

WESTSIDE JOURNAL

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to God for
Our Nation!

VOLUME XX ISSUE 24

HOMETOWN PEOPLE...HOMETOWN NEWS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2024

"ONE THING I ASK FROM THE LORD, THIS ONLY DO I SEEK: THAT I MAY DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE, TO GAZE ON THE BEAUTY OF THE LORD AND TO SEEK HIM IN HIS TEMPLE." - PSALM 27:4

Visit the NAO Trinidad Flagship in Fernandina

Docked from January 16th to 28th



The NAO Trinidad arrived in Fernandina Beach Monday, January 15 and is docked at the Oasis Marina in Fernandina Beach. After visiting Charleston and St. Marys, where she received more than 8000 visitants, she continued her path to Fernandina Beach expecting to keep spreading the maritime heritage.

The NAO Trinidad was the flagship of what was called Armada del Maluco (1519-1522), captained by Ferdinand Magellan. Five ships (NAOs) departed from Sevilla, but only two made it to the Spice Islands, NAO Trinidad was one of them. This beautiful replica weighs 150Tn, 93ft in length, and has a 26ft beam, three masts and a bowsprit. The height of the mainmast is more than 82 feet, five sails and five decks, built with an exquisite work in Iroko (African

hardwood) and pinewood. This ship has sailed to many different ports across the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic European Coast as a training vessel and floating museum.



The NAOs have this unique and original design that made them the most advanced in naval engineering, used first as cargo ships in Spain and then taking the lead as exploring vessels. She is a full-scale replica, faithful on her design and dimensions. More than a hundred artisans of the sea worked on her construction: such as ship carpenters, rope masters or naval engineers. The visitors will be able to tour four decks, to feel how the life was

like onboard at the time and how it is to live today on an historical ship of these characteristics. They will be able to learn about the maneuvering, the rigging and interact with the crew, who have the most amazing experiences on their long voyages.

About the NAO Victoria Foundation: The NAO Victoria Foundation is a non-profit entity that specializes in sharing the maritime heritage, researching for the recovery, construction and promotion of historical ships, sailing to ports around the world allowing guests to meet history. The NV Foundation is constantly looking for the historical accuracy combined with innovative techniques in the ship building sector, always following the current international regulations. This represents a massive advance in terms of environmental impact, costs,



durability and maintenance of the ships, without affecting their historical aspect, navigability or maneuver.

Ticket Information:

Dates: January 16th - 28th

Location: Oasis Marina, Fernandina Beach, Florida

Open: Monday - Thursday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Friday - Sunday, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Tickets available at: www.tickets.velacuadra.es.

Contact: Brenda Parra, 904-770-0293; bparra@fundacionnaovictoria.org.

NCEDB Director Visits Callahan Council

Dawn S. West

The Callahan Town Council met Tuesday night (due to the Monday holiday) for their final meeting of January. The first item was a presentation from Sherri Mitchell, Executive Director of the Nassau County Economic Development Board, with an overview of 2023 at the NCEDB. Mitchell shared the NCEDB's main goal is business retention and expansion.

"We want to make sure to support, retain and expand upon the local business base we currently have and also increase business retention and expansion

activities with all present companies," said Mitchell. "Nassau County currently has a population of 96,971. When I started with the NCEDB there were around 79,000 people with an average wage of \$51,110. The county continues to grow at a fast pace. As our county continues to grow we continue to ask for the support of the Town of Callahan. I am asking for a \$2,000 donation for this year."

The council will do a resolution at their next meeting and discuss the amount to donate to the NCEDB.

In other business, Town Manager Mike Williams advised the council, "In June

2022, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis announced that the Town of Callahan had received a \$3.371 million grant for the Crawford Diamond Construction Project. The town has never received any funds as of yet."

Williams contacted the state office and finally got confirmation that a Grant Agreement would be forthcoming. Once the agreement is received, the council approved giving Mayor Knagge consent to sign the agreement and send it back as soon as possible.

In closing comments, Mayor Knagge advised the council that he and

Councilwomen Fleming and Vargas along with Town Clerk Gugliuzza, would all be attending Rural County Days at the State Capital next week.

Williams advised the council that the generator at the fire department is going bad. "It looks like a new one will be around \$27,000," said Williams. "Also, the sewer line project going to the fairgrounds is going well. While you all are in Tallahassee at Rural County Days, try lobbying for about \$800,000 so we can also get a waterline to the fairgrounds."

The next meeting of the council will be February 5 at 7 p.m.

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Progressive
FARMER
READER INSIGHTS

A Word From the Publisher

We have certainly had some strange weather patterns lately, huh? A couple days of warm sunny days, couple rainy days and then here comes the cold. I know it has been frustrating but just be thankful we're not up north! We have some crazy weather but it pretty much changes every day. Not in the north and certainly not lately. I'm not sure how those people tolerate those cold temperatures. I get cold here and we don't have nothing!

