Pray to God for Our Nation!

VOLUME XVIII ISSUE 24

HOMETOWN PEOPLE...HOMETOWN NEWS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 2022

"AND DO NOT BE CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD, BUT BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND, THAT YOU MAY PROVE WHAT IS THAT GOOD AND ACCEPTABLE AND PERFECT WILL OF GOD." - ROMANS 12:2

# Reflecting on 2021

**Sheriff Leeper Sworn In for 3rd Term** 

**WNHS Cheer Team State & National Champions!** 

**Fatal Train vs Vehicle Accident** 

CMS Cheer Team Wins State & Nationals!

**Drag Strip Planned at Callahan Speedway** Fire Destroys Bryceville Home

**WNHS Boys Final 4 Bound** 

WWII Veteran Bob Zortea Celebrates 100th Birthday

**Spring Lake Concerns Addressed** 

**Nassau County Hires First Parks & Recreation Director** 

**Groundbreaking Ceremony Held for New Public Training Center** 

Callahan Legend Stanley Long Passes Away **Old Dixie Highway Nears Completion!** 

Lt. Jon Hooper Promoted to Undersheriff

**Girl Scouts Make Ewing Park Their Project** Callahan & Hilliard Join for Celebrate America Fireworks

**Giving Back to Danny** 

Callahan Council Approves Zaxby's and Hagan Ace A Community Mourns the Loss of NCSO Deputy Joshua Moyers

**Callahan Commerce Center Approved** 

### Northeast Florida Fair Returns

**NCSO Nationally Certified Trailing Bloodhounds Westside Senior Life Center Gets Remodel** 

Hilliard Approves Rezoning for Greenbrier PUD

**Crawford Road Reopens** 

Pigeon Creek Primitive Baptist Church Celebrates 200 Years

Callahan Man Murders Wife and Children **Hilliard Approves Golf Cart Ordinance** 

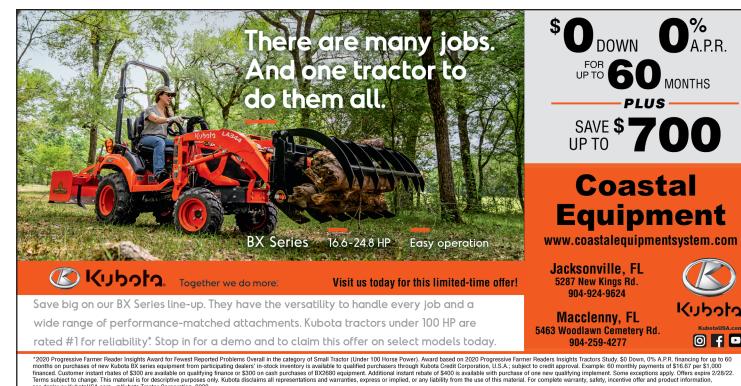
**Justice for Joleen Cummings: Kessler Found Guilty!** 

'Shoot with Santa' Raises Money for West Side Children

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# A Word Strom the Publisher

Welcome 2022 and Happy New Year to you all! What a wonderful Christmas season we had. We enjoyed lots of family celebrations throughout December and were blessed with good weather for all of them. Now how many people love to live in Florida? We certainly cannot complain about our winter weather. God provided beautiful days and nights!

Last week, we took a week off from publishing. I was questioned a couple of times of where the paper was this week. This has been a tradition since the paper began. It not only gives us a down week to refresh our minds but also gives a break to our many faithful advertisers. I just want to again thank the many advertisers we have for their continued support of our paper. As for our readers, I encourage you to not only enjoy reading the paper but look at the many advertisers and use them. They are the only reason we can continue to do what we do. I'm so thankful for each and every one of them. All are extremely important. You may not need a particular service now but in two months you may. Please continue to support them and their businesses.

I am so blessed beyond what I deserve. I'm so thankful for a loving, merciful God that continues to reel me back in when I start thinking on my own. Does anyone else ever do that? Sometimes I think I've got it all together with a plan in mind. That's when God reminds me that He is in control, not me. Sometimes I think we all begin to 'think' a little too much when a New Year rolls around. I need to eat better; I should exercise; lose weight; join a gym; change my hair color, etc.

There are so many things that can fill your mind. The one most important thing we can do is do a check-up on our salvation. After all, that truly is all that matters. I've shared many times that publishing a newspaper can be time consuming and stressful. I lose focus of

what is really important. That's when I look up. God continues to be on His throne and He brings the calm back into my life. Oh my...in this head of mine, it's so easy to be distracted by this or that especially when I lay down to go to sleep. It seems my head begins thinking and planning and figuring...it's so aggravating. Roger says I get that from my dad! Recently, I've tried to find a solution. After about an hour of thinking (I hope to bring that down to about 20 minutes), I start praying and saying Bible verses. Amazing how that brings my calm. Thank you Jesus!

Roger made a sign for a special friend on a piece of cedar wood she purchased. She told him to keep the rest of the wood. He surprised me at Christmas with a sign he made for me that says, "Thank you Jesus." It is so pretty and smells so good. I didn't realize how much I say it until one of my granddaughters said it about something. You know just saying, Thank you Jesus, seems so simple. But when you really mean it from the heart it goes a lot further.

I had someone ask me (or really Roger), "What can we do as Americans in this world?" A wise pastor shared recently that we are in a spiritual war in this world. We have been for a long time. The best things we can do as Christian Americans is make sure your family and friends are saved. The next, put on the full armor of God. "Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes," Ephesians 6:11. To learn the full armor of God read Ephesians 6:10-18. There's one thing that the devil despises: When God's people stand up for God! In 2022, let's suit up and be an Army of God Almighty! Stand strong!

Happy New Year!

Dawn S. West





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## Letters to the Editor

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

### Thank You!

Dear Editor,

I just wanted to drop you a note and say thank you. I live in Jacksonville and work in Hilliard, so most days I drive through your little berg.

