

WESTSIDE JOURNAL



VOLUME XIX ISSUE 23

HOMETOWN PEOPLE...HOMETOWN NEWS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 2023

"TRUST IN THE LORD AND DO GOOD; DWELL IN THE LAND, AND FEED ON HIS FAITHFULNESS." - PSALM 37:3

Reflecting on 2022

Dr. William Solomon Retires

Kessler Sentenced: Life Without Parole

Callahan Approves Callahan Acres Site Plan

WNHS Varsity Cheerleaders World Champions

WN JV Cheerleaders National Champions

Callahan Page Street Concerns Continue

Westside Senior Life Center Reopens After Renovations

New NCSO Bloodhound Named Ol' Red

HMSHS Football Changes Direction

Nassau Extension Announces New Agriculture Agent

County Attorney Mike Mullin Retires Amid Scandal

Hilliard High School Announces New Head Football Coach

Groundbreaking Held for Westside Regional Park

Hilliard High's Colton Conner State Champion Weightlifter

West Nassau's Wyatt Butler State Champion Weightlifter

Buck's Gulf Station in Hilliard Demolished

Hagan Ace Hardware Celebrates 60th Anniversary

Washington Honors the Life of Deputy Joshua Moyers

Bryceville Community Club Holds Last Meeting

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis Visits Callahan

Town of Callahan Celebrates \$4,000,000

Ribbon Cutting Held for New NCSO Training Center

Callahan Approves Tire Outlet Site Plan

Nassau County Fire Chief Named Northeast Regional Director

Greater Mt. Pleasant Church Celebrates 150th Anniversary

Hilliard Man Charged with Murder

Operation Heavy Weights Results in 54 Arrests

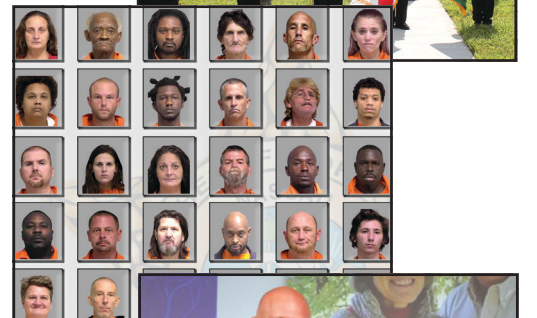
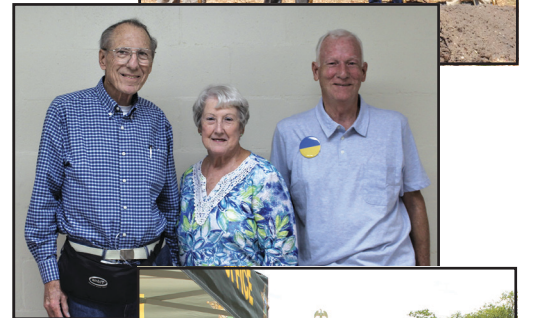
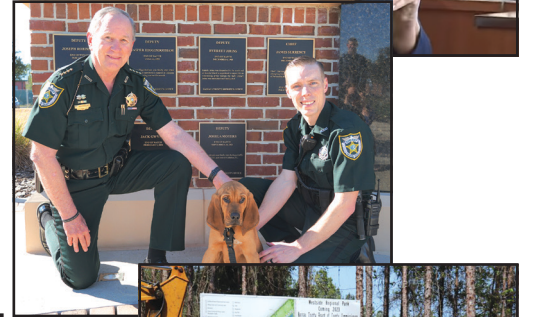
Two Children Shot in Road Rage Incident

Zaxby's Callahan Now Open

House Fire Claims Three Lives

Dawn West Named FL Farm Bureau Newsperson of the Year

WN AFJROTC Students Receive Flight Academy Scholarships



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A Word From the Publisher

Happy New Year! It's so hard to believe another year has come and gone. Good grief, we're in 2023! Where has time gone? I had always heard that the older you get time flies. Well, I do believe it. I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas season and enjoyed a little time off from the normal. Each year, we take the week following Christmas off. It gives our advertisers a break and the Westside Journal crew a little down time from the normal. It was really hard for me to remember what day we were on because I wasn't on such a schedule. Publishing a newspaper is all about scheduling, deadlines, etc. We are on a pretty tight routine each week. I know many people forgot that we would not have a paper, so we did have a few phone calls and messages about not receiving one. I guess we have made our readers creatures of habit like we are. It was kind of nice to know people missed their paper! Well, we're back this week refreshed (sort of) and ready for another year.

I'm not really one for making resolutions for each year. I know some people are all about it. They make big lists and try to check them off as they complete them, then are frustrated because it didn't work out. I try to keep things simple. I pray to be a better person, treat people with respect and learn to turn things over to Jesus. This

world is constantly changing however we serve a God that never changes. I know we're not supposed to say never but God Never Changes. He is the same today, yesterday and tomorrow. We can always count on Him. We have been going through some trying times however I have still seen God's hand at work. His grace and mercy is forever with us if we will just let Him. During difficult times, it's hard to be upbeat. It's during those times that we really need to look to the Savior. It's really easy to be down and out as that is the way of the world. But, if you will take just five minutes to think of things to be thankful for, you can quickly turn that negative into a positive.

As we challenge ourselves in this New Year, why not make it simple. Beginning each day, thank God that he has given you another day, a home to live in and clothes to wear. Wow! That's a lot of thanks right there. Just imagine if you did more thankfulness and appreciation than grumbling and complaining. That doesn't help anything or anyone. We serve a God that is faithful, never changing and loves us no matter what. Why not start your New Year asking Christ to be your Savior? He's waiting...

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.

Paying it Forward

Dear Editor,

We would like to somehow thank the person who paid for the next five customers at Callahan Barbecue a few weeks ago. We were so surprised and thankful when the young lady taking our order said that will be no charge because a person who wanted to remain anonymous had paid for the next five customers. It also made an impression on our 11-year-old grandson who said the blessing and asked God to thank the person for the generous deed.

Donna and Edwin Sandel

The Great College Rip Off

Dear Editor,

The huddled masses have been sold another worthless bill of goods: Their children can derive the benefits of a college education online. Other than specific scientific programs, medical and technology, most college educations have little to do with the real world. Further, where professionalization is concerned, interpersonal prowess trumps academic experience. The truth is that going to college is secondarily about education, it is about making contacts to bridge the gap

between academia and the world of work.

Those in the know send their children away to college because they understand that students living and learning together establish lasting and useful friendships that will benefit their careers. After the parents and friends of online graduates and, to a lesser degree, day trippers to local colleges, stop gleefully jumping up and down, the degree candidates find themselves as isolated from opportunities for successful careers as they were when they finished high school. In essence, online graduates and, to a large degree, day students at local colleges, receive accreditation that is one step up from a high school diploma.

