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WESTSIDE JOURNAL



Santa Claus is Coming to Town!

VOLUME XXI ISSUE 18

HOMETOWN PEOPLE...HOMETOWN NEWS

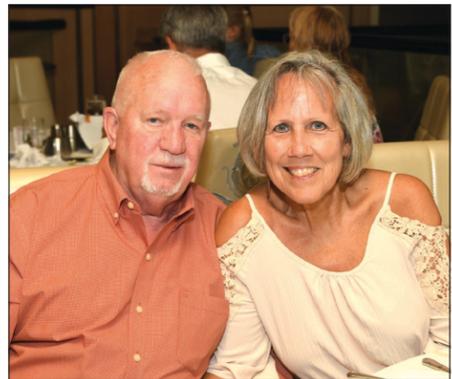
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2024

BUT THE ANGEL SAID TO HER, "DO NOT BE AFRAID, MARY; YOU HAVE FOUND FAVOR WITH GOD. YOU WILL CONCEIVE AND GIVE BIRTH TO A SON, AND YOU ARE TO CALL HIM JESUS." - LUKE 1:30-31

Westside Journal Announces Retirement

Dawn S. West

One of the many things I have learned about running a newspaper is making the headlines interesting, so it will catch someone's eye. Obviously, the Westside Journal is a newspaper and can't retire unless its owner does. Having said that, I am announcing that I am retiring and with that said, the paper will also dissolve. Trust me, it has been a decision that I have prayed about long and hard. My first thought was, I'm not old enough to retire. Well, yes, I am.



Some 21 years ago, I took on this challenge to start a 'new' paper, direct mailed by the US Postal Service, to all the residents of Callahan, Bryceville and Hilliard. Mark Thompson, the owner (at the time) of Florida Sun Printing, presented this vision to me, and somehow sold me on it. His vision was also to be a 'hometown' paper with news and information about our people. And most of all, locally owned and operated right here. For that and Mark, I am thankful, as I never expected this 'vision' to become such a huge part of my life. What began with a sales person, graphic person, writer and owner, quickly changed to a sales-writer-publisher-owner and graphic designer. I feel so blessed to see what God has accomplished through Jessie and I leading the charge, with lots of encouragement behind us each week.

The challenges were real with the crash of the economy and a few years later Covid. Still, God remained faithful to our paper. With amazing advertisers



that continued to stand with us through it all, we survived, with many paying in advance to help us. We continued and strived to make each and every issue complete with pieces and parts of our amazing community to share with our readers...and we did it!

Thinking back, God has never left my side. I had no journalism background and didn't know anything about owning a business, much less running one. But yet, God continued to open the doors and place people in my path to learn how to improve. My goodness, there were some tough lessons. I thought to myself, this will never work. Then, as the social media continued to grow stronger, again I feared the worst. Who is going to read our paper when they have everything at their fingertips? Again, I was wrong. Did you know that we actually have subscribers that have moved away that still want to hold the paper in their hands? With that, I was truly amazed. I've tried to talk them into reading the paper on our website however, they reminded me, "We want to hold it in our hands!" What joy fills my heart.

This paper has been so much more than a job for me. It has completely consumed my life. Since I have made this decision, I have been reminded that God has a sense of humor. Each week, I have seen and talked to people, almost every day, that tell me how much they love the paper; how much

it means to them; how much they love Roger's column; how thankful they are to see a Bible verse on the front page; etc. I am overwhelmed by the love and support that has been shown to us throughout the years.

To our faithful advertisers, you are



amazing! Without you (advertisers) we could not do what we have done for this many years. I stand strong with many of our advertisers and the many services they provide. I pray that your businesses continue to flourish and am so thankful and appreciative for your faithfulness to us through these years. In these 21 plus years, I am so thankful and proud to say, we've only had two bad checks, and both were corrected quickly; and have never had credit card fraud. God has truly protected our customer accounts.

The next question that you may have, "Why not sell the paper?" The main reason is because this paper has become a part of me. That may be selfish to some, but it's the truth. I have shared so much of my life with our

See 'Westside Journal' on page 3

51st Annual Callahan Christmas PARADE THIS SATURDAY



Dawn S. West

The much-anticipated 51st Annual Callahan Christmas Parade will be held this Saturday, December 7 beginning at 10:45 a.m. The parade route will begin off of Dixie Avenue on US 1 north of Callahan and travel through town to 5th Avenue, where it will turn right on Booth Street and head back to Dixie Avenue.

This annual parade certainly makes me think back when I used to bring my toddlers into town to watch the parade. Now, my children, grandchildren and I are continuing the tradition!

The route has changed, a time or two through the years, but organizers finally realized the current one can't be beat. It's just a straight shot. People line up their chairs and vehicles the night before to try to get the prime place to watch the Shriners, floats, bands, horses and of course, Santa Claus! It's a treat for all ages to enjoy! There will be a vendor/craft/food event at The Depot for all your shopping needs. There will also be another vendor event at Wells Fargo bank.