I really don't care how cold it gets... I just really need to see the sunshine. I can feel my mood going into a negative range when we don't have the sun. Give me a little sunshine and that goes a long way with me. The weekend before last, I totally enjoyed walking around our woods and picking up limbs and there were a ton of them. It's probably been two years or more since I've taken the time to go out there. Years ago, Roger mowed several trails through the woods for the grandchildren to walk through and around. With each storm and strong winds, the limbs come down. There were even several small trees that had blown down. But that didn't stop me. It was a challenge to clean off all the brush on top of them and drag them over to my pile. Once I pulled off all the limbs from the trees I just drug them over to join the piles. When I finally finished for the day, I had about 4 1/2 piles of debris and about six trees. It sure made me feel good and it made the woods look so much better.

Last Saturday, I walked out to check out my piles and see if any more limbs had fallen and to see how wet it was from the last rain. I decided to try to

burn my piles and finish my cleanup! I had a cardboard box in the bottom of the firepit and began filling it with small pieces of wood and some pine straw, of course. Pine straw is my favorite fire starter! Once it started burning, I started hauling small bundles over to the firepit. Shortly after that, I hear the lawnmower crank up, as Roger started mowing up all the leaves. My fire continued to burn as quickly as I added limbs. Not too long after, Roger and the mower joined me in the woods. He took off through the trails. It was great teamwork. Many of the trails were cluttered with those crazy vines that attack everything. He mowed right through them. All my piles are gone and I really can't wait to get out there again to tidy things up. Both Roger and I were bleeding but we both agreed that it was a great day!

I'm so thankful for our home and the comfort it brings me. This may have sounded like a lot of work, and it was, but so rewarding. I had a blast. I've told Roger many times, I would rather work outside any day of the week than to be stuck inside when I'm home. Now that I think about it, it was super good therapy for me. I can sometimes let my mind get so cluttered (like the woods) that I feel overwhelmed. It's during those times, that I need to spend time with the Lord and get rid of that junk. Just turn it over to God. I have found that giving it all to God is the best thing I can do. God has provided me with a beautiful home, loving husband, amazing family and a job I love. How can I get cluttered? Take some time today to rid your mind of the clutter and be reminded of God's faithfulness every day.

Have a blessed week!

Dawn S. West

Letters to the Editor



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

In Response

Dear Editor,

This letter is 'In Response' to one of last week's letters. Just wanted to let (In Response) know that Roger already has an office job. He gives out honest information to his readers to them know what is going on this country. But liberals don't like hearing the truth because they know it's true. I know how you feel, I hate to see how bad this Biden administration has destroyed our country. There is nothing good to say about the democratic party because they haven't done anything good for our country. Be truthful with yourself, do you really believe you are better off now than you were four years ago.

Look at the borders with all these illegals coming in, economy, food prices, gas prices,

housing prices, etc. Just do the math and see how it adds up. You believe in these pedophiles dressing as a mom or a woman. You believe in school's teaching our children about this sickness. Democrats do anything to help them get votes. They lie, steal and cheat, it's been proven.

So, in response, if telling you the facts bother you so much, don't read them. So, the only whining going on is coming from you. You don't like hearing the truth. So how about having a little cheese to go with that whine! And just a reminder: Roger owns the newspaper and his own office!

Keep up the good work, Roger! I look forward to your column every week!

S. Michaelis

Baptist Nassau Linens Sale

The One Touch Linens Sale is one of the most popular fundraisers the auxiliary holds. This trunk sale features quality linens including unique pillows, super soft sheet sets, blankets, comforters, soft throws, and more. The sale will be held on Friday, January 26 from 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the Baptist Medical Center Nassau, 1250 S. 18th Street, in the Amelia Conference Center near the Amelia Breeze Café. All proceeds benefit the Baptist Medical Center Nassau and the Auxiliary Scholarship Program. Tell your friends!

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Monday, January 22 • 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

In the Kitchen... Quick Italian Pasta Salad


- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 (12 oz.) package tri-color rotini pasta | 8 oz. small fresh mozzarella balls |
| 3/4 lb. Italian salami, finely diced | 1 cup Italian-style salad dressing |
| 1/2 green and red bell pepper, chopped | 3 (.7 oz.) packages dry Italian-style salad dressing mix, or to taste |
| 1/2 red onion, chopped | 1/2 cup shredded Parmesan cheese |
| 1 (6 oz.) can sliced black olives | |

Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil. Cook rotini pasta at a boil until tender yet firm to the bite, about 8 minutes. Drain and rinse with cold water until cool. Combine pasta, salami, bell peppers, onion, mozzarella balls, and olives in a large bowl. Add salad dressing and toss to coat. Season pasta salad with dry salad dressing mix and stir to combine. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese before serving.

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Quilt Winner Announced

Lori Frederick, President

The Country Star Quilt Guild held their Annual Opportunity Quilt drawing on December 11, 2023 at their monthly meeting. The lucky winner of the quilt was Karen Anderson of Hilliard. Karen was the lucky recipient of a beautiful quilt crafted by Ellie Boette of Yulee and Lisa Maechtlen of Fernandina Beach.

Attending the December meeting were charities that the Guild supports: Lisa Miller from The Nest Women's Center and Sybil Purvis from the Pinky Promise Foundation. These organizations both received a monetary donation from the Guild to support their ongoing programs.

In November, The Nest received items gathered from the members including diapers, wipes, burp clothes



and more. The Guild also supports Ryan's Cases for Smiles and from September thru December, the guild members crafted 120 pillowcases for them.