College students who live on campus, removed from home related distractions, are provided the golden opportunities to improve their interpersonal skills necessary for successful careers, exposure to the ways of students who have been brought up by financially successful parents and make contacts who can facilitate their successful transition to work.

It's an old story, the rich get richer and the huddled masses stay huddled, feeling powerless to get into the big leagues.

B.R. McConnell

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JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 Exchange Club 11:30 a.m. Fernandina Golf Club NAMI Family Support 6:30 - 8 p.m. Alachua Club, Fern. Bch. Callahan Town 7 p.m.	4 PAL 6 p.m. Hilliard Library Callahan Garden Club 10 a.m. Free Community Dinner 5 p.m. Callahan Methodist Church NAMI Support 12-1:30 p.m. Hilliard Journey Church	5 Hilliard Town Meeting 7 p.m. Food Giveaway @Callahan First Baptist 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	6 NAMI Support 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Fernandina Council on Aging	7
8	9 WN Genealogical Society 10:30 a.m. Lions Club Country Star Quilt Guild 6:30 pm @ The Anchor Ch. 154 Order of Eastern Star 7:30 pm @ Masonic Lodge	10 Callahan Lions Club 7 p.m.	11 Free Community Dinner 5 p.m. Callahan Methodist Church Parents of Addicted Loved Ones (PAL) 6 p.m. Hilliard Library	12	13 NAMI Support 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Fernandina Council on Aging American Legion & Auxiliary Post 401 Hilliard 7 p.m.	14 Callahan Farmers Market 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Callahan Depot
15	16 Westside Optimists 7 p.m. Lions Club Sons of Confederate Veterans 7 p.m. The Pig Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	17 NARFE 11 a.m. The Pig NAMI Family 6:30 - 8 p.m. Alachua Club, Fern. Bch. Callahan Town 7 p.m.	18 Free Community Dinner 5 p.m. Callahan Methodist Church PAL 6 p.m. Hilliard Library	19 Hilliard Town Meeting 7 p.m. Food Giveaway @Callahan First Baptist 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.	20 NAMI Support 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Fernandina Council on Aging	21
22	23 NC Beekeepers Association 7 p.m. Multipurpose Building Food Giveaway FBC Gray Gables 9:30 am - 2:30 pm Ch. 154 Order of Eastern Star 7:30 pm @ Masonic Lodge	24 Callahan Lions Club 7 p.m.	25 Free Community Dinner 5 p.m. Callahan Methodist Church PAL 6 p.m. Hilliard Library	26 Historical Society 6:30 p.m. @ Depot	27 NAMI Support 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Fernandina Council on Aging	28
29	30	31				

JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

Happy New Year, or should I just say...it's a new year. With all the shenanigans the Democrats pulled off in the later part of December makes me not so happy with our government, of course that's the way it has been for two years now. The only things that may be a happy point is the Republicans take control of the House this month. Time will tell if there are enough of them with patriotic backbones to stand firmly against the tyrannical left and slow the progression of socialism.

The Democrat controlled House Ways and Means Committee released thousands of pages of President Trump's tax returns. Can you guess what the forms showed? As Tucker Carlson stated, Trump got poorer while others, like Mitch McConnell and Nancy Pelosi, got rich. Yes, another tax funded witch hunt that showed Trump was once again honest. No evidence of Russian collusion or any other nefarious dealings, none! The only lack of proper taxation on President Trump appears to be the IRS's failure to calculate properly. The only devastating part of this release is it sets a dangerous precedent or maybe a better term is a dangerous new political weapon that can now be used against any American citizen by overturning decades of privacy protection. Rep. Kevin Brady stated, "Going forward all future Chairs of both the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee will have nearly unlimited power to target and make public the tax returns of private citizens, political enemies, business and labor leaders

or even the Supreme Court justices themselves." The returns also showed President Trump paid \$1.1 million in federal income taxes in 2018 and 2019.

President Trump is the most vetted American citizen in the history of our country. The government has spent millions and millions of our money attempting to find anything they could charge him with and all they have found is he posted mean tweets about corrupt politicians.

I have to ask once again, why? Why would a political party harbor so much hate and distain toward a man that loves America, that proudly believes that Americans should come first, just as a head of a home should put his/her family first? How can people be so misled into thinking it's a bad thing to love their country and have priorities that protect their country. A non-politician brought forth the greatest economy, strengthened our national security along with many other notable accomplishments and then a career politician is installed as president and ruins every single positive accomplishment in just two years. And yes, Biden was installed, just as installing a toilet. We need a business person running our country again, not a career politician.

I don't have enough space to comment about the Omnibus Bill that was approved by the democrats and RINOs, perhaps another column, but it proves the ineptness of our elected servants.

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

RETIRED FLAG REMINDER

Is your American flag looking tattered and torn? What better time than the new year to replace it with a new one? Retired flags may be brought to the Westside Journal office for proper disposal.

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Let's Start This Year Off Right

Pastor Marty Paparo, Friendship Alliance Church, Callahan



Ever wonder what Jesus wants for his birthday? It's your heart. He wants a real relationship with you. One of the best ways we can both experience and express this relationship is through obedience. That can seem like a tall order, but maybe after seeing the verses below, it may seem a little more obtainable.

When it comes to obedience, I can think of a dozen reasons why we should follow God's instructions, but in Philippians 2:12-18, Paul gives us three. After we talk about the first two verses, I hope you will search this passage and see if you can find the three. *"Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling."* Philippians 2:12 ESV.

Paul is writing to believers in the city of Philippi, a church he planted. He instructs them to work out their salvation. This should not be confused with working for your salvation, as we simply can't do that. *"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God"* Ephesians 2:8. Our salvation is a gift and we should work it out with fear and trembling. This term is a sign of the necessary humility that goes along with our salvation.

We are humble because of what we find in verse 13: *"For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure."* This lifelong process of working out our salvation is something we are called to do daily. But it is God at work in us. He makes the difficult work of obedience achievable. Doesn't it take away the burden of always trying to do the right thing when you know it's God's work that refines us? The only thing we have to do is surrender to Him. We simply let go and let Him work in us. What area of your life is God asking you to surrender to Him? This week ask Him and whatever His response, turn it over to Him.

CHURCH NEWS

Please join Gray Gables Baptist Church Monday Community Bible Study for 2023. We will be studying I Timothy starting Monday, Jan. 9 at 6 p.m. To register, call 561-704-4871 or 904-715-0429.

North Hilliard Baptist Church, 552823 US HWY 1, will start Children's Sunday school, ages 5-12, this Sunday, Jan. 8 at 10 a.m.

Attend the church of your choice this Sunday.