I can't say that I'm much of a fan of a big town—I work in Hilliard for a reason- and most days I enjoy the drive. But at Christmastime, you folks work so hard to celebrate the Season with wonderful lights and all kinds of tinsel and reindeer and angels and little blow up snowmen that it's a complete joy to drive to work (in the dark) and home (in the dark). Lights trailed across the yard and draped from the trees and wrapped around mailboxes. What a wonder!

I wanted you to know that it worked! Your good cheer spills all the way out onto the road and everybody that drives by gets to share a little bit of it. It means a lot in a world that has become so cold. From a truck with a Santa hat and a big grin near my office in Hilliard, to a gleaming Ace Hardware store, to the little gizmos on the street lights; I'm thankful for all of it!

And for neighbors that work so hard to be a little bit of light in a dark world, thank you! I wish you all a wonderful New Year.

Bonnie

### Thank You!

Dear Editor,

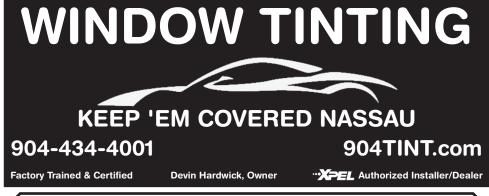
On behalf of the West Nassau Historical Society we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for making the 48th Callahan Christmas Parade and Craft Fair a huge success. Sunny weather combined with an enthusiastic crowd and supportive community made for a fantastic day. First, we would like to thank the Town of Callahan for having faith in our group and allowing us to put on this

year's event, for donating and for allowing us to use the historic rail bed for the Craft Fair portion. Kudos goes to our other donors: Schwend Insurance, Anchor Church, Callahan First Baptist Church, Southeastern Bank, VyStar Credit Union, Devoted Health Plans, Joel Pace Piano & Music and Meridian Waste. Thanks to Cub Scout Pack 351 and Callahan Elementary Run/Walk Club for carrying our banners and sponsor signs. Thanks to Greater Nassau County Rotary for supplying volunteers and Principal Snyder and West Nassau for allowing us to use their parking lot. Thanks go to the judges and for Jerry Peterson for emceeing the parade. Thanks to Joel Pace and his elves for providing the music and for helping Saint Nick with his presents. Special thanks go to Santa and Mrs. Claus for taking time to come to Callahan, headline the parade and listen to dozens of children as they spoke of their wishes for Christmas.

Last, we would like to thank each and every member of the West Nassau Historical Society who went above and beyond what was asked of them to ensure that we put on a safe and enjoyable event. We completed our Hobo Day just 4 short weeks prior to December 4, yet you did not pause nor missed a beat. You all continue to show that by working together, all things are possible.

The Historical Society is always looking for new members and volunteers to join us in planning future projects. We meet on the fourth Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the historic Callahan train depot. The next meeting will be Thursday, January 27. Please come on out and join us as we plan more events that will help us secure the future of our past.

Sincerely, Emily Baumgartner and John Hendricks West Nassau Historical Society



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# IANIIARY

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





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Roger R. West

We have officially been under the rule of the Communist Democrat party for one year, and it certainly has been anything other than a party! Are you better off now than one year ago? Can you name anything positive this administration has done for the betterment of America? Do you even know who is actually in charge of America? We all know that it is not Uncle Joe or the cackling pantsuit, so who is it?

I hate to say it, but, we told you so. We as a country are in shambles compared to the four years leading up to the 2020 election, if you can honestly believe the election results, I still don't. Yes there have been no mean tweets for a year, so to many far leftists their little feelings haven't been hurt. However your and my 1st Amendment rights have been stomped upon and that should concern everyone. The 1st Amendment was not put into place to protect your feelings, if mere words affect you so much I truly feel sorry

So what has Joe (or whoever) done for America in this first year? Well, we could start at the price of gasoline. At the end of January 2021 the average price per gallon was \$2.24, in February it jumped to \$2.40 and every month in 2021 the price went up to where we are now at \$3.41! The annual inflation rate for the United States is 6.8% for the last 12 months ending November 2021. That is the highest inflation rate we have experienced since June 1982! Don't even try and blame it on the political demic, any fiscal strain from the virus was caused by blue states shutting down, unlike the excellent leadership of our Governor Ron DeSantis.

By Uncle Joe's own admission he should not remain President. While running against President Trump, Biden did not hesitate for a minute to blame President Trump directly for the state of the pandemic. In one debate

in October 2020, ole' Joe referenced the 220,000 (grossly inflated numbers) Americans that had died of COVID-19, he blamed President Trump personally for each of those deaths. Biden said, "If you hear nothing else I say tonight, hear this, Anyone that is responsible for that many deaths should not remain President of the United States of America." He promised, "I will take care of this, I will end this. I'm going to shut down the virus, not the country." According to the Washington Free Beacon, there has been roughly 366,470 (again inflated, but) Americans that have died of COVID-19 since his Inauguration. Therefore by his own words, Joe should not remain President.

Two different polls conducted in November showed Trump would easily defeat Biden if they ran against each other again. A Fabrizio, Lee & Associates poll showed Trump leading Biden in five swing states that Biden took (literally) in 2020. Those states were Arizona, Georgia, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. Is it just me or do these states sound familiar? The poll had a margin of error of four percent. It found that Trump led Biden by 12 points in Michigan, 10 points in Wisconsin, six points in Pennsylvania, 8 percent in Arizona and 3 percent in Georgia. A separate Rasmussen Reports/Pulse Opinion Research poll showed Trump defeating Biden by a significate margin in a hypothetical match up. It found that Donald Trump would win 45 percent to 32 percent. Rasmussen also found that independents favor Trump over Biden by 47 percent to 20 percent. Of course this is just if Trump ran again and if Biden can or will run again. For right now I am focused on a RED TIDE this fall in the mid-term elections!

