BEHIND THE BADGE ISSUE #10

# NASSAU COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



Marine Corps League donates to Nassau County Sheriff's Office Shop with Cops fund

Behind the

Badge

Mewsletter

October—December

2015

#### SHERIFF'S MESSAGE

As an agency we have accomplished a great deal this past year, but 2016 promises to be even bigger and better as we have set more goals to reach and we will ultimately get to move into our new facilities.

Our construction projects are continuing to move forward. The g11 Call Center should be complete very soon. We just want to make sure everything is right before we do move into this state-of-the-art facility. NCSO Communications has come a long way and I believe it will be well worth the wait. The Sheriff's Administration Building is still on track. It will be a great facility that will allow us to continue our goals to further professionalize this organization. It will also be the first stand-a-lone Sheriff's Office ever built in Nassau County.

We are also planning to build a "Nassau County Sheriff's Office Memorial Plaza" in the grass area between the new Administration Building and the EOC . This will be a nice park that will be dedicated to all those NCSO Deputies who have been killed in the line of duty. We are working on the design now, but when finished, it will be a tribute to all those who have died protecting our community. They must not be forgotten.

We will be trying to fill all our vacancies in patrol, correc-

tions, and communications over the next few months. Our goal is to be fully staffed, which is something we haven't been in a long while. We are also working on a plan moving forward to slowly increase personnel as our county's population grows. We have topped 76,000 residents and growing and are no longer considered a small coun-



ty. That's the price we pay for living in paradise!

Please stay safe!

Sheriff Bill Leeper





The Florida Sheriff's Task Force put on a statewide initiative called *Operation Safe Schools*. The initiative was aimed at educating and heightening the awareness of local drivers in school zones.

Nassau County deputies took part in *Operation* Safe Schools with enhanced traffic enforcement

within local school zones. The ultimate goal is protecting children coming to and from school. Over the four week period, deputies reminded drivers that school zones were up and running again for the new school year. Deputies also educated drivers on the speed limit in school zones.

"All school zones in Nassau County are all properly posted, so everyone should recognize that and know where the school zones are located in their neighborhoods," said Sheriff Leeper.

38 Florida counties participated in Operation Safe Schools, and over a 4 week period, deputies handed out close to 6,000 citations statewide for school zone violations. Results also show that deputies across the state issued more than 9,000 warnings for school zone violations.

On a local scale, Nassau county deputies issued 52 warnings for school zone violations, 4 warnings for pedestrian violations, and 2 warnings for bicycle violations. Deputies were also surprised to find parents using their cell phones in school pick-up and drop-off lines.

"It was disappointing to see. We are hoping that they will take the appropriate steps and put their phone somewhere out of reach," said Sheriff Leeper.

Sheriff Leeper recommends that parents spend more time talking with their child and less time on their phone. "Spend that few minutes with your child dropping them off and picking them up. Put your phone down and put it somewhere so you are not enticed to use it. That 5 minutes will probably be very rewarding for your child," said Sheriff Leeper.

## HALLOWEEN SAFETY



Sheriff Bill Leeper and Detective Dee Gaston place a public notice sign on the public right-of-way in front of the homes of sexual predators living in Nassau County. The Sheriff's Office has an obligation by state law and county ordinance to notify the public when a sexual predator moves into Nassau County and the location where they live. Residents are notified in the neighborhood and their name, photo and address is also placed on the Sheriff's Office website at <a href="http://offender.fdle.state.fl.us/offender/homepage">www.nassauso.com</a>, as well as the FDLE website at <a href="http://offender.fdle.state.fl.us/offender/homepage">http://offender.fdle.state.fl.us/offender/homepage</a>.

"These signs are just an additional notice to the public, especially right before Halloween," Leeper said. By law, sexual predators are not to participate in any Halloween activities and are not allowed to have outside

lights on or give out candy to children. Detectives at the Nassau County Sheriff's Office conduct routine checks on the 12 sexual predators who currently reside in our county to make sure these convicted felons are where they are registered to live and follow the laws that govern them. The signs were provided by the Nassau County Road & Bridge Department at no cost to the Sheriff's Office.

