

**Pray
to God for
Our Nation!**

WESTSIDE JOURNAL

**SPRING
AHEAD**
Daylight Saving Time Begins
Sunday, March 10

VOLUME XX ISSUE 31

HOMETOWN PEOPLE...HOMETOWN NEWS

THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2024

BUT HE SAID TO ME, "MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR YOU, FOR MY POWER IS MADE PERFECT IN WEAKNESS." - 2 CORINTHIANS 12:9

"Follow the Water Program" Wins Excellence Award



Shown are: Assistant County Manager Marshall Eyerman; Extension Director Dr. Taylor Clem; Assistant Planning Director Gabriel Quintas; and Director of Strategic Advancement Brandy Carvalho.

The UF/IFAS Extension Northeast District which includes Nassau, Baker & Duval Counties, has earned an Award of Excellence in Environmental Stewardship from the Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) for its "Follow the Water Program." All three Districts were recognized during the NEFRC's Annual Awards Luncheon.

The "Follow the Water Program" was created and launched by Extension Agents, including Nassau County's Extension Director Dr. Taylor Clem, in the Northeast Extension District to educate residents on watersheds and protecting Florida's water resources. The program includes a 4-day educational tour that "follows a drop of water from southern Georgia to the Gulf of Mexico". Each step along the tour allows participants to explore nature, develop a deeper understanding of relationships to watersheds, and explore the efforts to enhance and protect Florida's water resources. Participants begin their tour in the headwaters of the Suwannee River – the Okefenokee Swamp. The Suwannee River basin is one of the least developed watersheds in Florida and is the largest undammed river in the Southeastern U.S. However, watersheds, including the Suwannee

River watershed, and their water resources are threatened by increased urbanization and consumption.

Participants learn about the swamp and its vital role in shaping and maintaining watershed health. The second day explores Florida's unique karst geology and its influence on the Suwannee River. Additionally, participants meet with agricultural researchers and water management district representatives to learn about the strategies to protect the watershed. During the third day, participants step outside the Suwannee River watershed to explore an urban watershed – Sweetwater Branch. Participants explore innovative projects that help restore watershed health, including manufactured wetlands, brownfield site redevelopment, and low-impact design principles, which help mitigate nonpoint source pollutants associated with urbanization. On the final day, participants meet at the Nature Coast Page 2 of 2 Biological Station in Cedar Key, to learn about coastal ecosystems and the impacts upstream water quality has on our vital fisheries in the state.

FTW has been offered six times since 2020 with 58 participants completing the training, including alumni events.

HILLIARD BOYS BASKETBALL CLASS 1A STATE RUNNER UP



Last week, the Hilliard High School Flashes basketball team traveled to Lakeland to compete in the Final Four tournament for the Class 1A State Championship. On Friday, they played Crossroad Academy Charter School from Quincy and beat them by a score of 49-36. With that win, the Flashes were set to play Williston High School Saturday night in the championship.

The Flashes team played a tough game and was supported by many fans that traveled to Lakeland to cheer them on with the many fans also streaming the game from home. At the half, the Flashes only trailed by four with a score of 24-28. The Flashes fought hard the entire game, keeping the score within 4 points until the 4th quarter when Williston's depth in players became apparent. The Flashes came up short

losing by a score of 53-61. They played with heart and stamina and made their hometown fans so very proud of their achievements. The Flashes ended their season with a commanding 25 wins and 3 losses.

This year's team has five seniors, Kevin Thomas, Brandyn Seldomridge, Malcom Warthen, Braydon Holley and Nate Vroman. Top scorer for the season was junior, CJ Hall with a total of 372 points followed by senior Warthen with 321. The team also includes DJ Alderman, James Foster, Ethan Garland, Javone Lee, King McMillian, Anthony Neu, Justin Bennett, and Christopher Church with Head Coach Myron Saunders and Assistant Coaches Carlous Hall, Dennis Alderman and Holden Whiten.

Congratulations Flashes!

The program provides approximately 32 hours of education per person valued at \$92,000. Participant surveys showed a sustained increase in connectedness to water, and after one year, 13 of the 14 respondents reported changes in environmental-related behaviors, including one participant who began a career in water resource communication. Collectively, participants reported sharing FTW information with 2,209 individuals. The FTW team will host 2024 training and alumni events, but also plans on providing training programs to other extension agents and communities interested in adopting similar programs. "The Follow the Water Program unveils the role we all play

within our watersheds. By improving connectedness Floridians have with water through this program, we know they'll increase their likelihood of adopting water conservation practices and sharing that information with others. This is important because every decision, every action, no matter where we live, is linked directly to water; the driver of Florida's social, economic, and environmental well-being," stated Dr. Taylor Clem.

Registration for the next program is currently open with program dates of May 16, May 23, May 30 and June 6, 2024. To learn more visit: <http://sites.google.com/ufl.edu/followthewater>.

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An Evening with the Stars Opens Friday



St. Marys Little Theatre will open its 5th production of "An Evening with the Stars" on Friday, March 8 with a performance that begins a two-weekend run at Theater by the Trax in St. Marys. Audiences who experienced the 2023 Evening with the Stars performances demanded a comeback, so Writer and Co-director Barbara Ryan re-invented the show that will now feature 28 new celebrity impersonator appearances. St. Marys Little Theatre's impressive pool of talent will be channeling some of the entertainment world's most popular stars performing their most popular hits or acts during four evening and two matinee shows. "We've mixed some

comedy in with several music genres from country to pop to rock," said Gloria Hurley, Co-director.

