

WESTSIDE JOURNAL

Pray to God for Our Nation!

VOLUME XX ISSUE 30

HOMETOWN PEOPLE...HOMETOWN NEWS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2024

"THE NAME OF THE LORD IS A STRONG TOWER; THE RIGHTEOUS RUN TO IT AND ARE SAFE." - PROVERBS 18:10

Hilliard Boys Basketball on the Road to State!



Following an exciting season of 24-2 and journey to becoming the Class 1A Regional Champions, the Hilliard Middle-Senior High School Boys Basketball team hit the road to Lakeland, Florida in hopes of becoming State Champions. After the community rallied around the team fundraising last week, the Flashes were sent off by family and fans on Wednesday.



Friday at 11 a.m., the Flashes will take on Crossroad Academy in the semi-finals. They will be joined by a spirit bus of cheerleaders, band members and students. The school will also be holding a fun watch party for



all students complete with games and concessions!

The winner of Friday's game will play in the State Championship Saturday at 7 p.m. The games are held at RP Funding Center in Lakeland and will be broadcast live on the NFHS Network. There is an \$11.99 subscription, but viewers can cancel at anytime.

In an effort to thank the community for the support, the team, along with the varsity cheerleaders, visited Hilliard Elementary Tuesday morning opening car doors and welcoming the students.

Team members include: Malcolm Warthen, CJ

3rd Annual Woods and Water Family Fun Day

Saturday, March 9 - Register Now!



The 3rd Annual Woods and Water Family Fun Day will be held next Saturday, March 9 from 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. The event will be a fun-filled day with activities for children and parents alike. The event is hosted by Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch at Camp Sorenson, 1023 Retreat Acres Road, located off of CR 121 (just south of Bay Road) in Hilliard.

The purpose of the event is to promote the importance of quality family time and introduce children (of all ages) and their families to some outdoor fun! Some of the featured activities will be fresh water fishing (fishing poles provided or bring your own), archery and various other outdoor games and activities. There will also be face painting and hay rides. Admission is FREE for

the event! There will also be FREE barbeque sandwiches or chicken for lunch.

Everyone who fills out a registration card or pre-registers is automatically entered to win door prizes...and there are lots of them! There will be a FREE t-shirt for pre-registered children 16 years old and under. You can register your children and family by scanning the QR Code or register when you arrive!

The event is being sponsored by local businesses and churches. Sponsors are still needed for the event to make it bigger and better. This is a great chance to get out and have some fun with your family!

For more information, visit the Woods and Water Family Fun Day on Facebook or call Bob at (904) 845-7286.



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 Coaches Carlous Hall, Dennis Alderman and Holden Whiten.

Good Luck, Flashes!



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Progressive FARMER READER INSIGHTS

Callahan Town News

Dawn S. West

The Callahan Town council met last Tuesday night due to the Monday President's Day holiday. The first agenda item was the consensus of the council for the road closure of Mickler Street Saturday, March 16 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. for The Old Farmhouse Springtime Market. The council approved the closure.

The next item was Resolution 2024-R02 which concerned a donation for the West Nassau High School Women of Influence. Taylor Bass and Abigail Cartrette, representatives from the Women of Influence organization, gave a presentation to the council at the February 5 meeting. The council approved a donation of \$500 to the Women of Influence from WNHS.

In closing comments, Callahan Mayor Randy Knagge advised the council that the Economic Development Board held

a Business Retention Expansion meeting here in our Fire Station conference room. "It was a packed house with approximately 20 people in attendance. There was an opportunity for networking together and a full agenda," said Knagge. "It is always good to see the cities and county come together and collaborate. There was also a meeting last week about the upcoming fireworks. This year's Fireworks show will be held on Thursday, July 4 from 4 – 9:30 p.m. with lots of local bands performing."

Council President Ken Bass advised the council on February 17, Stations 4 and 5 held CPR classes here at the Fire Station. "We have also had 9 more people who have joined and five of those are already qualified," said Bass. "We are looking to send our outdated equipment to the Dominican Republic."

The next council meeting will be held Monday, March 4 at 7 p.m.

A Word From the Publisher

What an awesome weekend we had with the weather being so amazing. Can I get an Amen for our Florida weather and the reason we choose to live here! The down side of that is that it is really hard for me to get my normal house duties done inside when it's so beautiful outside! And to top it all off, we had a full moon, by far my most favorite thing. There were so many stars all around, as it was clear as a bell both Saturday and Sunday evenings. Another great time to enjoy God's beautiful creation. Sunday night Roger fired up the grill and I already had the firepit full so...yes, we grilled and had a fire with a full moon. It doesn't get much better than that. I'm so thankful for our home and how much I love being there.

Recently, while reading one of my devotionals it shared, "Discover magazine suggests that there are around 700 quintillion (7 followed by 20 zeros) planets in the universe, but only one like earth. Earth seems to be one planet where conditions are just right. Earth somehow has been dealt a fairly lucky hand." – Our Daily Bread. I would say more than a lucky hand...it was the hand of God. When you sit back and think about creation and that God created it all, it is mind blowing. Of course, everything that God has created is amazing! I can find full enjoyment and peace on an evening by the fire pit with beautiful moon and stars filling the sky or sitting by the ocean and trying to understand that it's God's hands that control it.

Sunday afternoon while Roger worked in his shop, I decided to start putting a fresh coat of stain on our pergola. We

have stained it a couple times but... it should have been done long ago. The sun was out and it seemed like a good time to take it on. While focusing on my task, I noticed several scratch marks on all of the posts. Roger and I decided it was probably our aggravating squirrels again. Not really sure why they would do that. I guess to make me angry! After a nice coat of stain, the wood looked so much better and actually covered, for the most part, the numerous scratches! It's so rewarding to work around our house and freshen things up and see the results. It takes time, but it sure is worth it.

