

WESTSIDE JOURNAL



VOLUME XVII ISSUE 25

HOMETOWN PEOPLE...HOMETOWN NEWS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2021

“EVEN YOUTHS GROW TIRED AND WEARY AND YOUNG MEN STUMBLE AND FALL; BUT THOSE WHO HOPE IN THE LORD WILL RENEW THEIR STRENGTH. THEY WILL SOAR ON WINGS LIKE EAGLES; THEY WILL RUN AND NOT GROW WEARY, THEY WILL WALK AND NOT BE FAINT.” - ISAIAH 40:30-31

2020... What a Year, Now Let's Move On



Jessie L. Pickett

Whew! Was 2020 a whirlwind ride or what? As we enter 2021 with hopeful hearts for a calmer and healthier year, we can't help but look back at the challenges, tragedies and triumphs that 2020 brought us. As a community, we endured ups and downs, distance learning, tragic losses, miraculous recoveries, economic challenges and much more, all while coming out better for it.

2020 came in calm, as usual. It was a much anticipated election year and there was economic stability that us Americans had become comfortable with. Everyday events were happening as usual. At the schools, basketball season was peaking, West Nassau's Cheer team became World Champions for the second time, Hilliard's Boy's Varsity Basketball team headed to the Final 4, spelling bees, wrestling, baseball and softball season starting... Businesses, old and new, were steady. Although we saw the closing of long-time favorite, Linda Jean's, we saw the opening of new businesses and of establishments to better our community, such as a Barnabas office in Callahan. While we had our share of tragedies and

losses of loved ones, life as we knew it was "normal". Then came March...

With the spreading of the COVID-19 virus (Coronavirus) came shutdowns. Schools, daycares, colleges, libraries, county offices, courts and more, all came to a halt. Even the county beaches were closed to discourage gathering. Students left for spring break and did not return. Distance learning became the new way of education and teachers were instantly thrown into a world of virtual teaching. We tried to live life as usual as much as possible, but events soon began to be rescheduled or cancelled and businesses began to temporarily close their doors per orders of the Governor. Hair salons, barbershops and bars had to basically suspend all services, leaving many families without income. Restaurants became 'take-out only' having to transform their way of serving, offering curbside delivery and home delivery. Even church services were altered, mostly becoming virtual, streaming services online. Once it was decided that schools would not reopen for the remainder of the school year, it seemed that virtual, distance and quarantine would become our 'new normal' for a while.

The State of Florida did continue to make sure children who depended on school meals were fed. The food staffs at each school worked hard, even into the summer, to offer drive-through meals to children.

Events such as weddings and funerals were postponed since gatherings were discouraged. Graduations for the class of 2020 were postponed and schools and community members went out of their way to honor the graduating class. Kudos to the Nassau County School Board for coming up with a plan to eventually graduate the seniors in June observing safety protocols.

The Nassau County Department of Health and Emergency Operations Center became quite popular as many residents looked to them for information and statistics locally. Barnabas and many local churches also became more important as families leaned on them for food donations. Barnabas and the Nassau County Council on Aging took care of many seniors in the community, delivering meals and smiles. Nursing homes were one of the first establishments to close doors to visitors in order to protect the elderly. This was hard for many families, but

especially straining on those who did not understand why they weren't receiving visitors. As time went on, we got creative and held drive-through parades for residents at Life Care Center in Hilliard, Dayspring Senior Living and Dayspring Village. So much love was shown as families waved and blew kisses to residents.

Unfortunately, many residents in our area have been affected by the virus. The loss of loved ones as well as the battle once contracted is not to be taken lightly. Many have been hospitalized and thankfully recovered, while some never even showed symptoms. As we all adjusted to social distancing, virtual gatherings and yes, even masks, life went on. Outdoor events and activities became more popular. We slowly learned more about the coronavirus and began to reschedule events. Businesses resumed with changes and it seemed that we cautiously just had to resume life with the attitude of those who wish to participate will, and those who need to stay home should.

The Nassau County School Board worked diligently to come up with a back-to-school plan that included face

See '2020...What a Year' on page 2

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A Word From the Publisher

Welcome 2021! And with that being said... I'm thankful for a New Year! 2020 has been a good year in some aspects but a very challenging year over all! I really don't think that saying 'Thank You' is enough to all of our faithful advertisers through 2020. There is no way that we could have survived without you. I'm so thankful each week for the advertisers we have and the new ones that join our family. Our advertisers are the ones who make our paper. I'm also thankful for you, our readers, who support our many advertisers when you're in need! God has truly blessed us with this newspaper. We want to thank all of those who sent Christmas cards or dropped off gifts to us during the Christmas season. What a blessing it is to be appreciated and loved by so many.

As we enjoyed a little time away, each of us had a very safe and happy Christmas and good New Year. This year, as with all years, we will strive to provide an informative newspaper with all our local happenings and hopefully we will have more this year! As we look into 2021, we all see changes continuing to happen in our community as well as our state and country. Prayer is the most important thing we do each and every day for all of these things. As we all strive to be model citizens, my prayer is to bring God back into our country. I have referred many times to one of my favorite devotionals, Great is Thy Faithfulness by Our Daily Bread. Sunday's reading (January 3) read, "... we are constantly finding our emotional and spiritual reserves drained by the challenges of life in a broken world." How true is that today? And yet, where

do we turn? The Bible is one of the oldest books written yet in Psalm 37:3, it gives us the answer, "Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness." How many times do we put our trust in so many other things. Just a reminder... God never changes. He is the same today, tomorrow and yesterday.

I am reminded of my faithful brother Dub and so many others like him. He was basically given a death sentence of pancreatic cancer. It was heartbreaking but his faith remained strong throughout. "God has a plan for me," he would say. Until the very end, he was so incredibly positive. Test after test and numerous surgeries, he still came out with that smile. Dub passed away in October but his spirit and strength lives on through so many including me. I've had some tough times, I thought, but nothing like what my sweet brother endured. I know he struggled at times but God always pulled him through. I've said many times, when I'm feeling down, the best thing to do is look up. God (and Dub) is looking down and watching and guiding me through this tough thing we call life. All we have to do is reach out to Him. You can either accept Him or reject Him (Jesus Christ)! There's no other option. It's pretty simple, having a full life instead of empty and meaningful life instead of meaningless. None of us know what tomorrow brings. Won't you choose Jesus today?

Have 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.

Keep the Faith

Dear Editor (Citizen Roger),

A while back I assured you that the silent majority would give President Trump a landslide victory. It surely did. I never dreamed the swamp was crooked to the core. President Trump predicted the mail-in vote had many flaws. It did exactly what he side it would do.

We now have a crime family, like the mafia, in charge of all us chickens. We will continue to 'render to Ceaser' but I will never willingly support a system that has become a gang of old multimillionaires who started with their wages and soon morphed into very rich people. There is no reasonable explanation but lying and stealing.

