

"BELOVED, LET US LOVE ONE ANOTHER: FOR LOVE IS OF GOD; AND EVERY ONE THAT LOVETH IS BORN OF GOD, AND KNOWETH GOD." - 1 JOHN 4:7

West Nassau JV Cheer National & World Champs!



The West Nassau JV Cheer Team recently competed at the 2024 National High School Cheer Competition that was held February 7 - 12. The Warriors first competed for Semi-finals on February 9, where they made the top 3 teams and advanced to the Finals held on day 2. On February 10 the team competed for a World title and National title, bringing home The Gold in both of these divisions. See 'WN JV Cheer' on page 3

Hilliard High School Boys Basketball District Champs!



The Hilliard High School boys varsity basketball team won the Class 1A, District 5 Championship beating Madison last Saturday in Hamilton County. This Thursday night the varsity Flashes will take on Newberry in a Regional semi-final game at 7 p.m. at the Hilliard High School gym. Admission is \$9 per person, cash or GoFan. Everyone is encouraged to come out and support the Flashes!

Team members include: Malcolm Warthen, CJ Hall, Brandyn Seldomridge, DJ Alderman, Kevin Thomas, Braydon Holley, James Foster, Javone Lee, Nate Vroman, Ethan Garland, King McMillian, Justin Bennett, Christopher Church and Anthony Nue with Head Coach Myron Saunders and Assistant Coach Carlous Hall.

WN Varsity National Champs!



The West Nassau High School Varsity Cheerleaders competed February 12 in Non-Tumbling Division II at the ESPN Wide World of Sports in Orlando. The team won their 6th consecutive National Cheerleading Championship title (8th overall). See 'WN Varsity Cheer' on page 3

HHS Girls Basketball Team Advance to Regionals

The Hilliard High School varsity girls basketball team punched their ticket to the Regional Semi-finals as a Class 1A, District 5 runner-up last Friday at Hamilton County. The girls traveled again Wednesday to Hawthorne (after press time) in hopes to continue their run. Congratulations ladies on your accomplishments!



Team members include: Molly Dean, Haley Dennis, Samantha Adams, Auneria Doyle, Dakota Howard, Kailyn Balance, Sara Buchanan, Lyndi Smith, Reah Saunders and Charlee Matos with Head Coach Daneisha Alderman and Assistant Coach Brianti Saunders.

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A Word From the Publisher

Boy did I ever enjoy the weekend. The weather was next to perfect and it was so enjoyable to be outside. We have been blessed with amazing weather. I think we really had a nice fall, for a change, as we had more than just two days of it. Our winter, which is not over yet, has also been great. So thankful we are not having those dreadful teen temperatures for weeks at a time. I'll admit, I did get a little frustrated when all the rain was around and I felt like we didn't see the sun for days. I don't really mind the cold, but I just really need to at least see the sun to keep my spirits up!

You know, being a homeowner is a fulltime job. Well, it is for Roger and I! There seems to always be something to do around the house. The other day, I asked one of our granddaughters to get something off of my desk in our home office. She yelled back at me, "Where?" I went into the office and could hardly see my desk from all the clutter on it. Right then, I thought I'm going to clean that off this week! Well, this week didn't actually happen until about four days later but I started the process. I began with cleaning out the drawers on one side and then the top. Needless to say, the garbage can was full in the office and there is still more to go. And that's just a small part of upkeep in our home!

Recently, we were talking in Sunday school about cleaning out our closets. Whoa...that can be a touchy subject, ha ha, but a necessary thing to do. My dad always says, "You buy a new shirt, you get rid of one." That goes with anything in your closet: shoes, purses etc. As the lesson went, the discussion went to cleaning out the 'clutter' in our lives. Sometimes I can

get so overwhelmed with 'clutter' that really doesn't even matter. In the long and short of it all, what really matters is my relationship with my God! Do I concern myself with what He might think of my clutter? As I fluctuate from the top of the world to quickly knocked to my knees, I need to always remember my God remains the same. He is never changing and is the only perfect one. I do realize time and time again, God continues to rally to my side when I'm ready to throw in the towel. Clutter is not all it's worked up to be. It's what it is...clutter. It does nothing but fill your heart and mind to make things worse. My home desk is looking much better but I still have work to do, as I do with myself. I continue to be a work in progress for my Lord.

Recently, our community has lost so many family members and friends. With these deaths it makes me realize that we are not promised tomorrow. I try my best to do my best for each day as we don't know what tomorrow may bring. It's certainly helped me to not procrastinate so much. Did you know that the Bible even tells us in Matthew 6:34, "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

This week, I want to do my best to handle one day at a time. As the worries of the world continue to fill our minds, remember to keep looking up. As our Lord and Savior knows the end of the story. Keep your focus on Jesus to pull you through each day!

Have a blessed week!

Dawn S. West

Letters to the Editor



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

Thank you!

Dear Editor,

I just wanted to thank the youth and younger children from Ephesus Baptist Church that helped to serve the 'seniors' of the church for their Senior Adult Valentine Banquet. The fellowship hall was decorated beautifully and the meal was wonderful. We also played Bingo and were awarded prizes. I just wanted all who were involved to know you made the evening fun and special for all of us attending! Thank you and God's blessings to you all!

Gus Bomgardner

the office of the Presidency.