Happy New Year and as always...that's just my opinion!





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### Passion 2022

Pastor Marty Paparo, Friendship Alliance Church, Callahan



Right now (Monday morning), as I write this article, I'm sitting in the Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta, GA. No, I'm not here to see the Falcons play a football game. I'm here to join 60,000 young people, 18 - 25 year old college students. The room is filled with students from 1,400 universities, representing all 50 states and 41 countries. Last night we heard from four speakers: Levi Lusko, David Platt, Sadie Huff and Tim Tebow. Today we will hear from many more. Why do we

gather? As Tebow put it from the stage, "We are not in this stadium to play a game we are here to lift up a Name." He went on to share that the Name above every other name is Jesus. These students are worshipping the risen King. They stand with arms raised singing praises to Christ as I sit and simply take in the moment of 60,000 voices praising.

David Platt raised an interesting question that I think needs to go beyond this stadium. Will we be the church who chases the American dream or will we go to the 1.2 billion people who have little to no access to Jesus and/or the Bible? He's not talking about people who are not saved. He's talking about people who have never heard the name Jesus.

As I contemplate Platt's challenge, I think of the definition of the word passion: willing to suffer for. So here's my question to us: What's our passion? What are we willing to suffer for? Many of us will suffer 40 hours a week at a job so we can enjoy all the things we have. But a thousand years from now, will any of the "stuff", the possessions, really matter?

Platt read to us a passage we all know, the Great Commission: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." These are Jesus' words to His followers. I think often we fail at this. The first word is GO, yet we stay in our churches. We don't go to where the unchurched are, we just kind of expect them to come to us. Going is hard. Some may describe it as suffering. But, do we have enough passion for people who don't know Christ to suffer through going. We all have people we know who don't know Jesus. But are we willing to go to them and build relationships and share Jesus with them. Are we willing to support those who go globally to those least reached people?

This week, I want to challenge you to say the name of Jesus to someone outside of your church. It's a small step, but it's a good one. If you want to go a step further, tell someone outside of your church your Jesus story, the story of what Christ has done in your life. It doesn't matter who, just get used to sharing what Christ has done in you. If you see me in town, at ACE or anywhere else, tell me your Jesus story. The unchurched need to hear about Jesus, we are the ones charged with sharing Him. What is your passion, what are you willing to suffer for, are you willing to go?

### Callahan Town News

Dawn S. West

The Callahan Town Council met Monday night for their first meeting of 2022. Mr. Douglas Conkey, Interim Coordinator of St. Johns River Water Management District approached to podium. "I'm here to introduce myself but also to share some good information for your town," said Conkey. "SJRWMD has begun a Cost Share Program for municipalities. Of course, our main concern is about water conservation. Towns can apply for the program with any projects that concern Water supply; Water quality; Flooding concerns; aging infrastructures, etc. I wanted to make sure you were aware of the program to see if the town may have a need to apply for."

The town clerk received a letter from the Take Stock in Children organization to consider being a sponsor. The council agreed to donate \$500 to the program. A resolution for the donation will be available at the next council meeting.

The council set the qualifying dates as August 1st – 12th to send to the Supervisor of Elections Office for the upcoming 2022 election. Seats up for election will be Mayor Matthew Davis; Councilwoman Janet Shaw; and Councilwoman Ashton Bishop Vargas.

Town Manager Mike Williams addressed the council concerning the Peddling and Soliciting ordinance in the town code. "We need to make some upgrades and changes to the entire code concerning these items," said Williams. "Many things have changed in the code.

I advise this to go to the Planning & Zoning Board to look over and make some of the upgrades and deletions."

Williams also advised the council that he (the town) has been advertising for a new auditor. No one responded to the request. Williams talked with Powell & Jones Auditing Firm and recommended the council approve their services at \$25,800 per year in a 3-year contract. The council approved the recommendation.

In the next agenda item, Williams also addressed the council. "We (the Town) are finishing up on the final grouping of water lines around town. This has been a long project but we are nearing the end," said Williams. "The CDBG Grant we received was for \$675,000. After engineering and other fees we have around \$523,000 left. The bid we received from TG Utility was for \$722,334 leaving us a balance of a little over \$200,000. We have the money in the general fund to pay it off. However, I just need to know if you (council) want to go ahead with TG Utility so the work can be completed?"

"I make a motion that we go with TG Utility to finish the work and we will plan to use money we received from the Department of Economic Opportunity to pay the balance," said Councilman David Mellecker. The council approved unanimously.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, January 18 at 7 p.m. due to the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

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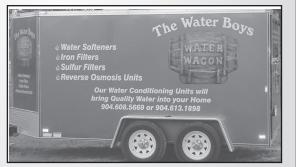
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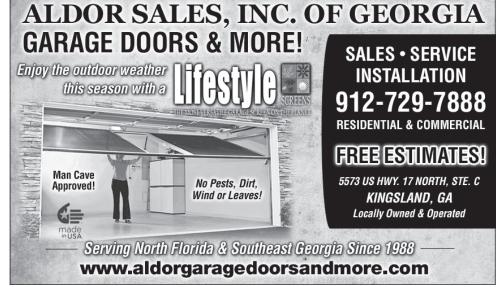
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### 4-H'er of the Month **Lainey Walters**





Lainey is an enthusiastic, brilliant, organized, and friendly 4-H'er. She is an active member of several clubs including the Nassau County Young Riders and Hoofbeats Hippology. In her horse projects Lainey is a rising star! She works extremely hard to increase both her riding skills and overall equine science knowledge. She never shies away from the hard work or extra homework.

Lainey qualified to compete in both the Area and State Horse show and served as a peer-leader for our Love A Horse day camp. Outside of horses, Lainey delivers high quality speeches and talent showcases for County/District Events, is always available to help with county 4-H projects, won awards in

livestock judging, and recently graduated as "Future Emergency Management Director" from the Youth Emergency Team program. Lainey is no doubt a superstar here in Nassau County 4-H.