Our lives can be like that, too. We could use a 'fresh coat of paint' to change our focus. We can sometimes get complacent and place our focus on the things of the world and that's not good. I've written many times, how important it is for me to take a break and look up. I have to be reminded that God is in control and not me, no matter how hard I try to be! Life is so hard. It seems every day we are faced with one decision after another. I've found by starting my day with Jesus, it makes the day much better. I'm not saying there are not any problems, but I seem to handle my frustration much better. Our world is changing every day and America is definitely in spiritual warfare. We certainly don't know what tomorrow will bring. Now is the time to make your stand with Jesus. He is the only way to eternal life and He holds the world and me and you, in His hands!

Have a blessed week!


Dawn S. West

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WESTSIDE JOURNAL STAFF
 Dawn West Publisher
 Roger West Owner/Reporter
 Jessie Pickett Graphic Designer

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MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <h2>Happy Easter March 31st</h2>					1 NAMI Support 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Fernandina Council on Aging	2
3	4 Pine Forest Alumni Meeting 5 p.m. Bethel A.M.E. Church Callahan Town Meeting 7 p.m.	5 Torah Club 9 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. Callahan Methodist Church Westside Republicans 6 p.m. Hilliard Comm. Center NAMI Family Support 6:30 - 8 p.m. Alachua Club, Fern. Beh.	6 Callahan Garden Club 10 a.m. Free Community Dinner 5 p.m. Callahan Methodist Church Parents of Addicted Loved Ones (PAL) 6 p.m. Hilliard Library	7 Food Giveaway @Callahan First Baptist 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Hilliard Town Meeting 7 p.m.	8 NAMI Support 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Fernandina Council on Aging American Legion & Auxiliary Post 401 Hilliard 7 p.m.	9 Woods & Water Family Fun Day 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Camp Sorensen Seniors' Night Out 4 - 9 p.m. Callahan Fairgrounds
10 	11 WN Genealogical Society 10:30 a.m. Lions Club Country Star Quilt Guild 7 p.m. Anchor Church Ch. 154 Order of Eastern Star 7:30 pm @ Masonic Lodge	12 Torah Club 9 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. Callahan Methodist Church Callahan Lions Club 7 p.m.	13 NAMI Support 12-1:30 p.m. Hilliard Journey Church Free Community Dinner 5 p.m. Callahan Methodist Church PAL 6 p.m. Hilliard Library	14 Hilliard High School Prom 	15 NAMI Support 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Fernandina Council on Aging	16
17 	18 Barnabas Food @NE FL Fairgrounds 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. Westside Optimists 7 p.m. Lions Club Sons of Confederate Veterans 7 p.m. The Pig Callahan Town Meeting 7 p.m.	19 Torah Club 9 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. Callahan Methodist Church NARFE Nat'l Active & Retired Federal Employees 11 a.m. The Pig NAMI Family Support 6:30 - 8 p.m. Alachua Club, Fern. Beh.	20 Free Community Dinner 5 p.m. Callahan Methodist Church PAL 6 p.m. Hilliard Library West Nassau High School SAC Meeting 3:15 p.m.	21 Food Giveaway @Callahan First Baptist 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Hilliard Town Meeting 7 p.m.	22 NAMI Support 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Fernandina Council on Aging	23 Hilliard Town Clean-Up 9 a.m.
24 Ch. 154 Order of Eastern Star 7:30 pm @ Masonic Lodge	25 NC Beekeepers Association 7 p.m. Multipurpose Building	26 Torah Club 9 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. Callahan Methodist Church Callahan Lions Club 7 p.m.	27 Free Community Dinner 5 p.m. Callahan Methodist Church Parents of Addicted Loved Ones (PAL) 6 p.m. Hilliard Library	28 Historical Society 6:30 p.m. @ Depot	29 NAMI Support 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Fernandina Council on Aging	30
31 Happy Easter						

JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

The lies coming from the White House is soaring to new proportions due to the looming Presidential election. They, the democrats, know they have no true policy to stand on. So, we will be bombarded with lie after lie for the next nine months. It will not be too much difference than the last three years, just more over the top and more frequent. The lame-stream media will booster the lies while doing everything they can to destroy Donald Trump.

A group called "Media Research Center" posted a portion of a press conference with Karine Jean-Pierre. Her opening statement was, "Communities across the America are coming back, thanks to Bidenomics and his investing in America agenda which have ushered in a small business boom, created good paying jobs with rising wages strengthened local economies and lowered cost for hardworking families."

Britt Hughes had this to say, "Yeah, it's working, isn't that just precious, too bad it's a lie straight from the pit. Here's the truth about Bidenomics and how well that's been working out for everybody. The average monthly inflation rate as of January under Biden is 5.7% compared to under Trump it was 1.9%. Gas prices are still up 32% over January of 2021. In general, prices are going up more than three times faster under Joe Biden than they did under Trump, while wages under Biden have dropped. Under Donald Trump, mortgages rates dropped 32%, under Joe Biden, they've increased 140%. Savings rates under Trump were at 129%, under Joe Biden, they've dropped 71%. The data doesn't lie but this administration sure as heck

does." Once again this proves that the democrats/communists have no shame in lying to America. They are a direct threat to our Republic, yet there are so many that are blind and deaf to it all.