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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,

Thank you for your honest and accurate take on Fernandina Beach. My parents owned the skating rink, Putt Putt Course, Go Cart Track, Waterslide, Game Room, Trampoline Center, Restaurant and Laundromat, at Main Beach. After years of over reach and abuse by code enforcement, my stepfather "Tump" Lewis, finally gave in to the bureaucrats. The city refused to renew his lease for the skating rink (ground) under the guise that Holiday Inn was going to build a hotel there. The floor (hardwood cherry) of the rink was torn out and mysteriously ended up in the backyard of a city commissioner covered with a tarp. Many years later, after the commissioner died, a friend of mine pressure washed the commissioner's home and all of the wood was still there! Needless to say, the Holiday Inn never got built.

Recently in Ottawa Canada, the commissioners that didn't go along with a similar perverted "pride" event were forced to pay a fine. My wife and I recently sold our home on the north beach, partly because of code enforcement abusing us for no reason. They accused us of remodeling our home because they observed my brother-in-law standing in my yard with a Sawzall in his hand. The code enforcement guy was the head guy and insisted that I let him inspect my home and my two tenant's apartments or he was taking us to court in order to gain entry. I was forced to have our attorney involved who thankfully resolved the issue.

You are correct in your assessment of the changes that have overwhelmed our once pristine town oozing with southern comforts and friendship to anyone. The corporate influence of the godless elites that began on the Plantation has now consumed Fernandina Beach.

The liberals satanic push for dismembering

our children for their perverted ideology is currently losing its momentum in America, thank God! Thank you for all the editorials that you have had the courage to write over all these many years. It's so rare to see honest unfiltered journalism these days. God bless you, your wife, and the United States of America.

Hal C. Whitley

Donate New Shoes

Dear Editor,

A new pair of shoes can be transformational. For the last 34 years each year we have asked members of the community to help us provide the gift of a new pair of shoes for the nearly 120 mentally ill adults who call Dayspring Village "home."

A new pair of shoes has a positive impact on the self-image of the recipient. Often times, many of the mentally ill, when they go to the hospital, they remove the shoe laces and then they have no way to secure the shoes. Imagine wearing a pair of shoes with no shoe laces? It really impacts your mental health in a negative way.

You can help this year by donating to the Dayspring Village shoe drive via the QR code. The shoes normally cost around \$30/pair. This year, please consider putting a spring in the step of those who struggle with Schizophrenia. We have a goal to raise \$3,000 and have only raised \$140 so far. We have a long way to go, but we believe with your help we can reach the goal and ensure each resident receives a new pair of shoes.

Thank you for your kindness and your consideration. We are grateful for whatever you can share.

Douglas D. Adkins



In the Kitchen... Slow Cooker Chicken Tacos

1 cup chicken broth
 3 tablespoons taco seasoning mix
 1 pound skinless, boneless chicken breasts

Combine chicken broth and taco seasoning mix in a bowl. Place chicken in a slow cooker. Pour chicken broth mixture over chicken. Cook on low for 6 to 8 hours. Shred chicken. Serve on flour tortillas with your favorite toppings!

Join us for the Callahan Christmas PARADE AND CRAFT FAIR

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DOWNTOWN CALLAHAN

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Westside Journal

readers and brought you into my world. Many feel like you know my parents, as I love to share about them...as I'm blessed. I have shared our children and grandchildren, family parties and celebrations and of course, the annual Stearn meetings! You've also consoled us through the passing of our loved ones.

Another reason, the paper makes money however, it's not a money maker. In this world, as postage rates continue to rise, along with other costs, it's no longer practical to do what we have done. A few months ago, we stopped mailing to the post office boxes in Callahan and Hilliard to save some money. Already, my postage costs are

Continued from page 1

about where they were at that time, with more residents moving in.

The final issue of the Westside Journal will be Thursday, December 19, 2024. Although I'm a little nervous about this change in my life, I will still be around. Roger and I are looking forward to this new chapter in our lives. I'm thankful to still have my parents close and look forward to spending more time with them. Again, God has truly blessed me far beyond what I could ever imagine. Thank you, to our readers and friends, for your amazing support, encouragement and love through these years.

Most of all, thank you to God as... Great is thy Faithfulness!

Pine Forest Alumni Committee News

Johnnie Green

Pine Forest High School was the only school for the African Americans residing in the Callahan area for years. The school was built in 1951 and was occupied through 1968. The Pine Forest Alumni Committee focuses on the legacy, parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, and friends left behind. Presently, we have two members of our community who were among the first group of students to attend Pine Forest. They serve to remind us of our rich heritage.