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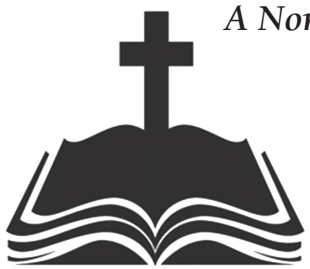
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Who are County Citizens Defending Freedom, Nassau? We are men and women of faith who inspire other people of faith to live out their biblical values as American citizens. We educate them on the need and roles of biblical values in their communities and we enable them to actively influence our community as salt and light, so that Godly moral values will once again serve as the foundation of our local governments, municipal, county and school board and marketplace. In turn, we believe without God's values in our nation, our current challenges will not be fixed.

Our hundreds of Nassau Ambassadors worship in multiple churches and synagogues and we also serve these religious bodies. Our service extends throughout Nassau County to government bodies, civic organizations and to not-for-profits that serve our community, such as Baptist Nassau, the Council on Aging and Barnabas.

We were extremely engaged in the last election cycle. We reviewed the election rolls to be sure that voter rolls reflected actual current eligible voters. We conducted a survey of candidates for office, asking them to respond to questions on a wide range of issues concerning county voters.

We have begun to meet with all who ran in the last election cycle, both successful and unsuccessful, to discuss issues important to our constituents. We are looking to meet regularly with

our elected officials, to be of service to them and to enable them to effectively serve the voters of Nassau County.

We utilize the Biblical principal of Matthew 18:15-17 in our meetings, discussing issues of concern such as breeches of liberty, in private. If we are successful, the issue is resolved and we leave with mutual respect. If not, we take the issue public, first locally, and, if necessary, utilizing local and national media, we shine a bright light on the issue. Our final recourse is, utilizing CCDF's resources, seeking legal redress.

Our values are based upon both the Laws of Nature and Nature's God as written in the Declaration of Independence. We focus our efforts locally on public and private organizations to ensure compliance with the principles of freedom and liberty, which are endowed by our Creator and guaranteed by America's founding documents (The Declaration of Independence, Bill of Rights, US Constitution, and Federalist Papers).

We end with the invitation that our Lord issued frequently during his ministry, "Come and See." We meet monthly on both the West and East sides of the County. Our next meetings will be:

Tuesday, January 10 • 5:30 p.m.

The Pig Bar-B-Q in Callahan

Thursday, January 26 • 5:30 p.m.

The Surf on Amelia Island

We look forward to seeing you there. We wish you a Blessed New Year!



Genealogy Tidbits

Claude Arpen

In 2011, the Elmer Spear Genealogical Library of Madison, Florida relocated to Homerville, Georgia and merged with the Huxford Genealogical Library, to become the Huxford-Spear Library, now the largest private genealogical library east of the Mississippi River.

We are fortunate to have such a great research library within a short driving distance from Nassau County. This library contains census records, thousands of research books and family histories, 400 rolls of micro film and much more. Google: Huxford-Spear Library for more detailed information.

Come join us at the West Nassau Genealogical Society meetings held the second Monday of each month at 10:30 a.m. at the Callahan Lions Club.

YOU'VE WAITED LONG ENOUGH!



Where Jesus Christ is Lord

HERE'S THE GREAT NEWS, CALLAHAN!

You are invited to join us to worship the Lord Sunday, January 8 at 6 p.m. at the Callahan Community Building!

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Come as you are!

Everyone is welcome!

We look forward to seeing you!

Pastor Lee Whitaker

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ABWA Meeting Tuesday

Attention all Nassau County Businesswomen, the Eight Flags Charter Chapter of the American Business Women's Association (ABWA) invites you to join them Tuesday, January 10, at 5:30 p.m. for a presentation sharing habits you might not even realize you are doing that derail connection in leadership and what you can do instead! Starting at 5:30 p.m. at Fernandina Beach Golf Club on Bill Melton Road in Fernandina Beach, the chapter will host Erin O'Malley, Leadership Consultant.

Through workshops, keynote speaking, and coaching, Erin helps build cultures of connection, trust, and loyalty. Her work with industries from automotive to airlines, pharmaceuticals to non-profits, hospitality to international development focuses on empathetic communication, adopting a curious mindset, and controlling how we show up and engage. Erin O'Malley helps people thrive through the power of human connection. She works with leaders and organizations, from the frontline to the C-Suite, teaching them to redefine perceived problems with leadership, engagement, and loyalty, and focus on the real issue: connection. "We look forward to having Erin shine light on ways to build deeper connections within our work, our membership and our everyday lives.," says Lillie Rogers, program chair.

The organization meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m., beginning with networking, a light meal, a speaker, and networking time after the speaker. Please visit: www.abwaeightflags.org to learn more and to register for the meeting. The cost is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members.



CIS Spelling Bee Winners

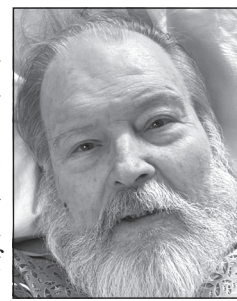
Callahan Intermediate School held their Spelling Bee Friday, December 9. First and Second place winners from each 5th grade classes participated in the school Spelling Bee.

Congratulations to 1st Place Winner, Peyton Harpman; and Runner-up Bryce Martin. Peyton will represent CIS in the District Spelling Bee February 2, 2023.



Enraged Father Shoots Daughter

On Tuesday, December 27, a family discussion escalated into an argument and ended with a woman being shot. The Nassau County Sheriff's Dispatch Center received a call stating there was a woman sitting in a car at the old Ratliff Road Volunteer Fire Station that has been shot. Upon arrival of deputies, the victim explained that her 81-year-old father had shot her. She advised the deputies her father's name is Robert Hall and the shooting occurred at his residence where he was still located. Deputies made contact with Hall and placed him under arrest. Upon consent from Hall, deputies searched the home where they located a .38 caliber revolver with three rounds discharged. They also noted two bullet holes in a wall which would account for the three spent casings, two in the wall and one round striking his daughter in the shoulder.



Robert Hall

bullet from her shoulder, she provided information concerning the shooting. The daughter stated she and her dad were discussing a family issue that occurred the previous day. While talking about the incident, a verbal argument ensued. Reportedly Hall began calling her names and she responded by yelling, "Are you serious dad?" Hall responded back saying, "You won't raise your voice to me in this house you stupid bi***, I'll kill you." She stated again, "Are you serious?" Hall told her to sit down or he would kill her as he was rustling underneath his chair. That's when Hall pulled out the handgun. Hall fired the gun and the daughter began exiting the room, then another shot rang out and she felt the bullet strike her. One more shot was fired.

The daughter had been living with her father for about three months and being his caretaker. Based upon the circumstances, Robert Hall was arrested on attempted murder. The daughter is expected to make a complete recovery.