### NEW TECHNOLOGY HELPS NCSO CRIME SCENE DETECTIVES

The Nassau County Sheriff's Office Crime Scene Unit (CSU) recently obtained a new crime scene mapping tool from Laser Technologies, Inc., which collects 3-D measurements, to enhance the documentation of crime scenes.

This new measuring system now being utilized allows CSU detectives to document and photograph crime or accident scenes more quickly with laser technology.

"We are always looking for new ideas to make our job easier, more time manageable, more accurate and more efficient," said Sheriff Bill Leeper. In an organized approach to processing a crime scene one of the important stages in processing that crime scene is scene documentation. "The scene documentation is a vital stage because it is the stage that's functions create the permanent written or visual record of the scene, the conditions at the scene and the evidence on the scene," Leeper said. One of the steps in this stage is the taking of measurements to construct a sketch.

Scanning a data's translation into computer data models and applications benefits criminal investigations in at least five ways: it makes physical information easier to interpret; it gathers information that may be crucial later; information can be revisited years later in the event of cold cases; it can help to tell the story of how crimes occurred; and it makes for striking courtroom presentations.

Over the last decade, technology advances have had a significant impact on the work of crime scene investigators. Specifically, 3D laser technology is enabling detectives to capture accurate representations of crime scenes and then

virtually reconstruct those scenes to help them better understand the environment and the events that took place.

NCSO Crime Scene Unit detectives are responsible for the documentation of major crime scenes including homicides, suicides, sexual batteries, armed robberies, shootings and suspicious deaths. The crime Scene Unit consists of specially trained detectives whose primary function is to identify, collect, preserve, and process evidence related to major criminal incidents. The Crime Scene Unit prepares evidence for the crime lab and presents evidence in court related to significant criminal events.



Pictured: Nassau County Sheriff's Office Detective K.C. Griner and Sergeant C.H. Woodle train on the 3-D laser mapping system

## SHERIFF'S SHOOTOUT



**1**<sup>st</sup> **Place Team**: Byrd Simmons, Mitch Kinsey, Dan Powell, Boyce Mann, with Sheriff Bill Leeper



High Score: Byrd Simmons



Low Score: Dawne Lazar

The Nassau County Sheriff's Office 3rd annual NCSO Charities, Inc. Sheriff's Shootout was held on Friday, October 23, 2015, at Amelia Shotgun and Sports in Yulee, Florida. This event serves as a fundraiser for the Nassau County Sheriff's Office "Shop with Cops" program to help children and families in Nassau County who are in need.

Fifty-six shooters squared off in a battle to outshoot Sheriff Bill Leeper and other local community leaders. After a brief safety talk by Amelia Shotgun staff, fourteen teams began their quest to shoot up to 75 flying clay targets at 11 different stations around the facility.

The top ten teams and top & bottom individual overall scorers were recognized with trophies. The top team scored 282 hits out of a possible 300 and the top scorer hit 72 out of 75.

NCSO Charities, Inc. is a 501(C) (3) non-profit corporation established to organize, promote, and sponsor charitable missions and events in Nassau County. The mission of NCSO Charities, Inc. is summarized in its slogan: Nurturing Community Safety through Outreach. NCSO Charities, Inc. thrives to combat juvenile delinquency and community deterioration by organizing educational programs and supporting and assisting members of our community who could benefit from these charitable programs (including the disadvantaged, distressed, or underprivileged). These events foster interaction between dedicated Nassau County sworn and civilian law enforcement professionals and the members of our community.







Nassau County Sheriff's Office employees served as a "Secret

Santa" for 43 individuals at Dayspring Village for the Christmas Holiday. Employees chose the residents and purchased gifts based on their needs and wants list.

Deputy Harry Fouraker, Captain John Anstett and Sergeant Tim Cooper helped deliver the presents to Dayspring Village so they would arrive just in time for Christmas.

## **UGLY SWEATER CONTEST**

The Nassau County Sheriff's Office held their first annual "ugly sweater contest" on Friday December 11, 2015. Nine contestants competed for the trophy to see who had the ugliest sweater. Sheena Hobbs won the trophy along with a Walmart gift card in order to purchase a prettier sweater.