The alumni committee has selected their motto as "Never forget our Legacy." This Alumni group represents the remaining members of a larger group which served during the 1980s and beyond. The committee has accomplished several historical moments over the last 10 years with God's help, Callahan Middle School staff, Superintendent and the entire community, such as:

The Annual PFC Banquet; Pine Forest Historical Marker; renaming Callahan Middle School gym to Pine Forest Gym; Annual PFC Christmas (ugly sweater) social; Annual PFC Scholarship; Annual Black History Celebration; Annual Summer Jazz Festival in the park; and the Thanksgiving and Christmas Dinner giveaway.

The alumni meets the first Monday each month at 5 p.m. at Bethel A.M.E. Church of Callahan. Alumni members are: Pastor Johnnie Green, President; James Williamson, Vice President; Sandra Stewart, Secretary; Garry Jones, IT Coordinator; Clint Jones, Historian; Betty Holland and Maxine Simmons, Advisors; Barbara Bacon, Consultant; and Alma Williamson, Activities decorator.

The next meeting will be held Monday, January 6, 2025 at 5 p.m. Refreshments will be served!

JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

Around Christmas time, Publix Supermarkets always produce heartwarming commercials that reflect the traditional family Christmas dinners, highlighting what we see as pleasant and real America. I also hear and often read about so many people wanting a Publix here on the west side of Nassau County.

So, it came as a true shock and disappointment to me when a friend reached out to me concerning the woke actions of the Publix at Wildlight. According to my friend and an article in the "Eye On My City" news outlet, Publix has a dark side also. Guess who they targeted? MAGA followers, of course! We all know that Nassau County was overwhelmingly RED on November 5th. MAGA is the most patriotic slogan of all time. Nothing sinister, just true patriots that want America to be great once again. However, Publix doesn't view us as peaceful patriotic customers. No, they perceive us as divisive. A campaign slogan used by our duly elected President all across America and even extremely popular across many foreign countries. I think Israel had as many MAGA posters and caps as us!

So, what did the Yulee store do to incite this gross action against we the majority in Nassau County? It all began with a simple order for a custom cake. A faithful Publix customer named Lisa placed a cake order. Lisa requested "MAGA 2024" be the decoration on her cake (I wish I had thought about that). When she went to pick up her MAGA cake, to her dismay, MAGA had been deliberately left off the cake. Instead, it just had 2024 written across the middle of the cake. Publix was so generous by

giving her a small container of extra icing so she could place the evil MAGA on the cake herself.

Lisa vented her frustrations on social media and many residents figured it must have been a disgruntled employee that pulled for the other side. A friend reached out to Corporate (Publix), thinking they would be shocked at what a Publix employee had done. However, quite the contrary, it seems as though it is Publix's standard operating procedure. Each store has the right to refuse any verbiage or image that they deem inappropriate.

Hey it gets worse! Lisa's friend wasn't done yet. She approached the management at the Wildlight store wanting to know how can MAGA a four-letter slogan, visible countrywide about making America great would/could be considered as Questionable or Divisive. Pushing management further, they ("Wildlight Publix management) relayed that they would have allowed a cake with Kamala's socialist slogan, "We're not going back," due to it being more-vague. If you are wondering why I state Kamala's slogan is socialist, research it and see who has utilized that same slogan in the past.

Of course, we all knew the left were going to push back anyway they can, but the facts still remain, MAGA created a red tidal wave across the entire United States of America. As I think back, the number of times I have ever been in a Publix, I could count on one hand, and now I know I will not need my second hand to count any further encounters with Publix.

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





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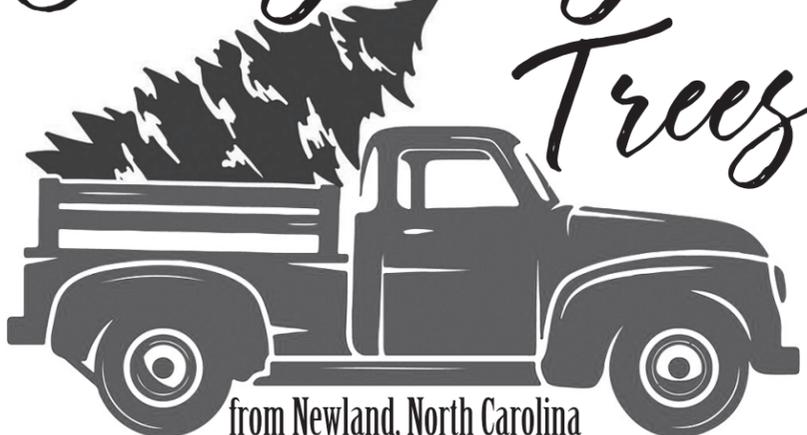
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Christmas Parade Fun!

Pastor Marty Paparo, Friendship Alliance Church, Callahan



If you have never been to the Callahan Christmas Parade, let me share with you that you are missing out on one of the many things that makes living on the west side of Nassau County great. This year's parade will have more floats than last year's. It's going to be a great event.