Biden responded, as he does when confronted with all the negative baggage he brought to the White House, with angry seemingly uncontrollable outbursts, a common symptom of newly diagnosed Alzheimer patients. His mounting public mistakes, Mexico for Egypt's President as one member of the press put it, "Mistake after Mistake." A striking turn of events is that even the press is showing evidence of a turnabout in searching for answers to the public's growing concerns about Biden's age, memory and competence. We even heard "competency hearing" amidst the din Hur's report stirred up.

A penetrating quote of the week from a caller on C-Span: "I want to congratulate the Democrats on Biden's avoiding prosecution because he's old and senile." Mr. Hur has gone a long way in ridding us of the scourge of this administration and should be the first one decorated after November.

Set! Point! Match!
B. R. McConnell

Kudos to Special Counsel Hur

Dear Editor,

Last Week Special Counsel Robert Hur earned the Thanks of every Republican for telling America a deeply held secret that Republicans have only been able to guess at. He documented for public consumption that Joe Biden is impaired, with the underlying suggestion he may very well be unfit to hold

In the Kitchen... Buffalo Chicken Sliders

1 (12 oz.) package Hawaiian sweet dinner rolls (such as King's Hawaiian®)
6 oz. Monterey Jack cheese, shredded (about 1 1/2 cups), divided
3 cups finely shredded cooked chicken breast, warmed

1/4 cup cayenne pepper hot sauce (such as Frank's RedHot®)
1/4 cup ranch dressing
1 (1 oz.) envelope ranch dressing mix, divided
2 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted

Preheat oven to 350°. Line a large-rimmed baking sheet with aluminum foil; lightly coat with cooking spray. Using a serrated bread knife, cut rolls in half horizontally, keeping top halves and bottom halves intact; place bottom half of rolls, cut-side up, on prepared baking sheet. Sprinkle 3/4 cup of the cheese evenly over bottom half of rolls. Stir together warmed chicken, hot sauce, ranch dressing, and 3 tablespoons of the ranch dressing mix in a large bowl until evenly coated. Top bottom half of rolls evenly with chicken mixture; sprinkle with remaining 3/4 cup cheese. Place top half of rolls over cheese. Brush tops and sides of rolls with melted butter. Sprinkle tops of rolls evenly with remaining 1/2 tablespoon ranch dressing mix. Bake about 10 minutes. Remove from oven, cut into 12 sliders and serve immediately.

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Nassau Night at Nassau Pride Basketball Game



The Nassau Pride basketball team will host the Florida Sunblazers Saturday, February 17 at 6 p.m. at the Yulee High School gym. The Nassau Pride is a professional basketball team and are a member of the American Basketball Association.

As Nassau County celebrates their Centennial this year, they invite people to come out and visit with your elected officials and provide input for the Nassau Vision 2050 and help plan

for the next 25 years! This is also a great time to enjoy some great professional basketball close to home! For more information about the Nassau Pride, visit: www.nassaupride.com.



WN JV Cheer

This is the first time WNHS JV Cheer has ever competed for a World title and the first time winning a National title in the Junior Varsity Non-tumbling Traditional Division.

The JV Cheerleading team includes: Shelby Allison, Kaylee Areal, Hannah Bean, Charles Blanchard-Murphy,

Jagger Devereaux, Makenna Goodin, Kylie Hall, Lacy Johnson, Abigail Keeton, Kelsie Leonard, Miranda Lloyd, Lexi Mack, Aniyah Ross and Summer Smith, with Coaches Chelsea Alexander, Shelby Mack and Hunter Bass.

Congratulations!

Continued from page 1

WN Varsity Cheer

since 2016) with a 90.2 score, over 2nd place Obion County Central HS (TN) 78.0 score.

The Varsity Cheerleading team includes: Haylie Young, Connor Vilett, Madison Green, Peyton Platt, Amelya Smith, Payton Davis, Hanna Starling,

Railey Barron, McKenzie Thompson, Kayla Manasco, Victoria Williams, Rhylee Tillis, Kinley Crews, Carlos Lauzurique and Hannah Border with Head Coach Samantha Beazley.

Congratulations!

Continued from page 1

FRIENDS OF THE HILLIARD LIBRARY INFORMATIVE MEETING

The Friends of the Hilliard Library will hold an informational meeting Thursday, February 22 at 6 p.m. at the library. The public is invited to attend and learn more about how the 'Friends' can be of service to the library.

Please come out and support your local library!

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JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

Did you know? According to Peter Gibbons, a tax attorney, Congress tried to enact an income tax in 1894. The Supreme Court said, that was unconstitutional! When the Supreme Courtsaysomethingisunconstitutional, it's unconstitutional. They tried again in 1913 and the Supreme Court said the Sixteenth Amendment conferred no new power of taxation. So, if they didn't have it then and they didn't get it, then they don't have it. There is no Constitutional basis for attacks on the wages of Americans living and working in the 50 states of the Union period. End of story! Tom Selgus, of Tax Honesty, stated that he has a letter from Danial Inaway when he was a U.S Senator that says, "Based on research...by the Congressional Research Service, there are no provisions which...require...an individual to pay income tax, period, end of story. There is no law and to date nobody has been able to show that there is a law. So, in all reality the United States has been stealing our money and punishing us if we don't pay them. Sort of reminds me of the Mafia.

Rand Paul went on a rant concerning the ever so frequent liberal attack on gun control. He stated, "Say gun control one more time!" Because we are so close to a civil war and hanging corrupted politicians in front of the White House. You want the truth? The massive surveillance state isn't about finding terrorists. It's about protecting the elites from you. Militarizing the police isn't about protecting you from terrorists. It's about protecting the elites from you. Gun control isn't about stopping crime or protecting children. It's about protecting the elites from you. Socialism isn't about making everyone "equal." It's about making you dependent on the elites for survival.

