



WESTSIDE JOURNAL

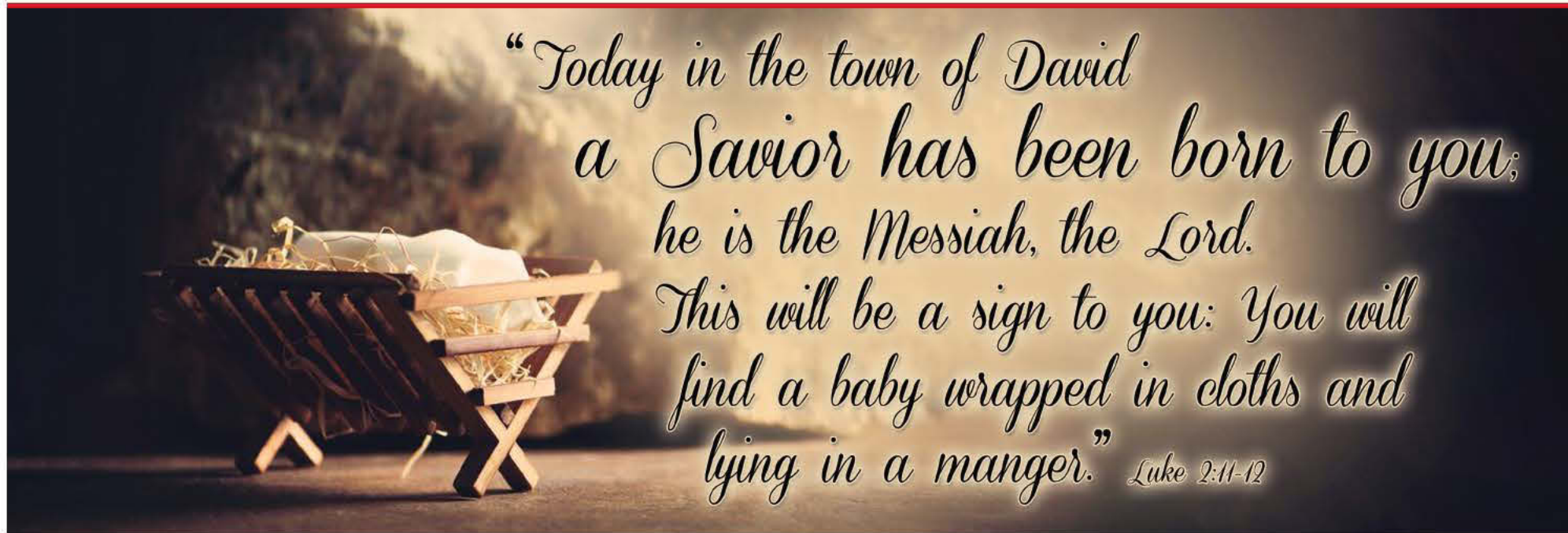
FINAL ISSUE

Thank you for
over 20
wonderful years!

VOLUME XXI ISSUE 20

HOMETOWN PEOPLE...HOMETOWN NEWS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2024



“Today in the town of David
a Savior has been born to you;
he is the Messiah, the Lord.
This will be a sign to you: You will
find a baby wrapped in cloths and
lying in a manger.” Luke 2:11-12

B&V Timber to Celebrate 25 Years in Business

Dawn S. West

I was called last week by Vicki Cribb concerning their company's upcoming anniversary. She advised me that their company, B&V Timber, in Hilliard, will celebrate 25 years in business on January 2, 2025, and she knew the last issue of the Westside Journal would be before the anniversary. “First of all, congratulations and next, I'll be happy to write an article about it!” I responded.

Anyone who lives here, knows the timber business is big and serious business. Bubba and Vicki Cribb, of Hilliard, decided early in their lives that would be their business. Bubba had worked in the logging business for a larger company. He recalled being out on the property cutting timber and later being asked by a neighbor, “I have about 5 acres that I would like to have cut. Can you give me a price?”

Bubba went back to his higher ups and told them of the person's request. “We don't cut small plots, only the large ones,” he was told. After a couple of times of that happening, Bubba had made up his mind that he wanted to start his own business and take on some of these small properties himself. With that in mind, he had his wife Vicki and a toddler son, Austin,

at home to agree to this plan. The name was easy to come up with B (Bubba) & V (Vicki) Timber, pretty simple! It was with much prayer they made the decision to buy a small truck to haul timber and used a farm tractor to pull the timber out of the woods. Trees were cut by hand. Vicki would drive the tractor and once they loaded the truck,

it was off to the mill. Bubba decided early on that he didn't want to work for a brokerage firm. “That probably made the work even tougher, as it was just me and Vicki, but it worked,” said Bubba. “They focused on private tracks



of land, walked the property and gave a price. Within the next few days, we were doing another job...and another. In the timber industry it's either 20 loads a day or four, there's nowhere in the middle.”

The focus of B&V Timber continues to be small tracks to work with. With the knowledge of properties in our area that Bubba has, he is a God send for many new homeowners. Most people that move in our area, are not from the country, mostly from the city. Their first goal is to cut all the trees. With one quick call to Bubba to come out to the property and help direct them as the best way to preserve some trees but still have the look the owner wants. Now, Bubba has turned into a Property

Manager. “My goal has always been to treat each customer as fairly as I would want to be treated,” added Bubba. “Probably 75% of the people that buy property in our area start with a plat of land. That's when I am called, as the project starts with me. Vicki and I like to ride around and look at properties we worked on and see the finished product. It's so rewarding to know we helped to make that place look nice!”

Bubba and Vicki are happy to report that they typically have enough work in our local area to keep them busy. Their operation includes two guys in the woods loading and a driver hauling to the mill. They have recently purchased some earthmoving equipment that will be helpful in clean-ups once they have

See 'B&V Timber' on page 3



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Letters to the Editor

Westside Journal

Dear Editor,

Well, as they say, you never know what tomorrow may bring! When I saw on Facebook that the Westside Journal was closing up shop, I couldn't believe it. The front page of the paper made it true, but very sad.