What really has me excited for this year is that a number of churches in our area are putting together a group of floats telling some of the Miracles of Jesus. The churches participating this year are: The Anchor Church of God, Callahan Methodist Church, Crossroads Church/Sonshine Christian Academy, Friendship Alliance Church, Rivers Edge Church and True Life Christian Fellowship. Here is a sneak peek into the floats: the first float will have Pastors from the churches. The miracles will include: Jesus's birth (Luke 2:1-20, Anchor), the great haul of fish (Luke 5:1-11, Crossroads/Sonshine), Jesus heals a man at the pool of Bethesda (John 5:1-9 Friendship), Jesus walks on water (Mark 6:47-51, Rivers Edge), and Jesus rose from the dead (Luke 24:5-8, Methodist).

The purpose of these floats is two-fold: 1) To proclaim the Gospel. "And He said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation." Mark 16:15, ESV. Jesus gives this clear instruction that we are to proclaim the Gospel (good news). That can happen in many ways. We can simply tell people the Good News of who Jesus is and what Jesus has done. We can display the Gospel during communion or baptism. We can find the Gospel written in the Bible, or acted out in a play or a movie, or we can tell the Good News on a float in a parade. 2) To work in unity with our brothers and sisters in Christ, each of these churches comes from different denominations or no denomination. Each of these churches has their own finer points of theology and practice. Each of these churches believes Jesus died for our sins and salvation is found in Jesus Christ. So, we work in unity to proclaim this good news. "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity," Psalm 133:1, ESV.

We hope to see you this Saturday at the parade. Look for the QR Code on the side of each of our floats that will take you to the Churches of West Nassau County Facebook page. There you will find more information on the group and how to get involved.

Attend the church of your choice this Sunday.

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Historical Society Says Thank You!

Emily Baumgartner & John Hendricks, Co-Chairs

On behalf of the West Nassau Historical Society, we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped us plan and prepare for our recent 8th Annual Hobos, Tractors & Heroes Festival and Veterans Appreciation. We were blessed with great weather and with kind community support. We are an all-volunteer 501c3 nonprofit and our main purposes are to highlight our county's rich history and culture and to maintain the 1881 Callahan Train Depot. We rely heavily on donations and monies raised from events such as Hobo Day to achieve these goals.

First, we would like to thank all of our Veterans who continue to protect our freedoms. Without our veteran heroes we would not have a past to preserve. Thanks to Mayor Knagge, the Town of Callahan Council and associates for their continuing support and use of the Callahan Depot Park Pavilion and rail bed. Thanks to the all of the food and arts/craft vendors who set up at Hobo Day and to Meridian Waste for providing the totes that kept our area litter-free. A big kudos goes to Col. Kline and the West Nassau High School JROTC color guard for presenting the Flag, plus the Boys Scouts for helping Joel Pace Piano and Music host the kids' area. It was great to see all the children playing and enjoying themselves within the quaint confines of the 143-year-old train station and grounds. Our children are the future caretakers of our history and our culture.

Special thanks go to entertainment chair Jerry Peterson for putting together a great entertainment lineup. Thanks goes to Buck Lucontro, Jerry Ganey, and Rick Crosby for help with the stage equipment, and Chuck Pedersen for the sound. Thanks to Patti Peterson Eason, Jeanne Scott and Mark Cooner for their help in the green room. Thanks also to all the entertainers who gave of their time and talents to put on another great Hobo Day show.

A big thank-you goes to the Thornton Brothers, Bob Sieg and Florida Forestry Service for bringing their tractors and equipment to our first tractor show. It has the potential to grow and we are already looking forward to having more tractors and farm equipment on exhibit next year. If there are any tractor or antique machine enthusiasts who own one and are willing to help us plan next year's Hobo Day tractor show, please call us at the Depot at 904-879-3406.

Lastly, we would like to thank each and every member of the West Nassau Historical Society who went above and beyond what was asked of them to ensure that we have the Callahan Depot, caboose and grounds ready for a safe and enjoyable event. You all continue to show that by working together, all things are possible. The Historical Society is always looking for new members to join us in planning future projects. In January, we will continue our monthly meetings on the fourth Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the historic Callahan Train Depot. Please come out and join us as we continue to preserve the future of our past.

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Psalm 45:1

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Yvette Outler

Timely Christmas Gifts

This economy is causing you to think differently about gift giving. When what is coming out of your pocket is more than what is going into your pocket for covering living expenses and bills, changes need to be considered. As I was considering this for myself this year, I thought I would share ideas that cost little money but will require your time.