This year's feature acts will include Billie Holiday, Vince Gill, Patsy Cline, Lou Rawls, Etta James, Cher, Nat King Cole, Linda Ronstadt, Mae West, Mr. Rogers, and much more. "There is something for everyone in the 'Evening with the Stars' lineup," said Hurley. "This will be a fast-paced show that will take some people down memory lane and inspire others to explore the great music that America loves."

Performances of "An Evening with the Stars" are March 8, 9, 15, and 16 at 7 p.m.; and March 10 and 17 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids 12 and under. Groups of ten or more get a discount. Tickets can be purchased online at: www.stmaryslittletheatre.com or in downtown St. Marys at Once Upon a Bookseller. Call 912-322-2479 for more information.

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.

In Response

Dear Editor,

1. Using campaign money to silence a porn star is a crime. 2. Lying about your assets value to get loans or insurance is a crime. He was able to get better interests rates and other provisions that he would not have gotten if he was truthful. For millions of dollars. You try it and see if it works for you. 3. He is on tape and many of his administration has already testified about trying to overturn the election. Everyone in his circle told him it was not rigged. This is a crime. You try it. 4. No one that looks at the footage of January 6th believes that it was supposed to be peaceful or that Trump did not know about it. He did nothing. He allowed members of our government to be threatened with death, and 5 people lost their lives that day. This is a crime.

Every week I read about you worried that the democrats are communists. What is your proof? You go between Biden is so old he can't do anything, to he is so smart he's a crime machine. Again, with no proof. Trump wants to turn the United States into the next Russia. Just ask Tucker Carlson.

Mr. Pearson - That you find any irony in the death of Nalvalny and the charges against Trump is absurd. Trump is not your savior. He will turn on you as quickly as he has done everyone else. And remember if Trump wins his immunity case, that will apply to the current President as well.

"The Party told you to reject the evidence of your eyes and ears. It was their final, most essential command." -George Orwell, 1984

Bonita Collins

AMERICA at War

Dear Editor,

The airwaves and the Congress are brim full of the controversial issues surrounding both the Israeli-Homas and the Russo-Ukraine Wars. Yet the multilevel war going on in America gets little or no attention. Underneath all the subterfuge, what appears a foundational conflict is rooted in America's Mammom Obsession, ie. Money.

One philosophy, associated with the Republican Party, is that citizens pay their fair share of the bill to support the country. While the Democratic Party supports a principle that everyone should have a free pass from financial responsibility like illegal immigrants who have no desire to be citizens and want to be granted the rights and privileges of the rest of us.

While Biden's Administration pays off college loans, free medical care, housing and food to the huddled masses, as if the country has unlimited financial resources. That will ultimately lead to either China owning us or Bin Laden's dream come true, they bankrupt the country, either having dire implications for every responsible citizen.

As the Democrats have proven their inability to get things done that are good for America, they are unquestionably adept at lying to the public, second only to the Nazis. This fact accounts for their fear and hatred of Donald Trump who shows them up for what they are by achieving on our behalf.

God Bless the Supreme Court and Comfort Program Hosts at CNN, The Democratic Party Network, whose tear ducts are working overtime over Trump's triumphs.

B. R. McConnell

FREE WEDNESDAY COMMUNITY DINNER
5 p.m. • Callahan Methodist Church • Walk up
Located beside Callahan Elementary School

In the Kitchen... Broccoli Chicken Divan

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1 lb. chopped fresh broccoli | ½ cup milk |
| 1 ½ cups cubed, cooked chicken meat | ½ cup shredded Cheddar cheese |
| 1 (10.5 oz.) can condensed cream of broccoli soup | 2 tablespoons dried bread crumbs |
| | 1 tablespoon butter, melted |

Preheat the oven to 450°. Place broccoli in a saucepan with enough water to cover. Bring to a boil and cook until tender, about 5 minutes. Drain. Place the cooked broccoli in a 9 inch pie plate. Top with the chicken. In a bowl, mix the soup and milk, and pour over the chicken. Sprinkle with Cheddar cheese. Mix the melted butter with the bread crumbs, and sprinkle over the cheese. Bake in the preheated oven until casserole is bubbly and the top is golden brown, about 15 minutes.



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Cathy Le Wins County Spelling Bee

Let's give a round of applause to Hilliard Middle-Senior High School's Cathy Le, the newest Nassau County Spelling Bee Champion! Cathy's victory has everyone buzzing with excitement! Brittanie Galarza-Vergara from



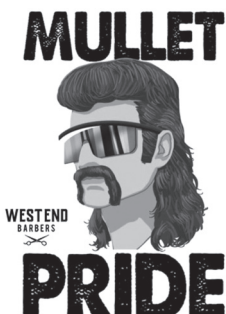
Callahan Middle School was the runner-up. Please join us in congratulating these young ladies on their accomplishments! Thank you to the Optimist Club for supporting this event year after year.

Twelve students competed from Bryceville Elementary, Callahan Intermediate, Callahan Middle, Emma Love Hardee, Fernandina Beach Middle, Hilliard Elementary, Wildlight Elementary, Yulee Elementary, Yulee Middle, St Michael Academy and Faith Christian School.



Mullet Contest Hosted by Westend Barbers

Westend Barbers is hosting a Mullet Contest. Start growing yours now so you can be a part of the contest. Contestants are asked to come out and show your best mullet on Friday, March 29 at 5:30 p.m. Open to men, women and children to show off their mullets. Enjoy food, refreshments, prizes, trophies and bragging rights for the top mullets! The event will be held Friday, March 29 at 5:30 p.m. at Westend Barbers, 450061 SR 200, Ste. 4 (beside Junior's Seafood).