The Westside Journal has been one of the best things in Nassau County for over 20 years. Mrs. Dawn, Roger and Mrs. Jessie, have been good friends and journalists for all of Nassau County.

So, let's respect their decision and wish them the very best in the next chapter of their lives. I have always enjoyed the Westside Journal and visiting with them. The paper will be greatly missed.

Thank you to all of you,
Rocky Lynn

Thank You!

This sweet letter was addressed to Nassau County Sheriff Bill Leeper:



Dear Sheriff Leeper,

Thank you so much for your many years of service to our community! Thank you also, for taking the time to take a photo with Braiden during the Shop with A Cop event.

Lisa Curry

Ephesus Baptist

Dear Editor,

I just wanted to send accolades to the Youth Director at Ephesus Baptist Church, Bryce and Ashley Blocker, for the amazing job they did with the Youth play that was presented at the church last Sunday. The youth did a great job presenting the Christmas story and also the choir performed a wonderful musical for all of us to enjoy! So thankful for a wonderful group of youth that are happy to serve!

Merry Christmas!
Dean Bumgardner

Thought of the Week...

A word of encouragement
can make the difference between
giving up or going on.

Thank You from the Historical Society

Emily Baumgartner
John Hendricks, Co-Chairs

On behalf of the West Nassau Historical Society (WNHS), we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped us present the 51st edition of the Callahan Christmas Parade and Craft Fair. Although the weather was cool, the day warmed up nicely. Thanks to all the arts/craft and food vendors and parade participants for making this day a memorable one. A huge crowd lined US 1 as the largest parade ever to make its way through Callahan. A good crowd shopped at the 75-vendor craft fair located on the grounds of the 1856 railroad bed and Depot Park Pavilion. The West Nassau Historical Society is an all-volunteer nonprofit and we rely heavily on monies raised from events such as this to achieve our goals. But we also enjoy hosting this annual time-honored tradition as a way to give back to the community. We are extremely grateful for all the area groups, businesses and citizens who pitched in and helped us host this year's beloved seasonal event.

First, we would like to thank the Town of Callahan for the donation, allowing us to host this year's event again and for letting us use the historic rail bed for the craft fair. It was an honor to have Lovett and Narine Raulerson as our Grand Marshal and Hugh and Shirley Graham as our Honorary Grand Marshal. Kudos goes to our other faithful supporters and donors: Schwend Insurance, CSX Transportation, Florida Power and Light, Anchor Church of God, Callahan First Baptist Church, Grace's House, Hagan Ace Hardware, Southeastern

Bank, VyStar Credit Union, First Federal Bank, Joel Pace Piano and Music, and Meridian Waste. Thanks to the Girls, Boys and Cub Scouts for carrying our banners and sponsor signs. Thanks to Nassau Road and Bridge Department and to Sheriff Leeper and the NCSO for keeping the traffic moving around our town during the parade. Kudos go to the parade judges and to Buck Lucontro and Jerry Peterson for emceeing the parade. Thanks to Joel Pace and his students and elves for providing the music and for helping Saint Nick with his presents.

Special thanks go to Santa and Mrs. Claus for taking time out from their busy North Pole schedule to come down to Callahan. Not only did they headline the lengthy parade, they also stopped by the Callahan Pavilion afterwards and listened as dozens of children whispered their Christmas wishes into their ears. The looks on the faces of the kids as they gazed into Santa's eyes were priceless.

Last, we would like to thank every member of the WNHS who went above and beyond what was asked of them to ensure that we put on a safe and enjoyable event. It sometimes seemed overwhelming, but you all performed your parts and did not miss a beat. You all continued to show that by working together, all things are possible.

The WNHS is always looking for new members to join us in planning future projects. We meet on the fourth Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Callahan Depot. The next meeting is scheduled for January 23, with a reception for our 13th NACD Art Show.



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Jessie Pickett.....Graphic Designer

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B&V Timber

completed their job. And now, their little toddler son, Austin, is one of the two guys in the woods. "Austin has taken on a new role and really stepped up to the plate," continued Bubba. "If there is a problem, by the time I know about it, Austin has already figured it out and taken care of it. He truly cares about the future of B&V Timber. We're very proud of him."

So now, the business has changed a little. Vicki takes the calls from property owners, Bubba goes and meets with the owners, walks the property and makes the deal. Then the job is turned over to Austin to handle the job. "We wouldn't have made it without the Lord. He has guided us and opened doors when we thought it was over," said Vicki. "God has truly blessed our business."

Now back to the anniversary. They wanted to start the business at the first of the year however January 1, 2000

Continued from page 1



was on a Sunday, so they had to settle for January 2, 2000. We, at the Westside Journal, are also very thankful for B&V Timber, as they are one of many advertisers that have stayed with us throughout our journey. Thank you and God's blessings for many more years!

B&V Timber can be reached at 904-845-2804 or visit their website at: www.bvtimber.com.

JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

This beyond a doubt, is the most difficult column I have ever attempted to write. Although I know in my heart this decision that we have made, is the right decision. However, it is also one of the most difficult decisions we as a couple and of business owners have ever made. There will never be another "Westside Journal," because there will never be another Dawn West. The reason the Westside Journal was so unique is because Dawn is so unique. Her love for this community, her smile that lights up a room, her genuine care for people is unmatched.

Her greatest asset is her unwavering love and faith in Jesus Christ our Lord! There is no doubt in my mind that this "little paper" was so much more than a weekly circular delivered to every mailbox on the west side of Nassau County. It was a mission field designed by God. In all reality, it should have never worked in this day and time. But it did! The countless blessings this paper has been privileged to provide through meals, assisting so many non-profit organizations, assisting local families in their time of crisis, the many people Dawn has prayed with right there in our office. Yes, in my eyes, she was a missionary carrying out God's will. The number of faithful advertisers each week made it possible and I earnestly

hope everyone will continue to utilize our local businesses, for they are the heart of our community.