The daughter was transported to a hospital in Jacksonville with nonlife threatening injuries. When interviewed by NCSO at the hospital while she was awaiting surgery to remove the



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<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Family Pack Fresh, Lean GROUND BEEF</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">\$2.99 lb.</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Expires 1-10-23 WJ With this Coupon</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">10 lb. Bag LEG QUARTERS</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">\$6.95</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Expires 1-10-23 WJ Limit 2 With this Coupon</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">2-PACK FRESH PORK BUTTS</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">\$1.99 lb.</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Expires 1-10-23 WJ While Supplies Last With this Coupon</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Lite Pork SPARE RIBS</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">2-3 Pack \$1.99 lb.</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Expires 1-10-23 WJ With this Coupon</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">USDA Whole T-BONES</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">\$5.95 lb.</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Cut the way you like!</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Expires 1-10-23 WJ Limit 2 With this Coupon</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">GOAT CUBES</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">10 lb. \$60.00 Box</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Expires 1-10-23 WJ With this Coupon</p>

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Local Student Achieves Eagle Scout

Carson Watts, 16, of Callahan, has earned the Eagle Scout Award, the highest rank advancement award presented in Boy Scouting. A member of Callahan Troop 351 chartered by Callahan Masonic Lodge, Carson is one of only six percent of all Scouts who attain the rank of Eagle Scout. To earn the rank of Eagle, each scout must attain 21 merit badges as well as demonstrate leadership, including successfully planning and completing a community service project.

Carson went above and beyond earning a total of 46 merit badges which resulted in him earning 5 Eagle Palms: 2 Bronze Palm Awards, 2 Gold Palm Awards and 1 Silver Palm Award. Carson's community service project was the WNHS Express family Christmas event at West Nassau High School held in December 2021, which



benefited local families for Christmas. Carson received the Eagle Award at a Court of Honor held December 15, 2022 at the Callahan Masonic Lodge.

Carson's proud parents are Melissa and Steve Watts. He is in the 11th grade at West Nassau High School and he also actively participates in many school groups, including Band and Theater. Congratulations, Carson!

Winter Throwdown at Callahan Speedway

If you like motorcycle racing, this is the weekend to come out to Callahan Speedway and see some professional motorcycle racing. Track owner David Hicken says he expects to see over 800 motorcycles competing this weekend. The amateur flat track racers will come from all over the country to battle it out for AMA number one plates. And they will be racing right here in Callahan! Quite a sight to see!



Mariah Lacy Photography

Thursday night there will be a Pro Race to tease your appetite for more racing all weekend. Qualifying for the racers will begin at 2 p.m. Friday and Saturday with races beginning around 6 p.m. It will be a power packed weekend with lots of motorcycle action.

Admission for the races will be \$15 per person (6 and under free). Callahan Speedway is located north of Callahan on US Highway 1 directly across from the NE FL Fairgrounds. See you there!

Hilliard VFW Post 10095 Awards Teachers



The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 10095 Hilliard is proud to announce it has named the top teachers in its annual Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award contest.

Established in 1999 and named after former VFW National Commander John Smart and retired VFW Quartermaster General Larry Maher, the award recognizes our nation's top teachers for their exceptional commitment to teaching Americanism and patriotism to their students by promoting civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism in the classroom.

This year's Post winners are Latashia Davis, a 4th grade reading, writing and social science teacher at Bryceville Elementary; and Bryan Spencer of Bryceville, a 6th & 7th grade social science teacher at Yulee Middle School. VFW Post 10095 - Hilliard will sponsor Davis as their Elementary nominee and Spencer as their Middle School nominee in the VFW District 6 competition.

Both teachers have demonstrated their passion for teaching and provided encouragement to students to participate

in local patriotic essay competitions, to enrichment opportunities like having the guest speakers, patriotism and civil responsibility.

As the 2023 VFW Teacher of the Year, Davis and Spencer will receive a monetary prize, and a special certificate for winning the local level and qualify for further consideration at district, state and national levels. Davis and Spencer were honored at the VFW Post 10095 Hilliard Christmas celebration on December 17. "The strength of our community, our state and our nation rely on the individuals that invest their efforts in growing and fostering the patriotism of our children. Our post is proud to advance their applications to the next level for consideration," said Shane Bray Commander of the VFW Post 10095.

"Teachers like these will ensure a strong America for many generations to come," added Lanaie Reed, President of the Auxiliary.

Nominations for 2024 Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award will be accepted in July of 2023.

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Shoot with Santa Huge Success!

The 2nd Annual Shoot with Santa event was held before Christmas and was once again a huge success. The event was hosted by Jacksonville Clay Target Sports and sponsors, along with shooters helped to make the event special. The event is held to purchase and provide gifts for less fortunate children at our local schools. The event raised \$8,000 overall and all proceeds were given to Hilliard and Callahan schools to distribute.

The winners from the shoot were: First Place Team: Carl Guinn, Zane Lee, Jeremy Todd and Halston Nelson. Second Place Team: Congressman John Rutherford, Phil Davis, Will Murphy and David Jackson. The winner of the Chili Cook-off was Michelle Thomas.

This is an annual event so make plans to attend or be a sponsor in one way or another next year. There are many ways you can help support this great event! Many thanks to all the sponsors and station sponsors that helped out with the event!



1st Place Team



2nd Place Team



Chili Cook-off Winner



The Real Santa Visits Callahan

Beverly Baker Miley, of Callahan, wanted to share the story of a student she taught years ago, who continues to make a difference in this world. "Little did I know that one of my former students, Thomas W. Herrington, III, would become a famous Santa Claus that is a hero to many families," said Beverly. "I taught Tommy while teaching at Highlands Elementary School several years ago. I had the pleasure of visiting with Tommy recently at Junior's Seafood in Callahan. It's such a joy to keep in contact with former students. Knowing that they have done well in life is my reward."



Tommy shared his story: It all began in 2009, while working for the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office during the Holidays, Tommy saw a real need for the Christmas Spirit in some of Jacksonville's lower income communities. Citizens were losing their loved ones and children, to the war on drugs and there seemed to be general unhappiness in these communities. As a child growing up on the Northside of Jacksonville I remembered Santa Claus driving through neighborhoods on Christmas Eve perched on top of a JFRD Fire Truck and happily waving at kids and families throughout the night, a tradition that had long since stopped. With that in mind I gathered up my superior officers with JSO and pitched my idea of bringing that tradition back, but with JSO vehicles. I simply called it the Oceanway Santa Parade. I created a parade route throughout the community and purchased hundreds of candy canes and set in motion a parade which would take place on Christmas Eve. Once I had the approval, I purchased my own Santa Suit and began to

set the plan in motion.