The Guild meets on the second Tuesday of each month at the Anchor Church of Callahan. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Sit-n-Sews are held the second and fourth Friday of each month at the Callahan Masonic Lodge and all are welcome to attend or just stop in and see what we're about.

Thank you to all in the community who bought chances for our Opportunity Quilt. We will be back in September with a new Opportunity Quilt and look forward to showcasing it at the Northeast Florida Fair.



Sybil Purvis, Pinky Promise Foundation



Lisa Miller, The Nest Women's Center

EVENTS AROUND TOWN

Micah's Place Domestic Violence Support Group meets every other Thursday at 5:30 p.m. in Yulee. The next meeting will be Thurs., January 25. For more details, call (904) 225-9979.

Parents of Addicted Loved Ones (PAL) meets every Wednesday at 6 p.m. at the Hilliard Library. PAL provides hope through education and support to parents of addicted loved ones. Visit: www.palgroup.org to learn more. Free educational support group for parents and families.

JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

I was reading an article Monday morning that was sent to me by a friend and it actually rocked me to the core! America, the land that I love, is on the verge of total destruction and people just can't or won't wake up and see it. This is serious people! Instead of pettiness of why I don't run for a county position (last week's letters to the editor) instead of just always voicing my opinion, people better be concerned as to what is happening all across this nation. The ignorant lefties and the ignorant conservatives are going to be the first ones screaming and crying when our nation is gone, leaving the true patriots standing and asking why oh why couldn't you all see what was happening? We can overcome this destruction in November's election, if there is an election. Laugh if you want but that's just how uncertain things are in America. It is so sad. I pray for the Rapture to occur before what I vision America becoming. I long to be in Heaven with my Savior where there is peace and tranquility, no tears, no sorrow, no more worries ever again, just total serenity with Jesus.

The article I was reading came from the "American Thinker" written by Mary Sholl. It is titled, "Can America Survive This Perversion of Our Justice System." A three-judge panel of the D.C. Circuit, none of whom asked a single intelligent question of either of the parties in the appeal of the Trump immunity case, but which reached the ultimate in tone-deaf idiocy with a question from the circuit judge on the appeals court who asked, "If Donald Trump has immunity, couldn't he order SEAL Team 6 to murder his political rivals?" That is a very stupid and dangerous question. Surely you can see where that type of thinking is floating in the empty spaces of the liberal DOJ. "I suppose we can be thankful that, at the moment, the only thing

Mr. Biden is doing is trying to throw his chief political rival in jail for the rest of his life. He's certainly doing every nasty trick in the book to politically murder his chief rival. Not a great question, considering that misuse of the justice system is itself a political crime for which Mr. Biden will cry for immunity at some point. You know it, and so do I," said Sholl. She went on to say, "If I were that judge, I don't think I would use that particular hypothetical, given the less-than-legal behavior of their Democrat heroes. Is Obama immune to subsequent prosecution for those official acts of his? Is Biden? Execution without due process is murder by an officer of the state."

According to Jack Smith, Obama is immune for extrajudicial killing, but Donald Trump is not for trying to investigate election fraud in 2020. We can also consider the immunity of the vice president, who admitted on video to strong-arming the Ukrainian government to fire a prosecutor investigating his son's company. That was an act committed while he was an official of the United States. Is there immunity for that? How about taking bribes to skew foreign policy while in office from foreign countries? Immunity for that? News flash: The only thing preventing Biden's legal team from trying that argument is that they do not want immunity to be extended to Trump.

The DOJ is corrupt all across our nation, the Constitution is totally being ignored all the while the leftist/communist are making new rules as they go. There is not the first conservative that is safe from their tyrannical ways. A Constitutional Republic cannot survive under these conditions. We, as a nation, need two things: God's intervention and Donald Trump.

While I wait on the knock at my front door, as always...that's just my opinion!

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Conviction or Preference

Pastor Adam Pierce, Liberty Baptist Church, Callahan



According to the U.S. Supreme Court, there is a difference between a conviction and a preference. Understanding the two is vital to the current affairs of our day, because most people in society are pushing preferences as convictions. And worse than that, they are trying to make their preferences your convictions.

The Supreme Court notes the difference as: A preference is a very strong belief, held with great strength. You can give your entire life in a full-time way to the service of the preference, and can also give your entire material wealth in the name of the belief. You can also energetically proselytize others to your preference. You can also teach this belief to your children, and the Supreme Court may still rule that it is a preference. A preference is a strong belief, but a belief that you will change under the right circumstances. Circumstances such as: 1) peer pressure; if your beliefs are such that other people stand with you before you will stand, your beliefs are preferences, not convictions, 2) family pressure, 3) lawsuits, 4) jail, 5) threat of death; would you die for your beliefs?

A conviction is a belief that will not change. Why? A man believes that his God requires it of him. Preferences aren't protected by the Constitution. Convictions are. A conviction is not something that you discover, it is something that you purpose in your heart (cf. Daniel 1, 2-3).

I find it interesting that to define conviction the U.S. Supreme Court uses a Bible reference to prove their point. The reference points to a man in the Bible named Daniel, who "...purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself..." I think we would do well to set some convictions in our homes rather than mindlessly promote the preferences of others. What does God require of you?

Attend the church of your choice this Sunday.