#### Picture left to right:

Front row – Sergeant Tim Cooper, Sheena Hobbs, Sheriff Bill Leeper

Second row – Linda Star, Lawanna Ware, Diana Crigger, Kathy Hall, Latresa Carroll, Melissa Edwards





Christmas was merrier for 209 Nassau County youngsters who participated in Shop with a Cop on Dec. 10th at the Yulee Wal-Mart and December 17th at the Yulee Target with deputies and correctional officers from the Nassau County Sheriff's Office and troopers from the Florida Highway Patrol.

Shop with a Cop pairs the officers with children from lowincome families with officers who treat them to a spirited day of shopping. The program creates a positive bond between the kids and officers.

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

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

The event is made possible by the support of NCSO Charities, Inc. (which holds fundraising events throughout the year), Amelia Island Concours d' Elegance Foundation, Inc., Wal-Mart, Target, and individual donors; Chick-fil-A provided food at both events.

NCSO Charities, Inc. is a Florida Not For Profit Corporation established to organize, promote, and sponsor charitable missions and events in Nassau County. The mission of NCSO Charities, Inc. is summarized in its slogan: Nurturing Community Safety through Outreach. To donate to Shop with a Cop please contact Lawanna Ware, Treasurer, at (904) 548-4018. All donations are tax deductible.













# Promotion Ceremony

Sheriff Bill Leeper promoted four Nassau County Deputies to a higher rank of authority at a ceremony at the Sheriff's Office on December 2, 2015, after the completion of the agency's second competitive exam for sergeant and lieutenant. Monty Wettstein and Brian Blackwell were promoted to Patrol Sergeant, Rex Randolph was promoted to Corrections Sergeant and Jon Slebos was promoted to Patrol Lieutenant.

Pictured left to right: Sergeant Rex Randolph, Sergeant Monty Wettstein, Lieutenant Jon Slebos, Sergeant Brian Blackwell and Sheriff Bill Leeper



## JUSTICE COALITION CHAMPIONS FOR JUSTICE AWARD



Sheriff Bill Leeper recognized Nassau County resident Ken Overstreet as an "Extraordinary Citizen" at the Justice Coalition's Annual Champions for Justice Awards Dinner held at Potter's House in Jacksonville on Thursday, November 5, 2015.

Ken served as an electronics technician in the Florida Air National Guard for over 33 years before retiring.

After retirement, he moved to Callahan and immediately became entrenched in the community. He joined the Lions Club and served six years as President and Vice-President. He became a member of the Greater

Nassau County Chamber of Commerce, and is currently a member of their Board of Directors. Ken is a proud member of the Callahan Masonic Lodge #34, and has served as Lodge Secretary. He is also a member of the Economic Development Board for Nassau County. Through the Chamber of Commerce, Ken assumed the role of representative with the Nassau County Community Traffic Safety Team. At that time he gladly volunteered to oversee the Bicycle Helmet Fitting Program that was being developed. Ken is now affectionately referred to as "The Bicycle Helmet Man."

Ken works with organizations like the Florida Department of Transportation and the University of Florida and conducts bicycle helmet safety presentations all over Nassau County. To date he has fitted approximately 3,000 kids with helmets.

Ken has held safety presentations, bicycle rodeos, and helmet fittings at schools, churches, sports centers, and any other location he can to make sure kids have helmets that fit while they ride their bicycles.

Ken and his wife Faye became interested in "helmet Safety" when their son fell off his bike as a child and suffered a severe head injury. That was the reason he has dedicated his time and efforts to make sure our kids in Nassau County are safe and works to reach as many children as possible.

Ken is an extraordinary citizen who makes a difference in the lives of others in our community. His dedication to child safety is to be commended.

## 4TH CITIZENS ACADEMY GRADUATION

Sheriff Bill Leeper has announced the graduation of the 4th Law Enforcement Citizens Academy at the Nassau County Sheriff's Office.

NCSO's Citizen Law Enforcement Academy is an educational and informative program that allows Nassau citizens the opportunity to learn about the issues that face law enforcement in our community. The program provides insight into the philosophy and operations of the Sheriff's Office. The program also helps citizens better understand police work in their community, and develops stronger ties between our community and the Sheriff's Office.

"The Citizen Academy program is another mechanism for the Sheriff's Office to inform the public of what we do, improve communication, and ob-



tain citizen input, assistance, and support throughout the community by sharing information" said Sheriff Bill Leeper.