### **Genealogy Tidbits**

The City of Jacksonville will be celebrating its 200th Anniversary in 2022. The city was founded by Isaiah D. Hart, who moved from his farm on the St. Mary's River in Georgia. According to the book Jacksonville's Architectural Heritage, there were about 250 people living in the area. Hart's dreams for a booming town were slow to materialize. A December 20, 1825 St. Augustine newspaper described Jacksonville: There are not more than eight or ten houses erected of any description, most of which are rudely formed of logs and affording only a feeble protection against the cold, the wind and the rain. There is not a sash window in the whole town; but few of the houses even have a chimney.

By 1830, however, the population of Jacksonville had reached nearly 100. The West Nassau Genealogical Society wishes each of you a Happy and Healthy New Year and is looking forward to resuming our meetings on Monday, February 14, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. at the Callahan Lions Club, located on US

Highway 1 north of the fairgrounds. Visitors are always welcome!

# Living Financially Free

### Baby Step #1: Emergency Fund

Yvette Outler

What exactly is an emergency fund? An emergency fund covers emergencies: Things like the car breaking down, or the dryer quits working. When you have cash in your emergency fund you can quickly resolve your issue without going further into debt. On the flip side it is important to understand what an emergency fund is not intended to cover: Things such as birthday presents, vacations, or new clothes. It is for the not so fun surprises that happen in life, and yes, we all have them. It is not a matter of "if" but it's a matter of "when." Being financially prepared gives you peace during your storm. Do not be surprised if while saving for your fund you must tap into it due to an emergency...it happens. If it does, begin again.

Since this is Dave Ramsey's first baby step towards financial freedom, please do not overlook it. To begin, you will systematically put in all your excess cash towards it until you have at least \$1,000.00. During this time, you will intentionally only pay the minimum amounts on your bills and then apply the remainder towards building your emergency fund. Some weeks your contribution may only be \$10.00, while others it may be \$100.00. Securing your emergency fund is key to being able to breathe while getting out of debt.

What is the quickest way to save for an emergency fund? Increase your



income. Dave Ramsey is a fan of getting your side-hustle on to expedite your momentum! Here are side-hustle ideas: Delivering pizza in the evenings as a second job; stocking shelves at your local grocery store; or become a waiter at your local restaurant on your day off. Due to the shortage of workers, employers are more flexible now more than ever. Use this to your advantage in getting extra hours of employment. Use this extra income to apply towards your emergency fund.

I have lived life with and without an emergency fund. It is a whole lot easier to experience a crisis if you have the funds. It is wonderful to pay cash for your emergency instead of having to use a credit card. Let 2022 be the year of getting out of debt. I encourage you to take the first baby step forward towards financial freedom today!

Yvette Outler is a Dave Ramsey's Solution Master Financial Coach. Contact her for a free consultation at Fiscallyfree7@gmail.com.







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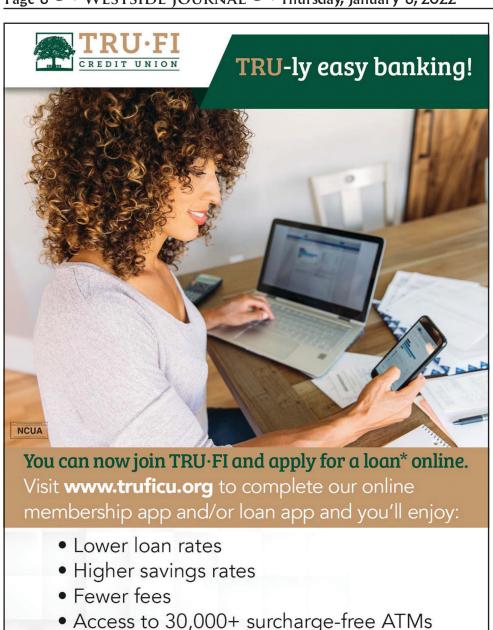
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# New Beginnings and Milestones

# Carolina Autumn Franklin



Brenton and Baylee Franklin, of Hilliard, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Carolina Autumn Franklin. Carolina was born December 7, 2021 at 10:11 a.m. at Baptist Hospital in Jacksonville. She weighed 8 pounds 1 ounce and measured 22 inches.

Paternal grandparents are Michael and Vickie Franklin of Hilliard.

Maternal grandparents are Brad and Autumn Dover, also of Hilliard.

Proud great-grandparents are Dewey and Theresa Franklin; Floyd and Mary Vanzant; Brenda Conner and the late Alton

Conner, all of Hilliard; Romy and Sharon Dover of Callahan; and the late Bernice Davis Franklin.

### VFW Auxiliary Serves Community



During the Holidays each year, VFW Post 10095 Auxiliary helps local families in need. One of our missions is to promote Patriotism and to be very charitable to our Veterans and community families. This Year, ten Thanksgiving dinners and ten Christmas dinners were donated/delivered to families in need. One family is celebrating Christmas without their daddy/husband, who is currently on deployment with the US Navy.

February 12 (for Valentine's Day), the VFW Auxiliary will be hosting a Valentine's Dinner to raise funds, for causes such as this and many more. On the menu will be Prime

\$25 a dinner, and reservations and payment can be placed by calling the VFW Post 10095 at 904-845-7139.

Much of what we do couldn't be accomplished without the generous support of the community.





### Barnabas and FIT Team Up to Help Nassau County Students

Did you know the Barnabas Center teams up with FIT (Families in Transition) Program Director Mollie Cressey to provide items for homeless students in need in Nassau County schools? The FIT Program identifies homeless students in Nassau County schools, enrolls them in the FIT



program, and works with parents, teachers and community partners to help ensure access to school and community services, which hopefully will increase these students' overall success. "I would like to thank Barnabas for the generous donation of a bike to one of our FIT families," said Cressey. "The middle school student's mother asked for a bicycle for her son who was riding her bike to school. Also, he had only one set of clothing to wear to school, which she was washing every night. She was concerned her son may be bullied because he wore the same clothes every day."