CES Warriors of the Month



Shown are the Warriors of the Month for the month of November at Callahan Elementary School. Our character trait for November was GRATITUDE. Students were chosen for showing gratitude throughout their days.



Shown are the Warriors of the Month for the month of December at Callahan Elementary School. Our character trait for December was COMPASSION. Students were chosen for showing compassion towards their teachers and peers!

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Emily's Promise Now Accepting Applications for Education Scholarship

Nassau County students interested in pursuing careers in healthcare have the opportunity to apply for a \$5,000 Education Scholarship from the Emily's Promise Foundation. The scholarship will be awarded to a deserving recipient who submits an impressive application and excels during an interview process.



Aspiring healthcare professionals can apply at: www.emilypromises.com from January 4 - March 4. The winner will be announced May 4, 2024. "Those who selflessly and courageously wish to enter the healthcare field should be celebrated," said Douglas Adkins, CEO of Emily's Promise. "From the time of our birth, our doctors, nurses, and other members of the healthcare community are with us every step of the way, and this scholarship is one small way we can keep Emily's legacy alive and support Florida's next generation of health care heroes."

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, a staggering shortage of healthcare professionals is reverberating throughout the country, and Florida is no exception. An analysis of Florida's healthcare workforce shows that there

may be a shortfall of approximately 7,872 primary care physicians by 2035. Additionally, more than one-third of Florida's physicians are over the age of 60. As Florida's health care demands continue to grow, those who wish to enter the health care field must have the resources and support to do so.

The Emily Adkins Scholarship aims to help support the education journey of students dedicated to making a positive impact in Florida's health care professions. Each applicant will be asked to share their career goals, their hopes for the future, and the people and circumstances they believe have most influenced their lives. The chosen recipient will be able to use the scholarship funds to reimburse the cost of textbooks, tuition, fees and housing expenses.

Douglas and Janet Adkins established the Emily's Promise foundation after losing their 23-year-old daughter Emily, an aspiring healthcare professional, to a fatal blood clot stemming from a fractured ankle. Emily's Promise aims to honor their daughter's legacy of kindness and compassion, and to increase awareness of blood clots and pulmonary embolisms.

Marine Corps League Scholarship Opportunity

The Everett P. Pope Detachment 1017 of the Marine Corps League in Nassau County will be offering a one-time \$1,000 scholarship for the top 2 writers in an essay contest open to seniors from all Nassau County High Schools

Eligibility: High School Senior with a 3.0 or higher GPA who will be attending college, university, or technical training upon graduation. Apply by submitting an email by January 31, 2024 with your essay, attached in a word document, to: info@nassaumarines.com and include the following in the body of the email: Your name; High School; Current GPA; Where you plan to attend school or technical training after graduation; and

contact information.

Students must write a 450-550 word essay on the importance of service in the community, how you have served and/or plan to serve the community, and how your plan of study will benefit the community. The following rules apply: This essay must be your original work and thoughts with no plagiarism. The use of AI tools such as ChatGPT is prohibited. No references are required however you may use a maximum of 3 references in your essay with proper citation.

Winners will be contacted by March 1, 2024 to coordinate the scholarship presentation.

CHURCH NEWS

Bethany Episcopal Church, located across from Hilliard Town Hall, will be selling Spaghetti Dinners Friday, January 19 from 5-7 p.m. for \$8 each.

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

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<p>USDA Whole T-BONES \$4⁹⁵ lb.</p> <p><small>U.S.D.A. INSPECTED BEEF</small> Cut the way you like! <small>Expires 1-23-24 WJ Limit 2 With this Coupon</small></p>	<p>6 lb. Bag Fully Cooked, Smoked Flavor CHICKEN WINGS \$13⁹⁵</p> <p><small>Expires 1-23-24 WJ With this Coupon</small></p>
<p>Grade A Large White EGGS \$6⁹⁵ /Flat That's 2 1/2 Dozen!</p> <p><small>Expires 1-23-24 WJ Limit 3 Flats</small></p>	<p>Lee's Smoked SLAB BACON \$4⁹⁹ lb. Sliced the way you like it!</p> <p><small>WHOLE OR HALF</small> <small>Expires 1-23-24 WJ With this Coupon</small></p>

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New Beginnings and Milestones

Frank Burnelis Celebrates 100th Birthday



Frank Burnelis, of Callahan, celebrated his 100th birthday January 13. He celebrated his special milestone with a party held in his honor with his seven children and their spouses, four of his 12 grandchildren, and two of his 13 great-grandchildren. Family traveled from across the United States, as well as, from Vietnam and the United Kingdom to join in the celebration. He wishes to thank everyone for the many messages, well wishes and cards he received! Congratulations Mr. Frank!

DAR Scholarship Opportunity

Applications for the 2024 Amelia Island Chapter DAR Scholarships are now available from the guidance counselors at each Nassau County high school. The \$1,000 scholarships are presented to one senior from each of the county public high schools, plus home-schooled seniors, regardless of race, religion, or gender. Applicants must be U.S. citizens and seniors in high school who have been accepted by a college. Home school students are encouraged to apply through their nearest high school. More information is available from the senior guidance counselors at each school.