EVENTS AROUND TOWN

The Country Star Quilt Guild meets the second Monday of each month at The Anchor Church in Callahan at 7 p.m. All are welcome!

West Nassau High School SAC meeting will be held Wednesday, March 13 at 3:15 p.m. in the media center.

The West Nassau Genealogical Society meets the second Monday of each month at the Callahan Lions Club at 10:30 a.m. Visitors are welcome!

If you or a loved one have been a victim of Domestic Violence, FREE Domestic Violence Support Group. For time, date and location, call for more details: (904) 548-7312.

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JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

Well, well, well, Nikki Haley finally won her first primary victory. After a lot of money spent and a great deal of time devoted to the citizens there, she pulled off the victory in Washington D.C. This has to be a bright spot in her run for president, knowing the Washington elite voted for her. Of course, Kermit the Frog could have easily beat Trump in the pits of Washington D.C. As Karoline Leavitt stated, "While Nikki has been soundly rejected throughout the rest of America, she was just crowned Queen of the Swamp by the lobbyists and DC insiders that want to protect the failed status quo. The swamp has claimed their queen."

Then, on Monday the SCOTUS rules 9-0, unanimously that states cannot prohibit Donald Trump from their ballots. They declared that states have no power over federal elections. Put that in your pipes and smoke it, Colorado!

On a lighter side, think about this: 1.) Cows, 2.) The Constitution and 3.) The Ten Commandments. Cows: Is it just me, or does anyone else find it amazing that during the mad cow epidemic our government could track a single cow, born in Canada almost three years later, right to the stall where she slept in the state of Washington? And, they tracked her calves to their stalls. But they are unable to locate 11 million illegal aliens wandering around our country. Maybe we should give each of them a cow instead of a cell phone.

They keep talking about helping Iraq to write a Constitution...why don't we just give them ours? It was written by a lot of really smart guys, it has worked for over 200 years, and we're not using it anymore. The Ten Commandments: The real reason that we can't have the Ten Commandments posted in a courthouse is this...you cannot post: Thou Shalt Not Steal, Though Shalt Not Commit Adultery and Thou Shalt Not Lie in a building full of lawyers, judges and politicians. It creates a hostile work environment! Portions copied from unknown author.

Bill O'Reilly posted, "So, Hunter Biden testified under oath in front of two congressional committees that his father, the President, knew nothing about how he amassed tens of millions of dollars. Not one tiny thing. Nada. Don't even think about it because he had no idea foreign people were wiring his son huge amounts of cash. Hunter also purports that the entire situation is political, and no one should believe a word of it. It's a Trump/Republican/MAGA plot designed to destroy Joe Biden, the greatest dad in the world. Democrats immediately belted out a series of Hosannas, completely accepting Hunter's analysis as fact. Come on, who could possibly disbelieve Hunter Biden?"

Isn't it funny how the ones committing crimes are all "such a good boy?"

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

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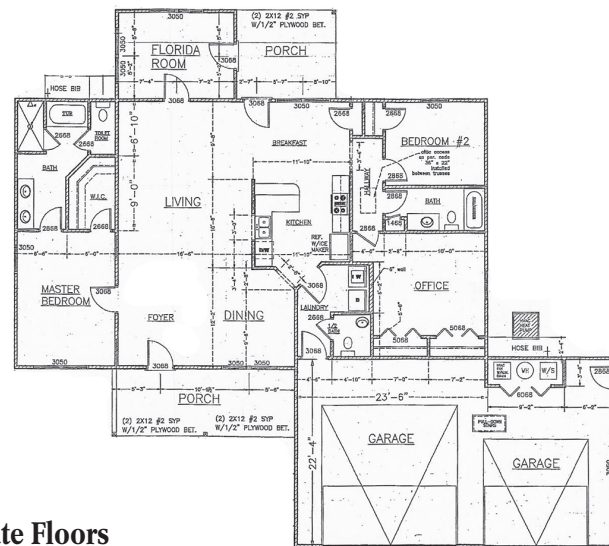
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The Disconnect

Pastor Marty Paparo, Friendship Alliance Church, Callahan



Sometimes it seems like there is a disconnect between what we believe and how we behave. Sometimes we say we believe the Word of God, but our actions don't match up with what we profess. Why is that? Why do we confess one thing and do another?

Paul articulated this feeling so well in Romans 7:19-25a., "For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. So, I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?"

Paul presents the problem, but then shows us the solution: "Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!" Praise God that He has chosen to deliver us from ourselves.

So how do we apply it? The New Testament is loaded with verses instructing us in following God. But I think the first step is to believe Him and trust Him. "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19. What greater need do we have than to be rescued from ourselves? "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7. The God we serve can be trusted. And the place He wants us most is dependent on Him. "But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong." 2 Corinthians 12:9-10.

This is the place where it all comes together. When we are fully dependent on Him, when we look the weakest from the outside, He is stronger. That is when we follow Him with all of our self. That's the place where what we say we believe and how we live become connected. And that's the best possible place we can be.

CHURCH NEWS

Lannie Road Baptist Church, 5998 Lannie Rd., Jacksonville monthly Gospel Sing will be held Friday, March 8 at 7:30 p.m. featuring Phillips & Banks and hosts The Gospel Sounds. Refreshments will follow.

North Hilliard Baptist Church, 552823 US HWY 1, Revival March 10 - 12 from 6-8 p.m. with Dr. Phil Kidd preaching the 11th & 12th. Special music by Heart-to-Heart on the 10th.