So, the question to be asked is America so dumbed down that we all have to suffer from blatant stupidity? I'm afraid the answer would be, yes! Case in point, years ago a car manual had instructions on how to adjust the valves on the engine. Today the manuals instruct you to not drink the battery water. Yep, we as a nation have gone stupid and that's part of the goals of the left. They do not want to see the multitude being smart. If we became smart, we would all see what they are planning, which is making us dependent upon them. Ask yourself about the governments "war on poverty." It's the largest scam ever portrayed on America. It has been being fought for decades with no positive progression, why? Because that is the plan, they promise and promise just to keep Americans focused on the promise that will never be and is actually worse each year. But the people keep bowing to the same politicians that make these false promises in hopes one day they will actually live up to their words (lies). Same with the "war on drugs," it's a government farce. Our children are no longer getting an education, they are being indoctrinated. The news media is no longer reporting facts, they are broadcasting propoganda that fits the liberal left's agenda.

Wake up America! We have one more chance in November, use it wisely.

As always...that's just my opinion! God, please bless America again.

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Dear Taxpayers:

Did you know that you can pay your annual property tax bill in four quarterly installment payments? Breaking the tax bill into installments can make the payment of taxes easier to manage. It is important to note that if your taxes are paid by a mortgage company or through escrow, you should not apply to pay by installments. Mortgage companies are required to pay taxes in full during the November discount period.

The installment process, as outlined in Florida Statute 197.222, requires that the total amount of estimated taxes be greater than \$100. Similar to the regular tax billing process, the installment plan includes discounts on each quarterly bill paid on time. The combined discounts for the installment plan calculate to just over 3%. This is a great savings if you typically pay your taxes between December and March each year! If you prefer to take advantage of the full 4% discount for November payments, then you may decide that the installment method does not work best for you. Once you are enrolled in the installment plan and make the first payment you are only entitled to the discounts set forth in the plan.

The deadline to apply for the installment payment plan is April 30, 2024. Applications are for the upcoming 2024 tax bills.

You can submit your application electronically on the Tax Collector's website: www.nassautaxes.com. No paper form required! Search for your property and click the link "Apply for the 2024 Installment Payment Plan". If you prefer to print an application, they are available on our website. You can submit paper applications by mail or drop off at any of our four office locations listed below.

• **First Installment Payment:** One quarter of the total estimated taxes discounted at 6%. Payment is due by June 30th. Failure to pay the first installment will result in automatic cancellation of the installment plan.

• **Second Installment Payment:** One quarter of the total estimated taxes discounted at 4.5%. Payment is due by September 30th.

• **Third Installment Payment:** One quarter of the total estimated taxes, plus one half of any adjustment based on actual taxes due, discounted at 3%. Payment is due by December 31st.

• **Fourth Installment Payment:** One quarter of the total estimated taxes, plus one half of any adjustment based on actual taxes due, no discount. Payment is due by March 31st.

For additional information, contact the Tax Department at taxes@nassautaxes.com or call (904) 491-7420.

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Getting Ahold of Grace

Pastor Marvin Lee, *Ephesus Baptist Church, Hilliard*



It is believed by most biblical scholars that the book of Galatians was the first book written by Paul the apostle. I mention that fact because that means that in the very first book, Paul writes he is trying to drive home to us a cardinal truth. That truth is that we are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone. Paul wants us to fully get ahold of God's grace. He wants us to fully grasp all that God has done for us. Before Paul tells us how to live, he tells us who we are.

Because understanding who we are and all that God has done for us forms the foundation of a life lived for Him.

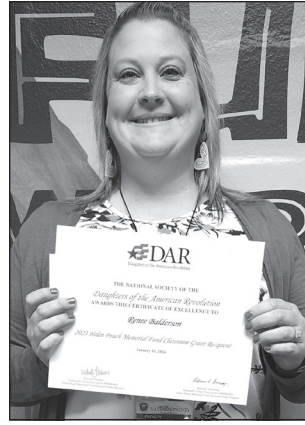
In Galatians 3:26-27, Paul writes, "For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ like putting on new clothes." This tells us that we are clothed with Christ and that all believers are one in Him. And then he goes on to tell us that we have been redeemed by Christ and adopted by God to be His very children. He declares in Galatians 4:4-5, "But when the right time came, God sent His Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. God sent Him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that He could adopt us as His very own children."

What tremendous truths these are! We have been redeemed. That means we have been set free from the penalty of sin and are now free to live a life of purpose, true joy, and confidence as we serve God. We are clothed with Christ. That means that God now sees us through the lens of His Son Jesus Christ. He even loves us as He loves Jesus. Because He loves us so much, He sent Jesus to die on the cross to pay our sin debt and transform us into the image of His Son Jesus Christ. And even more, He has made us His very own children! The apostle John even declares, "What manner of love is this that we should be called the children of God!" (1 John 3:1)

Think about it...united as one with Jesus Christ. Clothed in His righteousness. Set free to live as God has called us to live. And children of God. That's who we are, that's what we have become in Christ Jesus. And all this comes because of God's amazing grace. We cannot do anything to earn it or deserve it. All we can do is receive it by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. Paul wants us to get a hold of this. He wants us to live out who we are. My challenge for each of us, including myself, is to get ahold of God's grace and live our lives in gracious thankful service dedicated to the One who has given us everything.

National DAR Society Honors Callahan Teacher

Renee Balderson, a 3rd grade teacher at Callahan Intermediate School, proudly displays the certificate that accompanied the classroom grant she received from the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, sponsored by the National Junior Membership Committee. The Amelia Island Chapter included its own check to further assist and support this Nassau County teacher.



Mrs. Balderson plans to use her grant to fund both math and reading projects for her third graders.