Keep the faith,
Darin Hawkins

2020...What a Year

Continued from page 1

coverings and some virtual options. With the much-anticipated opening of schools came sports. Our local teams were blessed enough to have a full football and cheer season with capacity restrictions and basketball season is happening.

The November election neared and mail-in ballots became a more popular option, as some were adamant about casting their votes in person.

As fall came, we began to see normal events come along, which we all longed for. Though some things looked different, like Halloween bringing drive-through events at churches versus festivals, we had homecomings, Veterans Day celebrations, the annual Callahan Christmas Parade and even fireworks in Hilliard and Callahan to

end the year!

While it seems like we missed out on so much in 2020, including the annual Northeast Florida Fair, there was positive. We came together as families, maybe even marking things off of honey-do lists. We came together as a community, supporting small businesses and making sure everyone's needs were met. We overcame 2020 and will never forget it.

As we look forward, we have much to look forward to. We must use common sense and be more cautious in daily life, but we must also remember that God always is in control. Our country has changed, our daily lives may have changed, but one thing has not changed, God. He is always faithful.



Baby Donations needed!

The Nest, A Women's Center is in dire need of baby items. The Nest is a place where women can go and receive Pregnancy Testing, Ultrasound, Counseling and join a Parent Education Program (PEP) along with many other services. They also provide counseling for young mothers and provide some baby items.

Items needed are: Diapers size 3 and 4; Pacifiers; Bottles; and any kind of Baby Formula.

Donations can be brought to the Westside Journal office, 450034 SR 200, Callahan.

2021 Hilliard Little League Spring Registration!

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Fish Talk

Let's get our Sheepshead on!

Chris Cockerham, Reel Habit

The bite is heating up and you don't want to miss out! Great reports have come in from all over our region. For many, fishing season starts during Sheepshead season. With that said, from all of the great catches, it looks like it's going to be a banner year. These cold snaps will make it tough to get fiddlers so gather them up as soon as you can. Oysters, clams and fiddlers are by far the best baits so if you can't find one, the other will suffice.

There are some great fish being caught at the Nassau Sound Bridge. Most of the bigger sheepshead have been caught inshore in our local rivers and throughout the St. Johns. Our jetties are firing off as well so check the marine forecast and find the best days to suit you. As many of you know, our jetties can get nasty quick. Look for the entire top of the outgoing tide to be good. Focus on breaks in the current. Now you can find that in many different locations. Rock piles, trees and bridge pilings are excellent areas to begin.

Start off with a short leader, swivel, egg sinker and small bait hook. Keep a few larger weights like 1.5 to 2 oz. sinkers handy in case you need more lead to stay in the strike zone. Once you find the fish, be patient and cover the area well. Chum legally when you can because the outcome is usually much greater. On my fish finder rigs, I use a 2/0 triple barb VMC bait hook. Tip them with a live fiddler and slowly jig them over submerged structure. You can also use a sparky jig. They usually allow you to feel the fish immediately and many times that's the best scenario. The idea, in most cases, is to snag the fish before he steals your bait. Keep in mind, these fish will be leader shy in clean water and slower moving currents. Sometimes a smaller fluorocarbon leader will be key.

With the sheepshead you'll find puppy drum. So keep some fresh dead shrimp handy for the kids if they're aboard. Drum school and they may be keyed in on your bait scent. Drop back down quickly so you can take advantage of the chum slick you've created. That's said, hope you have much success. I look forward to see you all on the water, be safe!

JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

Happy New Year and welcome to the most important week of all of 2021. There's nothing like starting the year out with a bang! Now the question is, is it a bang of celebration or a huge implosion of our sovereign nation?

Tuesday the balance of power will be decided by the people of Georgia. That in itself scares me. Their election system is one of the most corrupt in the nation, so there is no telling what will happen in their Congressional Run-Off. I do know that if the two Republicans lose, we are in deep trouble regardless of who is in the White House. Yes. It is that crucial! Then on Wednesday, the Electoral College presents the vote for the President to Congress. It will be rebuked by several House and Senate Republicans. After they contest the vote both House and Senate will have to adjourn and meet in their respective chambers to either uphold the objections or move forward with the Electoral vote. Since the Republicans do not hold a majority on either side of Congress it is fairly certain the objections will be over-ruled. If that occurs, then lyin-biden will be the next President (God help us).

This is mainly for the Democrats and never-Trumpers. Start a log today and every six months update the

information. On this log record: 1) The price of a gallon of gasoline; 2) How much income tax you have paid; 3) An average of your grocery costs for a month; 4) Your average monthly utility costs; and 5) Your current IRA or 401k balance. Each time you update your log, remember this is what you wanted.

I will close this out with a poem submitted to me (thank you Darin), the author is unknown:

"Hidden Biden"

Hidden Biden, stealin' lyin', a rubber stamp for the Democrat camp. How can this be in a country that's free, in China yes, and Russia too, but never you and me; The end of freedom, the threat has risen, no longer a citizen, but a subject in prison. When this happens, all will see, the priceless value of Liberty Too late to blame or tears to make, we then will sleep in the bed we made Wake up America, there may be time to wake from sleep that made us blind To see again the highest Treasure that comes from God in His good measure.

Hold on, we are getting ready for uncharted waters.

As always...that's just my opinion. Don't Tread On Me!

Just a side note: I still think something big is getting ready to happen!

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Body, Mind, and Spirit

Pastor Marty Paparo, Friendship Alliance Church, Callahan



It's a new year. Many are pleased 2020 is finally behind us and a new year lies ahead. Many are making plans and goals for what is to come. Some are trying to eat healthier and exercise more. Some are seeking professional goals or relationship goals. But are any seeking spiritual goals this year?

Taking care of our body is an important goal. And taking care of our mental and emotional self is an important goal. But isn't taking care of our spirit also an important goal? We have a body and I think because it is very tangible, it is easy to recognize and understand. We also have a mind/heart/soul; it is our thoughts and our emotions, our personality. But, we also have a spirit. In fact, some have said we are a spirit wrapped in a body. It's the part of us that steps out of this world and steps into heaven. When we pray, we are stepping into the spiritual.

So, in this new year, how do we make goals for our spirit? What helps us care for our spirit? The best thing we can do for our spirit is to connect with God. Spending time in prayer and in God's word, connecting with others who desire to connect with God are all things that draw us closer to Him. Being intentional about following the things God has laid out for us plays a crucial role.

This last one was very difficult for the church in Corinth when Paul wrote to them. They were tempted to not follow God's instructions. Paul provided them the same truths that are useful for us today: "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it." (1 Corinthians 10:13, ESV)

When we are tempted, it benefits us to know: 1) Common: There is nothing new under the sun. The temptations you and I face are nothing new and we are not alone in them. In fact, Jesus Christ, in his humanity, faced worse temptation than we will ever face and he did not sin. It is very comforting for me to know that my God, Jesus, has walked in my shoes. I love that Jesus is not far off and distant, but close and personal.