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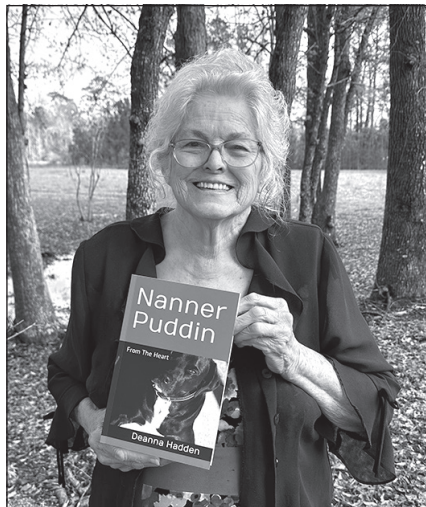
Callahan Methodist Church

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Hadden Book Signing Saturday



Ms. Deanna Hadden will hold a book signing for her new book, *Nanner Puddin*, this Saturday at 11 a.m. at Junior's Seafood in Callahan. *Nanner Puddin*, is a book about faith, love, friendship, caring about others and a small hometown. Ms. Deanna covers many local places and stories of those places in this book. She shares several Bible verses and special times with friends.

Following the passing of her husband Bill, Ms. Deanna felt the calling to publish a book about their life and love called *Cowboy Preacher Man*. After publishing the first book, she continued to write. "I can release my feelings and grief with my writing," said

Ms. Deanna. "It's good therapy. I miss my husband so much each day but I know he would want me to stay busy. I hope you enjoy my books."

Her second book, *Myrtle Byrtle the Purple Sea Monster*, was written as a children's book as she has children and grandchildren. "I'm just a people person. If I can touch someone's life, young or old, I've done my job and enjoy every minute of it.

Make sure to stop by Junior's Seafood in Callahan, Saturday at 11 a.m. and purchase one (or all) of Ms. Deanna's special treasures!

Look for us on Facebook!

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REVIVAL

MARCH 10 - 12

6 p.m.

North Hilliard Baptist Church

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Pastor Kyle Davis
March 10



Dr. Phil Kidd
March 11-12

True Faith Christian Fellowship

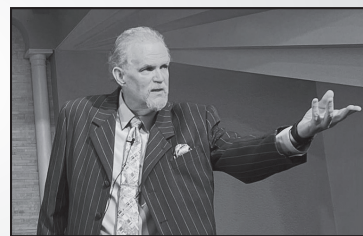
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Nancy Lee Bethea

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 know everyone has so much on their plates these days, but it sure seems we are busier than ever before. With the holidays over, the kids in school, and spring on its way, I have been going non-stop. Unfortunately, when the schedule is so packed, something has to give. In my case, the truck is almost one thousand miles past due for an oil change, I need to do some spring planting at the house, and then, there's my hair. I need a haircut...badly. My current hairdresser couldn't find an opening in her schedule, so I got an appointment where my mom used to get her hair done – a bona fide, Steel Magnolias-style beauty shop.

I'm not talking about a fancy hair salon or the corner barber shop, I'm talking about the classic southern beauty shop. The kind where hair is teased, bee-hive 'dos are created, but most importantly, the place where the very fabric of a community is woven.

As soon as I entered the shop, I experienced a rush of memories from my younger days. First, the jingle of a small set of bells sounded when I walked in, letting everyone know someone new had entered. The sticky sweet smell of hairspray mixed with the slightly chemical scent of hair color met my nose. I heard scissors clicking and the drone of a game show on the television. I saw cut hair in various colors carpeting



Naturally Nassau

Beauty Shop Talk

the floor, foil strip on ladies' heads, and felt warm drafts from bowl-style hair dryers. But the friendly banter amongst everyone is what stood out most to me.

"Hey, Hon, can we help you?" one of the hairdressers asked when she noticed me waiting at the front counter.

"Just a quick trim," I replied.

"We can do that! Just hold tight, and we will be with you in a few minutes."

Excited and relieved, I found a seat. A stack of magazines sat on the table beside me. This is Nassau County for crying out loud, so I expected to see publications like "Woods and Wetlands" or "Life on the Land" maybe even an issue of "Progressive Farmer." Instead, I observed stacks of old issues of "Southern Living" and "House Beautiful."

Soon, one of the hairdressers walked to the seating area and waved at one of the older ladies there. "Mrs. Pearl?" the beautician said, "How are you today?"

Then it hit me, Mrs. Pearl! She was my third-grade teacher. She had to be in her late 80's, and neither of us had recognized the other. After a few later, another beautician called for "Mr. Jack" who was Mrs. Pearl's husband. Apparently, he got a haircut every six months whether he needed it or not. Seemed to me he enjoyed the beauty shop ladies doting over him.

I glanced at my watch and realized "just a couple minutes" had already turned into 25! I wasn't even in the chair yet! I asked how much longer it would be. "There were just a few ahead of you in line, Hon," was the reply I received. If



I had only known.

My thoughts raced as I mentally listed all the things I needed to do... had I picked up Brianna's band uniform from the dry cleaners, when was Jacob's Reading Fair project due, when was my husband's art show with his students, would we go to Chicago to see John's father for Spring Break this year, and on and on. I thumbed through one of the magazines to calm myself. As I did, there were pages, or parts of pages, missing. I looked at the Table of Contents and figured out all the recipes were missing. Almost without fail, every recipe had been ripped out. Now I knew where all those secret sauces came from!

"Bethany, dear, how have you been?" I heard someone say. I saw she was one of our neighbors when I was a child. Then, I actually stopped and looked at the other people in the shop. I knew them all! One lady babysat me when I was little. Embarrassed I had focused only on myself since entering the shop, I greeted all of them.