- Here are timely gift ideas:
1. One Car Wash and Vacuum.
 2. One House Cleaning: Mop, Sweep, Dusting and Bathrooms. (Be specific about your offer). You may offer to do just the laundry (wash, dry, fold and put away).
 3. One Meal of Choice: Baked Chicken or Pot Roast and Veggies delivered on your day of choice.
 4. One Night of Babysitting. If it helps, offer to go to their house. Include feeding, bathing, and getting their little one(s) ready for bed.
 5. One Sweet Treat: Homemade pound cake, or fudge bars. (or whatever their favorite baked item would be)
 6. Raking the Yard: Rake the leaves and straw. Bag up the yard debris, place around the trees, or with a permit burn the pile.
 7. Game Night: Plan to have them over for a simple meal and a game. There is something nice about getting together!
 8. Smores Night: Gather marshmallows, chocolate, and graham crackers. This could be as simple as using a small can of sterno on a cookie

sheet, lined with aluminum, tabletop style or building a roaring bonfire outside to enjoy the experience!

If it is important to you to give a wrapped gift, here is a way to achieve both: If you choose to give any of these acts of service away, you can first type or write them on a piece of paper, and then wrap that piece of paper in a box. This scratches your itch to "give" something and blesses the receiver with a terrific gift! If you want to keep it simple you can write your gift/act of service down inside of a Christmas card.

You should not go into debt for gifts. Gifts that require a little bit of your time, wrapped in love, would be a great alternative to costly gifts that you cannot afford. It is not about the gift anyway...Christmas is about Christ. Maybe making a shift in gift giving will help us to embrace that truth even stronger.

Merry Christmas!

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

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<p>1 lb. Can CLAW CRAB MEAT</p> <p>\$10.95</p> <p>Expires 12-10-24 WJ While Supplies Last Limit 2 With this Coupon</p>	<p>10 lb. CASE SNOW CRAB LEGS</p> <p>\$99.95</p> <p>Expires 12-10-24 WJ With this Coupon</p>
<p>USDA Whole T-BONES</p> <p>\$5.95 lb.</p> <p><i>Cut the way you like!</i></p> <p>Expires 12-10-24 WJ Limit 2 With this Coupon</p>	<p>8 oz. Bag Breaded POPCORN SHRIMP</p> <p>\$1.00</p> <p>Expires 12-10-24 WJ With this Coupon</p>
<p>3 lb. Bag Country Breaded SHRIMP</p> <p>\$10.00</p> <p>Expires 12-10-24 WJ With this Coupon</p>	<p>10 lb. Bag FRYER DRUMSTICKS</p> <p>\$7.95</p> <p>Expires 12-10-24 WJ Limit 2 With this Coupon</p>
<p>LEG QUARTERS</p> <p>\$7.95 10 lb. Bag</p> <p>Expires 12-10-24 WJ Limit 2 With this Coupon</p>	<p>Lee's Smoked SLAB BACON</p> <p>\$4.99 lb.</p> <p><i>Sliced the way you like it!</i></p> <p>WHOLE OR HALF</p> <p>Expires 12-10-24 WJ With this Coupon</p>

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New Councilwoman Takes Callahan Seat

Dawn S. West

The Callahan Town Council met Monday night for their first meeting in December and final meeting for 2024. The first order of business was for Council President and Councilman Ken Bass to step down from his position. Ken has served as a councilman in Callahan for 10 years. Following, Councilwoman Janet Shaw moved to the Council President seat.

Callahan Mayor Randy Knagge announced to the council that he will now swear in the three council persons: Councilwoman Jacquelyn Fleming, Councilman Matt Davis and newcomer Wendi Williams, who was appointed to the final council seat, as no one ran for the seat.

The next order of business was for the council to choose who will be the council president. Councilwoman Fleming made a motion for Janet Shaw, and Councilman Matt Davis seconded the motion. The council approved for Councilwoman Shaw to also serve as



Councilman Matt Davis, Councilwoman Jacquelyn Fleming and Councilwoman Wendi Williams

Council President, which she humbly accepted. "I appreciate your vote of confidence in me," said Shaw. "It's pretty cool to be the first lady president of the council."

The next order of business was the assignment of departments. Current council members were all satisfied with their assignments and wished to keep them. The assignments are: Water Commissioner Councilwoman Jacquelyn Fleming; Street

Commissioner Councilwoman Ashton Vargas; Fire Commissioner Councilwoman Wendi Williams; Planning & Zoning Commissioner Councilman Matt Davis; and Parks & Recreation Commissioner Council President Councilwoman Janet Shaw.

The final order of business was the approval of Ordinance 2024-004 on Second and Final Reading. The ordinance concerned Amending Chapter 66 in the Town Code to allow Alcoholic Beverages to be sold in the Callahan Town limits at 7 a.m. on Sundays. The council approved the Ordinance by a vote of 4 – 1, with Council President Janet Shaw voting no.

In closing comments, Mayor Knagge reminded the council of the Callahan Christmas Parade this Saturday at 10:45 a.m.

Councilwoman Ashton Vargas advised the council that she was included in a webinar with FDOT and questioned when the traffic light, that has been approved, will be placed at Mickler Street and US 301. The response she received was once the funding was in it should be as soon as 2029.