That single night on Christmas Eve in 2009 began a tradition like no other. The community was elated, our volunteers really got into it, and the spirit of Christmas became more alive than ever, however I felt like I could do more. The following year as the Christmas Season approached I partnered with several local businesses that allowed me to place donation boxes at their business for new unwrapped toys and the local community paper on the Northside advertised the parade route and toy drop off locations. The response was overwhelming. What had begun as a simple Christmas Parade handing out candy canes became a real toy drive, for children and adults. In 2016, I retired from JSO and passed the torch.

I moved away from Jacksonville but I still felt the need to be a part of my community somehow. With the help of a good friend "The Real Santa Claus" Facebook page was created. This was a page where everyone could join Santa Claus live from the North Pole (via Facebook Live) and interact, ask questions, and listen to stories, all free of charge. Since creating the page in 2016, with only about 100 followers, "The Real Santa Claus" page has grown to almost 5,000 followers from all 50 states, including England, Germany, Italy, The Bahamas and Ireland.

Since serving 26 years with the JSO as a Detective, it's now my vision to keep love and kindness throughout the year, not just in December. Santa Claus is real and his vision belongs to us all. At the end of the day all Santa can do is plant the seed, it's up to you to make it grow.

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The Town of Callahan is **HIRING a WATER/WASTEWATER C LEVEL OPERATOR.** All Applicants can submit application and resumes to the Town Manager by email to: pwd@townofcallahan-fl.gov or they can be dropped off at Callahan Town Hall, 542300 US HWY 1, Callahan, FL, 32011. 012623

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YARD SALES

ESTATE SALE of the late Gene Stroble, former music director at River Road Baptist Church. The sale will be conducted by Sage Advice Sales this **Friday and Saturday** from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at 22622 Blackstock Ln., Hilliard. Call or text Deb Dell at 904-507-9520 with questions. Pictures and specifics will be advertised on www.Estatesales.net. 10523

VFW POST 10095 YARD SALE, Saturday, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., across from the Hilliard Airpark on Eastwood Road. \$5 Bag Day! New donations. Help support our veterans!

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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.

Monday, December 26

Clayton Tyler Crews, 24, Callahan: Failure to Appear

Tuesday, December 27

Keela Lynn Gaines, 47, Hilliard: Violation of Probation Felony

Thursday, December 29

Robert Winston Hall, 40, Callahan: Attempted Murder

Saturday, December 31

Devon Eugene Popham, 52, Hilliard: Habitual Traffic Offender; Possession of Methamphetamine

Dr. Chuck Pearson Honored

Dr. Chuck Pearson, chair of the Natural Sciences Department and professor of Natural Sciences at Tusculum University, has been named the Dr. Ronald H. Meen Distinguished Professor of Chemistry at the higher education



institution. "This well-deserved honor appropriately recognizes Dr. Pearson for his excellence in the classroom and his leadership in the sciences," Dr. Henson-Ramsey said. "Dr. Pearson is an exceptional mentor for our students, and they admire him greatly for the passion he brings to his teaching. We are fortunate to have Dr. Pearson's expertise and commitment to enhancing students' knowledge in fun and engaging ways."

A Tusculum faculty member since 2016, Dr. Pearson was promoted to full professor effective this academic year. He has served as chair of the Natural Sciences Department since January 2021, leading an academic department that has been heavily engaged in undergraduate research. These projects include investigating potential new anti-cancer drugs, habitat of unique Appalachian species and research investigating natural compounds in plants. The department also leads initiatives to reduce textbook costs for students through the use of open educational resources.

Dr. Pearson has taught in higher education for 22 years. He teaches general chemistry, biochemistry and

physical chemistry, as well as general physics, at Tusculum. When he is not working, Dr. Pearson leads or otherwise supports academic competitions for middle and high school students. He has served as a moderator in matches at quiz tournaments and championships in various parts of the country and at the Tennessee Science Bowl. In September, he directed the Tusculum Earlybird, which brought about 80 high school students from three states to the Meen Center.

The Meen Center is one of Tusculum's most prominent buildings. Mrs. Meen donated \$3.875 million toward construction of this state-of-the-art facility, which houses Tusculum's various science programs. As he accepted the distinguished professorship, Dr. Pearson spoke about the positive impact the Meens made at Tusculum.

Dr. Pearson is a 1989 graduate of Hilliard Middle-Senior High School, 1993 graduate of Rose Hulman Institute of Technology, and a 1999 doctoral graduate of The Ohio State University. He is the son of Douglas and Ann Pearson of Hilliard.

New Foundation Announces Scholarship for Students

The sudden and expected death on October 21, 2022 of local resident Emily Adkins has led to the creation of a private not-for-profit foundation dedicated to health, kindness and building awareness. "We are pleased to announce that we will open up application process for a \$5000



scholarship for a student headed to college who is committed to the pursuit of healthcare," said Douglas Adkins, President. "Emily passed away from blood clots that stemmed from an ankle fracture she experienced in September 2022. The risk factors associated with blood clots include recent surgery, overweight, immobilization for lengthy period of time and a family history of blood clots. In October 2022, a landmark study announced that the use of aspirin was effective in preventing

blood clots associated with ankle fractures."

Emily Promises is a not-for-profit private foundation that is focused on carrying on Emily Adkins' life work. The 2023 foundation scholarship will open January 4, 2023 (Emily's Birthday) and we will announce the recipient of the \$5,000 scholarship in May 2023 after review of all applications.

To apply for the scholarship students, parents or teachers may submit an application online at: <https://www.emilypromises.com/> and that will get the process started. The application window will remain open from January 4, 2023 to March 30, 2023.

To learn more about blood clots and pulmonary embolisms please visit: www.notimetowait.com or www.emilypromises.com.

Activities at Westside Senior Life Center in Hilliard

Week of January 9, 2023

- Monday, January 9: Game Day (Checkers, Connect 4, etc.) 2-4 pm
- Tuesday, January 10: Crocheting Class with "Hilliard Hookers" 1-3 pm
- Wednesday, January 11: Line Dancing with Tanya, 1-2 pm; Yoga with Julie, 2-3:30 pm
- Thursday, January 12: Book Club with Amber, MLIS Branch Librarian, Nassau County, 3-3:45 pm
- Friday, January 13: Trivia Q&A, 2-3 pm

Week of January 16

- Tuesday, January 17: Crocheting Class with "Hilliard Hookers," 1-3 pm
- Wednesday, January 18: Line Dancing with Tanya, 1:30-3:30 pm
- Thursday, January 19 – No activities scheduled
- Friday, January 20: Craft Day, 1-3 pm

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RUTH LATRELLE BASS



Ruth Latrelle Peacock Bass, 91, of Jacksonville, passed away December 21, 2022, at Sodalis Senior Living Facility. Mrs. Bass, also known as Mama and MeMaw, was born June 8, 1931 in Alma, Georgia. She was a longtime resident of Jacksonville. She began her working career as a Court Clerk working with Judge Genevieve Medlock, on Pearl Street; and later retired from the City of Jacksonville as a Court Clerk. She was a faithful member of North Jacksonville Baptist Church and raised her children there since diapers. She was preceded in death by her loving husband, the late Johnny Hollis Bass. Together, they enjoyed traveling and especially camping. They spent most summers in Hendersonville, North Carolina, at their "home away from home," the Jaymar Campground, where they had enjoyed the company of many Florida friends who also stayed there and made new friends.