Eventually, Brenda told me I was next. Turns out, she and I went to high school together. I hadn't seen her in

oh, so many years. After we graduated high school, she worked in the beauty shop along with her aunt, who owned it. Years later, she purchased the shop and had been running it for some time. As she cut my hair, I listened to the different ladies talking about their lives. Some talked about their medical problems, or what their grandkids were up to. I learned the local gossip about who just got married, how the food tasted at the new restaurant, and who would be making (sugar) cane syrup this year. Before long, my haircut was finished. I paid Brenda and said goodbye to the others in the shop. It had been an hour and a half since I had heard, "We will be with you in just a few minutes".

I paused with the realization. When I had taken my eyes off myself, the time had flown by. As I headed for the door, I thought about a quote from Eleanor Roosevelt. She said, "Great minds discuss ideas; average minds discuss events; small minds discuss people." While there may be some truth in her statement, there was also much wisdom and value in what I had just experienced.

I know those folks could have discussed ideas and events, but they were choosing to share information about themselves. For the good or the bad, beauty shop talk is one ingredient that flavors small town life.

Until next time and until I need my hair trimmed again, we will be learning and living our Naturally Nassau life.

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.

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This day and time, owning and operating your own business, a family business, is hard work.

In 1959, Lester Jones laid the foundation for Tropic Aire. From those days of serving Nassau County families and farmers home heating fuel and services to today's new technologies, a lot has changed!

The company, owned by Lester's son Jim Jones, continues to improve their business with new and innovative ways to help their customers. Their goal is to provide the best experience in air conditioning services that has brought them to the forefront of High Efficiency HVAC upgrades and new home construction. "Net Zero" is the designation and the ultimate goal for home construction. Many people have been homeowners for years, but have now decided to remodel instead of rebuilding. Tropic Aire can be helpful in performance remodeling with the HVAC system during the process. They have expanded their business to include



solar and electrical services all under the same roof.

Tropic Aire is the only Mitsubishi dealer in North Florida and South Georgia with the coveted Diamond Contractor Elite certification. They are the most experienced Ductless Contractor with in-house electrical services, Solar Energy and General Contracting, all under the same ownership and management.

In today's business climate, it's more important than ever to know who you are bringing into your home. "Unlike the many HVAC providers that have been sold in the last 36 months, I am proud to say that we are still the same local family owning and operating this



WNHS Softball Signs Four



Last Wednesday, West Nassau High School held signings for four of their softball players. The cafeteria was filled with team members, friends and family to support these great lady athletes. Congratulations to Sydney English who signed her letter of intent to Sante Fe Community College Saints in Gainesville; Madison Driggers to the College of Central Florida Patriots in Ocala; Mariah Kinard to Florida Gateway College Wolves in Lake City; and Peyton Studt to Florida State College of Jacksonville Blue Wave.

Good Luck to all of these ladies!



business," said Jim Jones. "For over 65 years, we have been at the same location with the same phone number. Our business is built on honesty, integrity and accountability, and we stand by them all."

With so much new construction and remodels going on, why not give them a call for an estimate. You never know what you might learn

and/or the cost savings that may be available for you. Tropic Aire invites you to visit their newly upgraded, user friendly website at: www.tropicaire.net to see what they have to offer. Or better

yet, stop by their showroom at 11828 New Kings Road, Jacksonville, 904-664-2768.

Just give Tropic Aire a try... you won't be disappointed!



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NEW CONSTRUCTION! This luxury home by a local builder has pocket doors, granite counters, stainless steel appliances and spacious rooms. The 3BR/2BA home is located conveniently near stores and schools, has city water and sewer, a spacious garage and a back porch to enjoy your morning coffee. MLS #107103



371662 HENRY SMITH RD. • HILLIARD, FL



This 3BR/2BA brick home sits on 5 acres just outside the Hilliard city limits. The family room has a woodburning fireplace and the large kitchen has plenty of cabinets. You'll have well and septic, an RV shed and a good sized pole barn. Bring the animals! MLS #106235



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All About Computers Celebrates 10 Years

Dawn S. West

Many people probably don't even know we have a working computer store right here in Callahan. By working computer store, I mean they work on your computer to make it work! I love my computer, however, when it doesn't do what I want it to, it is frustrating. That's the time you call on All About Computers (904-879-4049) and Frankie Gonzalez.

Frankie began working with computers years ago. He didn't own a computer but loved playing with them. The more he played the more he learned. He went to school and got his Tech Certification. With most things, especially computers, they are changing all the time, and yes, Frankie is on top of all the changes and continues to upgrade his certifications. He laughingly told me he was a full blown computer geek! As the corporate world continued to evolve Frankie decided to take a chance and step out on his own. Ten years ago, he rented his location where he is today. He is located at 450020 SR 200, Callahan, very close to the Roasted Rooster and directly across from Callahan Dollar General.

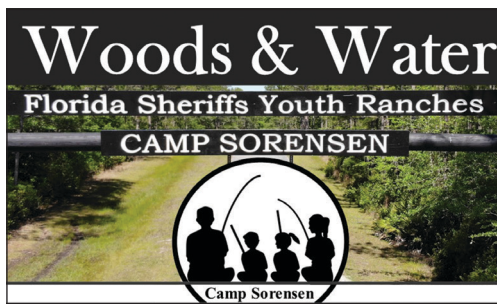
His specialty is expert computer care. You bring your sick computer to him and he can do an in-store diagnosis to see what's going on. He does sell parts and hardware cables, and some inventory of laptops. He also installs network security for your computer, which these days is very important. "None of this would be possible



without the Lord Jesus Christ being a part of my life," said Frankie. "With technology, you have to be honest with your customers. I'm a strong believer in customer service."