2) God is faithful. Although the Father allowed Jesus to face the worse of it all, he does not do so to us. He only allows what He has enabled us to handle.

3) The way of escape: When temptation comes, we do not have to fail. God has already provided the way for us to make it through the other side of temptation. The way is trusting Him through all of it. And we can choose to do that or choose not to.

4) That you may be able to endure it: God does not tempt us. But, in this life, we will face temptation. God does not remove the temptation; we have to endure it. But, He walks through it with us and He provides the ability to stand strong in the face of temptation.

As you dream and plan for 2021, make sure to include goals that advance your spirit.

Quilt Guild Meeting Monday

The Country Star Quilt Guild supports several area charities including The Nest, Pinky Promise, Ryan's Case for Smiles, the pediatric unit at Shands Hospital, along with others. This month our focus will be on Bring Your Brokenness, a non-profit organization helping people who suffer from eating disorders.



Our regular meeting will be held Monday, January 11 at 7 p.m. at the Anchor Church of God in Callahan. Amie Shields founder and president of Bring Your Brokenness will be our speaker. Amie has an amazing story of her own battle and subsequent victory

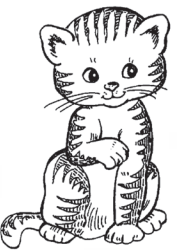
with severe anorexia nervosa. Her foundation helps others find treatment, healing, and support for others who suffer from eating disorders. Eating disorders are the leading mental illness with the highest mortality rate among women. Every 52 minutes a person dies as a direct result of medical issues or suicide because of this illness.

This could easily be the most important meeting the Guild has this year and our desire is for many in the community to hear her presentation. We will socially distance in the auditorium at the church.

Training Session by Cats Angels

Becky Delp, Cats Angels Volunteer

Cats Angels will be scheduling training sessions to teach Callahan residents how to organize a TNVR (Trap Neuter Vaccinate Release) program. Callahan has a high number of cats that have not been fixed and the birth rate is increasing. We are here to help! Cats Angels was awarded a spay/neuter grant that must be used by September 2021.



We are looking for volunteers to set traps and also transport them to and from a Callahan location (TBD). Cats Angels will drive the cats to No More Homeless Pets in JAX to have them spayed/neutered and returned the same day.

We need the support of the Callahan community to get this program off the ground. Traps and transportation will be provided by Cats Angels.

For additional information send us an email at catsangels@catsangels.com or call 904-321-2267. Leave your name and phone number and your call will be returned within 24 hours. Please join our Facebook page for updates.

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Happy New Year from Hilliard Parks & Recreation Department

Gabe Whittenburg
Director,
Parks & Recreation



Happy New Year! I hope you were able to celebrate a happy and healthy Christmas with your loved ones. As we enter 2021, I hope you find resolve to focus on the things that are most important – faith and family. In a world that seems to be in a perpetual state of chaos, this is even more important. Along with faith and family, we at Hilliard Parks & Recreation believe in fostering a sense of community.

Community is important to us and we are thankful for those who have been part of our community in 2020. And while we hope your 2021 resolution includes a membership to our 24-hour fitness center, we would be excited if you engaged with our community in other ways. We are looking to expand our reach in 2021 with many events that will engage a broader group. Please be on the lookout for those opportunities!

As for current programs, we have just kicked off practice for our youth basketball season. As the new director, this has been both exciting and nerve wracking! With 24 teams to schedule practices and games for, I have been very thankful for my “community’s” willingness to be flexible. I am excited for our season that will tip off on January 9 and I hope all of those who

have joined us this season will enjoy it enough to return. I want you to know how thankful I am for the opportunity to demonstrate our desire to have a fun and competitive league for your children.

Lastly, we are in the process of finalizing our sports programs calendar for 2021. We will have soccer, gymnastics, flag football, swimming and volleyball. There will also be some fun programs for the adults. Once again, Happy New Year from Hilliard Parks & Recreation!

New Sheik Building Getting Close



The new location of The Sheik is scheduled to be completed by the end of February. The construction process has gone well and actually looks like a building now. The new location is on US Highway 1 south of Callahan on the left hand side of the road, right past the traffic light on 5th Ave.

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New Beginnings and Milestones



Daisy Mae Long

David Long and Jessica Mae Farris, of Callahan, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Daisy Mae Long. Daisy was born December 1, 2020 at 3 a.m. at Baptist Nassau Hospital in Fernandina Beach. She weighed 7 pounds 8 ounces and measured 20 inches.

Paternal grandparents are George and Jan Long of Callahan.

Maternal grandparents are Joey and Lisa Crosby of Callahan; and David and Stacy Biscotti of Middleburg.

Ms. Hurst and Mr. Gilliard Announce Upcoming Marriage

Kenny Hunter of Callahan and the late Kathy Hunter; and Stanley and Selena Hurst of Helen, Georgia, are pleased to announce the engagement and upcoming marriage of their daughter Kelley Marie Hurst to Jesse Lamar Gilliard, Jr., son of Jesse Lamar Gilliard, Sr. and the late Robin Renee Gilliard.

The bride-elect is a 2000 graduate of West Nassau High School and is employed with J & K Motors.

The groom-elect is also a 2000 graduate of West Nassau High School and is employed with Waste Management.

The wedding is planned for January 17, 2021 at Layton's Landing.



Big Dog Foundation Donates to Shelters

Big Dog Little Dog Caring Foundation, a local nonprofit, secured supplies for some of the animal shelters and families in Nassau County. On December 23, Big Dog Little Dog delivered nearly a ton of dog food and other supplies to Nassau County Animal Services and the Nassau Humane Society. During the month of December, Big Dog Little Dog held their first annual fund raiser to create "Christmas Pup Packages." These packages included 10 lbs. of dog food, a blanket and a toy for each dog we were able to service. Our goal was to provide supplies for pooches in both Nassau County animal shelters.