When Barnabas staff spoke with Cressey, they quickly located a bicycle for the boy. She picked it up and delivered it to the family the same day! "The student was thrilled to have a new bike and said he was very grateful to Barnabas," said Cressey. "Through other donations to FIT, we also dropped off clothes for him, and jackets and sleeping bags for the family. Thank you, Barnabas, for showing such love and

support to our wonderful community."

Helping this young man with a bike lead FIT to contact Barnabas about an 11th grader in the program who needed a bike for transportation to his new job. Again, Barnabas provided a bike. The need for bikes for children became evident. Barnabas developed a pilot program "Junior Bikes for Barnabas" to meet this need for the older children enrolled in the FIT program. Junior Bikes for Barnabas will be a sister program to Bikes for Barnabas which is a service providing bikes to adults needing transportation to and from work.

If you know of a Nassau County Public School student whose family has lost housing, or who is living with someone other than a parent or court-ordered guardian, FIT may be able to help provide transportation, clothing, resources, and services. Call Mollie at (904) 277-9021. To learn more about Barnabas, visit BarnabasNassau.org or call (904) 261-7000.

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### Hilliard Parks & Recreation News

Gabe Whittenburg, Director, Parks & Recreation

Greetings from Hilliard Parks & Recreation! Things here at the park have been moving at a rapid pace as we closed our basketball registration and have started practice for the upcoming HP&R basketball league. Last year was an amazing turnout for us and we are ecstatic to report that we have exceeded our turnout from last year with 317 registrants! As a result, we will once again have games going on in two gyms, but this year we will have games running from 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. Logistically, this will be a challenge, but we embrace it because it is all about creating an exciting and competitive environment. I am looking forward to seeing the excitement of kids and parents alike as they make memories that will last a lifetime.

As we look forward, I am looking to implement our goal for the year which is a Focus on Facilities. You should notice a refresh of our playground mulch at our three parks. Not only will this help the aesthetics of the park, it will also make for a safer environment for play. We also have plans to improve the landscaping at each of the parks. Our fitness center will continue to be a focus for us as well as we are finalizing flooring options and additions to our equipment that we have in the facility.

Although our focus may be on facilities for the upcoming year, our driving force

is serving the people of our community through recreation. If you decide to join our gym, I'm hopeful you will have the pleasure of being served by our Fitness Center Attendant Myron Saunders. Myron has a passion for people and he expresses this through fitness. Although he may be more well-known as the Head Coach of the HMSHS basketball team and training youth in the game he loves, he is also well known here at HP&R for his passion for helping people of all ages with their fitness goals. The same can be said for Becky Mirando, who is an integral part of our office but also teaches our SilverSneakers and Boom! Muscle classes at our annex building. Like Myron, she has a passion for serving her targeted group. She has a great core group of ladies and gentlemen who attend her morning classes. Come out and join us you may see me there.

Events upcoming in 2022 are our 2nd Annual Love the Run You're With 5K. This event is tentatively planned for February. We will also be opening up our Spring Soccer season in January. On the horizon will be Summer Flag Football, our Summer Camp and the opening of our pool. There is something for everyone here at the park. We hope you will consider us the next time you are looking to relax at a park, participate in a youth sport, or join our fitness center to achieve your fitness goals. It is always a great day at Hilliard Parks & Recreation!





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SATURDAY, 9 a.m. until? 43627 Ratliff Road, Callahan, A little bit of everything!

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### EMPLOYMENT

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Life Care Center of Hilliard now hiring RNs and LPNs, must have FL License. Please apply in person to: 3756 West 3rd Street, Hilliard or fax resume to 904-845-9487, or email to: Loren\_Reddish@lcca. com<mailto:Loren\_Reddish@lcca.com. tfn

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Sincerely, **Bert Norman's Plumbing Team** 

### Thieves Steal from Local Stores







Archtrezs Frazier

Aniza Gadson

**Lamon Robinson** 

A woman and two men from Jacksonville capped a Christmas Eve theft spree. On December 24, 2021 at 6 p.m., Nassau County Sheriff's Office deputies were notified of a retail theft that occurred at the Ulta Beauty Store located at 463911 State Road 200, Yulee.

The suspect vehicle, a red 2022 Hyundai Sonata, was spotted traveling west on SR 200 at Lofton Creek. A deputy caught up to the vehicle on Pages Dairy Road and stopped the vehicle. As the deputy got out of his patrol car the vehicle sped off in an attempt to flee. The vehicle was spotted by other responding deputies at the intersection of SR 200 and Christian Way where they stopped the vehicle again. After detaining the suspects, the driver, a 20-year-old woman who was serving as the getaway driver, told deputies she waited outside the Winn Dixie on Lofton Square Court while the men, ages 19 and 23, went inside and came back with two trays of ribs, a rotisserie chicken and boxes of diapers.

After the Winn-Dixie, the woman said she drove them in a red 2022 Hyundai Sonata to the Home Depot on

State Road 200. She said after about 15-20 minutes, the men came out of the store carrying two Ring Smart Lighting Systems; two Ring Smart Lighting Ring Bridge Systems; one Wyze Outdoor Camera; one Swann Extra Security Camera with light; one Swann Extra Security Camera without light; and three Amazon Echo Dots.

The woman then said the men went into the nearby Ulta Beauty Store. While inside, they filled a shopping basket with over \$1,700 in boxes of cologne and walked out without paying. The woman and two men were taken into custody and the stolen items were found in the trunk and inside the car.

"It's sad that some people have to steal for a living," said Sheriff Bill Leeper. "Hopefully these thieves get the message to stay out of Nassau County if they are going to break the law."