The 9 week program gives adults a behind the scenes look at Sheriff's Office operations through hands-on participation and expert speakers. It's conducted in a classroom setting, as well as "in-the-field" utilizing instructors from a variety of backgrounds and disciplines.

The Citizen's Academy is designed to provide members of the community with the opportunity to gain specific knowledge about the workings of the Nassau County Sheriff's Office and a general insight into the field of law enforcement. The program is informational only and does not train or promote citizens to act in a law enforcement capacity.

Classes include a tour of NCSO's facilities and virtually every aspect of a deputy's job including patrol operations, traffic enforcement, hostage negotiations, vice & narcotics, crime scene investigations, corrections and 9-1-1 communications dispatch. Students also watch a K-9 demonstration and visit the Firearms Range to take part in weapons safety training. Participants learn what takes place behind the badge at the Nassau County Sheriff's Office.

The Citizen's Law Enforcement Academy is free of charge and is held on consecutive Thursday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and one Saturday morning from 8:00 a.m. until noon at the Nassau County Sheriff's Office, located at 76001 Bobby Moore Circle, Yulee, Florida.

Class size is limited and all applicants will be screened through a routine criminal background check prior to their acceptance into the program. Deadline for applications is two weeks prior to the beginning of the class.



The following schools graduated D.A.R.E. this semester:

Yulee Elementary
Hilliard Elementary
Bryceville Elementary

St. Michaels Academy

## **ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING WITH NASSAU SCHOOLS**

On December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, educators and public safety officials conducted tabletop exercises at Yulee Middle School focused on the prevention and response to an active shooter incident in an educational facility.

The exercise scenario was developed by the Nassau County Sheriff's Office & its Emergency Management Team. It was presented to participants who were tasked with determining how the scenario would be handled within Nassau County utilizing current response plans, policies, procedures, and current operational capabilities.

"Exercises such as this are designed to increase operational coordination between all participating agencies, as well as identify capability and preparedness gaps," said Sheriff Bill Leeper. These gaps will drive future training and exercise actions in order to increase the safety and security of Nassau County schools, and the citizens of the entire county. Lessons learned in conjunction with this training and exercise program, while focused on school district facilities, can also be applied to any business, home, government office, or public spaces within the county. "By training on incidents like these, Nassau County public safety agencies will also be better prepared to assist other communities should they be attacked. The motivation of this extensive program is protecting the precious lives of our children, and those of the citizens of our community," Leeper said.

Exercise participants included members from:

Crisis teams from each of the Nassau County's 15 schools

The Nassau County School Board

Nassau County Sheriff's Office

Nassau County Fire & Rescue

Fernandina Beach Police Department

Fernandina Beach Fire & Rescue

Florida Division of Emergency Management

These exercises were conducted subsequent to previously delivered active shooter seminars and classroom training, which were attended by school crisis teams and first responders, and represent just one part of the larger overall active shooter training and exercise program.

Exercises will continue through the remainder of the 2015/2016 school year, growing in complexity and involving more role players, culminating in a live real-time full-scale exercise.

As an active participant in the exercise, Emergency Management Director Billy Estep said: "The active-shooter exercise conducted over these two days is one of many multi-agency training sessions conducted over the past year. Exercises of this caliber enhance the coordinated capabilities of all Nassau County public safety agencies, and Nassau County School Board personnel who may be thrust into becoming unwitting first responders should such an event oc-







#### TIME

Give yourself more time for heavy traffic due to rain.





#### FOLLOWING DISTANCE

Keep a safe following distance between you and the vehicle in front of you.





#### SPEED LIMIT

Obey the speed limit and drive slower in the rain; the roads are very slick when wet!





#### LIGHTS



Turn on your headlights when driving in rainy weather.



#### WINDSCREEN WIPERS

Make sure that the windscreen wipers are in proper working order; change the wiper blades before the rainy season arrives.





#### READ THE SIGNS

Never drive through moving water if you can't see the ground through it. Do not drive around road barricades; they are there for your safety, the road or bridge may be washed out.