"One of the most important things to remember is that you can make a difference in your community, where you are – with what you have. From the position of Big Dog Little Dog, in accordance with our mission, providing these supplies is the perfect example of what we all should do in our community

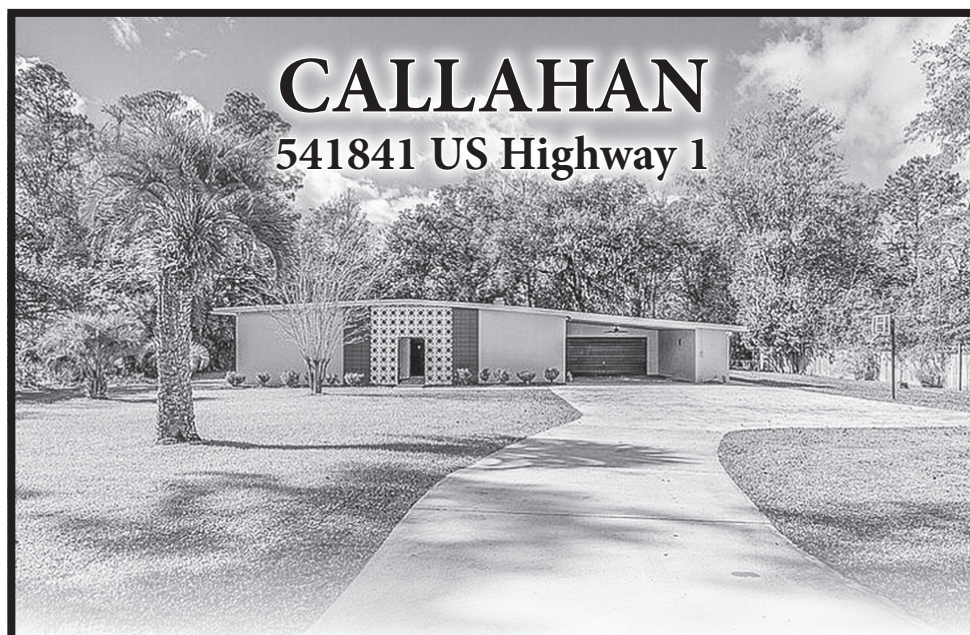


– pay it forward," said Joe Zimmerman, spokesman.

The program was supported by a group of local businesses and community sponsors including: Palm III Realty, Protective Enterprise Public Safety, County Commissioner Klynt Farmer, Port Commissioner Scott Hanna, Tammy Martin, Joe Zimmerman, Annamay Zimmerman, Jennifer Wolf, Gerrie Harden-Ford, Debbi Pataky, Karl Harlow, Mark Wright, and Louise Dellagrotta.

Big Dog Little Dog's mission in the community includes offering the following services: Emergency pet food assistance to families struggling to provide for their pets; Adoption assistance for Senior Citizens with low incomes to assist adoption among animals and companionship among seniors; Emergency vet assistance to care for animals with emergency veterinary needs for low income families; and Pet supply and food distribution as necessary.

They can be contacted via their Facebook page or by contacting help@bigdogcharity.org.



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The Town of Callahan is in search of a Full Time Employee to Assist in the Water & Waste Water & Street Departments.

Interested Candidates must be able to meet the following requirements:

Water & Wastewater Candidate

- A Class 'C' State of Florida Water or Wastewater license, preferred, but not required.
- If applicant does not have the Class "C" license: he/she will be required to complete the State of Florida Course for Water or Wastewater Class 'C' within one year of employment and take test for Florida Class 'C' Operator.

Street Department and all other Candidates

- Ability to lift at least 50 lbs.
- Ability to work overtime, as necessary
- Available on nights & weekends, as necessary
- Willingness to help other Departments, as needed
- Ability to work outdoors in all conditions
- Ability to work with Heavy Equipment or be trained
- High School Diploma or Equivalent
- Team Player

Salary will be based on Experience, and position comes with Benefits.

Interested individuals may obtain Application at Town Hall located at
542300 US Highway 1 • Callahan, Florida 32011
Or on our web site <https://www.townofcallahan-fl.gov/Applications>
Email Completed Application to pwd@townofcallahan-fl.gov or drop off at
Town Hall addressed to the Public Works Director, Michael Williams.
Deadline for Applications is Friday, January 22 at 5:00 PM.

The Town of Callahan is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Toys for Tots Celebration Held

Saturday, December 19, 2020, the lives of many children on the west side of Nassau County were blessed by the Toys for Tots event. The event was held at the NE FL Fairgrounds. This year we had a record numbers of families requesting assistance, we believe due to COVID layoffs. The volunteers were down this year as well with our seniors being more cautious with their health and with our local Marines being on lock down. We were very concerned as to how we'd manage getting all the toys from our second story warehouse space to the trucks and out to our three different distribution sites across the county.

Thank God, UPS stepped up and brought 2 tractor trailers, two vans and 18 employees to get the job done and that they did! A total of 1,210 bags of toys, 338 bicycles and numerous scooters, skateboards and other large gifts were loaded and unloaded for us.

The families of Nassau County are truly blessed! We have some wonderful benefactors and donors for our program which allows us to be able to provide some very nice gifts for the children.

The Toys for Tots program is held every year. Recipients must apply for the program.



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Spring Baseball & Softball Sign-ups
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Boys & Girls Ages 4-16
Register through January 18th (Late Fee Applies After 1/18)

ALL registrations must be done online:
<https://tshq.bluesombrero.com/callahanlittleleague>

Upload a photo of the player's birth certificate and 3 proofs of residency.
All paperwork and payments are due at time of registration.
Tryouts (ages 7+): Week of January 18.
Look for an email!
Practices scheduled to begin in early February.

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

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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 28

Christian Michael Durham, 44, 29584 CR 121, Hilliard: Violation of Probation Battery Domestic

Wednesday, December 30

Devin Joshua Dawley, 36, 66105 Nassau Oaks Drive, Callahan: Violation of Injunction

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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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TECHNICAL SERVICES SYSTEMS MANAGER. Nassau County has an opening for a Technical Services Systems Manager in the Office of Management and Budget/Information Services Division at \$69,599.41 - \$105,903.88 annually plus benefits. Applications will be accepted until filled. To apply please visit www.nassaucountyfl.com or for additional information contact the Human Resources Department located at 96135 Nassau Place, Suite 5, Yulee, Florida 32097, Telephone (904) 530-6075 or Fax (904) 321-5797. Drug Free Workplace. This position is eligible for Veterans' Preference in accordance with applicable laws. 10721

MAINTENANCE HELPER. Nassau County has an opening for a Maintenance Helper in the Road Department at \$12,6880 hourly plus benefits. Applications will be accepted thru January 8, 2021. To apply please visit www.nassaucountyfl.com or for additional information contact the Human Resources Department located at 96135 Nassau Place, Suite 5, Yulee, Florida 32097, Telephone (904) 530-6075 or Fax (904) 321-5797. Drug Free Workplace. This position is eligible for Veterans' Preference in accordance with applicable laws. 10721

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Callahan Attorney Jeb Branham Appointed to Judge

Dawn S. West

The Callahan Town Council met Tuesday night for their first meeting of 2021. Town Attorney Jeb Branham announced to the council that he had been appointed by Governor Ron DeSantis to fill a judicial vacancy. DeSantis named Branham, of Jacksonville Beach, to serve as a circuit judge in the Fourth Judicial Circuit, which encompasses Duval, Clay and Nassau counties. He fills the vacancy created by the resignation of Judge David Gooding. "I've worked for a lot of elected officials and now I'll be one. I've been here with you all (Callahan) for about 20 years," said Branham. "It's been easy to serve here with people that want to do the right thing. I've been honored and privileged to be here." Callahan's next council meeting, January 19, will be Branham's final meeting, as he will begin his new position as judge on February 1, 2021.



area he uses with his workouts. I challenge other businesses and private donors to join in the cause to help make Ewing Park better."