Ken Bass advised the council and thanked them for being so supportive of him and he was so proud of the work that they had done. "It has been an honor and pleasure to serve," said Bass.

The next meeting of the council will be Monday, January 6, 2025 at 7 p.m.

Free Hands Only CPR Class at the Hilliard Library



A free, fast, and convenient training course to help you better respond to cardiac arrest. Training includes: Hands-Only CPR, AED, Real-Life demonstration, Hands on Practice, Overview of the Good Samaritan Law, and more. RSVPs are appreciated at nassaureads.com. All classes are taught by volunteers from the Nassau County Medical Reserve Corps. The class will be held Thursday, December 12 at 6 p.m. at the Hilliard Library.

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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!

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Christmas Tree Lighting Held in Hilliard



lighting, with lots of vendors, crafts and food trucks.

The tree lighting included the community choir singing Christmas carols and inviting the large crowd to join in. It was quite beautiful. Everyone one was invited to enjoy some hot chocolate complete with marshmallows; and cookies! Once the music stopped, you could hear bells ringing announcing the arrival of Santa Claus and his friend The Grinch! Children lined up to get their opportunity to have their picture taken with Santa and/or the Grinch! There were smiles everywhere! Hilliard Mayor John Beasley requested for the crowd to countdown to light the tree... and it was beautiful!

Great job Hilliard!

The Town of Hilliard held their Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Saturday. This is the third year the event has been held in Town Hall Park. Each year, the build up to the event gets better. Surrounding the sidewalk at the park are several trees sponsored by businesses, churches and/or families. Hilliard sets the trees up and the sponsors are responsible to decorate them. Not only are the trees nice to look at in the day time but so beautiful at night with the town tree shining brightly. This year, a Christmas Market was held prior to the tree

lighting, with lots of vendors, crafts and food trucks.



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VFW POST 10095 YARD SALE! Saturday, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., across from Hilliard Airpark. New Donations! \$5 Bag Day! Help support your Veterans!

ESTATE SALE CONTINUED... Friday, December 6 only! 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Quail Road - Look for the PINK signs. Tools, ammo, guns, fishing gear, covered trailer, car hauler, hunting accessories, housewares, clothes and more.

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TOPAZ OAKS STORAGE, located at 45160 Ewing Park Road, Callahan, FL 32011, hereby gives notice of a Public Disposition of storage contents on December 6, 2024 at 10 a.m. in accordance with the Florida Self Storage Facility 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 tenant: Valerie Peters - Storage Unit 31.

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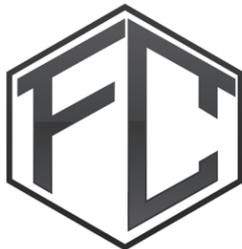
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POLICE REPORTS

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, November 19

Garret Lee Sparkman, 35, Hilliard: Writ of Bodily Attachment Civil

Wednesday, November 20

Marty Harold Johnson, 54, Hilliard: Out of State Warrant Felony; Writ of Bodily Attachment Civil

Sunday, November 24

Jarquavion Vontroy Thomas, 20, Callahan: Resist without Violence; Battery, Touch or Strike Domestic Violence

Monday, November 25

Joshua Oneil Davis, 39, Hilliard: Possession of Methamphetamine; Possession of Drug

Paraphernalia with Residue

Mary Rapp Tracey, 64, Hilliard: Out of County Warrant

Thursday, November 28

David Charles Buchan, 62, Hilliard: Battery, Touch or Strike

Friday, November 29

Tiffany Lynne Wilson, 41, Callahan: Out of State Warrant Felony

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CHARLES EDWARD DAUGHTRY



Charles Edward "Charlie Buck" Daughtry, Sr., 82, of Callahan, passed away Thursday, November 28, 2024 in Baptist Medical Center South. He was born October 27, 1942 in Jacksonville, to the late Benjamin Franklin "Son" Daughtry, Sr. and Virginia Wylene Cooler Daughtry. He was an avid Florida Gator fan and loved watching wrestling and NASCAR, especially Dale Earnhardt, Sr. and Jr.

In addition to his parents; he was preceded in death by two sisters Louise Annette Daughtry Troxell and Sharon Paulette Daughtry; two brothers Benjamin Franklin "Frank" Daughtry, Jr. and Bobby Ray Daughtry, Sr.; a niece Lourie Ann Nichols; and a great niece Krizma Sheyanne Barger.

He is survived by his special niece and caregiver Wandella (Richard) Smart; his children Charles Edward Daughtry, Jr., Charlene Daughtry and Crystal Daughtry; a sister Shirlene Daughtry Griffin; two brothers Joseph Daughtry, Sr. and Jerald "Jerry" Daughtry, Sr.; a number of grandchildren; and many extended family members and friends.