Shown with Mrs. Balderson (l to r) are: Dr. Kathy Burns, Superintendent of Schools, Kerri Boatright, CIS Principal, Renee Balderson; Amelia Island Chapter Regent Rebecca Mayle, who delivered the grant on behalf of the national society, as well as the chapter's check; Linda Davis, representative of the Amelia Island Chapter Junior Membership Committee; and Dr. Michelle Thompson, CIS Assistant Principal.

The Helen Pouch Memorial Fund was established in 1938 and honors the memory of Helen Pouch, who passed away when she was 17 years old. She was the daughter of

Helena R. Pouch, who was the first national chair of the Junior Membership Committee and eventually the 18th President General of the National Society. The memorial fund expanded its Classroom Grant Program to include non-DAR schools in 2017, and earmarked it for classroom teachers of kindergarten through 12th grade. Grants are awarded annually to two teachers per state and the District of Columbia. The \$500 must be spent to directly benefit the students, such as classroom supplies and educational resources.



Members of the Amelia Island Chapter contribute 5,000 volunteer hours and \$5,000 in scholarships and awards in Nassau County each year. Visit: www.ameliaislandsndar.org for more information about the chapter or to learn how to apply for the Helen Pouch Memorial Fund Classroom Grant.

CHURCH NEWS

North Hilliard Baptist Church, 552823 US HWY1, Meat Giveaway, Sat., March 2 from 8 a.m. until it's gone. First come, first served! Must arrive in person to pick up the box of food.

Lannie Road Baptist Church, 5998 Lannie Rd., Jacksonville Annual BBQ & Gospel Sing, Sat., March 2, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. featuring Eternal Vision and The Gibbs Family, with The Gospel Sounds. Smoked Pork Butt & Fried Chicken Dinners at no charge.

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Death & Your Love Box for Your Family

Death is inevitable. Unless the rapture takes place, our lives will end at our appointed hour on this side of eternity. The separation of death is hard on loved ones. Whether there has been a long-term illness or not, when death arrives it is still painful, upsetting and squeezes the breath out of the surviving loved ones.

True Story - A mom had not shared her will information with anyone. When she died her children were distraught, grieving, in pain and were wondering, "Where is mom's will?" Her children searched for hours and finally found the will in their mom's home. With a little intention and care this mom could have taken steps to make things easier for her children.

A love box is not for you. It is something you prepare "now" for your loved ones. It is your way of helping your loved ones navigate through an extremely tough time.

What goes inside a love box:

1. Your Will
2. Planned funeral or memorial service. If it is not in your will, make sure you have in writing what your wishes are regarding a funeral or cremation.
3. Investment Information.
4. Life Insurance Policy – Who to call and their number.
5. Car and/or other titles.
6. Banking information – list your banks, account numbers, safe deposit box number and location.



7. List any other pertinent information that your loved ones will need to know. For example: Do you own another house somewhere? Are you part owner of something? Have you co-signed a loan for someone?

8. A list of all your debts.

As things change make sure you update the information in your box. Put your box inside your fireproof safe. If you do not have a safe, consider getting a safe deposit box at your local bank. Tell a couple of your loved ones the location of the key, and the bank it is at.

My mom, prior to her death, hand wrote a list of her belongings and the contents of the rooms of her house that she bequeathed to each of us six kids. We appreciated the love and care she put into it for us. Because she decided, we did not have to.

Your love box is another way to finish well. It will be your final, tangible, "I love you."

Yvette Outler is a Dave Ramsey's Solution Master Financial Coach. If you are in over your head in debt and need hope and help, contact her at Fiscallyfree7@gmail.com.

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<p>LEG QUARTERS</p> <p>10 lb. Bag \$6⁹⁵</p> <p><small>Expires 3-5-24 WJ Limit 2 With this Coupon</small></p>	<p>5 lb. Bag Assorted PORK CHOPS</p> <p>\$7⁹⁵</p> <p><small>Expires 3-5-24 WJ While Supplies Last With this Coupon</small></p>
<p>USDA Whole T-BONES</p> <p>\$4⁹⁵ lb.</p> <p><small>Expires 3-5-24 WJ Limit 2 With this Coupon</small></p>	<p>Lee's Smoked SLAB BACON</p> <p><i>Sliced the way you like it!</i></p> <p>\$4⁹⁹ lb.</p> <p><small>WHOLE OR HALF Expires 3-5-24 WJ With this Coupon</small></p>
<p>Small Lite Pork SPARE RIBS</p> <p>2-3 Pack \$1⁷⁹ lb.</p> <p><small>Expires 3-5-24 WJ With this Coupon</small></p>	<p>Bone-in CHUCK ROAST</p> <p>\$4⁹⁵ lb.</p> <p><small>Expires 3-5-24 WJ Limit 3, With this Coupon</small></p>
<p>Grade A Large White EGGS</p> <p>\$6⁹⁵ /Flat</p> <p><i>That's 2 1/2 Dozen!</i></p> <p><small>Expires 3-5-24 WJ Limit 3 Flats</small></p>	<p>10 lb. Bag FRYER DRUMSTICKS</p> <p>\$6⁹⁵</p> <p><small>Expires 3-5-24 WJ With this Coupon</small></p>

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New Bee Apiary at the NE FL Fairgrounds

Gretchen Santos

The buzz is in the air as the Nassau County Beekeepers Association prepares to unveil their latest addition to the community – a brand new Bee Apiary. The association cordially invites all bee enthusiast and curious minds to join them for a ribbon cutting ceremony on Saturday, March 2 at 11 a.m. at the Northeast Florida Fairgrounds on US 1 in Callahan, marking the official opening of the apiary. The event promises a delightful day filled with educational opportunities and savory delights. Festivities include a ribbon cutting and apiary dedication, with the aroma of Callahan BBQ tantalizing the senses as lunch is served at noon.