Keith Wingate, President of the NE FL Fair Association, advised the council that the Fair Association would like to hook up to Callahan water and sewer. "We (the fair) are in dire need of Callahan water and sewer. During fair time, we are just holding our breath that the sewer system will hold up with all of the people we are serving," said Wingate. "We put in a new water system with an aerator that is working pretty good. We just need direction as to cost to hook in to the Callahan sewer line and water if possible or where we can go to find grants to help us fund our own?"

Town Manager Mike Williams advised Wingate that the town could possibly partner with them concerning hooking into the towns system. "You're looking at around \$100 a linear foot for the water line to be run one way. The sewer system would be easier as we could put a lift station out there at a cost of about \$50,000-\$75,000," said Williams. "Perhaps we could also find some partnerships with Florida Power & Light and/or Nassau County. We need to get together and see what options are available."

Randy Zakrzewski approached the podium to advise the council he would like to help make Ewing Park a safer and cleaner place for people to enjoy. "I just want to know how can we (as citizens) help? I know you are looking at a security system and it definitely needs more lighting," said Randy. "I know the ditches could be cleaned and maybe we can help with drainage issues. Just give me directions of how I can help!"

Next, David Pinkstaff, representing AA Bottled Gas, addressed the council. "I've been a Callahan resident for some time. I used to take my son to the park all the time. Recently, I have been doing the Boot Camp workouts at the park with Compound Fitness owner Eric Hernandez. While there I have thought of many ways we, as citizens and businesses, can help make this park better," said Pinkstaff. "I have a check from AA Bottled Gas for \$500 to donate for park improvements and also have a check from Compound Fitness for \$250. Also, Eric asked me to tell you that one of the lights on the tennis court is not working and that is an



Shown (l to r) are: David Pinkstaff, Councilwoman Janet Shaw and Mayor Matt Davis.

In closing comments, Councilwoman Jaquelin Fleming advised the council that she would like to have a traffic study done on Booth Street and possibly consider making that road one way all the time. "There was

Callahan Receives Local Donations for Ewing Park Improvements

Dawn S. West

On November 12, 2020, we (Westside Journal) published a story concerning the continued destruction at Ewing Park. It seems no matter how much the town continues to add to the park and make it beautiful, there are several juveniles along with other people that find enjoyment in destroying it. At that time, Councilwoman Ashton Vargas was the Park Commissioner. She contacted the Nassau County Sheriff's Office concerning the issues at the park. At the following council meeting, Vargas had asked NCSO Captain of Patrol Ryan VanTassell to attend the meeting to address ways to combat the issues at the park. VanTassell advised the council that NCSO would start making more patrols through the area and that security cameras would



also be a great advantage.

Following the story, several businesses chose to donate money to the town for the security cameras and more lighting at Ewing Park. Last Monday, the town received donations from the Callahan Masonic Lodge, \$1,000; Klynt Farmer, \$100 and Brandies Ace Hardware, Raymond Fachko, donated \$500.

Genealogy Tidbits

Claude Arpen

As we begin another new year, many of us have made resolutions to do a more detailed research of the ancestors in our family tree. Following are Ten Things You Should Know about each Ancestor in your Tree by Patricia Hartley, genealogist, from Family History Daily. **1-4: Vital Statistics** are the most basic events that define a persons existence, birth, marriage, death and burial. As a beginner, researchers say these are the most details we try to gather. **5-6: Faith Based Records** for genealogist, knowing more about your ancestors religion and where they worshipped. Baptismal records are especially recommended because most have parent names. **7-8: Occupational and Service:** Facts knowing your ancestor's usual occupation or industry and any military service can give you great insight into their daily lives. Census records can be a great help with this. **9-10: Geographical Information:** their residence and migration from other countries or states gives insight into their lives.

Our meetings have been postponed indefinitely due to the virus. Hopefully, we will return to our normal scheduled meetings soon. Pray for our country, be safe and don't forget to support your local businesses. Our normal meetings, of the West Nassau Genealogical Society, are the second Monday of each month at 10:30 a.m. at the Callahan Lions Club, located on US Highway 1 north of the fairgrounds. Visitors are always welcome!

an accident recently where a vehicle flipped over," said Fleming. "The road is very narrow anyway and I'm concerned about the danger of the road."

Councilwoman and Parks & Recreation Commissioner Janet Shaw advised the council that the town had received a card and a \$100 donation for park improvements in memory of Mrs. Kathy Smith from her Sunday school class, Sisters in the Word.

Town Manager Mike Williams advised the council that the West Nassau Historical Society contacted him about taking over organization of the Christmas parade.

"We had several issues getting the parade organized. The last couple of years, former Mayor Marty Fontes took the lead and worked with the school to get things organized," said Williams. "We also had the same problem with the Out with a Boom fireworks. The event was a mess with no organization. Again, Fontes organized and made sure things were covered, and they weren't this year."

The next council meeting will be held Tuesday, January 19, at 7 p.m. due to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Monday holiday.

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CAROLYN ARD



Carolyn Ard, of North Carolina, went home to be with her Lord on January 3, 2021. She was born March 3, 1940. Carolyn was a longtime resident of the Callahan/Hilliard area before moving to North Carolina in January, 2020.

The family will receive friends at 11 a.m. Saturday, January 16 prior to the funeral service at noon at Hardage-Giddens Memorial Park and Town & Country Funeral Home, 7242 Normandy Blvd., Jacksonville, with Pastor Steve Wolgamott officiating, followed by a graveside service.

BETTY KEENE BROWN



Betty Ruth Keene Brown, 85, of Homeland, Georgia, passed away Thursday, December 24, 2020, in St. Marys. She was born September 4, 1935 in Hilliard, to the late Theodore Keene and Nellie Bell Knight Keene. She was a homemaker and a member of Crossroads Pentecostal Church in Kingsland.

In addition to her parents; she was preceded in death by a husband Sigmund Ciepielak; a grandson Jarrod Brannan; two brothers Stanley Keene and Burl Keene; and two sisters Greda Rudd and Mary Bell Wyman.

She is survived by her husband William D. Brown; children Glynn Richard (Angela) Lloyd, Jr., Ronald W. (Joanne) Lloyd, John W. (Jo Ann) Lloyd and Brenda (Larry) Brannan; a sister Nell Lang; eight grandchildren; many great-grandchildren; great-great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

A graveside service was held Tuesday, December 29 in Homeland Cemetery with Rev. Mike Maddox officiating. The family will receive friends prior to the service.