She is survived by her three children Shirley Ann Bass, Elaine Bass (Mark) Evans and John Kenneth (Susie) Bass of Callahan; seven grandchildren, Angie (Darren) Ellis, Beth Tillman (Ryan) Allen, Jon (Susan) Kodatt, Josh (Terrie) Bass, Jennifer Norton, Jason (Caitlin) Bass and Zach (Hillary) Tillman; 12 great-grandchildren Stephanie Opachick, Mackenzie Kodatt, Blake Bass, Reagan Allen, Taylor Bass, Lucas Kodatt, Abby Allen, Kaitlyn Ellis, Aurora Norton, Nolan Allen, Johnny Tillman and Brynn Bass.

The family would also like to thank the staff at Sodalis Senior Living and Promedica Hospice for their compassion and care.

The family received friends prior to the funeral service held Thursday, December 29 at North Jacksonville Baptist Church with the Rev. Chris Coram officiating. Interment followed in Oaklawn Cemetery in Jacksonville.

Memorials may be made in her memory to: North Jacksonville Baptist Church or Promedicaseniorcare.org/giving.

Arrangements by George H. Hewell and Son Funeral Home, Jacksonville, (904)355-9545.

MARY BATTEN BOYETT



Mary "Nana" Frances Batten Boyett, 90, joined her Heavenly Father on December 21, 2022. She was born September 14, 1932 in Pierce County, Georgia. Nana attended Victory Baptist Church and retired as the bookkeeper from Victory Christian Academy. Nana loved the Lord, spending

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time with her family and fishing. After Papa passed away, Nana moved to Callahan, with her daughter, Barbara, in 2014 until this past summer when she was moved to Life Care Center of Hilliard. She lived a long full life and was the definition of what the Bible defines as a Proverbs 31 woman. She was the glue that held the family together. Nana was preceded in death by her one true love, Alton Boyett.

Nana is survived by her daughters Barbara (Ken) Mikell of Callahan and Janice (Mike) Looney of Belton, SC; grandchildren Christi (David) King, Carie (Bradley) Pierson, Michael (Lora) Looney and Kevin (Hillary) Looney; great-grandchildren Macayla King, Todd (Chasity) Gatlin, Jacob (Haley) Gatlin, Bryce Gatlin, Zachary (Brooke) Looney and McKenna Looney; and great-great-grandson Lucas Gatlin.

A celebration of Nana's life was held Thursday, December 29 at Nassau Funeral Home. Interment followed at Blackshear City Cemetery in Blackshear. The family received friends prior to the service.

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

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

RODNEY BEAU CLAXTON



Rodney Beau Claxton, 49, of Callahan, passed away December 31, 2022. He was born September 14, 1973 in Jacksonville.

Throughout Rodney's life he had many friends and no one was a stranger. He would always find someone he knew anywhere he would go. Rodney had a successful company in construction and worked with family and friends. A jack of all trades some would say, anything from construction to fabrication, welding and tinkering with boats or engines. Rodney was a very honest blunt man some would say, too harsh but Rodney just had a firm delivery method. Very straight forward if you didn't like it, then so be it. "Come on." What Rodney loved most of all was spending time hunting or fishing with family and friends. That was Rodney's life, his family. Fishing was just a bonus. He is preceded in death by his father Beau T. Claxton; and his daughter Danielle M. Claxton.

Rodney is survived by his wife of 28 years, Scarlet Claxton; mother Phyllis J. Claxton; children Rodney B. Claxton, Jr. of Callahan, Brandon A. (Shay) Nordstrom of McHenry, IL, Bradley S. Blair of

Jacksonville and Sarah (Thomas) Cash of St. George; grandchildren Paige Nordstrom, Shyanne Moore, Noah Calloway, Maceon Cash, Alexis Nordstrom, Charley Cash, Zayne Nordstrom, Gavin McKinney and Dallas Claxton; sisters Annette C. (Hardy) Jarvis, Stephanie M. (James) Aten, Joy Lynn (Chris) Ramos, Jenny O. (John) Dixon and Tammy (Brent) Bolin; and many nieces and nephews.

A celebration of Rodney's life will be held on Thursday, January 5 at 1 p.m. at Nassau Funeral Home. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service. Please join the family after the service for food at the America Legion Post 401 in Hilliard.

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

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

DACOTA JASON HALL



Dacota "Cota" Jason Hall, 25, of Yulee, passed away December 14, 2022. He was born February 3, 1997 in Jacksonville, to Jason Hall and Nicole Morgan Taylor. Dacota was a resident of Yulee for the past 14 years and graduated from Yulee High School in 2015. He was a happy-go-lucky, carefree and fearless young man who was always smiling and making jokes. Dacota loved to travel and was adventurous but also liked his quiet time. He thoroughly enjoyed spending time with his family, especially his cousins.

Dacota was preceded in death by his grandfather Wendell Hall; grandparents Willard and Maria Morgan; cousins Nicholas Hall and Micah Shafer.

Dacota leaves behind his father Jason Hall; mother Nicole (James) Morgan Taylor; brothers Ethan Taylor, Ky Taylor and Nevin Hall; sister Charlee Taylor; grandmother Janice (Darryl) Lockerman; step-grandfather Llyod Barton; aunts and uncles Jason (Debbie) Morgan, Melanie (Darren) Teague, Kyle (Meiche) Taylor, Jamie Hall and Rebecca Cross; cousins Madison Morgan, Nathan Morgan, Raegan (T.J.) Wilson, Natalie Neaves, Kris Shafer, Devan Shafer, Jacob Shafer, Noah Shafer, Bryce Stout, Brock Stout, Krista Hall, Nathan Hall, Kylie Hall and Kole Hall.

A celebration of Dacota's life was held December 30 at Nassau Funeral Home with Pastor Nate Maddox officiating.

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

ALICE NELL HOLMES



Mrs. Alice Nell (Jordan) Holmes, 81, of Bryceville, passed away December 11, 2022 at Macclenny Nursing and Rehab, following an extended illness. She was born in Homerville, Georgia and had been a Bryceville resident since 1974. Mrs. Holmes was employed by Revlon, Inc. until the time of her retirement in 2006. She enjoyed spending time with her family and was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She enjoyed cooking, watching movies, decorating the house for every season and especially the holidays, train rides, cruises and trips to the mountains. She loved gospel music and anything Alan Jackson. Mrs. Holmes enjoyed quiet time sitting in the swing, reading, smelling jasmine and watching cardinals and hummingbirds. Later in her life she especially enjoyed her yellow lab, Daisy.