It's about protecting the elites from you. Had enough AMERICA?

How much longer are the liberal/communist/Democratic Party going to allow our nation to rapidly decline with acting president Joe Biden? Anyone with eyes and ears knows that Biden is unfit to run our country. Of course, we also know that he isn't running our country but he has put us in the weakest condition in the history of America. "President Biden broke the law "willfully," presenting serious risks to national security, but he is too senile to put on the stand. That's the bottom line of special counsel Robert Hur's report on the president's mishandling of classified documents," per the Washington Post. The prosecutor interviewed Biden last October and deemed his memory "Significantly Limited." Hur reported that, "He did not remember when he was vice president, forgetting on the first day of the interview when his term ended (if it was 2013...when did I stop being Vice President?), and forgetting on the second day of the interview when his term began (in 2009, am I still the Vice President?). Hur also stated that Biden didn't remember, even within several years, when his son Beau died. Hur said, "He presented as a well-meaning, elderly man with a poor memory. He was too far gone last October to be placed in the stand but we are to believe he is capable to run our nation? I personally would not let him run a fruit-stand. He must not be re-elected. As far as his wife, she should face charges of elderly abuse. She should be ashamed for pushing this man to continue to be a public and worldwide embarrassment. Trump 2024!

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

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Elections

Pastor Adam Pierce, Liberty Baptist Church, Callahan



We find ourselves in yet another election cycle. The last eight years have been as volatile a time in America as I can ever remember. People today are not civil enough to accept defeat well. This election in November will have lasting consequences for generations to come.

Election is defined as: The act of choosing. We hold an election every four years for the office of President of the United States. We, at times, hold elections for other offices as well. We are given the privilege of "choosing" whom we prefer to hold that particular office or responsibility. As hard as it is these days to trust in that process, we must still exercise that privilege to avoid the appearance of throwing in the towel or waving the white flag of surrender to the dictators.

Romans 13:1 tells us, "...the powers that be are ordained of God." For example, Israel was a nation who requested they be ruled by kings and priests. God allowed their request until they began to worship false gods and then God would send a prophet to warn them of their disobedience.

I believe that America is in a season where she is experiencing the results of a nation whose individuals no longer fear God. We are a disobedient people to the word of God. There is no need for a modern-day prophet to warn us...we have the Bible.

So, as you watch the primaries and begin to formulate who it is that you will choose... let me encourage you to start by first choosing God. 1 Thessalonians 1:4 tells us, "Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God." If we were to "elect" God first then we wouldn't have to worry about November.

Farm Bureau Food Check-Out Week

February 19-23

Jared F. Satterwhite, Agency Manager, Nassau County Farm Bureau, Inc.

The foundation of our well-being as a society depends upon domestic food production. Our farmers and ranchers provide us with an abundant, nutritious food supply throughout the year.

In recognition of this achievement, members of the Nassau County Farm Bureau and Micah's Place, a shelter for victims of domestic violence, will celebrate Food Check-Out Week from February 19 through February 23. Nassau County Farm Bureau will host a donation initiative on February 20, 2024, at the Callahan Winn Dixie to provide nutritious food choices to Micah's Place so that they may provide healthy food choices to the outreach program available in our local community.

Thanks to the productivity and efficiency of Florida's agricultural producers, they continue to maintain a stable bounty of food in our communities. Their dedication and skill levels have overcome a challenging marketplace, weather extremes and plant and animal pests and diseases.

Their effective natural resource management provides crucial environmental benefits to all Floridians.

According to state officials, as of 2022, farmers and ranchers conserve 12 billion gallons of water each year by their care.

Farm families achieve these successes despite receiving a steadily smaller portion of the retail grocery dollar. According to new U.S. Department of Agriculture data in 1973, farmers and ranchers received approximately 30 cents from

every dollar spent on food. By 2022, the share farmers and ranchers received had declined to approximately 14.9 cents. The pattern remains the same for this year. Off-farm costs – processing, packaging, transportation, wholesaling and retailing account for most consumers' food prices.

Most of the recent increases in retail food prices have resulted from higher prices of energy needed to process, haul and refrigerate food.

Our bountiful domestic food supply is the product of skill and dedication. We invite area residents to join us in celebrating the farmers and ranchers who grow healthy and nutritious foods. The Nassau County Farm Bureau urges you to join us in our Food Check-Out Week event. We are proud to highlight Florida agriculture and the people who make it successful.



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CHURCH NEWS

Bethany Episcopal Church, located across from Hilliard Town Hall, will be selling Spaghetti Dinners Friday, February 16 from 5-7 p.m. for \$8 each.

Sanctuary Baptist Church meets Sundays at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. at the Callahan County building, 45401 Mickler St. in Callahan. Come join us as we Worship Jesus.

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Nancy Lee Bethea

This fictional column features an inside look into the lives of John and Bethany McNair, a couple who live and work in Nassau County. The McNairs have three children, John Jr., 19, Brianna, 15, and Jacob, 5. Mr. McNair is a transplant from Chicago, Illinois, who teaches art. Mrs. McNair is a Nassau County native who works as a forester and has deep roots here.

I don't remember when or how, but it happened. I didn't realize just how hooked I was until my youngest child, Jacob, schooled me in what's truly important in life. I work as a forester. I love the outdoors. Walking a trail in my brogan boots, hearing the birds and feeling the fresh breeze is my idea of paradise. But, when I installed the Pinterest app on my phone, I guess I got absorbed. You can learn how to do anything on Pinterest, from sewing to knife sharpening.