There are some things that won't change. The Democrat Party is and will continue to be America's largest threat. Even with the election results proving their woke socialist policy dreams are not what most Americans want, they are going to double down and continue to destroy America. We as a nation have two years of the ability to save our nation with President Trump, and a majority in the House and Senate. It will be determined in the 2026 election if the Republicans can maintain control to give President Trump a full four years to Make America Great Again. Then watch 2028 when we will see the likes of AOC make an attempt to be President of the United States. That's a long way off but watch her closely over the next four years. We thought Kamala was unhinged, but we know AOC is totally a nightmare!

It has been a privilege to share my opinions with you all these past few years. I thank each of you for many positive comments and for the laughs I received by reading some of the deniers' responses. So, for the final time... That's Just My Opinion!

May God bless you all.

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Place chicken breasts into the slow cooker; pour in ¾ of the wing sauce and ranch dressing mix. Cover and cook on low for 6 to 7 hours. Shred chicken in the cooker with two forks. Stir in butter. Pile shredded chicken and sauce onto hoagie rolls. Serve with remaining Buffalo sauce. Serve and enjoy!

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This Christmas, Receive the Gift of God

Pastor Adam Pierce, Liberty Baptist Church, Callahan



Christmas is upon us! While there are many wonderful traditions to be shared this holiday...one is the giving and receiving of gifts. From the thoughtful buying or making of a gift, to wrapping the presents, or the wonder and amazement of watching someone open them.

This week marks the end of a Westside gift that came in our mail every Thursday. I want to express my appreciation for Dawn and the staff at the Journal! For years, they have been faithful sharers of all the happens in our area. They have given us the gift of being informed, expressing our first amendment right, sharing accomplishments, announcing weddings and babies, grieving our loved ones who have passed, advertising local business, and just plain entertainment. We are losing a truly historic landmark on the Westside. We wish you the best and enjoy the gift of time...It is well deserved!

As is true of every area of life, God is our ultimate example in all things. Even God gave us a gift and this gift is what we are celebrating this Christmas...His Son, Jesus Christ. Paul wrote in II Corinthians 9:15, *"Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift."* Of course, John expressed it best when he wrote in the gospel of John 3:16, *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."*

God loves you so much that He gave you a Christmas gift...his only begotten (He is God and not made as we are...incarnate) Son! What a gift! The greatest gift of all time and God gave it to you and me. If you will receive this gift by faith then God's grace is enough to give you eternal life in Heaven. Paul, once again, expresses this idea in Ephesians 2:8, *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:"*

Although it's not wrapped and you cannot find it under your tree...God wants you to take this gift as your own by calling on Him, *"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."* Romans 10:13. My prayer this Christmas is that you will receive the only gift that can change lives... *"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."* Luke 2:11.

Merry Christmas, Westside!

CHURCH NEWS

North Hilliard Baptist Church, 552823 US HWY1, would like to invite all men to our Men's Prayer meeting held the 1st Monday of month & the 3rd Saturday of the month, both at 6 p.m.

Hilliard First Assembly of God, 550920 US 1, will hold a Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, December 24.

Truth Pointe Church, 5330 Dunn Ave., Jacksonville, will present the Laugh Out Loud Christmas Tour, Friday, Dec. 20 at 7 p.m. The tour features Jamey Ragle and Chris Golden. For more information call 904-571-1343.

Hilliard First Baptist Church, 15850 CR 108, Hilliard, will hold a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Tuesday, December 24 at 5 p.m.

Forty-six Organizations Receive Grants from Rayonier

Rayonier, a leading timberland real estate investment trust, is pleased to announce the award of \$144,125 in grants to 46 local organizations serving Nassau County and North Florida. This year's grants, distributed through the Rayonier Community Fund, will support a diverse range of impactful programs, including those focused on education, environmental conservation, cultural enrichment, civic engagement, and health and human services. "Rayonier is committed to strengthening the communities where we live and work," said Rayonier Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer April Tice. "These organizations are the backbone of Nassau County, providing vital services and enriching the lives of our residents. We are proud to partner with them to support their invaluable work."

To celebrate the honorees, Rayonier hosted its annual awards breakfast at the FSCJ Betty P. Cook Nassau Center, bringing together grant recipients and local leaders, including County Commissioner Hupp Huppmann, District 2, and County Commissioner Klynt Farmer, District 5. Also in attendance were Property Appraiser Elect Kevin Lilly, Nassau County School

Board member Gail Cook, Sheriff Bill Leeper and the Honorable Judge Jenny Higginbotham, in the Fourth Judicial Circuit.

"Our community's commitment allows us to further our mission, providing critical support and mentorship to underserved children in Nassau County," noted Robin Lentz, Executive Director of Take Stock in Children. "This grant from the Rayonier Community Fund will be instrumental in providing four-year university scholarships, opening doors to higher education for those who need it most."

The following west side organizations received support through the Rayonier Community Fund this year:

Barnabas Center Inc., Families in Transition Program courtesy of the Nassau County School Board, Nassau County Council on Aging, Inc., Nassau County Extension UF/IFAS Extension, Nassau County School District, Northeast Florida Fair Association, St. Marys Riverkeeper, Take Stock in Children of Nassau County, Traders Hill Farm, VFW Post 10095 Auxiliary via Blank Check Society and West Nassau Historical Society.

Congratulations, Alex!

Congratulations to Alex Quentin Clay on his graduation December 12, 2024 with his Master of Science in Aerospace Engineering Degree from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach. Alex also received his Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering on May 8, 2023.

Alex is a 2019 graduate of West Nassau High School where he was a proud member of the Battery 9 Drumline. His proud parents are David and Edith Clay of Bryceville.