She is survived by her sons DeWayne (Renea) Holmes of Bryceville and Donald Holmes of Fort White; grandson Donald (Kim) Holmes, Jr.; great-grandchildren Jackson and Ryder Holmes; brother Alfred (Merle) Jordan; special friends Helen Stanley, Martha Hemphill and Maddie Myers; and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents Kenneth and Daisy Jordan; her loving husband of 59 years Ezra Holmes; her son Robert Holmes; siblings Kenneth (Louelle) Jordan, Edna Grace (Newton) Long and Edith (RB) Pittman.

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

Warren Funeral Services of Baldwin is honored to serve the Holmes family.

JOHN DAVID HOLMES, JR.



John David Holmes, Jr., 68, passed away November 28, 2022. He was born January 13, 1954 in New Port, Rhode Island at the Naval Hospital. He was the son of John D. Holmes, Sr. and Jacqueline Cook Holmes. David was very active in Little League baseball and football as a child. He attended Wolfson High School. He was an avid lifelong fan of the University of Florida. David worked as a painting contractor and had his own business for many years.

He is survived by his wife Shirley; his son John D. Holmes, III; his mother Jacqueline Holmes; siblings Deborah Gregory and James (Virginia) Holmes; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, January 14, 2023 at 11 a.m. at the First Baptist Church of Gray Gables in Callahan with Pastor Cody Page officiating.

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BONNIE LEE KIRKWOOD



Bonnie Lee Kirkwood, 81, of Suwannee County, formerly of Callahan, passed away December 22, 2022. She was born in Columbus, Ohio to the late Edgar and Frances McElhinny.

She married the love of her life, the late William Kirkwood in 1958. She was a devoted mother and wife and was always there for her nine children and husband. She enjoyed gardening and doing work around the yard. She also enjoyed cooking and coming up with new ways to prepare food.

She leaves behind nine children, Wanda (Karl) Simmons, Richard (deceased) (Patricia) Kirkwood, Keith Kirkwood, Cheryl (Milton) Hays, Robert (Amanda) Kirkwood, Steven Kirkwood, John (Melody) Kirkwood, Rebecca (Ray) Holloway and David (Breann) Kirkwood; 21 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

The family received prior to the funeral service held Wednesday, December 28 in the Stephens Chapel at Green Pine Funeral Home. Interment followed in Green Pine Cemetery.

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

Arrangements by Green Pine Funeral Home, Yulee, 904-261-0876.

ZACHARY ADAM LOCK



Zachary Adam Lock, 23, of Hilliard, passed away December 9, 2022. He was born October 15, 1999 in Ft. Worth, Texas to Charlena Guy and Robby Auringer. Zachary was a 2019 graduate of West Nassau High School. He worked at many professions, his favorite of all was as a Diesel Mechanic. He had a fierce passion for cars and big dreams for his 'stang. He loved walking on the beach and spending time with his family and friends.

He is survived by his mother Charlena Guy; his father Chris Guy; sisters Alyssa Stiern, Annalina Lock and Zoey Guy; brothers Orin Lock and Lawson Guy; grandmothers Mica Wunder and Annette Lock; grandfather Grange Wunder; great-grandparents Timothy and Delores Stanish; and many extended family members and friends.

A celebration of life service was held Saturday, December 17 at Connect Church

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in Jacksonville. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Corey's Angels, an organization they hold dear to their hearts.

WILLIAM JOSEPH MARSH, JR.



William "Bill" Joseph Marsh, Jr., 90, of Callahan, passed away on December 24, 2022. He was born October 8, 1932 in Westville Grove, New

Jersey, to the late William Joseph Marsh and Genevive Robinson Marsh. Bill proudly served his country in the United States Air Force for 23 years. Once he completed his honorable career in the military, Bill began his second career as a truck driver and started Marsh Trucking. He was a beloved husband, father, grandfather and a friend to many that will be dearly missed.

Bill leaves behind his loving wife of 72 years, Margaret "Marge" Marsh; sons Fred (Ginny) Marsh and Bill (Mindi) Marsh; nephews Mark McGowan and Spencer McGowan; four grandchildren; many great-great-grandchildren; and numerous friends.

The family will receive friends at 11 a.m. Friday, January 6, prior to the celebration of life service at 12 p.m. Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church Callahan, with Father Bui officiating. Interment will follow at Jacksonville National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations can be made to the Disabled Veterans National Foundation: <https://www.dvnf.org/>.

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

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

JACK E. PARKER, JR.



Jack E. Parker, Jr., entered into Heaven's gates December 23, 2022. He was born September 15, 1940. Jack attended North Jacksonville

Baptist Church and enjoyed fishing and spending time with family. If there were two things you knew about Jack, he loved the Lord, and his grandbabies could do no wrong. Jack served in the

United States Army and Navy after school and loved his country.

Jack is survived by his wife of 31 years, Ruby; four children Jay (Chris) Parker, Josh (Bobbie) Parker, Kelly Gunter and Crissy (Danny) Waldron; seven grandchildren Jesse Parker, Ashley Gunter, Shelly (Kaleb) Sweat, Rachael Parker, Shelby Waldron, McKenzie Waldron and Alexis Waldron; five great-grandchildren MaKenna Gunter, Harrison Meide, Ava Sweat, Penelope Sweat and Harper Meide; and his brother Harry Parker.

The family will receive friends at 10 a.m. Saturday, January 7, 2023 at North Jacksonville Baptist Church prior to the memorial service at 11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to North Jacksonville Baptist Church building fund or Bethel Holiness Church missions.

Arrangements by Corey-Kerlin Funeral Home.

Condolences may be expressed at www.corey-kerlin.com.

RAYMOND E. SEELEY



Raymond E. Seeley, 91, affectionately known as Grampy and widely known as 'The Voice of the Flashes', peacefully went home to be

with the Lord on December 20, 2022. Death for him has given way to victory and his faith has been made sight, as he has been reunited with his precious wife around the throne of God, forevermore. He was born on March 5, 1931 in Akron, Ohio. He spent his childhood summers living in a lighthouse his grandfather oversaw on Lake Ontario. He was a proud Veteran and served in the United States Army. In 1955, he married the love of his

life, Margaret, or as he called her 'Babe.' They celebrated 65 years of marriage before the Lord called her home in 2020. Many in the community know him as 'The Voice of the Flashes' as he spent more than four decades announcing Hilliard Middle-Senior High School Flashes football, basketball, baseball and softball games.