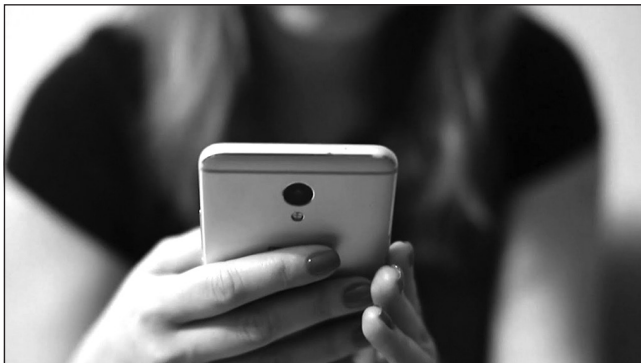
With John Sr.'s birthday coming up, I wanted to surprise him by re-organizing his workshop into a man cave/art studio. I thought Pinterest might help. I was not mistaken. Pinterest offered beaucoup ideas. Everything from how to store art supplies to how to paint murals.

Last Saturday morning, I took Jacob and his friend to their basketball game. It was my turn to bring snacks, so once I delivered the chips and Gatorades to the coach, I found a spot on the bleachers and pulled out my phone. Jacob and his buddy play ball for Upward Sports at our church. They're both on a team called The Fire. I knew The Fire played second that morning, so I figured I could ooh and aaah for a few minutes

Naturally Nassau Tears and Technology

mulling over how best to makeover John's space.

"Mommy! Mommy!" I heard Jacob's voice a few minutes later. "Did you see me score?" His feet hopped a little as he said it. I paused. I looked up. The first game was over, and Jacob's team had already played the first half of their match.



Jacob's face fell. He knew. I knew. Like so many other people at the game, I missed the moment because I'd been glued to my phone. I dropped my phone into my purse and reached for him. He pouted and shook his head. "You were on your phone, weren't you? You're supposed to watch me and my team."

Just then, the buzzer sounded and halftime was over. Tears formed in my eyes as I looked around and saw nine out of ten parents-and grandparents-staring at smartphones instead of the young players dribbling, scoring (or trying to score), and learning how to play as a team.

Change was needed, and it should start with me. I found statistics on

technology addiction – fatigue, insomnia, aches and pains from lack of movement, poor concentration capabilities, irritable mood. The list went on and on. Was I addicted? I wasn't sure, but the signs were there.

As I learned more, I talked with our teenage daughter, Brianna. Turns out, she knew most of the symptoms and had already put healthy boundaries on her screen time. When I mentioned all this to John, he suggested the family go on a digital fast. "It doesn't have to be drastic," my husband said. "But, we should all probably remove social media apps from our phones. They're designed to hijack our attention. The temptation is just too strong."

I still couldn't get over the fact I had missed so much of Jacob's basketball game. I cried every time I remembered

it. If I had missed most of his game, what else had I missed?

The next night at dinner John laid out our new plan. Basically, we would un-install social media apps (we could still use them on the computer), and put away our phones at meal times and whenever we were doing family activities. This was definitely a start. "You mean you'll watch me play instead of staring into your phone?" Jacob said to me after John shared the plan. I nodded and gave him a big hug.

I still wanted to re-design John's space, so I checked out a few decorating books from the library. With Brianna's help, we should have his man cave/art studio ready by his birthday later this spring. So far, the digital fast is going extremely well, and our family is closer than ever.

Nancy Lee Bethea is a local writer who leads the Creative Writing Department at LaVilla Middle School of the Arts in Jacksonville. She is married to Stan Bethea and they live in Callahan with their teenage daughter and their rescue cat.

Pine Forest Alumni Banquet This Saturday

All Pine Forest Alumni are invited to attend the Alumni Banquet this Saturday, February 17 at 6:45 p.m. at the multi-purpose building at the fairgrounds. A Meet & Greet will begin at 6:45 p.m. with the banquet to begin at 7 p.m. "This is a time to honor all the former teachers and students that attended Pine Forest School," said organizer Pastor Johnnie Green.

The cost to attend is \$25 per person, which can be paid at the door.

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New Beginnings and Milestones

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Christy Celebrate 50th Anniversary



Richard and Maria Christy, of Callahan, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary February 6. They were married February 6, 1974 in Jacksonville. Richard served in the US Air Force for several years. He was then employed with Simplex Paper Products in Jacksonville. Later, the couple opened Christy's Wings & Things in Callahan. As the business grew, they later opened another location in Jacksonville. The couple is now enjoying retirement together. They enjoyed a trip to the mountains for their special milestone!

They have three children Rick and Shelly of Callahan, Scott and Davina of Bryceville, and Kimberly and Shawn of Jacksonville. They

also have six grandchildren Drew, Tori, Brayden, Zach, Bailey and Carson; and two great-grandchildren Bjorn and Aella.

Kalia Indy Kurlin



Kenny and Ashlyn Kurlin, of Callahan, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Kalia Indy Kurlin. This precious baby girl made her grand entrance into the world and into our hearts on January 16, 2024 at 11:15 a.m. at Baptist Hospital. She weighed 8 pounds 3 ounces and measured 20.28 inches.

Paternal grandparents are Paul and Vickie Strag of Callahan.

Maternal grandparents are Mark and Rhonda Melton of Callahan.

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you..." Jeremiah 1:5. Thank you Lord, for this amazing and beautiful blessing that You have brought into our lives.