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A Final Thought

Jessie L. Pickett

Since learning of Dawn's plans to retire, I've been through many different emotions. I was obviously sad, to the point that I cried for days. Then I became excited for what may come; what can I do next with the experience I've gained? Now, it's a grateful, sadness and time of reflection. When I began at the Westside Journal in 2007, I was fresh out of college and a young mom to a one-year-old. I feel like I grew up at the Westside Journal. I was able to jump into this paper and eventually revamp the look, all the while helping keep the hometown feel.

Not only did I grow up here, my children literally grew up here. After working here for about a year and a half, I had my daughter, Abigail, who at only two weeks old, joined us at the office for a short while. Both of my children (along with Dawn's grandchildren) have spent days sleeping in the back closet when they were home from school sick. Eventually in high school, my son Tucker would come eat lunch with me at the office during his days in OJT. Tucker is now 19 and Abigail (our Journal baby, as she was called) is now 16...how did that happen?

It did not happen overnight, no matter how it feels now. What seems like just yesterday, has now been nearly 18 years. I have truly experienced all of the ups and downs of motherhood with Dawn by my side. For years, people would walk through our doors and ask if my mom was here. I finally just started answering rather than correcting them! I couldn't have picked a better work mama and am forever grateful for the bond and friendship that grew from this 'job'.

I say job lightly, as I have truly enjoyed what we have accomplished at the Westside Journal. This little, hometown paper became our ministry. We had the opportunity to reach



thousands of readers each week. The countless people who received the paper, whether they wanted it or not, as I always say, would see a Bible verse at the top of the paper and a local pastor's article each week. We were able to spread the Word in our own way, and for that, I am proud.

I learned more skills at the Westside Journal than I needed as a graphic designer however, they will carry on with me through whatever I choose to do next. It was a role I played in the background most of the time, unless you visited us as a customer or became one of our frequent friendly faces. Greeting customers, visiting with readers and sometimes just being a listening ear. Through the Westside Journal I have met countless veterans who served our country proudly, parents grieving lost children, children grieving lost parents, citizens who are just trying to make a difference in our community and so much more. We often joke about the many funny stories we could tell from over the years or the sweet (sometimes delicious) gifts that our readers share with us. For these friendships I will forever be grateful.

I just wanted to share a little about what has made the Westside Journal so special to me, as well as others. While not all news is good news, we have prided ourselves in reporting factually and positively. With our communities, we have experienced tragedy, but also and most importantly, we have celebrated the best that humanity has to offer. Our appreciation for the reception from our readers and support of our customers is indescribable. The Westside Journal was made daily with lots of heart and prayer by both Dawn and I, something that is not easily replicated by others, which is why it must just end with us. Thank you for welcoming us into your homes each week and we hope to see you around town in the future.



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<p>USDA Whole T-BONES</p> <p>\$5.95 lb.</p> <p><small>Expires 12-24-24 WJ Limit 2 With this Coupon</small></p>	<p>8 oz. Bag Breaded POPCORN SHRIMP</p> <p>\$1.00</p> <p><small>Expires 12-24-24 WJ With this Coupon</small></p>
<p>3 lb. Bag Country Breaded SHRIMP</p> <p>\$10.00</p> <p><small>Expires 12-24-24 WJ With this Coupon</small></p>	<p>10 lb. Bag FRYER DRUMSTICKS</p> <p>\$7.95</p> <p><small>Expires 12-24-24 WJ Limit 2 With this Coupon</small></p>
<p>LEG QUARTERS</p> <p>\$7.95 10 lb. Bag</p> <p><small>Expires 12-24-24 WJ Limit 2 With this Coupon</small></p>	<p>Lee's Smoked SLAB BACON</p> <p>\$4.99 lb.</p> <p><small>Expires 12-24-24 WJ With this Coupon</small></p>

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New Beginnings and Milestones

Braxton Lee Roland



Kyle and Lynsey Roland, of Hilliard, are proud to announce the birth of their son Braxton Lee Roland. Braxton was born December 2, 2024 at 9:54 a.m. at Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville. He weighed 7 pounds 2 ounces and measured 20.5 inches.

Braxton was welcomed home by his siblings Natalie and Grayson Roland!

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Perez

Jordan Elisabeth Wilson and Michael Jonathan Perez were united in marriage April 26, 2024 at 3 p.m. at the Life Arts Center in Riverside, California.

The bride is the daughter of Frederick and Patricia Wilson of Callahan. She owns her own Organizing business, Jordan Elisabeth, LLC.

The groom is the son of Mario and Martha Perez of Riverside, California. He is employed as a Social Worker, working with children with autism.

Serving as Maid of Honor was Ashli Dishman; and serving as bridesmaids were Stephanie Carter, Natalie Claxton, Erika Lee (sister), Lori Hale, Jacklyn Rector and Kirby Ann (sister). Flower girls were the couples nieces, Zoey McNair, Lucia Barber, Madison and Avelynne Perez.

Serving as groomsmen were Mario Perez, Ryan Sievers, Mike Alsaybar, Jose Mendoza, Martin Alcedo, Rick McDonald and Harrison Lamm. Ringbearer was Landon Hall.

For their honeymoon, the couple stayed the first night at the famous Mission Inn in Riverside, California, followed by a seven day cruise to Alaska! The couple is residing in Los Angeles, California.



Violet Rose Miranda



Roman Miranda and Valeria Matos, of Jacksonville, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Violet Rose Miranda. Violet was born October 18, 2024 at 7:55 p.m. at Baptist Beaches Hospital in Jacksonville Beach. She weighed 6 pounds 12 ounces and measured 19 inches.

Maternal grandparents are Stacey Padilla of Ocala; and Ruben and Elba Matos of Atlanta, Georgia. Paternal grandparents are Nick

and Becky Miranda of Hilliard.

Proud great-grandparents are: Carmen L. Padilla of Puerto Rico; Carmen Molina of Jacksonville; Ruben Matos of Jacksonville; Maureen Miranda of Corona, California and the late Ernie Miranda; and James Bobbitt of Jacksonville; and the late Patricia Bobbitt of Hilliard.