Condolences may be expressed at www.shepardfh.com.

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home in Folkston, Georgia.

DEMPSY G. CONNER, JR. & VIVIAN LEE CONNER



Mr. Dempsy Griffin Conner, Jr., 84, of Pittsburg, Texas, passed away Friday, December 4, 2020. Within a few days, his loving wife of 65 years, Mrs. Vivian Lee Conner, 83, passed away on Monday, December 7, 2020. Both Mr. and Mrs. Conner passed away in Tyler, Texas. Mr. Conner was born September 16, 1936, to Dempsy Griffin Conner, Sr. and Carrie Isabelle Hickox Conner in Hilliard. Mrs. Conner was born November 7, 1937 to Ruel and Elizabeth Murphy Lee in Georgia.

Mr. and Mrs. Conner were members of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Pittsburg. Mr. Conner was a retired truck driver and Mrs. Conner was a homemaker.

Mr. and Mrs. Conner are survived by their sons, Lamar (Dusty) Conner and Dale (Bobbi) Conner; daughters Donna (Dexter) Scott and Anita Vilela; grandchildren Danny, Christopher, Nicholas, Nathan,

OBITUARIES

Nicole, Christina, Tommy, Shiann and Nate; six great-grandchildren; Mr. Conner's sister Bobbie Beardon; Mrs. Conner's sister Donnie Mae Merritt; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Mr. Conner is preceded in death by his parents; brother Holmes Conner; sisters Lou Landrom, Delores Lee and Lucy Lee. Mrs. Conner is preceded in death by her parents; and brothers Thomas Lee, Lannis Lee and Vonnie Lee.

Funeral services for Mr. and Mrs. Conner were held Friday, December 11 at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Pittsburg with Bro. Kyle Smith officiating. Burial followed at Rose Hill Cemetery in Pittsburg. The family received friends prior to the service.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made in their parent's memory to Emmanuel Baptist Church.

Erman Smith Funeral Home handled the arrangements.

WANDA FAY HARDY



Wanda Fay Quesenberry Hardy, 79, passed away Sunday, January 3, 2021. She was born January 29, 1941 in West Virginia to Joseph and Ruth Quesenberry. She was a very strong woman who raised seven children on her own. She was a homemaker and a very special one that made sure all her children were raised in church. She enjoyed cooking and baking but most of all enjoyed spending time with her children and grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her parents; her daughter-in-law Melinda Knight; and her sister Tammy Horn.

She is survived by her husband Tony Hardy; her children Ronnie Knight, Ann Beasley, Terry Knight, Duane (Teresa) Charles, Melinda Charles, Tonya (Tommy) Jones, Deborah (Bo) McFall and Anna (Daniel) Pappalardo; 18 grandchildren; 30 great-grandchildren; two step-children; two siblings Lucky Quesenberry and Alice Sykes; and numerous other family members.

A Celebration of Wanda's life will be held on Saturday, January 9 at 9:30 a.m. at The Anchor Church in Callahan with Pastor Dwight Allen and Wade Mask officiating. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service. Interment will follow at Riverside Memorial Park in Jacksonville.

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

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

LONA HARRELL



Lona Harrell, 68, of Callahan, passed away on December 29, 2020. She was born on April 18, 1952 in Waycross, Georgia, to L.J. and Betty Jo Harrin. She graduated from Ribault High School.

Lona is survived by her husband Vernon Harrell; daughters Wendy McClanathan and

Krystle (Jonathan) Rocca; grandchildren Jonathan Rocca, Jr., Nicholas Wayne Rocca and Landen McClanathan.

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

PHYLLIS ALLEN HOLDEN



Phyllis Amelia (Allen) Holden, 74, of Jacksonville, cherished Mother and beloved Matriarch, passed away peacefully at home in her sleep on December 19, 2020. Phyllis was surrounded by her loving family after a courageous year-long battle with late-diagnosed Grade IV Glioblastoma. The third of five children, Phyllis was born May 4, 1946, in Jacksonville to the long-established Allen-Bryant family of Folkston and surrounding counties. Phyllis was widely known for her love and support of children, having retired after 34 years as a para-professional educator from Southside Estates Elementary School. Phyllis' kind and nurturing nature instilled in her boys compassion for people, a love for animals, and a strong sense of adventure with a wanderlust for travel. She nurtured her sons to share her innate sense of curiosity, which led to their lifelong passion for learning and a shared love of reading. She encouraged each of her sons to be true to himself. Phyllis' infamously wry and sweet sense of humor lives strong within each of her sons. Her constant inspiration, storytelling and laughter will be missed by every life she touched.

Phyllis is survived by her husband of 56 years, Frank Delano Holden; sons Dwayne and Brian Holden of Jacksonville, Travis Holden of Satellite Beach and Phillip Holden of Hilliard; grandchildren Brittany, Ethan, Colin, Harper, Hudson and Virgil; a brother 'Buzz' Allen; and sister Carol Allen.

Dwayne, Travis, and Phillip wish to express their deepest, heartfelt gratitude to their brother Brian for his constant care for their mother over this past year. Phyllis' boys are grateful to their cousins Melissa Priest and Kimberlee Carter for the emotional and physical support they've provided to their Mom and the entire family. Frank and the boys would like to thank his sister, their Aunt Diane Carter for the countless home-cooked breakfasts, lunches & dinners personally prepared and delivered, for nearly an entire year.

Phyllis leaves behind Frank who would like to thank his sister-in-law Connie Allen; brother-in-law Dale Blair, son-in-law Timothy Hoal and daughters-in-law, Charlotte Holden, Jaclyn Holden; nephews & nieces Ken Priest, Eric & Kim Blair, Bobby and Robby Allen for their constant visitations, as well as long-time neighbors and friends Mr. and Mrs. Gene and Grace Shimp for their continued calls and a lifetime of family support.

Phyllis is predeceased by an infant daughter Dixie Holden; sisters Patsy Kennerly and Cherry Blair; mother Joyce (Bryant) Allen and father Iver Novada

Allen.

The Holden family is grateful to Vitas Hospice Care of Jacksonville as well as the support of Concierge Care of FL.

Per her request, Phyllis will be laid to rest next to her sister, Cherry Allen Blair in Traders Hill Cemetery, Folkston.

The family received friends prior to the funeral service held Monday, December 28 at Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home. Following the committal at Trader's Hill Cemetery, a reception was held at the Trader's Hill Campground Pavillion with catering from local Folkston favorites. Please feel free to bring your favorite covered dish.

Condolences may be expressed at www.shepardfh.com.

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, Folkston.

TERRY MARK HORTON



Terry Mark Horton, 63, of Callahan, went home to be with his Lord on Thursday, December 31, 2020. After a long battle with cancer, God gave him complete healing and he passed peacefully with his devoted wife of 44 years, Suzanne, by his side.