Frankie does offer in store Computer Training for those who request it, all you have to do is ask and he will set up a time. To celebrate his 10 Year Anniversary, Frankie is offering Free Diagnostics for your computer for anyone that mentions this article. All About Computers is located at: 450020 SR 200, Callahan, 904-879-4049. Their hours are Monday - Friday, 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Saturday, 9:30 a.m. - noon, by appointment. Or visit their website at: www.123PCFix.com.

Woods and Water Family Fun Day



Saturday, March 9
9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Camp Sorenson
1023 Retreat Acres Road • Hilliard
FREE event for the whole family!



FREE lunch provided!
For more information,
call (904) 845-7286.

SENIORS' NIGHT OUT THIS SATURDAY

We are excited to announce that we will offer a free "Seniors' Night Out" in Callahan this Saturday, March 9 from 4-9 p.m. at the Callahan Multi-purpose building and the outside courtyard of the Callahan Fairgrounds. The event is for people in the community who are 55 and older.

This FREE event will feature a buffet dinner from Callahan BBQ, dance lessons, live music by "Laid Back" with intermittent dance times with a DJ, door prizes and more. The Council on Aging will be offering an ongoing shuttle service from the Fairgrounds parking lot to the main entrance of the event.

We hope that all of our seniors will take this opportunity for a fun night of dining, dancing, and socializing!

If you have any questions, please contact Parks & Recreation Director, Jay Robertson, at (904) 530-6120.

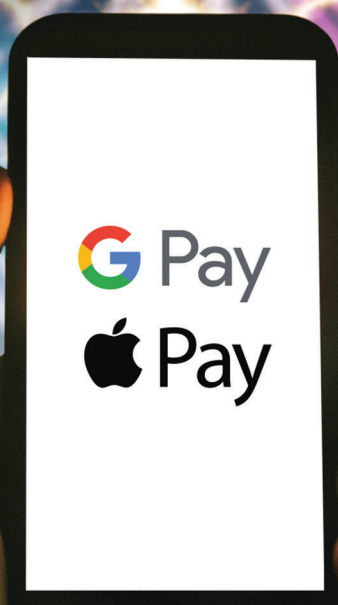


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Come join the West Nassau Historical Society for a **WEARING OF THE GREEN ICE CREAM SOCIAL** Friday, March 8th 6:30 - 8 p.m. Ice Cream Bar & Floats Joel Pace Piano Entertainment Senior Art Painting Exhibit Made Possible by CSX Transportation and support from Arts & Culture Nassau Admission Free, Donations Accepted Callahan Train Depot 904-879-3406

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Franklin Equipment Sales in Hilliard is looking to hire a **PARTS/COUNTER/SALES REPRESENTATIVE**, must have excellent people skills, will train, pay based on experience, 40 hours week plus overtime. Apply at: www.franklinequipmentsales.com/employment.tfn

The Town of Callahan is **HIRING A FULL TIME FRONT DESK RECEPTIONIST**. This person must be able to multitask, greet customers, answer phones & transfer calls, send faxes, take payments, and perform clerical tasks. This position pays \$13.00 per hour. If interested, please fill out an application and provide a copy of your resume either by walk-in located at 542300 US HWY 1 Callahan, FL. 32011 or email to clerk@townofcallahan-fl.gov. 32824

RESTAURANT NOW HIRING Cooks & Waitresses in St. George, Georgia. If interested or to apply, call 1-912-843-2319. 31424

JOURNEYMAN/APPRENTICE LINEMAN Positions. Okfenoke REMC is now accepting applications for three (3) Journeyman and/or Apprentice Lineman in Hilliard, Florida. A complete job description and application are available online at oremc.com/ employment or can be picked up at any of our offices Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Applications will be accepted until 5 p.m. on Monday, March 11 at any of our offices or emailed to jobs@oremc.com. The Co-op reserves the right to cancel any and all bids. Okfenoke REMC is an Equal Opportunity Employer/Drug Free Workplace. 30724

HELP WANTED! BROCK LANDSCAPE & IRRIGATION is looking for a Lawn Spray Tech. We are an Industrial and Commercial only Landscape Company who specializes only in large corporate and government properties. We offer top pay in the industry for hardworking individuals. Our office is located in Hilliard. Pay depending on experience. Holidays and a paid vacation offered. Email resume to: cbrocklandscape@windstream.net or call 904-507-3299. EOE 32824

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YARD SALES

SPRING FESTIVAL, SATURDAY, MARCH 16, Callahan Elementary School, "Booth W" next to school wall. Antique glassware, kitchen items, Pyrex & tools, linens, aprons, handkerchiefs, Quile Enamelware, wash boards, costume jewelry. 31424

LIFE TRANSITION SALE! Friday, Saturday & Sunday, 8 a.m. - ?, 12093 US Hwy. 301, Bryceville. Lots of boy's clothes (sizes 8-16), women's designer clothes (sizes 6-10), Christmas/Fall décor and much more!