Alice Kiser to Celebrate 82nd Birthday

Alice Kiser, of Callahan, will celebrate her 82nd birthday December 19. She was born December 19, 1942 in Kentucky. Alice has been a housewife most of her life and the greatest mother and memaw around, per her children and grandchildren! In her younger days she always had a garden and was happy to share her crop with her children. She is also an amazing cook! She plans to celebrate her special milestone with her family, whom she is loved by dearly.

Her children are: John, Vernita, Jimmy and Keith; and her grandchildren are Joshua Kiser and Johnny (Kayla) Kiser, Jr.; and great-grandchildren are Adam and Nick.



New Listings YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS!

45030 E Holly Trail • Callahan

New Construction - Estimated Completion January 2025. Your Dream Home Awaits! This stunning 4-bedroom, 2-bathroom brick home offers 1,974 sq. ft. of thoughtfully designed living space on a generous half-acre lot. The open floor plan includes split bedrooms for added privacy and a separate dining area for formal or family gatherings. No HOA!



47248 Sawtooth Ridge • Callahan



This charming, full-brick 4-bedroom, 2-bathroom home sits on a spacious 1-acre lot in a peaceful, country setting. Featuring a desirable split floor plan, the main living areas are enhanced by durable LVP flooring, with tile in the kitchen and carpet in most of the bedrooms. No HOA!

54174 Deerfield Country Club • Callahan

You'll love this charming brick home built in 2022 on half acre lot! This spacious 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom home offers an open floor plan with a split bedroom layout, making it perfect for comfortable living and entertaining. With the potential to easily convert into a 4-bedroom, there's plenty of room to grow. No HOA!



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Divine Finds Grand Opening Saturday in Hilliard

Donna Sutton

Hello west side community! I am excited to announce the follow through with the vision, passion, and desire to make a positive difference within our community. As a result, Divine Finds, LLC was formed in July 2024. Divine Finds will celebrate their Grand Opening Saturday, December 21 from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. The store is located in Franklin Plaza in Hilliard, on the back side of Five.5 Grille (facing Orange Street).

As many, I have endured many trials throughout life, but all glory to God and my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, each one has been filled with many lessons and learnings, primarily strengthening my faith and compassion regarding others who may be silently hurting, needing a word of

encouragement, listening ear, hand to hold, or simply a smile, just to carry on one more day. You are not alone!

Following the loss of a 30-year career the week before COVID, March 6, 2020, I was terminated and had no idea of where that may lead. Hurtful circumstance after circumstance seemed to occur, but it was during those days that I recalled praying for years prior, asking God to remove any and everything from my life that was not of HIM. This, in turn, changed my perspective, focus, and determination amidst great pain. Friends, when life begins to crumble, and the Lord brings back to mind our prayers, we must trust and obey the work of Our Lord and Savior and draw as near to HIM as possible.



My prayer is to combine life's learnings and education for helping others that Divine Finds, LLC was formed, as a faith-based Boutique, and also share the gospel message of Jesus Christ. We will offer Bibles, books, devotions, stationery, small home décor, clothing and accessories.

In time, as appropriate professional relationships are established, to serve as a community safe place and resource for those needing guidance or direction. Whether battling abuse or addictions or seeking a safe place of refuge to connect for intervention and assistance. In short, Divine Finds, LLC seeks to serve



as a segway to a salvific solution for whatever one may be facing.

Why Divine Finds? The name is founded upon John 15:5, whereas Jesus says, "I am the vine, ye are the branches: he that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."

I believe this with all of my heart, mind, body, spirit and soul.

Divine Finds Boutique hours will be: Tuesday - Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The store is located in Franklin Plaza, on the back side of Five.5 Grille (facing Orange Street).

Visit us anytime at: www.mywestsidejournal.com

Thank you, Westside Journal!



I'm thankful for the Westside Journal and the mark it has made in our community. I'm also appreciative of Dawn's passion, dedication and love that she has poured into each issue and grateful for our lasting friendships!

Paula!

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35th Annual Dayspring Village SECRET SANTA WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Dayspring Village is seeking volunteers to help share the gift of Christmas with the mentally ill residents. Often the holidays are the toughest time of the year for the mentally ill and each year the gift of the giver makes a life changing impact on the lives of these individuals.

How to get Involved:

1. Contact Jenna D., Facility Manager at 904-874-5261 or email her at jenna@dayspringvillage.org.
2. You will be assigned a resident and their 'wishes'.
3. Have your gift wrapped and back to the facility by December 20th.
4. Baking – If you like to bake we would love to have you sponsor the evening snack for the residents!
5. Music – If you have a musical talent you would like to share we invite you to come and perform!

Dayspring Village is a state licensed limited mental health assisted living facility that is focused on serving the needs of adults with schizophrenia. If you would like to learn more or we can be of any assistance, please contact Douglas D. Adkins, Administrator at 904-583-0134-cell or doug@dayspring.health – Please consider becoming a volunteer this Christmas season, the gift you make in the life of others will truly change lives around you.

God Bless and Merry Christmas!
Call today! 904-874-5261

www.dayspringvillage.org

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LET IT SHINE: Christmas Holidays, No time for cleaning? House cleaning, baking, etc. Move outs & Commercial. Call 904-583-0630. 121924

CP CUSTOM LASER ENGRAVING. Call 904-838-8009 and 904-463-5897. 121924

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

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YARD SALES

VFW POST 10095 YARD SALE! Saturday, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. across from the Hilliard Airpark. \$5 Bag Day! Spend \$10 and pick out a collectible for FREE! Makes a great Christmas present! New donations! Help support your Veterans! Merry Christmas!

FOR RENT

HILLIARD, 3BR/2BA BRICK HOME, no pets, \$1,800/month; \$1,800/deposit. Call 904-813-3154.