The deadline for all applications is March 11, 2024. Winners will be presented with a check for \$1,000 at the

chapter's awards ceremony in April. Scholarship recipients will also be acknowledged at their school's honors program.

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution is the largest women's service organization in the world and contributes over one million volunteer hours a year. Over 200 members of the Amelia Island Chapter contribute 5,000 volunteer hours and \$5,000 in scholarships and awards in Nassau County each year. Go to www.ameliaislandnsdar.org for more information about the chapter. Information about additional scholarships from the national society is available at www.dar.org and from the state society at FSSDAR.org.

Visit us anytime at: www.mywestsidejournal.com

Senior Citizens Art Classes in March

The West Nassau Historical Society will offer two art classes for senior citizens age 55 and over. The classes will be held Tuesday, March 5 and Thursday, March 7 from 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. and be held at the historic Callahan Train Depot Annex, 45383 Dixie Avenue. Art supplies and canvases will be provided by the Historical Society. A signed entry form and nominal fee are required for each participant to attend the classes. Class fees are \$15 for one class or \$25 for both classes. Class sizes are limited so preregistration is required. A registration form is available at: www.wnhsfl.org or by calling 904-879-3406. Mail the completed form with payment to the West Nassau Historical Society on the address on the form. A \$2 handling fee will be added to debit and credit card payments.




Talented Nassau County artist Ed Mosher will be the instructor. Ed began painting as a young child and has been sharing his impressions of nature through art ever since. He and his wife have resided on Amelia Island for over 30 years. He is an active part of the Plantation Artists' Guild and Gallery.

The finished artwork will be exhibited during the Wearing of the Green Ice Cream Social on Friday, March 8 from 6:30 - 8 p.m. at the Callahan Train Depot. Joel Pace Piano and Music students will be performing during this 90-minute exhibition. Admission to this Friday night reception is free and open to public, but donations are kindly accepted.

The West Nassau Historical Society is an all-volunteer nonprofit dedicated to the promotion of history and culture in Nassau County, Florida. The group is also an active member of Arts and Culture Nassau, an advocacy group for the arts and cultural events county wide.

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Parents of Addicted Loved Ones (PAL) can help. PAL weekly meetings provide a structured, evidence-based curriculum to give you the tools you need to encourage your loved one's recovery without enabling their addiction. Equally important is the opportunity to network with other parents and loved ones struggling with the same issues, for support and fellowship. The free and confidential meetings are held on Mondays at 6 p.m. at the Northeast Florida Baptist Association in Yulee; and Wednesdays at 6 p.m. at the Hilliard Library. Come and learn new ways to deal with your loved ones and gain a better understanding of addiction. For more information, call (904) 703-7847 or email at tashiad210@gmail.com. There is hope!



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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, January 9

Stanley Joseph Dickerson, 48, Hilliard: Trespassing Structure or Conveyance

Wednesday, January 10

Dennis Eugene Champion, 63, Hilliard: Sex Offender Failure to Notify Change; Sex Offender Failure to Notify Changes to Cell/Telephone Number; Sex Offender Failure to Report After Vacating Residence; Sex Offender Failure to Provide Vehicle Trailer Mobile Manufacture Information; Sex Offender Failure to Register Every 6 Months

Jarvis Isaiah White, 22, Hilliard: Possession of Drug Paraphernalia with Residue; Trafficking Methamphetamine Over 14 grams; Failure to Appear (x 2); Resist without Violence; Flee & Elude Police Officer

Saturday, January 13

Charles Henry Evans, 45, Hilliard: Battery Touch or Strike

Diane Louise Vining, 51, Hilliard: Out of State Warrant Felony

Sunday, January 14

Marc Douglas Bugnon, 28, Callahan: Driving while License Suspended with Knowledge

UF Pulmonary Expert Appointed Chair to Policy Workgroup

Emily's Promise is pleased to announce the Florida's Surgeon General has appointed Ali Ataya, MD as Chair of the Blood Clot and Pulmonary Embolism Policy Workgroup, which was created under the 2023 Emily Adkins Prevention Act. "Blood clots are preventable. It is our hope that the workgroup will take on the task of developing a standard of care that will ensure family history and risk scores are always evaluated," said Douglas Adkins, CEO of Emily's Promise, Inc.

Dr. Ataya is Director of the University of Florida's Pulmonary Hypertension Program and the HHT and Rare Lung Disease Program, and is an associate professor of medicine in the UF Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care & Sleep Medicine. Dr. Ataya's areas of expertise include pulmonary disease, critical care medicine, and internal medicine with clinical interest in pulmonary arterial hypertension, chronic thromboembolic pulmonary hypertension, hereditary hemorrhagic telangiectasia, lymphangioleiomyomatosis, pulmonary alveolar proteinosis, and other rare lung disorders.



Douglas and Janet Adkins established the Emily's Promise foundation after losing their 23-year-old daughter Emily, to a fatal blood clot stemming from a fractured ankle. Emily's Promise aims to honor their daughter's legacy of kindness and compassion to increase awareness of blood clots and pulmonary embolisms.

The Emily Adkins Prevention Act was unanimously approved by the Florida Legislature in June 2023. The measure directs the Secretary of the Agency for Health Care Administration, in conjunction with the Florida Surgeon General, to establish a policy workgroup composed of health care providers, patients who have experienced blood clots, family members of patients who have died from blood clots, and other interested parties and associations. The workgroup will deliver its first report on January 4, 2025, which would have been Emily's 25 birthday.