The family will receive friends Sunday, December 8 at Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home Callahan Chapel from 4-6 p.m. The funeral service will be held Monday, December 9 at 11 a.m. also at the funeral home. Burial will follow in Jones Cemetery.

Condolences may be expressed at www.srfhcallahan.com.

MARY KNIGHT FAIRCLOTH



Mary Evelyn Knight Faircloth, 85, of Callahan, passed away November 24, 2024, at her home, with her loving husband by her side. She was born October 16, 1939, in Coffeetown,

OBITUARIES

Alabama to the late Henry Gilmer Knight and Margie Terry Bumpers. Throughout her life, Mary was known for her warmth, kindness and unwavering dedication to her family. She was the loving wife of James Bryant Faircloth for 67 beautiful years. They married on May 18, 1956, and together, they built a life filled with love, raising two children Ramona Faircloth Cunningham and Mark Anthony Faircloth. Her family was her pride and joy, and she was affectionately known as being "the best Granny in the world" by her granddaughter and great-grandsons. Mary had a passion for sewing and crocheting, creating beautiful handmade items that will be treasured by her family for generations. Her green thumb was evident in her flourishing garden, where she spent countless hours nurturing her plants and flowers.

Avid square dancers for Merry Maverick's, Mary and James enjoyed square dancing all over the country. They also loved camping with their camping club, River City Campers and making friends who became more like family. She also enjoyed fishing with a cane pole on a riverbank. A talented cook, Mary took pride in preparing meals for her loved ones, always making sure they never left her home hungry. She was an avid fan of Alabama football, to say the least, never missing a game, Roll Tide! Mary was also passionate about Elvis Presley and had a vast collection of Elvis memorabilia. She took great pleasure in watching her great-grandsons play baseball and was known for coaching from the stands.

Throughout her life, Mary cherished the moments spent with her family, who she adored always placing them at the center of her world. A beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Mary leaves behind a legacy of love and

devotion. Her family will forever cherish her memory. Mary's life was a testament to the power of love, family, and commitment. She was an amazing woman who was greatly loved and will be deeply missed by all who knew her. Mary was preceded in death by her grandparents; HN Knight and Bertha Knight; parents; son Mark Faircloth; and sister Martha Byrd.

Mary is survived by her husband, James Bryant Faircloth; daughter Ramona Cunningham; granddaughter Melissa (Chase) Faircloth Hester; great-grandsons Jackson Bryant Bennett and Jameson Michael Hester.

A celebration of Mary's life was held Monday, December 2 at Nassau Funeral Home with Pastor Marty Paparo officiating. Interment followed at Jacksonville National Cemetery. The family received friends prior to the service.

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

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

THOMAS "TOMMY" HAYES



Thomas Charles "Tommy" Hayes, 37, of Callahan, passed away Wednesday, November 20, 2024, following a courageous battle with cancer. He was born February 9, 1987 in Jacksonville. He graduated from First Coast High School. He was employed with JEA since March of 2010 and was a C&M Working Foreman. Tommy loved coaching baseball at the Callahan Little League and was a faithful member of Exchange Church Wildlight.

He is survived by his loving wife of 11 years, Kelsey Hayes; his children Karmin Haylee Hayes (9) and Ryan Michael Hayes (6); his father Ronnie Hayes; his mother Sharon Cox; his father and mother-in-law John "Poopie" and Melissa Cowart; grandparents-in-law Gailen and Brenda Gates and Faye Williams; brothers-in-law Colby Cowart and Cody and Taylor Cowart; an aunt and uncle-in-law Page and Meleah Jolly; cousins-in-law Michael and Taylor Jolly and Chloe and Dalton Terrell; and a host of other relatives, close friends and work family. Tommy was preceded in

death by their infant child.

A homegoing ceremony was held Saturday, November 30 at First Baptist Church, Callahan with Pastor Todd Carr officiating. A celebration of life service was held after the service at The Barn at Cottonwood Ranch in Callahan.

Condolences may be expressed at www.srfhcallahan.com.

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, Callahan Chapel; 617365 Brandies Avenue.

SHIRLEY COKER PACE



Shirley Coker Pace, 90, of Jacksonville, a beloved mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend, went home to be with Jesus November 26, 2024, at the age of 90. She was born October 15, 1934, in Jacksonville. Shirley was a beacon of light and love to all who knew her. She was known for her warm smile, unwavering kindness and steadfast faith. Shirley lived a life dedicated to her Lord and her family.

She cherished spending time with loved ones and found joy in singing, laughing, music, flowers and birds. Shirley had a special love for shopping, but her greatest passion was loving Jesus and sharing that love with her family and friends. Her compassion and generosity were boundless, always accompanied by a big smile, kind words and a helping hand. Shirley's legacy of love, faith, and generosity lives on in the countless lives she touched. She will be deeply missed and fondly remembered by all who were privileged to know her. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 62 years, Leonard E. Pace.