Miss Murphy and Mr. Whaley Announce Engagement

Jason Murphy, of Callahan; and Dawne Hingson, of Cowarts, Alabama, are pleased to announce the engagement and upcoming marriage of their daughter Madison Murphy to Zachary Whaley, son of Kenneth Whaley; and Lisa Gardner of Jacksonville.

The bride-elect is a 2020 graduate of West Nassau High School and has been accepted in the Nursing Program at UNF in the fall. She is currently employed at Baptist Hospital in Jacksonville.

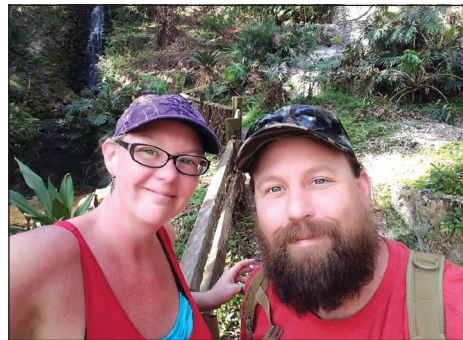
The groom-elect is a 2014 graduate of West Nassau High School and is employed with Sunshine State Plumbing in Jacksonville.

The wedding is planned for April 20, 2024 in Dothan, Alabama.

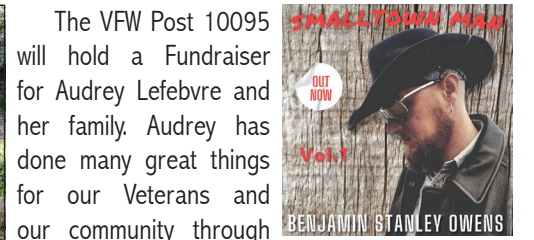


Passing the Hat Fundraiser for Audrey

Saturday 11 a.m. at the VFW Post 10095 Hilliard
(across from the Hilliard Airpark)
Pulled Pork Dinners \$10
50/50 Raffle • 2 Raffle Baskets • Live Auction
Live Music with Benjamin Stanley Owens at 6 p.m.



The VFW Post 10095 will hold a Fundraiser for Audrey Lefebvre and her family. Audrey has done many great things for our Veterans and our community through the years. Now she needs our help! She and her husband Rob have three children (two in middle school and a 19-year-old). She has stage 4 breast cancer that has moved to her lungs. All monies received will go to the family as medical bills are mounting.



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Employee Planting Day at Rayonier



Rayonier recently held its second U.S. employee planting day where more than 30 support employees had an opportunity to hand-plant 4,500 seedlings under the guidance of company foresters. The team-building event, dubbed More Than Planting Day, was a great opportunity for field employees to educate coworkers about how our most important resource gets its start.

Employees who normally work in finance, investor relations, HR, communications, IT, and other key support roles that enable the company to be a responsible steward of more than 2.7 million acres across the globe, spent about three hours planting the

8-acre site in West Nassau County. Before the planting began, Rayonier foresters explained to the team that the seedlings are the result of years of planning. Breeders on our research team control-pollinated pinecones in 2019 and waited for their seeds to ripen. When the pinecones were mature in 2020, they were harvested for seed extraction. In May 2023, the seeds were planted in our Elberta, Alabama, nursery, which grew them until they were mature enough to be replanted in the forest. As a sustainable forestry company, Rayonier plants more than 30 million seedlings every year across the U.S. and New Zealand.

Rayonier (NYSE:RYN) is a leading

timberland real estate investment trust with assets located in some of the most productive softwood timber growing regions in the United States and New Zealand. We own or lease under long-term agreements approximately 2.7 million acres of timberlands. We are More than trees because we recognize that our 90+ years of success in the Press Release timberland industry comes from our people, an empowering culture and the courage to constantly challenge “the way it’s always been done.” Get to know us at www.rayonier.com.



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CLASSIFIEDS

Classified Deadline is Tuesdays at Noon
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YARD SALES

VFW POST 10095 YARD SALE & FUNDRAISER, this Saturday, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. \$5 Bag Day, new donations! Pulled Pork dinners, \$10 each starting at 11 a.m. Fundraiser for Audrey LeFebvre and music by Benji Owens at 6 p.m. Come out and support your Veterans and this beautiful lady fighting cancer!

MOVING SALE FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m., 54149 Lisa Drive, Callahan. Furniture, homeschool curriculum books, clothing, toys, TV and much more!

MULTI-FAMILY YARD SALE, Friday & Saturday, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m., 15655 Tison Rd., Jacksonville (the Red Barn). Furniture, clothes, tools and more! Rain or shine!

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 8 a.m. until? 43164 Hilltop Lane, off Ratliff Road, Callahan. Kitchen items, guitars, great variety of items. Too much to list!

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AUCTION

FRANKLIN MINI STORAGE IN HILLIARD will hold a Public Auction Saturday, February 17, 2024 at 10 a.m. at the Franklin Mini Storage facility, CR 108 East, in Hilliard. Unit HA 19 and Unit HB51 both contain household items and/or tools and will be auctioned.

FRANKLIN MINI STORAGE OF CALLAHAN will hold a Public Auction Saturday, February 17, 2024 at 11 a.m. at the Franklin Mini Storage facility, 541468 US HWY 1, Callahan. Unit CA2, CA69, CA74, CC146, CE271, CE178 and CE281, contain household items and/or tools and will be auctioned. For any questions about the auction, please contact Carrol Franklin at 904-945-1707. 21524

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February Is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month!