Following lunch (around 1 p.m.), the association will host a special beehive split mentoring session, providing valuable insights into the art and science of beekeeping, led by our Vice President Myron Beechy. Whether you're a seasoned apiarist or a novice enthusiast, there's something for everyone to learn. "We're thrilled to open our doors to the community and share our passion for beekeeping," says Gretchen Santos, Membership Coordinator N.C. Beekeepers Association. "This event is a fantastic opportunity for individuals to get up close and personal with these incredible



pollinators and learn about the vital role they play in our ecosystem."

For those interested in participating, please note that safety is a paramount. All attendees will be required to wear a veil and sign a waiver before entering the apiary area. We also recommend loose fitting pants and a long sleeve shirt (or a bee suit/jacket).

Admission to the event is free but if you are planning on joining us for lunch, lunch is \$5 for members of the Nassau County Beekeepers Association and \$10 for non-members. However, non-members need not fret, as they can join the association on the spot. Membership fees are \$20 per person or \$35 per couple, granting access to a wealth of resources, workshops and networking opportunities throughout the year.

Don't miss out on this unique change to connect with nature and fellow bee enthusiasts. Make plans this Saturday, March 2 to join the Nassau County Beekeepers Association for a day filled with excitement, learning, and of course, the sweet hum of bees.

To RSVP, please visit our Facebook page: Nassau County Beekeepers Association.

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New Beginnings and Milestones

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. Townsend Celebrate 63rd Anniversary



Thomas and Emma Townsend celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary on February 25. They met in Jacksonville and were married in West Florida February 25, 1961.

They have two children, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Thanks for all the Godly values you have instilled in us over the years. You are an inspiration to all of us. Happy Anniversary!

Love,
Your children and grandchildren

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Stephens to Celebrate 38th Anniversary

Paul and Gloria Stephens, of Hilliard, will celebrate their 38th wedding anniversary March 3. They were married March 3, 1986 in Jacksonville. Congratulations on celebrating 38 wonderful years as "A Long and Lasting Love" couple!



McKelvy is Regional Wrestling Champ



Congratulations to Hilliard Middle-Senior High School senior, Nolan McKelvy on becoming the 175lb 1A R1 Regional Wrestling Champion. Nolan competes for Fernandina Beach High School. He will travel with three other Regional Champs from Fernandina Beach High to Kissimmee this Thursday, Friday and Saturday to compete for State.

Good Luck, Nolan!

New Listings

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POOL HOME! Charming 4 bedroom, 2 bath home in the desirable Green Meadow subdivision. This 1,874sf residence boasts custom plantation shutters throughout, adding a touch of elegance to every room. The kitchen features updated appliances and stylish brick veneer accent wall, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere. A spacious utility building with a small AC window unit provides ample storage and versatility. Enjoy the peace of mind knowing that the roof was replaced in 2021 and take advantage of the community's low HOA fees and absence of CDD fees. Don't miss out on this well-maintained gem, offering both comfort and convenience.



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MULTI-FAMILY YARD SALE & BAKE SALE, Saturday, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m., 27206 Missouri St., Hilliard. Home décor, kid's clothes, books, etc. Too much to list!

North Hilliard Baptist Church, 552823 US HWY1, **INDOOR YARD SALE,** Friday & Saturday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Lots of variety! Something for everyone!

VFW POST 10095 YARD SALE! Saturday, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., across from the Hilliard Airpark. Rain or shine! \$5 Bag Day. New donations. Come help support your Veterans!

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC DISPOSITION. Topaz Oaks Storage, located at 45160 Ewing Park Rd., Callahan, FL 32011, does hereby give notice of a Public Disposition of storage contents on March 15, 2024, at 10 a.m. in accordance with the Florida Self Storage Act Statutes (Section 83.801-83.809). Seller reserves the right to withdraw property from disposition at any time. Property includes contents of the spaces of the following tenants: Adrianna Mims; and Angie Dover. 31424

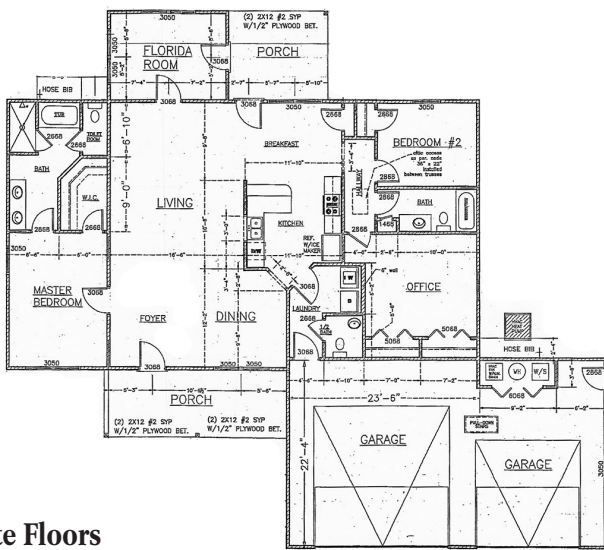
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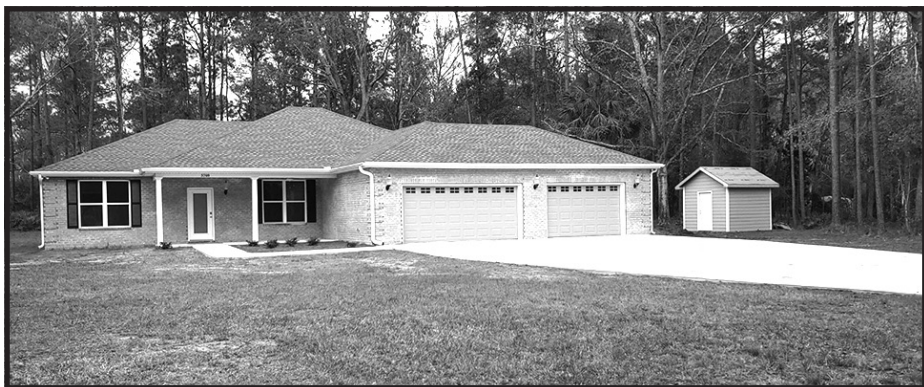
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Who Will Prevent the Fire?