#### **EXPLORER AWARDS CEREMONY**

Our award ceremony was held on December 15, 2016. Awards were received for the following:

Firearms proficiency, outstanding community service, perfect attendance, explorer of the quarter, outstanding service as Sergeant, outstanding service as Lieutenant, and outstanding service as Explorer Chaplin.

Also, Lieutenant Riley Storey graduated from the Exploring Unit and decorated Lacie Gibson as our new Lieutenant.

#### Accomplishments of 2015:

Provided a consistent training schedule each month, created a manual, obtained fundraiser opportunities, began building personal portfolios, established a new ride-along policy, updated our application process and record keeping system, participated in community service activities.

#### Goals for 2016:

Continue to build what we established in 2015, recruit new members, attend FSEA delegate activities, and provide new uniforms for our Exploring Unit.



#### Top Row:

Communications Supervisor Ricky Rowell, Deputy McCumber, Mason Garrick, Justin Carr, Deputy Amos

#### Bottom Row:

Sheriff Bill Leeper, Lacie Gibson, Riley Storey

#### SERVICE ANNIVERSARY

#### 25 YEARS

Keith Whaley—Lt. Patrol

#### 20 YEARS

Scott Gearis—Civil Sergeant
Tracy Osborne—School Resource Officer
Jon Booth— Investigator—Agriculture

#### 15 YEARS

Gary Gaskill— Network Manager Mark Murphy—Deputy

#### 10 YEARS

Carl Woodle— Sgt. Evidence Technicians

#### **5 YEARS**

Lizandro Deleon— Deputy
Kevin McNeil—Corrections
Austin Mathis—Corrections
Casey Dopson - Deputy



## **NCSO VETERANS**

We would like thank those members of our agency who have served in the military. I have listed the names and branch of service below. Thank you for your service!



Grace Mason

Asa Higgs Army **Buz Stevenson** Army Cheri Fisher **USMC** Connie Johnson Army Dave Griffith **USMC David Lewis USMC** Don Hubbard Navy Donnie Nelson Air Force Eric Oliver Navy Gary Gaskill Army Grace Mason Army Greg Gordon Air Force Harvey Owen Army James Thompson Air Force Jim Dionne Army



John Allen

Ken Homan Navy Air Reserve Kyle Tholl Coast Guard

Mike Goodbread Army
Ray Eslinger Army
Ricarrdo Quiles Navy
Robert Burns Air Force

Rodney McConnell Army, Florida National Guard

Army, Navy

Sandy Ketchen Coast Guard Scott Bratton Coast Guard

Sean Card Army Shawn Mortimer Navy

Sidney Beckom Coast Guard

Tim Beazley Navy

Wayne Holt Army Reserve

Wilfred Quick Navy
William Anno Air Force
Wilson Faircloth Air Force



Tim Beazley



Eric Oliver



James Dionne

# Welcome OUR NEW TEAM MEMBERS



Peter McTague
911
Communications



Donna Altimore
School Crossing Guard



Josh Patterson

Patrol



Lorraine Darlington

School Crossing Guard



Troy Pitts 911 Communications



William Morgan
Patrol

"For the strength of the pack is the wolf,

And the strength of the wolf is the pack."

**RUDYARD KIPLING** 



Patrol



Brad Knight

Patrol



Sandy Ketchen 911 Communications



Christian Copher
Patrol



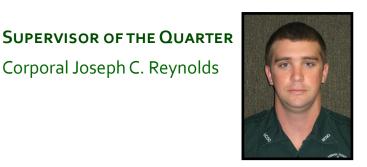
Michelle Kinsey

Evidence Specialist

# THIRD QUARTER AWARDS

# FOURTH QUARTER AWARDS

**Supervisor of the Quarter**Sergeant Jonathan Hooper



**DEPUTY OF THE QUARTER**Detective Charity Rose

**DEPUTY OF THE QUARTER**Anthony Green

**DETENTION DEPUTY OF THE QUARTER**Polly Hodges



**DETENTION DEPUTY OF THE QUARTER**Nicolas E. Thornton





Communications Officer of THE QUARTER
Linda Ottinger



COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
OF THE QUARTER
Magan Collins