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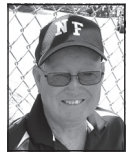
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LEROY BLALOCK



Leroy Blalock, 75, of Callahan, entered his eternal resting place in the arms of his Savior January 12, 2024. He was surrounded by his doting wife, June, and their two children Christy and Wayne. Leroy was a devoted, loving husband of 51 years to his wife Neva "June" (Hodges) and the best Daddy, Poppie, family and friend anyone could ask for. Leroy was born May 20, 1948, to Charlie Ruff Blalock Sr. and Rena (Griffis) Blalock in Lawtey, Florida, but lived his entire life in Callahan. He was drafted into the United States Army and deployed to Vietnam from 1968-1970 with the 1st Battalion 92nd Artillery Regiment Brave Cannons, also known as the Red Devils. Leroy was heroically awarded the Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device for exceptional heroism during a heavy fire attack while in the Republic of Vietnam on May 13, 1969. He was also awarded the prestigious Purple Heart for being wounded in combat. Upon his return from Vietnam, Leroy continued his service with the US Army as a reservist until 1974. During this time, he met the love of his life, Neva "June" who he lovingly referred to as June Bug. They were married on December 15, 1972, in Kingsland, and settled in Callahan and raised their family. Leroy worked for many years as an automobile paint and body man for Water's Paint and Body before retiring to his recliner. Paint and bodywork was a craft that he mastered, loved and continued to dabble in later in life. Leroy even worked with his son last year to smooth and paint his granddaughter's first car.

Leroy loved Jesus Christ, old gospel, old western movies, square dancing exhibitions with his wife, deer hunting, running his deer dogs, fishing, baseball, softball, racing, the Florida Gators and spending time with his children, as well as his niece, Janice who lovingly referred to him simply as "Pest."

He was dedicated to his family and instilled morals, the love of the outdoors, and the value of hard work. Leroy was always "dressed to a T" and always on time, saying "If you aren't 15 minutes early then you're late."

In later years, after being blessed with grandchildren, Leroy developed a love for girls' fast pitch softball and devoted his time to coaching and watching his grandchildren play. He loved the game so much he trained and became a certified umpire with North Florida Umpires Association. Leroy proudly showcased his achievement as an umpire and his love of the game by wearing his favorite North Florida ("NF") hat almost everywhere he went. Christy and Wayne both argue they were Leroy's favorite child; however, it was very clear to those who knew Leroy, that his dog Tanner was indeed the favorite. Tanner will forever hold the record as the only "fur family" ever allowed to live inside the house.

Leroy was a faithful member of Camden Baptist Church in St. Marys. His pastor, Edward Dixon, was more than just "the Preacher," he became a treasured best friend. Leroy spent many of his days working at the church and enjoyed fellowship with his church family. Leroy is preceded in death by his parents Charlie Ruff Blalock Sr. and Rena Griffis Blalock; as well as eight siblings, Richard, Charlie, Jr., Jake, Jimmy, David, Lorraine Males, Estelle Thomas and an angel baby Dale Blalock.

Leroy is survived by his wife June; children Christy (Eddie) Holton and Roy "Wayne" (Jamie) Blalock; six grandchildren Hailey (Macie) Ray, Anna Phillips (Travis Simmons), Chance Blalock, Ally Rice, Ava Blalock and April (Thomas) Collins; five great-grandchildren Braelynn, Landri, Kambree, Addison and Austin; sister Rosie

OBITUARIES

PATSY J. FAIRCLOTH



Patsy J. Faircloth, 86, of Jacksonville, fell asleep peacefully Wednesday, December 27, 2023 and woke up in heaven, while in a local hospice facility. Mrs. Faircloth was born in Atlanta, Georgia and was the daughter of the late Raymond David McEntyre and Nonnie Marian Bradford. She has lived in Jacksonville for 63 years moving from Columbus, Georgia.

For many years she was a stay-at-home mother and ensured her family was at the dinner table every evening for their home-cooked meals. When raising her family, she enjoyed cooking, baking, gardening, canning and sewing clothes for her daughters. She loved singing gospel music. She served as a children's Sunday school teacher and a church bookkeeper. She loved people, enjoyed eating out and spending time with her family. In her later years, she enjoyed sitting on "Patsy's Porch" and watching and listening to the birds. If you said, "go," she was packing her bags. She then worked for Old Dominion Insurance where she retired. She attended Wayside Assembly of God. Mrs. Faircloth was preceded in death by her husband of 58 years, Malcom Faircloth; parents Raymond David McEntyre and Nonnie Marian Bradford; two sisters Margie Free and Marguerite Kendall; and a brother Raymond McEntyre.

She is survived by her children Malcom Faircloth, Jr., Regina (Mark) Williams and Katrina (Andy) Herrin; a brother David McEntyre; four grandchildren Colton (Deanna) Herrin, Ryan (Kayla) Williams, Justin (Rhia) Williams and Kyler (Nicole) Herrin; five great-grandchildren Gavin, Malcom, Delilah, Rori and Lane; her best friend Evelyn McLemore; and numerous extended family members and friends.