Douglas C. Pearson, Sr.

Friday, February 16, 2024, was reminiscent of some time ago and yet of things to come. I, like so many others, could not help but see the irony in the death of Alexi Navalny, in a Russian prison, and the corresponding "findings" in the Trump allegations in a New York City Courtroom on that same day. On the one hand, Navalny's most offensive crime was his vocal opposition to the Russian President. He was a lawyer and an outspoken critic that the Russian 'political system' determined was a threat to their stability. Mr. Putin had made it clear that would not be tolerated and he, and his advisors, created so many false charges against him that he fled the country. Then, because he loved his homeland so much, he returned and was poisoned, incarcerated, prosecuted, sentenced, and met an ultimately death in what can only be described as an old Soviet style Gulag in arctic Siberia.

Back to the alleged freedoms of the United States, a former president was charged, prosecuted and found guilty of a crime where there were no victims, no loss of monies and no credible offenses committed and all business dealings/payments were paid off on time and in full. His sentence is a fine of \$364 million, restricted from doing any business in the state of New York for three years, restricted from any applications of financial dealings for three years and, oh yeah, he must pay the fine within 30 days. Let me get this straight, he has to pay a huge fine and can no longer do any business (for 3 years) to earn money to pay for the fine? By the way, the restrictions on those business dealings include all of his family members too, none of whom were on trial.

All this, because a state Attorney General's campaign promise was to prosecute Donald Trump, three years ago! AND, because the presiding judge, who declared him guilty before the trial ever began, would

not permit the defendant to put on any form of defense (I don't want to hear from you). AND, primarily because a political party did/does not want this man, who is clearly more qualified to compete for the highest office in the land, to have the opportunity to even challenge the electorate for that office. Subsequent indictments to come all smack of a similar 'political system' that is well established in the former Soviet Union.

Nearly 65 years ago, an incident happened that many termed as "The Day the Music Died." That was a plane crash, in Clear Lake, Iowa, that killed three very popular and historically destined pop music stars. So, impacting on society, musical icons created the song by that name, which memorialized those three and it continues today.

I submit that February 16, 2024 was the day our republic was admitted to the Critical Care Unit. Surgery was accomplished that removed some vital organs to our body politic. The prognosis is yet to be determined, but several future surgeries are planned to remove more vital organs to allegedly provide a cure. Unfortunately, the 'doctors' accomplishing these surgeries are forgetting the primary rule of medicine. To paraphrase part of that Hippocratic Oath; First of all, do no harm! This may just be Chapter One, in the book "The Fall of the U.S.A."

So far as the body politic is concerned, both Russia and the United States of America have one thing in common. Both were founded upon revolutions. To realize that, it is no doubt that we must understand the following: "The surest way to prevent seditions is to take away the matter of them; for if there be fuel prepared, it is hard to tell whence the spark shall come that shall set it on fire." - Francis Bacon

The fuel has been prepared and the supply is abundant. Who will be the one to eliminate the conditions to prevent the fire? We're still waiting for that brave soul to step up.

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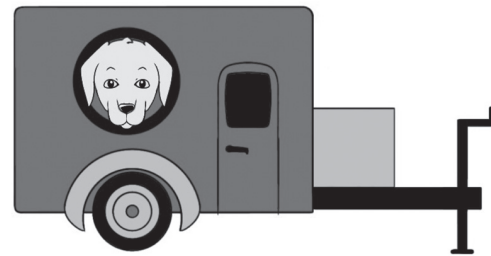
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ISABEL POWELL BEASLEY

 Isabel McCormick Powell Beasley, 97, of Jacksonville, passed away peacefully February 23, 2024, at Community Hospice Hadlow Center. She was born September 13, 1926 to the late John Claude McCormick and Effie Mae Geiger McCormick in Jacksonville. Isabel was a member of First Baptist Church Boulougne in Hilliard. She was a Godly woman who loved worshipping the Lord. She also enjoyed reading her Bible and spending peaceful time at the beach. Isabel was the glue that held her family together. Her family was very precious to her, and she loved spending time, making memories with them. Isabel meant so much to so many people and will be dearly missed by all who knew her. She was preceded in death by her parents: first husband Doyle H. Powell; second husband Prentice Beasley; daughter Gloria J. Powell; stepson Robert Beasley; grandchildren David Neal, John Young and John O'Quinn, IV; brother Charlie McCormick; sisters Claudia Cooke and Mary Shuford; nephew Claude McCormick; and son-in-law John O'Quinn.

Isabel leaves behind her children Doyle (Neal) Young, Doyle A. (Deborah) Powell, April O'Quinn, Virgil Beasley and Shane Beasley; 17 grandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren; and six great-great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers were Warren Treadwell, Austen Treadwell, Darin Young, Bennett Harris, Brent Marti, Jeff Van Den Meiracker. Honorary pallbearers were Jackson Young, Gabriel Young, Jordan Fall, Cody Fall, Ryan Baumann, David Marti, Travis O'Quinn and Virgil Beasley.