HILLIARD, 3BR/1.5BA HOUSE, on 1 acre, \$1,400/ deposit; \$1,400/month; lease required, no pets. Call 904-545-8571. tfn

BACHELOR/BACHELORETTE or couple, 1BR, no pets, drugs or smoking; \$1,000/month; \$1,000/ deposit, Callahan area. Call 904-955-4889, available January 1. tfn

2BR/1BA HOME, Callahan city limits, on 1 acre, close to schools and stores, CH/A, W/D hook-up, Call 904-507-9580. Available in January. 121924

ROOM FOR RENT, non-smoker, Callahan, perfect for mature woman, \$500/month, includes everything! Call 954-802-2323 (Callahan number). 121924

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WANTED LANDSCAPE LABORERS, no experience or license needed. Call Danny at 904-251-4963. tfn

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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.

Friday, December 13

Douglas Eric Crews, 45, Callahan: Burglary of a Structure Conveyance Theft Controlled Substance: Theft over \$750 under \$5,000

Jennifer Leigh Crumpton, 40, Callahan: Violation of Probation/Community Control Felony (x 3)

Tuesday, December 17

Casey Fields Kinsey, 29, Hilliard: Out of State Warrant MM

NCCOA's Celebrating Our Seniors Gala

"Let's Party!" at Nassau County Council on Aging's (NCCOA's) Celebrating Our Seniors 19th Annual Gala, Saturday, January 25, 2025, 6-10 p.m. at The Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island.

Emcee John Drew and Auctioneer Aaron Bean will keep the party rolling, with help from Bold City Classics Band. Cocktails, open bar, 3-course gourmet dinner with tableside wine, dancing, complimentary valet parking and more. Silent and live auctions feature unique items such as a behind-the-scenes tour of the Jacksonville Zoo, Chef-crafted dinners in your own home, Amelia

Island sailing and fishing trips, hosted gatherings at local restaurants, golf packages, gifts and even Mayor for a Day!

Limited sponsorships available. Individual ticket - \$250 per person; \$2,500 per table of 10. Purchase tickets online at https://bit.ly/2025_gala_nccoa. All proceeds benefit Nassau County seniors.

For more information, you can email: ldunn@nassaucountycoa.org, Liz Dunn, Marketing & Communications Director.

RETIRED FLAGS

When your American Flag becomes tattered and torn, you can still turn it in for proper retirement at many local locations. They can be dropped off at any fire station, the American Legion Post 401 (Henry Smith Rd.) in Hilliard or at the VFW Post 10095 in Hilliard (Eastwood Rd.).

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MILDRED EUGENIA BOUTWELL

Mildred Eugenia Boutwell, 88, of Hilliard, passed away December 11, 2024 in Jacksonville. She was born February 24, 1936 in Hilliard. She was a homemaker and a member of River Road Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents Frank Rowe and Harley and Minnie Rowe; a step-daughter; a sister Lillian Rowe; and three brothers Robert Lee Rowe, Marvin Eugene Rowe and Arthur Lee Rowe.

She is survived by her son Dave Boutwell; three step-daughters; and a number of nieces, nephews and other relatives.

A celebration of life service was held Monday, December 16 at River Road Baptist Church with Pastors Hal McIntosh and Benjie Loyd officiating.

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

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, Folkston.

ROBERT "BOB" BOWIE

Robert "Bob" Bowie, 86, of Jacksonville, passed away peacefully December 9, 2024, at his home. He was born October 24, 1938 to the late Albert Bowie, Jr. and Margaret Danson Bowie in Jacksonville. Bob began working on the family dairy farm at a young age and was a farmer his whole life. He was incredibly proud of being a farmer. Although being a farmer requires plenty of hard work and dedication, Bob still made time to enjoy life and create memories with his family. He loved to be out on the water fishing with his sons and was a very talented water skier back in his day. Bob's family was the center of his world, and all memories shared will be treasured forever. He is preceded in death by his parents; wife



OBITUARIES

Cloie Bowie; daughter Rhonda Sue Bowie; brothers Johnny Bowie and Albert Bowie, III; and sister Ann Millan.

Bob leaves behind his loving sons Robert "Robin" (Kimberley) Bowie, Jr. and Todd (Holly) Bowie; sister Betty June (Howard) Burke; grandchildren Kristin, Christopher, Justin and Taylor; great-grandchildren Ansley, Avery and Mavery.

A memorial service was held Monday, December 16 at Dinsmore Baptist Church with Pastor Efton Green officiating.

Arrangements by Nassau Funeral Home, 541720 US-1, Callahan, 904-879-1770.

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

MICHAEL BROWN



Michael Brown, 60, of Callahan, was welcomed into the Kingdom of Heaven Monday, September 23, 2024. Michael fought a good fight,



finished his course, and kept the faith. He has now entered into eternal life. Michael was born on October 14, 1963 to the late Richard Joseph Brown Sr. and Ruth Brown Sanders in Savannah, Georgia. He obtained education at Savannah High and Savannah State University where he later joined the US Marine Corps on April 6, 1989. On November 10, 1988 he met the "love of his life" Pastor Marilyn Elaine Williams Brown. Together they beautifully birthed three daughters. He really enjoyed spending quality time with his family.

Michael worked for Homeland Security-TSA (Department of Defense) for 14 years, where he successfully retired. As a proud member of Spirit of Truth Deliverance Ministries under the leadership of Dr. Kenneth A. Brown, Sr., which has

since transitioned to "Jesus is the Key to the Outreach Ministries" under Apostle Nathaniel Gardner.

He was preceded in death by his father Richard Brown, Sr.; bonus mom Elizabeth Brown; his brothers Gregory, Richard, Jr., and Kenneth, Sr., (Brown); his sister Betty Ancrum; and nephew Jezoar Smalls.