Terry was born August 5, 1957, to Henry Russell and Evelyn Thomas Horton in Jacksonville. Throughout his life, those who knew Terry knew him to be consistent, passionate and determined. Terry loved being Suzanne's "Honey", his children's "Daddy," and his grandchildren's "Pops." Terry used his cancer diagnosis as an opportunity to share with everyone he met about what God had done during this cancer journey. Terry is preceded in death by his parents Russell and Evelyn Horton.

Terry's memory lives on through his wife, Suzanne Selph Horton; children Rosalind Horton (Chris) Reynolds, Terry Mark (Kaye) Horton, Jr. and Melody Horton (Brock) Lee; his grandchildren Kendra, Trent, Micah, Kinsey, Noah, Elijah, Isaiah, Avery, Reagan and Macie; his siblings Carolyn (Paul) Hinckley, Wayne (Judy) Horton, Kevin (Jane) Horton and Al (Marie) Horton; and many nieces and nephews.

The funeral service will be held Thursday, January 7, 2021 at 11 a.m. at First Baptist Church of Gray Gables, 54031 Church Road Callahan. Burial will follow at Riverside Memorial Park, 7242 Normandy Blvd Jacksonville.

All attendants please wear a mask. Thank you.

Hardage-Giddens, Riverside Memorial Park & Funeral Home assisted the family.

THOMAS MIKE LOSCO



Thomas Mike 'Scratch' Losco, Sr., 75, of Callahan, passed away on December 30, 2020. He was born on April 19, 1945 in Jacksonville, to

Andrew and Helen Losco. Mike was a member and retiree of Local Union 234. He was a dedicated husband, loving father and caring brother. Mike was known as the peacekeeper. He is preceded in death by

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Mama and family

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his wife, Althea Michelle Losco; parents; brothers Benny Losco, Wally Losco and Wayne Losco; and sister Francis Dixon.

Mike leaves behind his sons, Thomas Losco, Jr., Benjamin Losco and Jason (Katie) Losco; grandchildren Mark Losco, Amber Losco, Zachary Losco, Ethan Losco and Colter Losco; and a brother David Losco.

Pallbearers were Zachary, Ethan, Colter, Marty, Allen, Nate and Waylon.

A Celebration of Mike's life was held Wednesday, January 6 at Gray Gables Baptist Church with Pastor Cody Page officiating. The family received friends Tuesday, January 5 at Nassau Funeral Home.

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

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

KATHERINE G. LUEDERS



Katherine Godbolt Lueders, of Jacksonville, peacefully entered her Lord Jesus Christ's presence Monday, December 21, 2020. She was dearly loved and will be greatly missed. Katherine was born in Jacksonville, to Clarke and Edna Godbolt on October 24, 1930. She attended Andrew Jackson High School. Katherine was married to William "Bill" N. Lueders for 62 years and together they had two children, Wayne and Karen. Katherine was taught about the love of God and the Lord Jesus Christ from her childhood and she received Christ as her personal Lord and Savior at the age of 10 years old. She was a member of Terry Parker Baptist Church.

As a child Katherine loved spending time most with her sister, Carolyn, along with other friends. Her favorite activity was tap dancing and skating. Many of her extended family lived in Welborn and while she loved to visit, she always referred to herself as a "city girl."

Her adult years were spent doing what she loved most: being a wife, mother and homemaker. She had a tremendous love for her family and invested her life supporting and caring for them. It was truly her passion and calling in life. Once her children were grown, she enjoyed helping with her grandchildren, as well as volunteering in church and the community. Katherine will be greatly missed and always held close in the hearts of her loved ones.

Katherine was preceded in death by her parents Clarke and Edna Keene Godbolt; her sister Carolyn (Hank) Poole; her brother Danny Keene; and her loving husband of 62 years, 'Billy' Lueders.

She is survived by her two children, Wayne (June) Lueders of Callahan and Karen Lueders (Donny) Schoenfeld; her brother Jim (Patti) Keene; her four grandchildren Ryan (Lindsay) Schoenfeld, Eric Schoenfeld, Heather Lueders (Jason) Mullis and Ashley Lueders; and three great-grandchildren Anniston, Kinley and Will.

A graveside service was held Tuesday, December 29 with Rev. Chris Coram officiating, at Arlington Memorial Park where she was laid to rest beside her beloved husband.

OBITUARIES

The family wishes to thank everyone who has loved, prayed and cared so deeply for our family during this difficult time.

Corey-Kerlin Funeral Home assisted the family with arrangements.

RAYMOND MADDOX

Raymond Maddox, 63, of Callahan, passed away December 25, 2020 at his home. Raymond was born July 25, 1957 in Jacksonville, to Millege and Vestula Maddox. He is preceded in death by his parents; a brother; and three sisters.

Raymond was a loving man that never met a stranger. When you met Raymond, you didn't leave his friend you were his brother or sister. Raymond enjoyed fishing, cheating at Sunday UNO games and drinking coffee. He also enjoyed spending time with his dog Roscoe Pee Coltrane that meant the world to him. It always made his day when his 'second wife' Sherry Wright came to visit.

He is survived by his loving wife of 24 years, Kathy, if you saw one you saw the other; his daughters Bethany (William) Lowe of Callahan and Nancey (Redneck Mexican Markie) Ferdino of Jacksonville; one son Donnie (Brooke) Denslow of Jacksonville; two brothers Jimmy (Jo) Maddox, Ricky Lee (Joyce) Maddox, all of Hilliard; three grandchildren Mollie, Josie and Carley; and two grand-dogs Cricket and Queso.

A private funeral service was held Friday, January 1, 2021. Pallbearers were Terri O'Neal, Cody O'Neal, Randy Maddox, Johnathan and Owen Maddox and Markie Ferdino.

THELMA JONES MOONEYHAN



Thelma Jones Mooneyhan, 93, passed away December 30, 2020. She was born February 11, 1927 in Jacksonville, to Volney McMillian Jones and Willie Nell Jessup Jones. She graduated from Andrew Jackson in 1945. After high school, she worked one year in the accounting department of Southern Bell. In 1947, she started her 32 year career with Internal Revenue Service. She retired as a Unit Manager in April 1982. She married Walter Mooneyhan (deceased) on November 15, 1946 at Franklin Street Baptist Church, where she had been a member since childhood. They were married for 73 years. She was a member of North Jacksonville Baptist Church for approximately 64 years. Thelma appreciated the friendship and kindnesses shown by Sydney and Silvia Beck to her for many years.