The family received friends Monday, January 1 at the Peoples Funeral Home. The funeral service was held Tuesday, January 2 at Wayside Assembly of God with Pastors Wade Mask and Noel Roberts officiating. Burial followed at Buford Grove Baptist Church in Hilliard.

Peoples Family Funeral Home served the Faircloth family. Condolences may be expressed at: www.pffh.com.

(Ken) Morgan; baby brother Franklin "Beatle" Blalock; and numerous extended family members and friends; and nephew George James and Janice Griffis.

Pallbearers will be Wayne Blalock, Chance Blalock, George James, Carl Morris, Jeff Back and Jason Murphy.

The family will receive friends Thursday, January 18 from 5 - 7 p.m. at Camden Baptist Church, 725 Douglas Drive, St. Marys. A celebration of Leroy's life will be held Friday, January 19 at 1 p.m. at Nassau Funeral Home with Pastor Edward Dixon officiating. Interment will follow at Jones Cemetery, Callahan, where military honors will be rendered.

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

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

BETTY JANE CARTER



Betty Jane Carter, 95, of Jacksonville, passed away Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at her home. She was born August 29, 1928 in Memphis, Tennessee to the late Henry Carroll Biggs and Willie Mae Holt Biggs. She was a former member of the First Baptist Church of Boulougne. Betty loved taking care of her grandchildren, cooking and sewing.

In addition to her parents; she is preceded in death by her husband Robert Carter; and six children Lawrence Carl Biggs, James Patrick Fosbenner, Franklin Duane Fosbenner, Sara Mae Fosbenner Warr, and Ruth Elaine Fosbenner Chitty.

She is survived by her daughter Janice Fosbenner Fike; sister Myrtle Biggs Gray; and a plethora of grandchildren; great-grandchildren; and great-great-grandchildren.

The family received friends Friday, January 12 at Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home. A graveside service was held Saturday, January 13 at Oakwood Cemetery with Henry Allen officiating.

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

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, Folkston.

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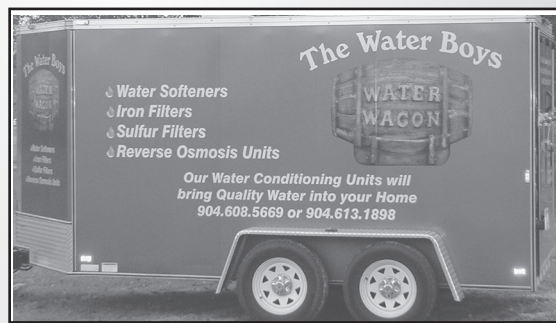
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OBITUARIES

AVERY THOMAS GREEN, JR.

Avery Thomas Green, Jr., of Callahan, passed away January 13, 2024. The family will receive friends Tuesday, January 23 at 11 a.m. prior to the funeral service at 12 p.m. at River Road Baptist Church, Hilliard with Pastor James Conner officiating.

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

Arrangements by Nassau Funeral Home, 879-1770.

PATTI JOYCE HIGDON



Patti Joyce Higdon, 60, of Callahan, passed away January 3, 2024. She was born March 29, 1963 in Louisville, Kentucky, to the late Raymond Bruce, Jr. and Margaret Rose Purvis Bruce. Patti and her high school sweetheart, Donald, graduated from New Albany High School in 1981. They wed on December 8, 1983, were happily married for 40 years, and had two beautiful daughters. Patti and Donald were truly soul mates and enjoyed doing everything together. Due to Donald being in the United States Navy, their family had the opportunity to travel and see the world. They lived in many different places; Puerto Rico being one of their favorites. They settled in Callahan in 2000 and were proud to call it home. Patti loved animals and horseback riding. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister and friend that will be missed dearly. Patti was preceded in death by her parents; granddaughter-in-law Ally Browder.

Patti leaves behind her loving husband, Donald Higdon; daughters Brittany (Dale) Browder and Megan Higdon (Teddy Baxter); grandchildren Austin (Alexis) Browder, Amilynn Browder, Teddy Baxter and Willow Baxter; great-grandchildren Kadance Browder, Austin Browder, Jr. and Nilee Browder; brother Raymond Bruce, III; and sisters Terri Shockley and Susan Moore.

A memorial service for Patti was held Saturday, January 13 at Nassau Funeral Home.

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

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

JOHN MARVIN JOHNS



John "Johnny" Marvin Johns, 76, of Hilliard, passed away Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at his residence. He was born October 18, 1947

in Folkston, Georgia, to the late Aaron Marvin Johns and Leila Raulerson Johns. He proudly served his country in the United States Army. He was a member of Bethel Primitive Baptist Church, where he served as a Deacon. In addition to his parents; he was preceded

in death by a brother Dwight Johns; and a sister Elaine Johnson.

He is survived by a sister Susan Hallman; a sister-in-law Darlene Johns; numerous nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews.

Graveside funeral services were held Saturday, January 13 in Boones Creek Cemetery, with Elder Jimmy Thornton and Elder Ralph Cobb officiating. Pallbearers were his nephews Mike Brannen, Mike Matthews, Michael Hallman, Adrian Newcomb, Mike Spurlock and Lee Johns.