He leaves to cherish his memory, his loving mother Ruth Brown Sanders; loving wife of 35 years, Pastor Marilyn Elaine Williams Brown; daughters Ashley (Ty'Rece Ferguson), Megan A. Brown and Amber Brown (John Moss); five beautiful granddaughters Taliah Taylor, Amanda Moss, Tayler Ferguson, J'nii and J'nya Moss; sisters Donna (Archie) Seabrooks and Karen (Timothy) Smalls; brother Charlie (Michelle) Stephens; in-laws Deborah Brown, Birdie Mae Brown, Ronnie Ancrum, Archie Lee (Rose) Williams, Jr., Cedric Dwayne (Felicia) Williams and Stephanie Williams; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

The family received friends Friday, October 4 at Carthage Chapel. The funeral service was held Saturday, October 5 at Zeal of Obedience International, Jacksonville. Interment was held Tuesday, October 8 at Jacksonville National Cemetery.

Arrangements by Carthage Chapel Funeral Home, Inc., 929 West Beaver Street, Jacksonville.

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

NORMAN LYNN CREWS



Norman Lynn Crews, 72, of Hilliard, passed away peacefully December 10, 2024. He was born December 28, 1951 in Jacksonville, to King Albert Crews and Minnie Lee Beck Crews. Lynn spent his childhood in the surroundings of his hometown before eventually settling in Hilliard, where he made lasting memories in the community. He was known for his adventurous spirit

and love for the outdoors. Lynn enjoyed hunting and fishing, often spending weekends immersed in nature. His hands were never idle; he was always tinkering with tractors and finding new projects to dive into. Lynn had a knack for turning raw materials into beautiful handmade leather items, showcasing both his creativity and craftsmanship.

With a good sense of humor and a warm personality, Lynn made many friends throughout his life, treating them like family. His enthusiasm for life and his many hobbies brought joy to those around him. He will be remembered for his vibrant presence and the kindness he shared with others. Lynn is preceded in death by his parents; first wife Sandra Crews; son Jason Crews; brothers Eugene Crews, Marvin Crews, Earl Crews, David Crews, Phillip Crews and Troy Crews; and sisters Doralee Murry, Yvonne Shouppe, Margaret Zitterower, and Vivian Ristma.

Lynn is survived by his wife, Jackie Crews; son David (Cindi) Crews; bonus children Shari (Jeff) Braddock, Travis Smith and Daryl Smith; sisters Cindy (David) Burkett, Nelda Mayberry and Margie Murhee; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

The family will receive friends Friday, December 20 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. prior to the celebration of life service at 1 p.m. at Nassau Funeral Home with Pastor James Conner officiating. Interment will follow at Mill Creek Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery.

Arrangements by Nassau Funeral Home, 541720 US-1, Callahan, 904-879-1770.

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

CAREN LANGLOIS

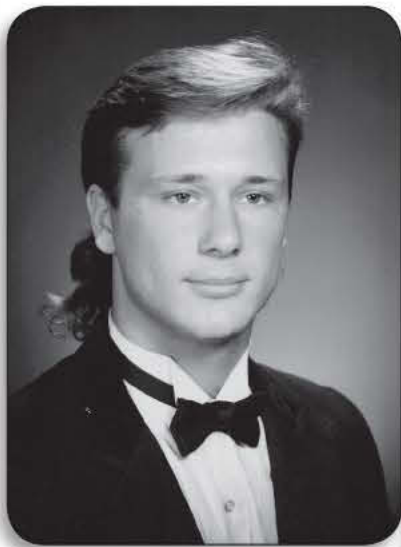


Caren Langlois, 70, of Hilliard, peacefully passed away December 9, 2024. She was born May 18, 1954 and raised in Holyoke, Massachusetts. She was one of six siblings and the eldest daughter. A free-spirited and adventurous teen and young adult, Caren embraced life with passion and

In Loving Memory of
James Donnie Crews, Jr.

January 7, 1971 - January 24, 2000

Happy Birthday in Heaven!



It's time again to remember you and the special times we had together. No matter the years, our hearts still grieve for you. We are so thankful for the memories that we have.

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determination.

In her late-20s, Caren joined Alcoholics Anonymous and recently celebrated 43 years of sobriety...a milestone that reflected her strength, resilience, and unwavering commitment to helping others. She found joy in the fellowship of AA, attending conferences, and guiding newcomers on their journeys to sobriety. Her home was always open, with coffee brewing and a safe space available to anyone in need of support or companionship.

Later in life, Caren met and married her devoted husband of 25 years, Charles "Chuck" Langlois, and together they built a life in Hilliard. She raised three granddaughters over more than a decade, pouring her love and energy into their lives. Caren was an active member of the Flashes Band Boosters, tirelessly working at football games and the Northeast Florida Fair in Callahan, to raise funds for uniforms and equipment. She cheered for her girls in band, color guard and cheerleading and was always their biggest supporter.

Caren was immensely proud of all her children and grandchildren, often sharing stories of their accomplishments, special skills, and talents. Her sense of humor was infectious, and one of her favorite jokes was: "How do you make a tissue dance? Put a little boogie in it." It made her belly laugh every time and her joy was contagious to everyone around her.

Caren was a passionate and strong woman who faced life's challenges with courage and grace. She fought until the very end, leaving a legacy of love, resilience, and hope. It brings comfort to her family to know that she is now at peace, surrounded by loved ones who passed before her.

She is survived by her loving husband Charles "Chuck" Langlois; daughters Catherine Slaughter and Sarah Blair; stepchildren Brian Lyons, Kelly LaPlante, Charles Langlois and Rebekah Caldwell; and grandchildren Allan O'Neil, Trinity Jordan, Marissa Jordan, Christina Lee,

Brandi Whitty, Rochelle Fuston, Robert LaPlante II, Caitlyn Caldwell, Zayne Caldwell and Nurie Langlois; and brother Jim (Sandy) Langlois; and brothers Kenneth Roj, Daniel Roj and Christopher Roj.