A celebration of Isabel's life was held February 28 at Nassau Funeral Home with Pastor Roger Fall officiating. Interment followed at Oakwood Cemetery. The family received friends prior to the service.

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

OBITUARIES

COHEN CRUE COPHER



Cohen Crue Copher took his first steps into the arms of Jesus on February 19, 2024, at his home in Callahan. Cohen's presence, laughter, smile and light will be missed more than his parents have the words to describe.

Cohen was born on February 9, 2018, to Christian and Kayla Copher, joining his siblings Carson and Cambri Copher. Throughout his six years with us, Cohen filled countless lives with joy and love. His big smile and contagious giggle brought happiness to everyone he met. Our family is forever changed and forever grateful to have spent this brief, but incredibly meaningful, time with our sweet Cohen. He was preceded in death by his great grandfathers Marvin Rowell and Charles "Rocky" Mistler.

Cohen will be forever cherished and remembered by his parents; siblings; grandparents Joseph and Sharon Howell and Shawn and Angela Copher; his great-grandparents Minnie Rowell, Bill and Minnie Howell, Bonnie Mistler, Ron and Roberta Miller, and Ira and Becky Copher; along with numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

The family received friends Thursday, February 22 at Callahan First Baptist Church. The funeral service was held Friday, February 23, also at the church with Dr. Lynn Hyatt officiating. Cohen was laid to rest at Brandy Branch Cemetery in Bryceville.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in Cohen's name to Dreams Come True of Jacksonville.

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

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

CYNTHIA MARIE GRIFFIS



Cynthia "Cindy" Marie Griffis, 68, of Callahan, passed away February 23, 2024. She was born June 9, 1955, in St. Cloud, Minnesota to the late Harold and Donna Knettel. Cindy graduated from St. Benedict's all girl Catholic high school in 1973. After graduating, Cindy enrolled at St. Cloud Community Business College for court reporting. She moved to Florida and started her 47-year career as a court reporter. In 1995, Cindy became partners in Official Reporters Inc. in Jacksonville. In 1993, Cindy met the love of her life, Dwight, and they later married in December 1999. She enjoyed being out on the boat or the beach with her husband Dwight, sharks tooth hunting, going to casinos and playing slot machines with her daughter, Shellie, and friends, traveling to tropical places and spending time with her grandchildren. Cindy will always be remembered for her love for her family and zest for life. She will hold a special place in the hearts of so many. Cindy is preceded in death by her parents Harry Knettel (1993) and Donna Knettel (2020); and brothers Steve Knettel (2008) and Kevin Knettel (1990).

Cindy is survived by her husband, Dwight Griffis; her daughters Shellie Kropff, Casey (Mark) Kerlin and Daphne (Andy) Moeller; seven grandchildren Gage, Lexi, Sutton, Aspen, Andie Kate, George and August "Dewey"; and one great-granddaughter Lullah.

The family will receive friends Thursday, February 29 from 5 - 7 p.m. at Nassau Funeral Home. A celebration of Cindy's life will be held Friday, March 1 at 12 p.m. at Nassau Funeral Home with Chaplain Jim Cox officiating. Interment

will follow at Jones Cemetery. Arrangements by Nassau Funeral Home, Callahan, 904-879-1770. Visit www.nassaufh.com to sign the family's guest book.

LUCIOUS LIVINGSTON



Mr. Lucious "Moye" Livingston, 74, of Hilliard, passed away peacefully Saturday, Feb 17, 2024, at the Douglas Center for Caring in Jacksonville. His loving wife Becky was by his side as she had been for many months during his lengthy illness. Moye was born in Eastman, Georgia, but lived grew up in Rhine, Georgia before moving to Jacksonville. He was a retired truck driver and a naturally talented jack-of-all-trades. He loved fixing things and helping others. Moye was dependable and valued friend to those who knew him. He kept a small circle of friends and acquaintances, but he loved them fiercely. He was a quiet man most of the time. He was an avid Georgia Bulldog fan, loved to hunt, fish, play darts, camp and eat fried catfish. He was also a TV junkie watching old westerns. Moye is preceded in death by his biological mother Jessie Mae Livingston; his adoptive father Moye Conner, Sr.; and adoptive mother Addie Moye Conner; brothers and sisters Ronnie, James, Ann and Judy.

He is survived by his wife of 30 years, Becky Petty Livingston; son Jason Hackney (Josh Schuster) of Jacksonville; siblings Dan, Bobby, and Janice; as well as multiple nieces and nephews, friends and extended family.

Moye's wishes was to not have a service. Arrangements by Guerry Funeral Home, Macclenny.

Condolences for the family may be expressed at: www.guerryfuneralhome.net.



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OBITUARIES

RICHARD WAYNE MCCONNELL



Richard Wayne McConnell, 75, of Hilliard, went home to be with the Lord February 19, 2024, surrounded by his loving family. He was born December 24, 1948, in Kingsport, Tennessee to the late Henry Webster (Mac) and Mildred Culbertson McConnell. Throughout his life, he embodied the values of faith, service, and leadership, leaving an indelible mark on all who knew him. As a devout Christian, Richard lived his life guided by the principles of love, compassion and humility. His unwavering faith served as a beacon of light, inspiring those around him to seek goodness and grace in every aspect of life. Richard found solace and strength in his relationship with God and his spiritual journey enriched the lives of countless individuals. He spent many years serving as Sunday School Superintendent at the Callahan Church of God and Boulogne Holiness where he facilitated many programs and activities that served the community as well as the church.