**CIVILIAN OF THE QUARTER**Sandra Jones



**CIVILIAN OF THE QUARTER**Donnie Nelson



# Word Search

DDZLANKNC I V J 0 H D N M M P WKAE Ι Ε Ζ S В S Ι G Χ J G Χ S L Τ U ΚU 0 TA F ΙΚΗ Ι F NOKSCBKV KXEKMODETECT Ι VΕ R N HAXXIYMGGXRRXCLRAAO CDLJNQLGEERPKSVNWF IGXPSSHHIWONJZEME YWPZP C B M Y J C X L Χ DKSTEFVAVC XSAZZCOZ Y U S В JOPSKKKTRWB L В Ι WSWETGRJOEG D ILAROPROC RME DRUARAUHOWB Α F CKFAS В XHE K V A J UMV

- 1. BAILIFF
- 2. CAPTAIN
- 3. CIVILIAN
- 4. CORPORAL
- 5. CORRECTIONS
- 6. DEPUTY
- 7. DETECTIVE
- 8. DIRECTOR
- 9. DISPATCHER
- 10. INSPECTOR
- 11. LIEUTENANT
- 12. SERGEANT
- 13. SHERIFF
- 14. UNDERSHEIRFF

# Guess who?

H S R E



1

2

DNUE

A A W



Answers on page 19

3

/

# MOST WANTER ecipes

#### **CROCKPOT CHEESY CHICKEN & RICE**

#### **INGREDIENTS**

- 1 (80z) box Zatarain's Yellow Rice, cooked according to package.
- 4 boneless skinless chicken breasts
- ◊ 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese, or cheese blend
- ♦ 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 (10.50z) can cream of chicken soup (1 (150z) can of corn, drained
- ◊ 2 cups chicken stock

#### **DIRECTIONS**

- Place chicken into crockpot and season with salt and pepper. Sprinkle your chopped onions on top of chicken.
- Mix together the two cups of chicken broth and can of cream of chicken soup.
- ♦ Pour mixture over chicken.
- Cover and cook on LOW for 7-8 hours or HIGH for 4 hours.
- ♦ Right before serving, shred chicken with 2 forks.
- Add in cooked & prepared Zatarain's rice, cheese and corn.
- ♦ Mix well, until cheese is melted.

#### CHICKEN AND SAUSAGE JAMBALAYA

#### **INGREDIENTS**

- ♦ 1 onion, coarsely chopped
- ♦ 1 green bell pepper, seeded and coarsely chopped
- ♦ 3 celery ribs, coarsely chopped
- ♦ 5 garlic cloves, minced
- ♦ 1 1/2lbs boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut into 1 1/2-inch cubes
- ♦ 3bay leaves
- ♦ 1cup chicken broth
- ♦ 1/2lb precooked spicy andouille sausage, cut into 1/2-inch cubes
- ♦ 2pinches salt (or to taste)
- ♦ 3cups uncooked long-grain white rice

#### **DIRECTIONS**

- ♦ In a large pot melt butter over medium-high heat.
- Add onion, bell pepper, celery, garlic and sauté 15 minutes stirring often. Veggies should be like mush.
- Add chicken and bay leaves . Reduce heat to medium and cook for 10 minutes or until chicken is no longer pink inside.
- ♦ Stir in paprika until thoroughly mixed with other ingredients.
- Stir in chicken broth, and hot sauce until well mixed.
- Add sausage and stir in scallions, salt and rice. Reduce heat to low, cover with lid and cook 30 minutes or until the rice is tender.
- Serve with fresh crusty
   French
   bread.













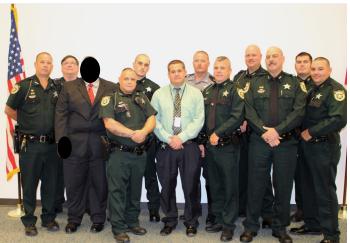












# BEHIND THE BADGE

# Newsletter



Answers:

1. Captain Greg Foster 2. Accreditation Manager Lawanna Ware 3. Communications Manager Ricky Rowell 4. Lieutenant Terry Nye

We hope that you have enjoyed this issue of the Nassau County Sheriff's Office *Behind the Badge* Newsletter! If you have articles or information for the next newsletter, please contact Sheena Hobbs at 904-548-4012 or by email at <a href="mailto:sshobbs@nassauso.com">sshobbs@nassauso.com</a>

As always, please stay safe!

