs, such as heavy plastic sheeting, plywood, a hammer and other tools
 - Prescription drugs
 - A three-day supply of drinking water
 - Food that you don't have to refrigerate or cook
 - First aid supplies
 - A portable NOAA weather radio
 - A wrench and other basic tools
 - A flashlight

Property

It's also wise for business owners and homeowners to take an annual inventory of their belongings in advance of hurricane season. The IliI notes that should include a list of possessions and their respective values, as it can speed up the claims process, substantiate losses for income tax purposes and prove helpful if applying for disaster aid.

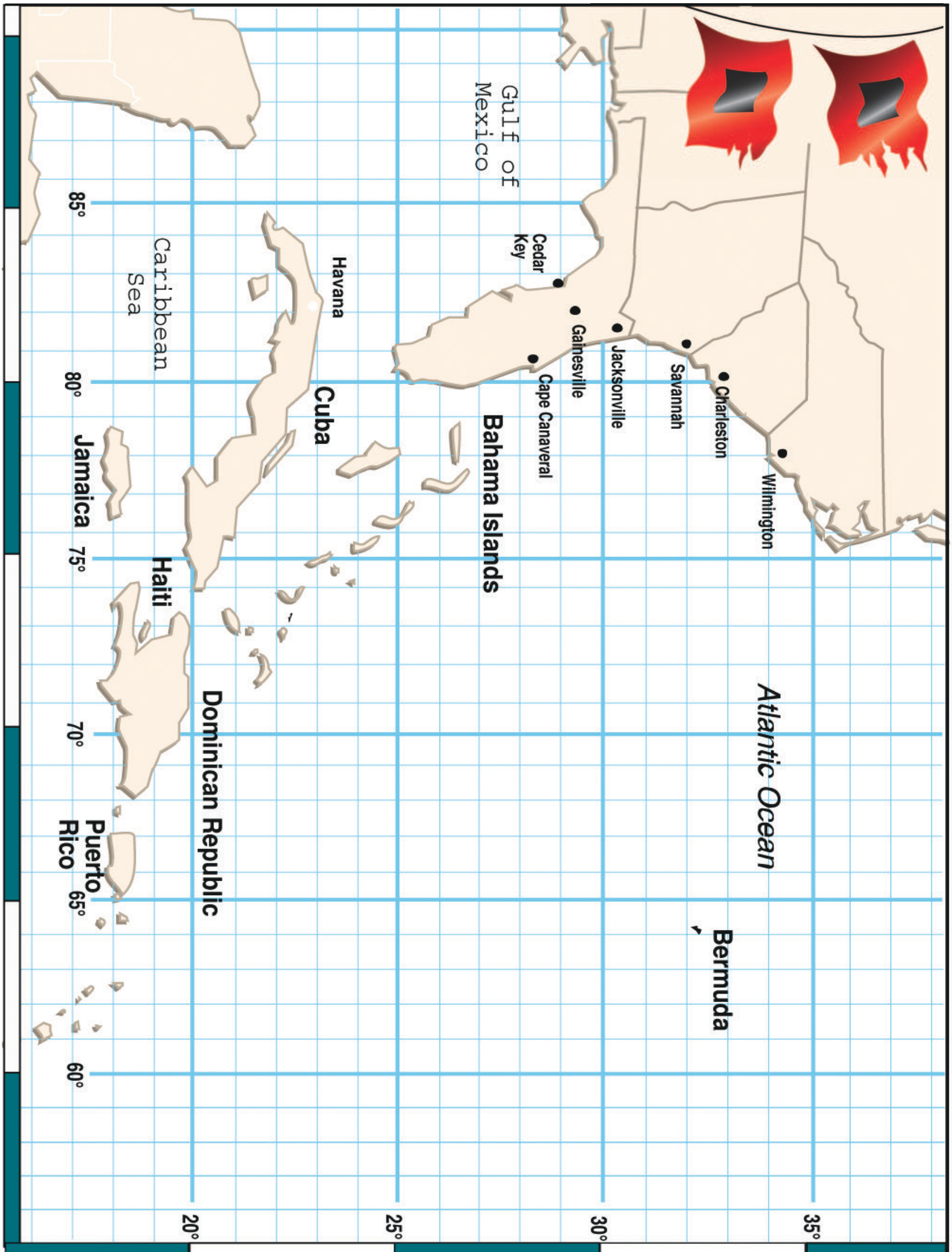
Utilize this map to track storms this season, courtesy of the sponsors on the front and back of this page and the

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T R A C K I N G A H U R R I C A N E



In the event of a weather emergency, take shelter in the safest room in your homes. Determining where this might be depends on the structure itself. Look for an interior room that is near the center of the house. It's often best to choose one that doesn't have windows or with windows that are very small. Bathrooms or walk-in closets are typically the safest areas in one-story homes. In two-story homes, the strongest wall of the house is often near the stairwell. A first-floor closet may be the best spot.

Make sure your vehicle is in good driving shape for an evacuation



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