Caren was predeceased by her parents, William and Jacqueline (Blanchette) Roj; brother Michael Roj; and sister Pam Mahue.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

RONALD EDWARD PUOTINEN



Ronald Edward Puotinen, 74, passed away on December 7, 2024, in Jacksonville. Ronald was born October 4, 1950, in Esko, Minnesota the son of the late Donald and Gloria Puotinen.

Ron was a college graduate and worked as an educator and a retail manager. He met his loving wife Cindy, while residing in Michigan. They married June 2, 1982. In 1998, Ron and Cindy moved to Jacksonville, to be near their daughter and grandson. Ron was a devoted husband, loving father, brother, and friend. He dedicated his life to his family, ensuring that he was always there when needed. To some, Ron lived a simple life, but what fulfilled him the most was being a papa, spending time with family and friends, and fishing. He will be loved and cherished forever.

Ron is survived by his wife Cindy; daughters Dawn Smith and Tonya (Eric) Boardman; grandson Steven Austin (Ashleigh) Lewis; and brother Dale (Rhonda) Puotinen.

Arrangements by Cedar Bay Funeral Home, Jacksonville.

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

LINDA COOK WEBB



Linda Cook Webb, 74, of Callahan, passed away peacefully December 13, 2024 in Fernandina Beach. She was born November 23, 1952, in Jacksonville. Linda was preceded in death by her beloved husband of nearly 48 years, whom she married on May 15, 1972. He passed away on April 5, 2020. Together, they built a life centered around love, family, and service to others.

Linda's heart was also devoted to her beloved dog, Taco, who brought her immense joy and companionship. Her generosity knew no bounds as she often cooked for anyone in need, using her kitchen as a place of healing and warmth. Her home cooking was a cherished tradition, especially during family dinners and holidays. Linda found joy in mountain vacations, particularly during the fall, when she delighted in the changing leaves and spending quality time with her family. Fiercely protective and deeply loving, Linda's family was the cornerstone of her life.

Linda was a devoted member of her church, where she cultivated an extended church family. Beyond her faith and family, she was passionate about shopping,

traveling and gardening. She worked tirelessly throughout life, finding joy and pride in her meticulously maintained yard and garden projects. Her dedication extended to her professional life at Hilliard Life Care Center, where she often spent her earnings on the comfort and care of the residents. Her life was a beautiful example of warmth, love and genuine devotion; her memory will be cherished forever.

Linda was predeceased by her parents Dallas Cook and Vondell B. Cook; husband; and brothers Eugene (Jeanette) Walters, Dallas Wayne (Jean) Cook, and Bennie.

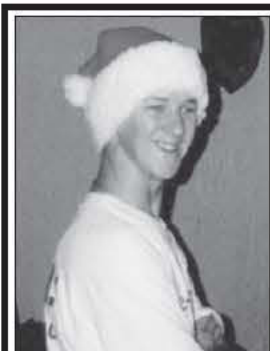
Linda is survived by her two children, Lisa Webb Davis and Kevin (Cheri) Webb; three cherished grandchildren: Bryan M. Davis, Caleb (Makenzie) Webb and Kendra Webb; and her legacy continues through her great-granddaughter Annistynn Lee Webb.

The family received friends Wednesday, December 18 prior to the funeral service at Cedar Bay Funeral Home, 405 New Berlin Road, Jacksonville. Interment followed at Jones Cemetery, Callahan.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in her honor to: Community Hospice & Palliative Care (Jane and Bill Warner Center for Caring) at: Give - Community Hospice Foundation.

Arrangements by Cedar Bay Funeral Home, Callahan.

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



Merry Christmas in Heaven R. NIEL HAMPTON, JR.

November 17, 1984 – October 11, 2003

As Christmas comes again, we can't help but to think about you, your sweet smile and sense of humor. You somehow always made days brighter. With each year that passes, our hearts still grieve. We look forward to our reunion in Heaven.

Love always,
Your family

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Happy Birthday Dalton,

You would be 29 if you were still with us. Our lives forever changed when you went to Heaven. We have missed you so much over the years. So many birthdays, so many holidays, and so many special events. We all love and miss you so much. I am so thankful we got to have you as our son. We will see you one day and what a day it will be. We will get our hugs we have missed for so many years.

We love you forever and always,
Dad ♥ Mama

Happy 29th Birthday Uncle Dalton!

We love you so much, can't wait to see you one day soon!

Forever in our hearts,
Heather ♥ Dayton



Annabeth Gets Published!

Last week, we had a special visit from little miss Annabeth Burns and her dad, Evan Burns. Annabeth is 6-years-old and is in the first grade at Callahan Elementary School. Recently, while reading her Clubhouse Jr. magazine, she read that if you send in a joke to the magazine your joke might be published, if chosen.

Well, she made up a joke and she was chosen! "What do you call an old snowman? A Puddle!" She was happy to bring by the magazine, turn right to the page and show us. We decided she needed to be published in the Westside Journal! Congratulations, sweet Annabeth. We are so proud of you!

Annabeth is the daughter of Evan and Ashley Burns of Callahan!



Quilts of Valor Information

The Country Star Quilt Guild is the Nassau County Quilt of Valor group. A Quilt of Valor group is a local chapter of the Quilts of Valor Foundation (QOVF), an organization that provides quilts to veterans and service members who have been affected by war. Reference: Country Star Quilters, Group ID: 99690.

Any questions can be directed to Sue Deyo, Group Leader at ssdeyo@comcast.net or Lori Frederick, Group Member at fred1990@comcast.net.

The guild focus is for those most in need of comfort and healing first; those who need to know their sacrifice is acknowledged, those who need the affirmation of a hug, and those who

never heard the words "Welcome Home." Quilts = Healing

Here are some things to consider when filling out the nomination form:

- The recipient must have been "touched by war" and would benefit from the comfort and healing of a Quilt of Valor
 - The recipient must not have previously been awarded a Quilt of Valor
 - The award is not intended as a gift or present for a celebration
 - The recipient must have an Honorable or General Discharge status
- More detailed information is available at: www.QOV.



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