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SHIPPING CONTAINERS FOR SALE! Please contact Tina Barnes at 904-714-4310 ext. 1. tfn

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PLANT CITY STRAWBERRIES, strawberry onions, Red & Green tomatoes & more! Jerry's Open Aire Market, open every day! We accept credit & debit cards, 904-349-4227. 32824

PUBLIC DISPOSITION

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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COWS & FAITH EXCAVATION SERVICES. Excavation, demolition, driveways, trenching, footers, grave prep, construction removal, Junk Car removal & more! Insured. FREE estimates! Call 904-507-9580 or 904-616-8056. 32824

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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 20

Noah Anthony Adams, 27, Hilliard: Trespassing Failure to Leave Property on Order of Owner; Aggravated Assault with Deadly Weapon (x 2)

Christopher Michael Langley, 47, Bryceville: Battery Touch or Strike Domestic Violence; Deprive 911 Communications

Sunday, February 23

Beverly Wynnette Kaham, 63, Hilliard: Aggravated Battery on a Person older than 65

Monday, February 26

David Edward Graham, 48, Bryceville: Violation of Probation Community Control Felony

Wednesday, February 28

Kelsey Morgan Caudill, 31, Hilliard: Possession of Marijuana more than 20 grams (x 2); Trafficking Methamphetamine over 14 grams; Sale of Methamphetamine within 1000ft of a Church; Possession of Drug Paraphernalia with Residue (x 2)

Friday, March 1

Roosevelt Sylvester Nelson, Jr., 39, Callahan; Trespass Failure to Leave Property on Order of Owner

Sunday, March 3

William Melton Finley, Jr., 49, Callahan: Failure to Appear

Local Contractor Under Scrutiny

The Nassau County Sheriff's Department is seeking information from anyone who has done business with the contracting firm The Reed Group Elite Homes, which has declared bankruptcy. They are asking that you contact Detective Lumpkin at 904-

548-4090 if you or someone you know has had a lien placed on their property, have noticed any unauthorized transfers from Southeastern Bank regarding the contractor or any information concerning possible fraud with The Reed Group.

Landscape Matters: Understanding Garden Fertilizer

Wednesday, March 13, 10 – 11 a.m.

Where: Online or In-Person, Hilliard Library, 15821 CR 108, Hilliard

Registration Link: <https://ufl.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0oce-grj4uH9ZqUmYr-MNa2JGKbgZILJm3>

When we walk into garden centers, we can find ourselves surrounded by different types of garden fertilizers and our heads spinning. Join the Master Gardener Volunteers at the Hilliard Library to learn about garden fertilizers, how to apply them, and how to protect Florida's water quality.

Join us online or in person. There is no registration fee. During registration, let us know if you plan on attending in person or online. Everyone registering will automatically receive a sign-in link to view the program online. The University of Florida is committed to providing universal access to all of our events. For disability accommodations such as alternate formats of written material, please contact Taylor Clem, taylorclem87@ufl.edu, (904)530-6353 at least one week in advance.

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GAIL D'AMATO



Gail D'Amato, 81, of Hilliard, passed away Sunday morning, February 25, 2024 at Community Hospice Warner Center in Fernandina Beach. Ms. D'Amato was born in Jacksonville, and relocated to Nassau County 19 years ago. She was a member of the 1960 graduating class of Fernandina Beach High School and a graduate of Jones Business College. Ms. D'Amato loved her pets and enjoyed gardening.

She is survived by a brother and sister-in-law Jack and Judy D'Amato of Fernandina Beach; cousin Kathy; and a niece and two grandnieces.

There will be a private family ceremony and interment.

ELMER "MO" DOWD



Elmer "Mo" Dowd, 81, of Callahan, passed peacefully into eternity February 26, 2024, with his family by his side. Mo was born September 9, 1942 in Cobbtown, Georgia as the 5th of 11 children born to Wallace Dowd and Ella Burns Dowd. He grew up in Bryan County, Georgia on a working farm. Farming never left his blood. Mo always had a garden and even plowed and planted gardens for his neighbors on Keme Road. Mr. Mo, as

OBITUARIES

many called him, was a true renaissance man. There was nothing he could not build, fix, or figure out. There has never been and could never be another Mo.

Mo drove a tractor trailer professionally for Commercial Carriers, Inc./Ryder and had 20+ years safe driving (and quite possibly a million miles or more). "Chestnut," as he was known by his co-workers, retired from Teamsters Local 512.

Mo met the love of his life, Barbara Crews, on July 4, 1964. They were married eight weeks later, on August 29, 1964. That beautiful, strong marriage lasted for 52 years until Barbara's passing in 2016. Mo loved the Lord Jesus with all his heart and served Him well. He taught his children to love selflessly, work tirelessly and serve God wholeheartedly. Mo truly fought a good fight, he finished his course, he kept the faith. Now is laid up for him a crown of righteousness. Mo was preceded into eternity by his parents; wife; and sisters Margaret Ward, Virginia Mosley, Jeannette Rich and Juanita Dowd.

Mo is survived by his children Jeff (Monica) Dowd, Bryan (Cindy) Dowd and Jennifer Dowd; grandchildren Frank, Lucy Pearl and Ivy Dowd; sisters Shirley Cribbs and Mary Dowd; brothers Milton (Barbara) Dowd, James (Joann) Dowd, Frank

(Brenda) Dowd and Wallace Dowd, Jr.; and a host (we're not kidding) of cousins, nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, March 9 at 11 a.m. at Crossroads Church, Callahan. For those attending the memorial, the family suggests the "Mo" uniform, if you'd like: jeans, button up shirt, a good pair of boots and...don't forget the hat.