In February, for Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, Micah's Place is raising awareness about teen dating violence and teen dating warning signs, such as showing too much jealousy, excessive anger or "love bombing." But how does someone decide if their relationship is healthy, unhealthy or abusive? These are a few points that are addressed in our Teen Violence Dating Toolkit, which can be downloaded from our website. "In the United States, up to 19% of teens experience sexual or physical dating violence, and about half face stalking or harassment. As many as 65% report being psychologically abused."



(Teen Dating Violence Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice, 2022).

Nassau County teens, from 6th to 12th grade, are invited to get their "creative juices flowing" and create a piece of art depicting what kindness "looks like." All forms of media are welcome (except sculptures, due to limited space). The winning pieces will be hung in the hallways of Micah's Place's shelter to bring hope to survivors.

First place winner will receive a \$150 Amazon Gift Card; Second place, a \$75 Amazon Gift Card; and Third place a \$50 Amazon Gift Card. Prizes are provided by First Port City Bank.

Here are some quick details on how to enter: Create an original art piece that aligns with the theme of "Creating Kindness" (no violent themes/imagery accepted). Complete our Submission

Form (so we can contact you if you win!) and then simply drop-off your submission with the submission form at participating locations. Submission deadline is March 1, 2024. Artwork can be dropped at either of three locations: Purple Dove Callahan, Purple Dove Fernandina or Micah's Place at 2188 Sadler Road. A panel of local artists will judge all entries on Monday, March 4, 2024 with winners announced on March 8, 2024. Our gracious host, the Island Art Association, will display the winners and honorary mentions from March 9 to April 7, with a reception on March 24!

In addition to the Art Contest, local entities, Sweet as Cyn, Denucci's, Island Time Ice Cream and Yogurt and Nana Teresa's Bake Shop have agreed to devote a special shake supporting Teen Dating Violence Awareness month. After purchasing one of these special shakes, patrons will receive teen dating violence awareness items from Micah's Place, to keep. Visit: <https://www.micahsplace.org/get-involved/art/> for a submission form, to download our Teen Violence Dating Toolkit and for more details. You can also check out our 2023 winners.

Micah's Place is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to providing comprehensive support, resources, and advocacy for survivors of domestic violence. Through a range of services, including emergency shelter, counseling, legal assistance, and community education, Micah's Place empowers survivors and works towards eradicating domestic violence.

POLICE REPORTS

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

Tuesday, February 6

Anderson Jerome Holland, IV, 43, Callahan: Trespass on Real Property; Possession of Schedule 1-5 Substance

Thursday, February 8

Raymond Manning, Jr., 45, Hilliard: Trespass Occupied Structure or Conveyance

Saturday, February 10

James Franklin Piner, Jr., 65, Bryceville: Battery Touch or Strike Domestic Violence

Sunday, February 11

Jeremiah David Joseph Stringer, 21, Hilliard: Out of State Felony Warrant
 Kyle Jay Vavrek, 59, Callahan: Obtain Controlled Substance thru Misrep/Fraud/Forgery

Outler to Hold Book Signing

The Charlton Public Library will host a book signing with local author, Yvette Outler to celebrate her book, "Share My Words - God, 100 Devotional Thoughts to Keep or Give Away," Thursday, February 22 from 4 – 6 p.m. at the library, 1291 Indian Trail, Folkston. Come and meet Yvette, share friendship, refreshments and discover her new book, "Share My Words -God." The book will be available for purchase for \$10.



Yvette has been a believer in Jesus Christ for 42 years. Her life's passion is sharing Jesus Christ with others. Her book, "Share My Words - God, 100 Devotional Thoughts to Keep or Give Away," was designed with a perforation, to be able to tear and share. Her books assist the reader with encouraging others and helping them

get to know God better. Yvette resides in Hilliard, with her husband, Matt. She enjoys spending time with her family, and hosting guests in her home, as one of her spiritual gifts is hospitality. She writes for three local newspapers. She says, "The pen is a powerful tool. When used appropriately it can be a weapon to help conquer the heartaches of life."

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OBITUARIES

JUAN LUIS ALFONSO ACOSTA



It's with profound sadness, we share the passing of Juan Luis Alfonso-Acosta, a beloved father, husband, Papa, brother, Tio, nephew, and loyal friend. Juan passed away February 2, 2024, at the age of 44. He was born on June 27, 1979, in Havana, Cuba to Luis Fernandez and Zaida Victoria Acosta. He had an unwavering commitment to his family and friends Juan touched the lives of all who had the privilege of knowing him. His sense of humor was infectious, bringing laughter and joy to those around him. Above all else, Juan was an extraordinary father. His unconditional love & dedication to his children knew no bounds. Juan took immense pride in watching them grow and succeed. His family was his greatest source of joy. Juan's loyalty was unmatched. He was a steadfast brother and friend who could always be counted on. His presence brought comfort and reassurance to those around him and his absence will be deeply felt by all who knew him.

One of Juan's greatest pleasures in life was sharing a meal with loved ones. He had a passion for dining out and savoring delicious cuisine, relishing the opportunity to enjoy good food and even better company.

Juan had a remarkable talent for storytelling, particularly when it came to recounting childhood memories. He delighted in reminiscing about his childhood, sharing tales that brought smiles to the faces of those listening. Juan's stories were a testament to his ability to find joy in even the most difficult moments. Although Juan may no longer be with us here on earth, we are confident that he is healed and his spirit rests peacefully and joyfully in the hands of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ. Juan's memory will forever be a blessing to those who knew him. May he rest in peace, knowing that he was deeply loved and will be profoundly missed.