As a faithful husband, a loving father, and a proud grandfather he taught us many things we will never forget. Dangerous tongue twisters, card games and card tricks, riddles and some jokes we never care to repeat (if you know you know), how to correct a bent fork or keep your napkin from sticking to your cup. Sunday mornings he would be singing from the church pew and giving a hearty "Amen." He was a faithful member of Grace Covenant Presbyterian and loved his extended church family dearly. Hilliard held a special place in his heart and he loved telling stories about the many years he volunteered and served in various ways.

He leaves to cherish in memory his children Karen Seeley, Kenneth (Peggy) Seeley and Eric Seeley; grandchildren Nikki (Nic) Chesser, Brittany (Jared) Cales, Chad (Kristi) Seeley, Halee (Michael) Tallman, Josh Seeley, Candace Huston, David Huston and Jessie Seeley and many beloved great-grandchildren.

Oftentimes when he announced, he closed with these words and we feel they are appropriate today, "This is the Voice of the Flashes, rounding third and headed home," for he has now reached his eternal home.

The family received friends prior to the funeral service held Friday, December 30 at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, Hilliard, with Pastor Jesse Pickett officiating. Burial followed at Oakwood Cemetery, Hilliard.

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

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

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WAYNE ACTON SMITH



Wayne Acton Smith, 94, passed away peacefully on Thursday, December 22, 2022, surrounded by his family. He was born on May 20, 1928 in Alabama City, Alabama, to Dixie Lee and Jack Smith. In his late teens and early 20s, he served in the United States Navy for 4 years. After his discharge, he met Edith Builderback, the love of his life and they married on May 20, 1950 in Folkston, Georgia and relocated to Jacksonville. He worked as a shift engineer at St. Regis/International Paper and retired after 38 years. Wayne's talents were many, he loved photography, videography, fishing, bowling, golfing, gardening, camping and perfecting his talent of wood carpentry. He was a beloved husband, father, grandpa, great-grandpa and great-great-grandpa. He was an active leader in First Baptist Church of Callahan and a friend to many. He was predeceased by his parents Dixie Lee and Jack Smith; and his son Wayne A. Smith, Jr. (Victoria Smith).

He is survived by his wife of 72 years, Edith B. Smith; sister Jean Keebler; granddaughters Jennifer (Sam) Lucero and Kimberly Yawn; great-grandchildren Kathryn Stokes (Tyler) Hansel, Stephen Stokes (Kacey Ward) and Evan Stokes; and two great-great-granddaughters Ellie Stokes and Emma Stokes.

The family received friends prior to the celebration of life service held Thursday, December 29 at First Baptist Church Callahan. Interment followed at Arlington Park Cemetery.

Condolences may be expressed at www.arlingtonparkfuneralhome.com.

Arrangements by Arlington Park Cemetery, Jacksonville.

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JAVAN THOMPSON



Javan Thompson, 82, a life-long resident of Kings Ferry, "Poppa" answered the call of our Heavenly Father December 28, 2022. He was born on August 10, 1940 in Kings Ferry to the late Felix Nathaniel Thompson, Sr. and Isabel Jordan. He received his early education at local schools in Nassau County, graduating from Pine Forest School, Callahan, Class of 1959.

February 3, 1962 he was united in holy matrimony to Abbie Altamese Mason this union was blessed with three children. "Pop" or "Poppa" affectionately called by many family members and friends, was a hard worker. From being the meticulous meat cutter at Banner Food Grocery Store in Folkston; over 20 years of dedicated service with Gold Kist/Hillandale Eggs in Hilliard, with several years of perfect attendance on the job. He retired from working, after his employment with Mizell Poultry Farm in Hilliard.

"Poppa", along with his love to work, he enjoyed fishing, hunting, working in the yard and watching CNN News on the television. He was an individual who never met a stranger, a friend to many. He was preceded in death by his parents; sisters Louise Lee Howard, Vivian Thompson and Lillie Liddell; brother Felix Nathaniel

Thompson, Jr.; and step-mother Johnnie Mae Thompson.

He leaves to cherish his memory his wife of 62 years, Abbie Altamese Thompson; daughter Valarie Young McClairen; sons Javan Thompson, Jr., Terry Terrell Thompson and Fabian Davis; grandchildren Stephen Michael Young, Demere Thompson, Tariq Russell Thompson, Amari Simone Thompson and Ta'lyr Jalon Thompson; great-grandchildren Ryder Dipaul, Kelsie Smith and Elliana Mae Thompson; sister Sharon Annette (Thomas) Donley; brothers Jule Thompson and George (Sherry) Thompson; step-sisters Stella (Bobby) Thomas and Leola (Roosevelt) Baker; step-brother Wendell Bush; sisters-in-law Evelyn (Alfonso) Harris, Mellanese (Gilbert) Jones, Annie (James) Jordan and Shirl Godwin; brothers-in-law Gary (Mae) Mason and Jackey (Sheila) Mason; life-long friend Freddie Mason; a number of extended family members and friends.

The family will receive friends Friday, January 6 from 5 - 7 p.m. at Mt. Olive Baptist Church, 49167 Mt. Olive Rd., Kings Ferry. The funeral service will be held Saturday, January 7 at the First Baptist Church of Hilliard at 1 p.m. Interment will follow at Mt. Olive Baptist Church Cemetery in Kings Ferry.

Arrangements entrusted to T.S. Warden, 410 Beech Street, Fernandina Beach.

AARON "BUDDY" VINSON



Aaron "Buddy" Vinson, 78, of Hilliard, passed away on December 19, 2022. He was born on December 31, 1943 in Monticello, Florida to the late Aaron Vinson and Etta Calhoun Vinson. Buddy was a faithful member of Boulogne Holiness Church for 10 years. He enjoyed worshipping and serving his Lord and Savior. Buddy loved hunting, fishing, and farming but most of all he cherished his family and each moment he spent with them. He was a loving and devoted husband, father and grandfather that will be missed dearly. Buddy was preceded in death by his siblings Bill Vinson, Sammie Levon Vinson, Clyde Vinson, Etheleen Allen, Janie Malone and Peggy Knight.

Buddy leaves behind his loving wife Esther W. Vinson; children Joshua P. (Jarrah) Mullens and June E. (DJ) Gorney; grandchildren David F. (Mary) Gorney, Dalton A. (Scarlett) Mullens, Ashleigh N. Gorney, Tyler Burnsed and Nadia Burnsed; great-grandchildren Kensley Mullens, Blair Mullens, Lily Gorney, David Gorney, III, Vernae Burnsed and Raelynn Burnsed; sister Judy Vinson; and numerous extended family and friends.

A celebration of Buddy's life was held December 28 at Boulogne Holiness Church with Bro. Andrew Gillis officiating.

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

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



*In Loving Memory of
Juanita C. Temple*

January 11, 1934 - January 8, 2018

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