Richard had a profound impact on the community as a dedicated Boy Scout leader for over five years. He believed in the power of mentorship and spent countless hours nurturing the next generation of leaders. Through his guidance and unwavering support, he instilled in his Scouts the values of integrity, perseverance and service to others. Richard's legacy lives on in the hearts of the many young men whose lives he touched.

Richard had a strong work ethic, and at the age of 9, he eagerly began his career by working odd jobs to help support his family. However, it was his passion for the open road that truly defined his life's work. Richard was a lifelong truck driver and enjoyed hauling cars for Centurion Auto Transport where he was lovingly known as, Eight Ball. He cherished having his wife accompany him for long trips and enjoyed

the camaraderie of fellow drivers. When he retired from Centurion, Richard started a firewood business which he operated for 15 years. His friendly demeanor and warm smile left a lasting impression on all who crossed his path. Beyond his career, Richard was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He cherished moments spent with his family, creating memories that will be valued for generations to come. Richard is preceded in death by his parents; and sister Victoria McConnell.

Richard is survived by his wife of 56 years, Janet McConnell; sons Ricky (Nicole) McConnell and Brett (Carol) McConnell; six grandchildren Brianna (Shawn) Chafin, TaRanda McConnell, Caleb (Brooke) Daugherty, Morgan Wilson, Tanner (Erica) McConnell and Gage McConnell; as well as five great-grandchildren Teagan Guzman, Memphis, Mallory, McKenna and Maebry Chafin; siblings Rhonda Daughtry and Donald (Kathy) McConnell; and several extended family members and a multitude of lifelong friends.

A celebration of Richard's life was held Thursday, February 22 at Boulogne Holiness Church with Pastor Andrew Gillis and Pastor Dwight Allen officiating. Interment followed at Jones Cemetery in Callahan. The family received friends February 21 at Nassau Funeral Home.

Pallbearers were Terry Bell, Curtis Gaus, Scott Daughtry, Shawn Chafin, Dalton and Dylan Liddell. Honorary pallbearers were Richard Nitowitz, Phillip Thompson, Dale Rowan, Alexander Herrington, Jimmy Mears, Mike Kelly, Randy Kelly, Marty Kelly and Joey Liddell.

In lieu of flowers, monetary donations may be made directly to the funeral home in Richard's name to help cover the costs

of services.

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

RICKY POPE



Ricky Pope went to be with our Lord February 16, 2024. He was 67 years old. Ricky was fondly called husband, father, papa and friend. He held many titles throughout his life and never knew a stranger. From millworker, to entertainer, to keys player, to loyal friend and confidant, but his greatest title was dad.

Throughout Ricky's life, his greatest passion was music and who he played with. He loved sharing his musical talents with others. His first gig began with his family and he played with them until he was 18 years old, and he would talk about it to anyone who would listen. He then began playing with the Fowlers and other groups. In his later years, he played with the Double Trouble Show Band, along with several other acts and opening several artists, including Neil McCoy and Loretta Lynn. Ricky Pope was known for his music but he was also known for his sense of humor. He had a gift to make others laugh and smile, and his jokes (no matter how many times they were repeated) will be missed by those who knew him. While Ricky has left us far too soon, he is home, and the impact he had on all of us will be felt for years to come. He is preceded in death by this brother Bryan Pope; his parents Jack and Hulda Pope; and his grandson Logan Higginbotham.

He is survived by his wife Pam Pope; three daughters Kelsey Pope, Krista Pope and Dana Pope; stepson Dale Cochran; seven grandchildren Summer Rue, Lane Rue, Clay Higginbotham and Landon

Higginbotham, Colby Cochran, Ian Cochran, Eli Cochran; and his best little buddy, Otis.

A celebration of life service will be held Saturday March 2 at 10 a.m. at the Anchor Church, 541798 US-1, Callahan.

Arrangements by Green Pine Funeral Home, Yulee.

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

AUDREY MAE THOMPSON



Audrey M. Thompson, 96, formerly of Callahan, passed away February 18, 2024 in Jacksonville. Audrey was born December 11, 1927 to Ernest Grooms Murray and Mary Magdalene Sikes. She was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister and friend. She worked many years as a substitute teacher (most at West Nassau High School) and was a member of Callahan First Baptist Church. During her spare time, Audrey enjoyed gardening.

She is survived by her son Michael Thompson and his wife Monique; granddaughters Megan (Joshua) Ocean, Kayla Thompson and Hannah Thompson; great-grandsons Jayden Ocean and Liam Ocean; great-granddaughter Emmalyn Ocean; and sister Mary Kathleen "Kitty" Blanton. Audrey is preceded in death by her husband George Neal Thompson (Dec. 2023), they were married for 72 years.

The family received friends Wednesday, February 28 at Callahan First Baptist Church, prior to the funeral service. Burial followed at Mill Creek Primitive Cemetery, Hilliard.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations made to the Store House Ministry at Callahan First Baptist Church.

Arrangements by Hardage-Giddens Riverside Funeral Home, Jacksonville.



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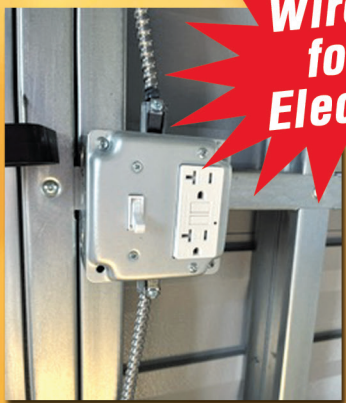
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