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

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, Folkston.

MICHAEL RAY PAUL



Michael "Beef" Ray Paul, 52, of Hilliard, passed away Saturday, January 13, 2024. A graveside service will be held Monday, January 22 at 1 p.m. at Mill Creek Cemetery, Hilliard.

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

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

FAYE ANNETTE REED



Faye Annette Reed, 61, of Hilliard, passed away Sunday, January 14, 2024. She was born October 31, 1962 in Jacksonville, to the late George Thomas Reed and Bonnie Jean Sullivan Reed. Faye was of the Baptist faith. In addition to her parents; she is preceded in death by sisters Vicky Carver and Kay Hodge.

She is survived by her children Christina (Adam) Padgett and Samantha Thompson (Jonathon Hollie); seven grandchildren Jacob (Madison) Padgett, Lauren Thompson, Adam (Destin) Padgett, Harley Padgett, Cannan Padgett, Shelbee Padgett and Nova Padgett; three great-grandchildren; sisters Brenda Beasley and Breanna Reed; brothers Flavius Reed and Jeffrey (Pat) Reed; her fur baby Blaze; and several special nieces and nephews that she loved dearly.

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

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, Folkston.

Obituaries are published free of charge.

They may be emailed to news@westsidejournal.net.

MARIE ANN WOOD



Marie Ann Tanner Wood, 84, passed away January 12, 2024, after an extended illness. She was born October 12, 1939 at home on a farm where she was raised in Nicholls, Georgia, to Albert Theodore "Bear" Tanner and Eula Lo (Cribb) Tanner. She married John Edward "Ed" Wood on October 7, 1958 in Folkston. Marie was a loving wife, devoted mother, doting grandmother and great-grandmother, excellent cook, fun-loving friend and animal lover. She was a Christian of the Baptist faith. Her proven ancestry enabled her to join the Colonial Dames of the 17th Century as well as the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Marie was predeceased by her parents; husband Ed; siblings Wynette Thomas, Jean Chaffin and Albert Theodore "Bobby" Tanner; and daughter Wendy Bargeron.

She leaves to cherish her memory, her daughter Sherry Harrell (Allen); and cherished grandsons Joey (Mandy) Bargeron and Andy Bargeron; even more precious to her were her great-grandchildren Silas and Preston Bargeron; step-son John Edward Wood, Jr. and his daughter, granddaughters and grandson; sisters Ruth "Jeankie" Rewis and Myrtice Gustafson; many nieces, nephews and distant relatives along with friends that she dearly loved.

A graveside service was held Monday January 15 at Jones Cemetery in Callahan, where she was laid to rest between her husband Ed and daughter Wendy.

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

Arrangements are by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, Folkston.

BRIAN KEITH SNELGROVE



Brian Keith Snellgrove, 62, of Folkston, Georgia, passed away Sunday, January 14, 2024. He was born February 24, 1961 to the late Ronald Richard Snellgrove and Gail Elizabeth Brown Snellgrove. He attended 121 Church.


In addition to his parents; he is preceded in death by a sister Ruth Elizabeth "Beth" Church; a brother Lottie Paul Snellgrove; and a nephew Christopher Dewayne Strickland.

He is survived by his loving wife, Mary Snellgrove; 4 children Kirsty Rowe of Jacksonville, Steven (Amelia) Rowe of Hilliard, Brian (Miranda Newmans) Snellgrove of Chattanooga and Christina Snellgrove of San Diego; nine grandchildren Katelin Blount, Michael Blount, Khloe Snellgrove, Blake Foskey, Trenton Snellgrove, Railey Rowe, Colton Snellgrove, Madyson Rowe and Steven Ryan Rowe; one great-granddaughter Addyson Hawkins; sister Melissa (Scott) Dekle; nephews Tyler Snellgrove, Jeremiah Mimbs and Nicholas Mimbs; and niece Brianna Gibson.

The family will receive friends at 4 p.m. Thursday, January 18 prior to the funeral service at 5 p.m. at Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home. Burial will be at Temple Creek Cemetery at a later date.

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

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, Folkston.



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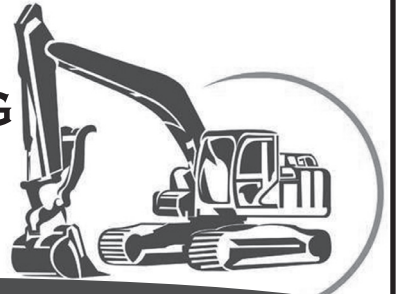
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Timber Cruising with 4-H

Thank you, to County Forester Jim Tootle of the Florida Forest Service, for teaching these Nassau County 4-H Youth about timber cruising to enhance their knowledge for the upcoming competition. The youth learned their pace, how to measure trees and how a county forester would use these techniques in their everyday careers.

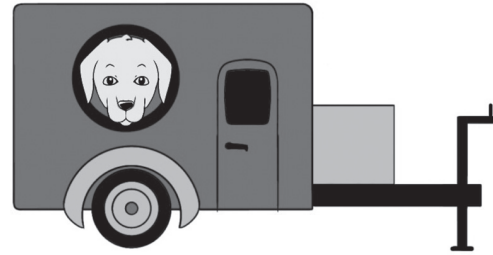


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