She is survived by two wonderful sons Mark (Karen) Mooneyhan and Jeff Mooneyhan; six grandchildren Rebecca (Eddie) LaCroix, Ryan (Brandi) Mooneyhan, Kara (Jeremy) Rhoden, Mandy (Dempsey) Revels, Devin (Emily) Mooneyhan and Ashley (Walker) Ragland; nine great-grandchildren Joey, Ryleigh,

Jeffrey, Parker, Saylor, Brantley, Emmie, Bella and Taylor; and several nieces and nephews.

A graveside funeral service was held Thursday, January 7 at Jacksonville National Cemetery with Rev. Chris A. Coram, officiating.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the charity of your choice.

Peebles Funeral Home is serving the Mooneyhan Family.

JOSEPH P. SANDIFORD, JR.



Joseph Patrick Sandiford, Jr., 25, passed away on December 18, 2020. He was born on October 30, 1995, in Jacksonville, to Joseph

Patrick Sandiford, Sr. and Brenda Sandiford. He graduated from West Nassau High School in 2014 and was a member of the ROTC. After graduation, Joseph enlisted into the United States Marine Corps and served 4 years. After retiring from the United States Marine Corps, he started his career with the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office as a patrol officer. Joseph loved hiking, working out, eating, traveling and making people laugh. Most of all, Joseph enjoyed spending time with his friends and family. Joseph's biggest goal in life was to help others and did everything he could to help others better themselves. Joseph was the true definition of what a true hero is. He is preceded in death by his grandparents, Louise Hurst Camp and Joseph and Jean Sandiford; his Uncle Kenny Register; and nephew Anthony.

He is survived by his wife Ronnye Sandiford; parents Joseph, Sr. and Brenda Sandiford; grandparents Charles and Maggy Register; brothers Charles (Ana) Sandiford and Brandon Dutton; sisters Crystal (David) Hickman and Karie Bright; nieces and nephews Aiden, Cayden, Kash, Bryson, Jaxsen, Adalynn and Layah; and several uncles and aunts.

A Celebration of Joseph's life was held Thursday, December 31 at Nassau Funeral Home. The family received friends prior to the service.

Condolences may be expressed at www.nassaufh.com.

Nassau Funeral Home assisted the family with arrangements, 904-879-1770.

ELIZABETH ANN SPANN



Elizabeth Ann Spann, 80, of Newport, Tennessee, passed away Friday, December 25, 2020. She was a former High School English teacher, cancer survivor, beloved wife, mother and grandmother. She was preceded in death by her parents James and Kathrine Sellers; and son Mike J. Spann.

She is survived by her husband of 62 years, Gary Spann; daughter Kathy (Kevin) Lynn; son Randy (Crissy) Spann, all of Newport; grandchildren Kevin Lynn, II, Kory Lynn, LeeLa Velez, Casey Spann, Anthony Velez, Katlynn Spann, Faith Hollyfield, Makallia Lynn, Ty Spann and Halie Francis; and great-grandchildren Brantley Spann, Natalee Velez, Kevin Lynn, III, Anthony Velez, Kynlee Velez and Wyatt Lynn.

A private memorial will be held at a future date.

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

Arrangements by Manes Funeral Home.

JAMES C. 'JIM' WALDRON



James C. 'Jim' Waldron, 73, passed away Monday, December 21, 2020. He is a native of Jacksonville, born on August 25, 1947 to the late

James Carroll Waldron, Jr. and Catherine Rorison Waldron.

Jim was a graduate of Andrew Jackson High School Class of 1965 and a Veteran of the U.S. Air Force serving during the Vietnam Conflict and attained the rank of SGT. He retired in 1999 with 28 years of service with JEA as an Operating Engineer. Jim is preceded in death by his parents; his wife Peggy Waldron; and brother Brian Waldron.

He is survived by two sons Mike (Barbara) Waldron and John (Julie) Waldron; five grandchildren Justin (Rachel), Wesley (Jordan), Andrew, Matthew and Kara; and one great-granddaughter Raelynn.

A celebration of life service was held Thursday, December 31 at Peebles Family Funeral Home, with Rev. Chris A. Coram officiating. His family received friends prior to the service. Burial with Military Honors followed at Jacksonville National Cemetery.

Peebles Family Funeral Home assisted the family.

Obituaries continued on page 12

Obituaries are published free of charge. They may be emailed to news@westsidejournal.net.



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DONNA WILLIAMS



Donna Williams, 59, went home to be with her Lord and Savior on December 23, 2020, after battling a brief illness. She was born on September 17, 1961 in Jacksonville, to Robert and Juanita Burch. Donna enjoyed starting her days with her daily bread devotional and reading her Bible. Though she had many favorite verses, but the one she recited quite often was: Matthew 6:21, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Donna was saved at a young age and had a mighty passion and love for the Lord. Donna loved spending quality time with her family and when she wasn't able to be near them, she would spend countless hours on the phone catching up with them. She enjoyed family vacations to the mountains and the annual trips to Six Flags as a young adult. She also enjoyed listening to the Alabama band and loved seeing them perform live in concert. But most of all, she enjoyed being a mom and for the last nine years being a nana. She spoiled her grandchildren in every way she could. Donna is preceded in death by her parents Robert and Juanita Burch; sister Kathy Burch; and daughter Brandy Williams.

Donna is survived by her daughters Ashley Burch and Jessica Williams, both of Waycross; brother Andrew Bell of Callahan; sister Robin (Calvin Sr.) Hurst of Callahan; grandson Drayton Wilson of Waycross; numerous aunts and uncles; nephews Anthony (Bobby) Bell, Calvin, Jr. (Courtney) Hurst and Brandon Bean; nieces Heather Bayless and Britney Bean; great nephews Trevor Bayless, Tucker Crawford and Calvin Hurst, III; her lifelong friend Diane Corson; and many other friends whom she loved.

Pallbearers were Calvin Hurst, Jr., Johnathan Williams, Trevor Bayless, Mark Harris, Anthony Bell, and Timothy Bayless.

A Celebration of Donna's life was held Tuesday, January 5 at Nassau Funeral Home, Callahan, with Pastor Caleb Lancaster officiating. Interment followed at Jones Cemetery. The family received friends Monday, January 4 at the funeral home.

Due to circumstances, in lieu of flowers the family is requesting donations towards the funeral expenses.

Condolences may be expressed at www.nassaufh.com.

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

Sheriff Leeper Sworn In



Tuesday, January 5, 2021, marks the beginning of Sheriff Bill Leeper's third term as Nassau County Sheriff, which runs until January 6, 2025. He is the first Sheriff in Nassau County to be re-elected unopposed in over 50 years. "I am truly humbled, grateful and blessed that the citizens of Nassau County have shown their faith and trust in what the great men and women have accomplished at the Sheriff's Office over the past 8 years by re-electing me for a third term," said Sheriff Leeper. "My commitment over the next four years is to continue finding ways where the Sheriff's Office can improve the service that we provide to our community to ensure Nassau County remains a safe place to live, work and raise a family."

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