Arrested were: Aniza Gadson, 20, from Jacksonville, charged with Retail Theft and Fleeing a Law Enforcement Officer; Lamon Ervin Robinson, 19, from Jacksonville, was charged with Retail Theft; and Archtrezs Frazier, 23, from Jacksonville, was charged with Retail Theft.

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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, December 21**

Harley Wade Frost, Jr., 29, 3768 Hawk Drive, Hilliard: Reckless Driving with Property Damage Personal Injury; Failure to Remove Obstructing Vehicle after Crash (Injury/Death); Failure to Report Crash to Law Enforcement if Injured Attending Person is Unable to Receive Information; Resist Without Violence; Habitual Traffic Offender; Child Abuse; Theft of Motor Vehicle

Sonya Renee Yarbrough, 31, Callahan: Failure to Appear (x4)

#### Wednesday, December 22

Quinton Garret Chaison, 31, Callahan: Violation of Probation Felony

#### Sunday, December 26

Jonathan David Merritt, 43, 3060 Barbara Lane, Hilliard: Possession of Methamphetamine

Jennifer Elizabeth Tomlinson, 40, 27103 W. First Avenue, Hilliard: Possession of Methamphetamine; Possession of Drug Paraphernalia with Residue Monday, December 27

Amanda Larae Hires, 36, Callahan: Resist Without Violence; Battery Simple **Tuesday, December 28** 

Daniel Eugene Jarrett, 35, 86058 Pineview Drive, Callahan: Possession of Methamphetamine; Driving While License Suspended with Knowledge 2nd Conviction

#### Wednesday, December 29

Devon Eugene Popham, 51, 17153 Whistler Springs Lane, Hilliard: Tag Not Assigned to Vehicle; Possession of Methamphetamine; Habitual Traffic Offender Thursday, December 30

Somer McKendree Edwards, 42, Callahan: Theft of Motor Vehicle Saturday, January 1

Christy Nicole Ford, 36, Hilliard: Aggravated Battery with Deadly Weapon



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**T-Mobile Little League Grant Program is offering** financial assistance to anyone who qualifies:

littleleaque.org/call-up-grant-program/ Registration Assistance @ CLL: January 13 - 6 - 8:30 p.m.

**Tryouts** (ages 7+): **January 18, 20 & 21** Practices begin February 1 • Opening Day March 5

We are accepting volunteer applications now for managers and coaches. Visit us on Facebook: Callahan Little League or call 904-562-8696

### CODY ALLEN BROWNING

Cody Allen Browning, 31, passed away December 10, 2021 in Jacksonville. Cody was born November 29, 1990 in Jacksonville. Cody was loved by so many. He is predeceased by his father Cecil Browning, Sr.; grandparents Eddie and Betty Dunham and John and Norma Browning: Aunt Donna Spittler: Uncle Ray Dunham; Aunt Barbara Browning; and cousins Chris Hertzog and Adam Murphy.

Survivors include his mother Tammy Browning; two brothers Cecil Browning, Jr. (Catie Wrye) and Clint (Brittany) Browning; nieces and nephews Christian, Hunter, Gracie, Brantley, Bella and Candy; and several aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

The family received friends Monday, December 20 prior to the funeral service in the Chapel of Callahan Funeral Home. Interment followed in Jones Cemetery, Callahan.

Condolences may be expressed at www. callahanfh.com.

Arrangements by Callahan Funeral Home, Inc.

#### KRISTINA KAY CHESSER



Kristina "Kristi" Chesser, 43, of Hilliard, passed away at her home January 1, 2022 from complications related to Covid. She was

a lifelong resident of Hilliard who was known for her love to crochet and her love of animals especially cats. Kristi will be missed by all but especially her 3 cats Remy, Beau and Casey, that she loved dearly.

She was preceded in death by her father Steven Eugene Chesser, Sr.; and her grandparents Barbara Ann Chesser, Edgar Crews and Vivian Moxley Crews.

Kristi is survived by her mother Kimberly Crews Chesser; her brother Steven E. Chesser, Jr; her grandfather

# DBITUARIES

Francis E. Chesser; and many extended family members.

The family will receive friends Thursday, January 6 at 2 p.m. prior to the service at 3 p.m. in the chapel of Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home with Pastor Paul Lucas officiating. Burial will follow in Oakwood Cemetery in Hilliard.

Condolences may be expressed at www. shepardfh.com.

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, Folkston.

### **BOBBY RAY DAUGHTRY**



Bobby Ray Daughtry, 69, of Hilliard, passed away on December 28, 2021. He was born on January 21, 1952 in Alma, Georgia, to

Benjamin and Virginia Daughtry. Bobby drove for Florida Rock for 30 years. He was a dedicated employee and loved to work. In Bobby's spare time, he loved spending time with his family especially his grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; siblings Annette Daughtry Nelson, Benjamin "Frank" Daughtry, Jr. and Sharon Paulette Daughtry; and a niece Lourie Nelson.

Bobby is survived by his loving wife of 32 years, Jill Daughtry; children Bobby Ray (Nichole) Daughtry, Jr., Gene Dewayne Daughtry, Jacee Wylene Daughtry and Jennifer Danielle (Dakotah) Smack; siblings Charles Daughtry, Jerry Daughtry, Joey Daughtry and Shirlene Griffin; grandchildren Blake Daughtry, Nolan Daughtry, Kiersten Daughtry, Hope Daughtry, Brittany Taylor and Cassey Papp.

The family received friends Tuesday, January 4 at Nassau Funeral Home. A celebration of Bobby's life was held Wednesday, January 5 also at the funeral home. Interment followed at Jones Cemetery.