Juan is survived by his wife, Nadette;

children, Courtney, Kelcie, Rion, Kiara, Aaron and Tyvon; brothers Orestes, Alexet and Aaron; tia Zenaida; sobrinos Israel, Cristian and Liliana; and grandchildren Skylar and Zander.

A viewing was held prior to the celebration of life service held Sunday, February 11 at Nassau Funeral Home. Family and friends were invited to honor Juan's memory and share stories of the joy and laughter he brought into our lives. Memorial donations for his service can be made directly to the funeral home. Arrangements by Nassau Funeral Home, Callahan, 904-879-1770.

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

AMY DELETTRE



Amy DeLettre, 37, went home to the Lord January 29, 2024, in Raleigh, North Carolina. She is the second of three children born on June 19, 1986 to Tim and Angie DeLettre, in Jacksonville. She lived most of her life in North Florida before moving to North Carolina in late 2014.

She is a 2004 graduate of West Nassau High School where she competed on the soccer, softball and weightlifting teams, while also performing in theater. Soccer would lead her to several adventures, first, to Bluefield College in Virginia after high school on a scholarship. She finished her collegiate soccer and academics career at Southeastern University in Lakeland, FL. While as a goalkeeper at Southeastern, she set the single-season records in shutouts and goals against average and is currently second all-time in shutouts and fifth in saves.

GLORIA ELLISON REECE



Gloria Ellison Reece, 78, passed away peacefully February 4, 2024 in Jacksonville. She was born July 31, 1945 in Jacksonville, to Will Ocie Ellison and Maebell Ellison, beloved sister to John Curtis Ellison, Catherine Baity, Lamar Ellison, Veda Davis, Myrtice Ellison and Faye Richardson. Young life for Gloria was about being outside and running free. She was a bit of a tomboy and the 'wild child.' Typically, you could find her, hair in pigtails, fearlessly climbing a tree, taunting a brother, or prowling through the sugar cane fields. Gloria's parents, Ocie and Maebell Ellison, although not physically wealthy, imbued their children with an abundance of love, the importance of family, compassion, power and passion. As a young woman coming of age in the fifties you could often find her on the beach or causing 'trouble' around Jacksonville with her sisters.

Gloria met C. J. Reece during a night out at the Golden Gate Lounge in Jacksonville, with one of her sisters. He captured her attention by inviting her to dance the Beach-Bop. They could capture the crowd's attention and have the floor to themselves within moments. After winning her heart, she was truly devoted to him, and they eventually married. Their 65 years together were always full of new adventures. These amazing escapades included riding on the back of a Triumph through the London City Zoo, living across America in 48 states with C.J.'s work, raising two children Linda Ann Minney and Charles Adonis Reece, and for many years she found tremendous joy gliding along on her Harley Softail Classic. After pipelining ventures ended, Gloria spent five years helping her husband

Amy went to work in the box office for the Jacksonville Suns Baseball Club after college in 2008. She worked her way to Director of Ticket Operations before soccer led her away again when Amy took a role with the North Carolina Football Club. Amy wrapped her working career with the Regal Movie Theater in Cary, North Carolina where she was able to recapture what she loved about her Jacksonville Suns role and express her passion for the movies.

She was a member of Riverview (now Gardenview) and Gray Gables Baptist Churches locally and the Vintage Church in Downtown Raleigh. Amy had many hobbies, but she had a great passion for fandoms in her later years. From Captain America to Doctor Who, there wasn't much she didn't watch, read, or discuss in the comic and sci-fi realms. Of all the areas in her life, Amy was considered a light to anyone she came in contact. She was always loyal, supportive and a positive influence for her family and friends.

Amy is preceded in death by her father; and her beloved dogs Sadie and AJ.

She is survived by her mother; brothers Brian and Cody; and sister-in-law Julia; grandparents Bill and Carol Clayton and Nick Olliff; and several extended family members as well as anyone who considered her a friend.

A memorial service for Amy will be held Saturday, February 17 at 11 a.m. at First Baptist Church of Gray Gables, Callahan.

A celebration of life service will also be held Saturday, March 9 from 1-4 p.m. in North Carolina.

Obituaries are published free of charge.
They may be emailed to news@westsidejournal.net.

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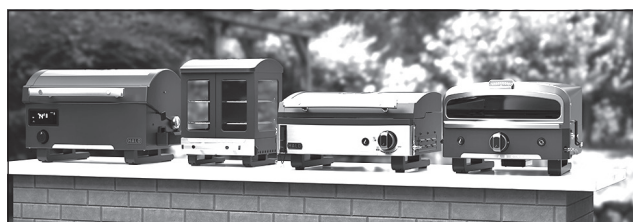
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OBITUARIES

develop oil field businesses in Evanston, WY. Then the family moved to Wagoner, OK where they were the proprietors of Whitehorn Cove Resort & Marina for 12 years. Throughout all these travelling years Gloria stuck to her roots, teaching her family the importance of love, respect, compassion, honor and hard work.

Eventually roads led Gloria back to Jacksonville. Years before, property had been secured near other relatives. During this chapter of life Gloria reconnected with many relatives and old Floridian friends, she and C. J. continued to enjoy their 'toys' such as an airboat, their Harley Road King, and side-by-side. She always loved feeling the wind through her hair, sunshine on her face, and the feeling of being free. The days Gloria spent alone with her children were always magical, special, and adventurous. She taught her children and grandchildren to always advocate for their dreams and made sure they knew they were attainable. She was always up early, peacefully thinking and planning her day. Which typically included amazing homemade food, her love language. She knew that it showed love, nourished her family and friends, and enjoyed how everyone lit up when they tasted her cuisine. Gloria made sure that her family, husband, and children ALWAYS knew they were loved and knew what love is.