Shirley is survived by her son, Raymond (Karen) Pace of Callahan; her grandson Raymond Pace, Jr.; her sister Mary Kate Holliman; her uncle Ted Barber; and a host of cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends.

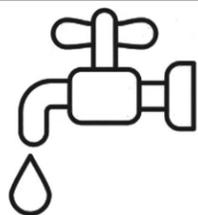
The family will receive friends at 10 a.m. Wednesday, December 11 prior to the celebration of Shirley's life service at 11 a.m. at Gardenview Baptist Church on Jacksonville's north side. Interment will follow at 1 p.m. at the Jacksonville National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made to your local church to further the Kingdom of Christ.

Arrangements by Peoples Family Funeral Home, Jacksonville. Condolences may be expressed at: www.ppf.com.



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OBITUARIES

CONRAD BRAXTON RAY



Conrad Braxton Ray, 4-month-old son of Ryan and Hanna Ray, passed away November 22, 2024. He was born July 25, 2024 in Jacksonville.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by his brothers Hollis Ryan Ray and Ransom Gordon Ray; grandparents Danna and Steve Harrison, David and Denise Ray, Tammy and Bobby Dent and Bo and Tony Williams; great-grandparents Betty Ray; Pansy and Danny Carter; and Tonya and Jimmy Dunty; great-great-grandmother Maxine Brenner and numerous extended family members.

He was preceded in death by his great-grandparents Hollis Ray, Jr.; Debra Williams and Benton Williams.

The family will receive friends Friday, December 6 at 10 a.m. prior to the funeral service at 11 a.m. at The Anchor Church, 541798 US Highway 1, Callahan, with Pastor Dwight Allen and Pastor Jeff Carter officiating. Burial will follow in Ogilvie Cemetery in Callahan.

Condolences may be expressed at www.shepardrobersonfh.com.

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, 526 Oakwood Street, Folkston.

CLIFFORD ARTHUR RIDDLE



Clifford Arthur Riddle, 55, of Jacksonville, was called to his eternal home on November 23, 2024, surrounded by his loving family. Cliff was born and brought up in Jacksonville, and graduated from Nathan Bedford Forrest High School. While serving in the Army Patriot Missile Division, he saw combat in the first Gulf War. Cliff was stationed in Germany, where he met his wife of 31 years, Sabine. He was employed with the City of Jacksonville Tax Collector Office for 27 years and recently retired.

Cliff was a former member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and a life member of the West Nassau Historical Society. He was a reserved and dignified man who was well respected in his community. Cliff was a lifelong fan of Lynyrd Skynyrd and the Dallas Cowboys.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife Sabine Riddle; son Kevin Riddle; daughter Anika Riddle; and mother Janice (Donnie) Sain, all of Callahan. Cliff is preceded in death by his father Michael W. Riddle.

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

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

DELMA EUGENE WILDER



Delma Eugene (Gene) Wilder, 80, of Callahan, passed away Wednesday, November 27, 2024. Gene was born in Waycross, Georgia, to the late Delma and Ethel Cash Wilder. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife Gwynne Howard Wilder, of Callahan.

Gene graduated from Waycross High School and went on to earn a degree in accounting from Valdosta State University. He later pursued his passion for landscape architecture, obtaining a degree from the University of Georgia, which became his life's work. Gene will be remembered for his dedication to his family, his professional achievements, and his warm and generous spirit. He touched the lives of many and will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Gene is survived by his son Brian Wilder of Orlando; his sister Kathryn Wilder Beggs of Johns Creek, Georgia; and her three daughters Beth Owen, Cindy Carter and Bonnie Perdue; and his brother David (Darlene) Wilder of Fruit Cove, along with their two sons James and Eric Wilder.

A graveside service will be held Saturday, December 7 at 1 p.m. in Oakland Cemetery.

Sympathy may be expressed at: www.milesodumfuneralhome.com.



Micolle D. Rosenberry, Esq.

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Ephesus Baptist Church is proud to announce the return of Christmas in the Country. The event will be held this Sunday, December 8 from 6-9 p.m. This is a FREE event for the young and old alike. It's a special time to take a step back in time and visit Christmas cottages, see a live Nativity, enjoy the Christmas Express Train, pet the animals and Play in the Snow...in Florida! They will also have coffee, hot chocolate and festive foods to enjoy!



Make sure to take a trip out to Ephesus Baptist Church, 48143 Ephesus Road (off CR 108) Hilliard. It's truly something to experience!

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The Country Star Quilt Guild is raffling this beautiful quilt to raise funds for their many projects. Tickets may be purchased from any Guild member, as well as from the Westside Journal office, 450034 SR 200, Callahan, where the quilt is on display. This beautiful, king-size quilt is an original custom design on a white background with hand sown cross stitch patterns on each block and custom quilted.

The drawing for the quilt winner, will be held Monday, December 9 at their December meeting. You do not have to be present to win!

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