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

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

### IBTISAM SAMANTHA DENMARK



Ibtisam Samantha Denmark, 57, of Callahan, passed away peacefully Tuesday December 21, 2021 and went home to be with the Lord, surrounded by

her family. She was born in Jerusalem on December 17, 1964 to Fuad and Margaret Farhat. At age 2, she and her family moved to Jacksonville. She graduated from Robert E. Lee High School. She worked as a Travel Agent then moved on to Florida Police Core. She loved being a mother and Gigi for the later part of her life. She never gave up on life and fought with everything she had to be there for her daughter Brooke Johnson and her grandchildren Paislee and Aspyn. She was fighting to be here for her 3rd grandbaby due in March 2022 but God wanted her to spend this Christmas with him in his heavenly home. Samantha had a heart of gold, a smile of pure joy, a kindness that extended to all she knew. She will be fondly and forever remembered for her positive attitude and her strength and courage. While fighting the fight of her life she was such an inspiration for others, proudly walking with Jesus along her journey. Samantha was preceded in death by her parents Fuad and Margaret Farhat; and her sister Basima "Sue" Farhat.

She is survived by her daughter Brooke (Aaron) Johnson; grandchildren Paislee and Aspyn; her sister Ghada Farhat; brothers Abe (Tracy) Farhat and Keith (Susan) Farhat; niece and nephews; and her best friend and ex-husband Donald Denmark; and great friend Page Laughlin.

A celebration of life will be held Friday, January 7 at 12 p.m. at Nassau Funeral Home, Callahan.

#### **CAROLYN GRIFFIS**



Carolyn Burnham Griffis left this earth December 4, 2021 after a brief illness. Carolyn known by DooDoo to those who loved her was always the

life of the party and always had an open heart and an open door. She will be dearly missed and her memory treasured.

She left behind a beloved son David Crews; her dear sister Lorraine Burnham Howell; and many family members who loved her dearly.

#### MARLOW M. LAFOLLETTE



Marlow Patricia Mallard LaFollette, 82, of Hilliard, passed away December 30, 2021 at her residence. She was born August 10, 1939

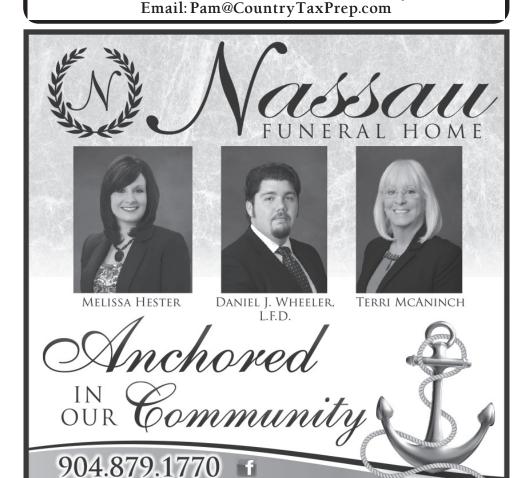
in Jacksonville, to the late Ed Mallard and Doris Mallard. She was a member of River Road Volunteer Fire Department and the Nassau County Sheriff's Department Posse Unit. She was a member of New Life **Baptist Church** 

In addition to her parents; she was preceded in death by her daughter Patricia Ann Parker: and a sister Carol Jones.

She is survived by her husband of 64½ years, Robert LaFollette; two children Robert Lee (Cathy) LaFollette, Jr. and Roy Neal (Chime) LaFollette; a sister Connie Kyle; two brothers Richard Mallard and Danny Mallard; 10-grandchildren; and a number of nieces and nephews.

The family received friends Wednesday,





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January 5 prior to the funeral service held at New Life Baptist Church with James Conner and Donnie Williams officiating. Burial followed in Jones Cemetery.

Condolences may be expressed at www. shepardfh.com.

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, Folkston.

### RODNEY RUSSELL LEWIS, SR.



Rodney Russell Lewis, Sr., 74, of Callahan, passed away December 8, 2021. He was born July 13, 1947 in Urbana, Illinois, the third of

five children to Vernon Sr. and Muriel Lewis. Rodney worked at 3M Company as a chemist after graduating from Tennessee State University. He loved gardening, barbecue, travel, sports, music and dancing with his wife. While working and raising his family, Rodney's focus and true passion was teaching others about Jehovah God. Rodney truly loved his family and always set a fine example as a loyal husband, brother, father, grandfather, and caring friend.

Rodney was preceded in death by his parents; his mother and father-in-law Alfred and George "Sue" Williams; his beloved sister Nada (Albert) Townsend; and nephews Jeffrey and Shawn Lewis.

Rodney is survived by his loving wife of 51 years, Sandy; his brothers Vernon (Patricia) Lewis, Jr., William "Billy" Lewis and Ronald (Beverly) Lewis; his daughter Grefonda Lewis; his sons Rodney (Amy) Lewis, Jr., Jason (Erica) Lewis and Micah (Catriece) Lewis; and adopted son Jeremiah (Astaway) Abebe; grandchildren Jonah Lewis and Nevaeh Lewis; along with many nieces, nephews, cousins and many close friends who will miss him dearly.

### HARVEY CLEON RICKETSON



Harvey Cleon Ricketson, 92, of Hilliard, passed away Saturday, December 25, 2021 in Jacksonville. He was born May 16, 1929 in Brunswick,

Georgia to the late Cleon Ricketson and Beulah Boyd Ricketson. He proudly served his country in the US Army during the Korean Conflict in 1951-1952. He returned home and married Helen Estelle Sikes in 1954 and moved to Hilliard in 1955. He retired from the Nassau County Road Department in 1994. He was a faithful

18001 Wells Rd. Jacksonville, FL

# **OBITUARIES**

member of the Hilliard Church of God.

In addition to his parents; he was preceded in death by his wife Helen E. Ricketson; a brother Jimmie Ricketson; and two sisters Nell Raulerson and Marion Nelson.