She is survived by husband C. J. Reece; daughter Linda Ann (Glen) Minney and son Charles Adonis Reece; grandson Christopher Sean (Anna) Irwin; great-granddaughter Olivia Belle Irwin and great-grandson Sebastian Charles Irwin. She was pre-deceased by her grandson Joshua Daniel Irwin; and brothers Junior Simpson and Rocky Ellison.

A graveside funeral service to honor her life was held Thursday, February 8 at Manning Cemetery, Jacksonville, with Pastor Rick Dougherty officiating.

Warren Funeral Services of Baldwin was honored to serve the Reece family.

Condolences may be expressed at: www.warrenfuneralservices.com.

A. BARNETT THOMPSON, JR.



Adriel "Barney" Barnett Thompson, Jr., 69, of Callahan, entered into his heavenly home Friday, February 9, 2024, surrounded with love by his family. He was born July 16, 1954, in Jacksonville, to AB and Myrtice Thompsom. Barney and the love of his life, Debby, shared 53 beautiful years of marriage. He was a longtime businessman and the owner of AB&B Auto Parts for nearly 50 years. Barney was a family man. He loved spending time outdoors, on his farm and hunting and fishing with his family and friends, especially his grandchildren. Barney was an avid Florida Gator fan and loved attending the football games in "The Swamp." Go Gators! He was truly one of a kind and will be missed dearly by all who knew him. Barney was preceded in death by his parents AB and Myrtice Thompson; father-in-law Rocky; mother-in-law Doris Hillier; brother-in-law Darrell Hillier; nephews Rob Higgins and Randall Higgins.

Barney is survived by his loving wife, Debby Thompson; children Melissa (David) Thompson and Andrew (Wendy) Thompson; grandchildren Ashton Jadoo, Alex (Danielle) Thompson, Zach (Taylor) Jadoo, Ben Jadoo, Trenton (Brean) Thompson and Isabella (Preston) Jadoo; great-grandchildren Aspen Jadoo, Jordan Jadoo, Meyers Thompson and Tucker Thompson (arriving May 2024); sister Julie (Bob) Higgins; many nephews and nieces and countless number of friends.

A celebration of Barney's life will be held Thursday, February 15 at 11 a.m. at Nassau Funeral Home with Pastor Ken Barney officiating. The family will receive friends Wednesday, February 14 from 5 - 7 p.m. at the funeral home. A private family burial will be held at a later date.

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

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

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Railroad Day Festival & Car Show Vendor Information

The West Nassau Historical Society has selected Saturday, April 20 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. for their signature fundraising Railroad Day Festival. The all-volunteer nonprofit's 19th annual celebration is an all-day event held in and around the historic 1881 Callahan Train Depot and adjoining Callahan Pavilion and Florida Railroad bed. This year's celebration will center around Nassau County's 200th birthday. Our county was carved out of Duval in December of 1824. Old artifacts, photos and maps of interest will be on display inside the museum of local history section of the 143-year-old wooden train station.



food vendors, and the Kids' Zone. Local live entertainment will perform from the adjacent Callahan PAV Pavilion all day. Callahan Cruisers and Cochrane's Collision Center will host a Classic Car Show beginning at 10 a.m. at Cochrane's at 617473 Brandies Avenue. Antique engines, tractors, and scaled trains will be exhibited outside the depot while model train layouts will be on display inside the Depot Annex. This is an outdoor event so please bring your lawn chairs.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, vendor, sponsor, member, or donor call festival co-chairs 904-879-3406; or visit the website at: www.wnhsfl.org.

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Remember to Pray for Our Troops

The Westside Journal would like to pay tribute to all the brave servicemen and women. Please take time to remember each of these service members in your daily prayers.



Gabriel Albert (Hawaii), Jacob Ash-Medina (Japan), Jewel Rene Barron (Virginia), Timothy Beasley (Cuba), Cody Beaver (Virginia), Jessica Bell (Hawaii), Chad E. Black (South Carolina), Kevin & Brooke Blanton (Georgia), Sgt. Caleb Bohannon (Oklahoma), Israel Marcos Bonilla (Missouri), Derek Borden, Benjamin Black (Iraq), Conrad Braawn (Afghanistan), Ryan Brooks (Connecticut), John Brookshire (North Carolina), Aaron Brown (Japan), Branden Brown (USS Nimitz), Anthony Broekema (Virginia), Ethan Bulford, (Virginia), SSGT Thomas W. Burnette (North Carolina), Ahmad Butler (Japan), Brayden Lamar Carroll (North Carolina), Allen L. Carter (Alaska), Samuel S. Clemons (Virginia), John Coltrane (NAS Jax), Scott Cooper, Trevor Corum (Nebraska), Charlie I. D. Cox (South Korea), Quinn Coxwell (Georgia), Gavin Crews (Germany), Tison J. Crews (Korea), Charles 'CJ' Cribbs, III (Washington, DC), Dennis L. Davis II (Alabama), Joshua M. 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It is our honor to recognize our local Armed Service members. We would like to update our 'Pray for our Troops' list, adding those who have recently joined our Armed Services or removing those who no longer serve. Please read over the list. If you need to make a correction, addition or deletion, just give us a call, 879-4180. You may also email changes to news@westsidejournal.net.

God Bless our Troops!