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

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

VIVIAN CREWS RITSMAN



Vivian Crews Ritsman, 75, of Hilliard, passed away March 3, 2024. She was born August 6, 1948 in Folkston, Georgia, to the late King Arthur Crews and Minnie Lee Beck. Vivian was Broker-Owner of Nassau Realty in Hilliard. She served as Nassau County Chair of Economic Board, Chair of Code Enforcement Board, St. Mary's River Management Board and Callahan Chamber of Commerce. Vivian was a member of The Sun Wheelers RV group. The members of the group were

more than just friends to Vivian, they became family. Vivian's family would like to share their appreciation to all The Sun Wheelers family for all the love, prayers and support they have shown during her illness. She was preceded in death by her parents; daughter Robin Maze; brothers Eugene Crews, Marvin Crews, Earl Crews, David Crews, Phillip Crews and Troy Crews; sisters Dora Lee Murray, Yvonne Shoupe and Margaret Zittrower.

Vivian leaves behind the love of her life, Earl "Shemp" Keith Tindall; son Jim (Candy) Ritsma; daughter Rhonda (Earl) Grant; brother Lynn Crews; sisters Nelda (Chris) Mayberry, Cindy Burkett (David Pickett) and Margery Murrhee; son-in-law Eugene Maze; grandchildren Joshua (Layne) Puckett, Justin Puckett, Sylvia Maze (Tim) Duke, Sarah Maze and Reagan Ritsma; great-grandchildren Jasper Puckett and Orion Puckett; other family members Candace (Brian) Kent and Hudson Kent; several special nephews and nieces.

A memorial service for Vivian will be held Thursday, March 7, from 2 - 4 p.m. at Nassau Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, please make donations, in Vivian's honor to The American Cancer Society at: www.donate.cancer.org.

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

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

**In Loving Memory of
HARLEY CONNIE BASS**
March 4, 2002 - March 13, 2022

Happy Heavenly Birthday, Harley. You would have been 22 years young. I cannot say old because you haven't even seen old life. You were taken too soon from us. You do not realize how many people you have touched in such a short life. Your heart was pure and full of love. We all miss and love you so very much, son. Please keep watching over us, my guardian angel. Until we meet again my love.

Love you,
Mom, Gordy & family

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF
ALBERT 'POPS' GORDY, JR.**
SEPTEMBER 9, 1941 - MARCH 11, 2017

It's hard to believe that you have been gone 7 years. You had such a joyful and welcoming spirit to share. We were blessed to have such a wonderful man in our lives. We're thankful to know that you are with the Lord of love and safe at home in Heaven. We miss you so.

Love always,
Your family

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Dana Forbes, Preneed Agent/Office Manager

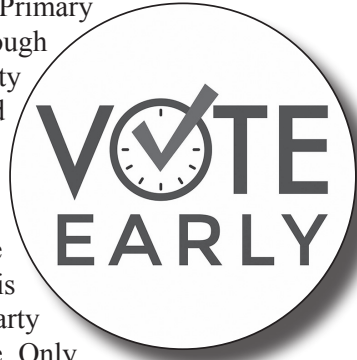
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Early Voting Now Through March 16

Early voting for the Presidential Preference Primary Election started Wednesday, March 6 and will run through Saturday, March 16, from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Nassau County voters can vote early at five conveniently located early voting sites throughout the county. Pursuant to section 103.101(4), Florida Statutes, please note that since the Florida Democratic Party only provided one candidate nominee, the Presidential Preference Primary ballot for the Florida Democratic Party is not needed to determine party voters' preferred party candidate nominee. Florida is a closed primary state. Only voters registered with the Republican Party of Florida have a ballot in this election.



Available Westside Locations Include:

Hilliard Community Center – 37177 Pecan Street, Hilliard

Walter Junior Boatright County Building – 45401 N Mickler Street, Callahan

“Voters may choose to vote at any of the five early voting sites, regardless of where they live in the county.”, states Janet H. Adkins, Nassau County Supervisor of Elections. Voters are encouraged to bring their current and valid photo and signature I.D. to vote. Each early voting site has a Secure Ballot Intake Station for voters to return their vote-by-mail ballot during voting hours. Mail ballots deposited in each Secure Ballot Intake Station are returned daily to the Supervisor of Elections office for processing. State law does not allow Secure Ballot Intake Stations to be available on Election Day.

To view wait times for each early voting site, download the Vote Nassau FL elections mobile app. Android and iPhone users can now download this app on their app store, free of charge.

Genealogy Tidbits

Claude Arpen

In the TV miniseries Lonesome Dove, Tommy Lee Jones' character Woodrow Call was based on Texas Rancher Charles Goodnight. Goodnight and his partner Oliver Loving drove their first herd of cattle along what would become known as the Goodnight-Loving Trail. Goodnight is known for the invention of the chuckwagon. According to Wikipedia Goodnight was descended from immigrant pioneer Hans Gutknecht from Mannheim, Germany making him a distant relative of President Harry S. Truman.

To learn more, join us at the West Nassau Genealogical Society meetings the second Monday of each month at 10:30 a.m. at the Callahan Lions Club. Visitors are welcome!

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Nassau County 4-H Hoofbeats Hippology Enjoy Fieldtrip



Recently, the 4-H Hippology crew and newest friend from Duval, went on their first official Hoofbeats field trip! With worksheets in hand, the team was able to tour the amazing Retirement Home for Horses Inc., to practice identifying breeds, colors, markings, BCS, and so much more. The horses and all our friends there were beyond wonderful. The folks there are doing so much to care for these horses.

The group certainly plans to be back for another inspiring

adventure. Afterwards the team visited Bits and Spurs Tack for a scavenger hunt. The owner was AMAZING in helping us find all our items, learn about other weird things in her store, quiz our girls on what they know, and even donated a saddle for our tack "tear down" class in a few weeks. We are just so blessed to have a wonderful equine community supporting our youth! Thank you to everyone!



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