He is survived by his daughters Karen (Joe) Lee, Teresa (Roger) Johnson, Paula (Lynn) Nettles and Sharon Ricketson; two sisters Thelma Wilkerson and Shirley Chaney; a brother Alton Ricketson; 14 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

The family received friends Wednesday, December 29 at Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home. The funeral service was held Thursday, December 30 at the Hilliard Church of God with Rev. Larry Powell officiating. Burial followed in Mill Creek Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Kelly Johnson, Cory Johnson, Darren Johnson, Preston Nettles, Robin Linton and Kyle Kierce.

Condolences may be expressed at www. shepardfh.com.

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, Folkston.

### **CRAIG ALLEN SAULS**



Craig Allen Sauls, 52, passed away Monday, December 20, 2021 at his residence. Craig was a native of Jacksonville and son to

Donald and Carol Sauls. He was a graduate of Victory Christian Academy and worked for Florida Blue for 35 years. Craig loved to work and worked part time for S.A.F.E. Management where he was able to work and attend several Super Bowls through the years. He was an avid Georgia Bulldog Fan and enjoyed fishing in his kayak.

Craig is survived by his parents; his sister Lori (Kendell) Wilkinson; and two nieces Courtney Wilkinson and Katie Wilkinson

His family received friends Wednesday, December 22 at the funeral home. The funeral service was held Thursday, December 23 in the Event Center at Peeples Funeral Home. Burial will follow in Evergreen Cemetery.

Peeples Family Funeral Home served the Sauls Family.

donnietreelife@gmail.com

### HAZEL J. WOOD

Hazel J. Wood, 78, of Callahan, went home to be with the Lord December 19, 2021 at Community Hospice Jane and Bill Warner Center for Caring in Fernandina Beach. She was born on January 11, 1943 in Princeton, West Virginia to Sam Bishop and Loras Absher Strow. Her parents divorced when she was a young child and her mom later married Pete Strow and he became the father that took care of her. She and her husband, Conrad, moved to Callahan in 1974 and made it there forever home.

Hazel loved the Lord and was a faithful servant until her health started failing. She enjoyed spending time with her children, grandchildren and her sisters. She loved working in her yard and growing all different kinds of flowers. She loved to cook and always had a cake or pie for everyone to enjoy that came to visit. Her love for cooking is why she loved her job as a Food Service worker at Callahan Middle School. She worked in Food Service in Nassau County for 37 years before her retirement in 2007. She absolutely loved her job as she enjoyed the children she served, but most of all she loved the ladies she worked with. She had lifelong friendships with them.

Hazel was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, sister and friend and will be dearly missed. She is preceded in death by her husband; parents; brother Bobby Bishop; sister Betty Bailey; brother-in-law Fred Bailey.

She is survived by her children Kim (James) Nantz, Nannette Wood and William (Melanie) Wood; grandchildren David (Iris) Nantz, Misty Nantz, Caleb Wood and Abby Wood; and sisters Shirley Smith and Sue (Marty) Martin.

The family received friends prior to the funeral service held Thursday, December 23 in the chapel of Callahan Funeral Home with Pastor Lynn Hyatt officiating. Interment followed at Jones Cemetery. Arrangements by Callahan Funeral Home, 879-2336.

Condolences may be expressed at www. callahanfh.com.

### GARNETT R. WOOTEN, JR.



Garnett "Garney" Russell Wooten, Jr., 65, of Jacksonville, passed away on December 26, 2021. He was born on October 3, 1956 in Lyons, Georgia to

Garnett Russell Wooten, Sr. and Thelma Ruth Alexander Wooten. Garney graduated from Nathan Bedford Forrest High School. After graduation, he joined the United Stated Marine Corps. Garney proudly served in the United States Marine Corps for 10 years as a Avionics Technician. After retiring from the Marine Corps, he obtained two Bachelor's degrees and two Master's degrees. Garney was a member, Sunday school teacher, trustee and pianist of Lannie Road Baptist Church. He was currently a Registered Nurse working for Southern Healthcare Management as a Clinical Process Analyst. Garney also was an excellent BBQ Specialist and Quality Control Assurance Taste Tester. Garney was preceded in death by his father Garnett Russell Wooten, Sr.; and brother James "Jay" Reden Wooten.

Garney leaves behind his loving wife of 37 years, Linda Marie Wooten; mother Thelma Ruth Wooten; son Garnett R. (Stacy) Wooten, III; daughter Adrienne R. (Rick) Wimberly; sisters Edie (Mickey) Knapp and Cynthia (Bernie) Lord; grandchildren Brianna Wimberly, Garnett Wooten, IV, Georgia Wimberly, Gabe Wooten, Abbigail Wimberly and Madison Wooten; numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

The family received friends Monday, January 3 prior to the celebration of life service held at Lannie Road Baptist Church, Jacksonville with Pastor Buddy Wimberly officiating. Interment followed at Jacksonville National Cemetery where military honors were rendered.

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

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

# Obituaries are published free of charge.

Email: news@westsidejournal.net.

# The Law Offices of Gary Baker

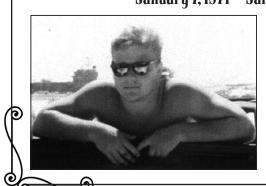
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Happy Birthday Son
It's been 22 years, but your memory is still so vivid in our minds. We're so thankful for the precious memories we have. You will be forever missed.

We love you,
Mama, Diane, Pete and Tison



Life Care Center of Hilliard would like to thank the following personnel for donating and helping with our Secret Santa Gift Exchange for our residents this year.

Tru-Fi Credit Union
Cub Scout Pack 351
Yulee High School Beta Club
Eastern Star Ch #154 Callahan
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Boulogne Baptist Church
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Renee McMillen
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Mt. Horeb Baptist Church
Hilliard Elementary School
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Chick-fil-A Leader Academy
Erika Knowles and Family
Many More that did not go unnoticed!

### Our Residents and Staff Thank You!

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