



# WESTSIDE JOURNAL

VOLUME XVIII ISSUE 13

HOMETOWN PEOPLE...HOMETOWN NEWS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2021

"I AM THE ALPHA AND THE OMEGA," SAYS THE LORD GOD, "WHO IS, AND WHO WAS, AND WHO IS TO COME, THE ALMIGHTY" - REVELATION 1:8

FRIDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

Warriors vs  
Fernandina  
@ 7 p.m.



Homecoming Ceremony at Halftime

Flashes vs  
Branford  
@ 7 p.m.



Homecoming Ceremony Thursday @ 6 p.m.



After a very difficult 2020, it's great to see that we will be enjoying the Northeast Florida Fair this year! The fair officially opens Thursday, October 14 at 5 p.m.

The fair will be held for 10 days: October 14-24. Opening night, Thursday, October 14 will offer FREE admission with paid unlimited armband at the gate for \$20. Make sure to check out all the specials on their ad on page 12 of this week's paper. All the information you need is included and more events are listed on their website, [www.nefffair.org](http://www.nefffair.org).

The fair is a great time for fun with the family but there is also something great about the smell of the food. There's nothing better than a good greasy sausage dog covered with peppers and onions. It will be great to welcome back all our local favorite food vendors. I can taste one of those funnel cakes now! Entertainment will be under the big tent throughout the entire fair. That is also where the picnic tables are located to sit and listen or enjoy your meal! Some of the entertainers include: Amber DeLaCruz, Callahan Gospel Male Chorus, Robin Kinsey, Trinity

River Bluegrass Band and many more. Visit [www.nefffair.org](http://www.nefffair.org) to see dates and times.

Don't forget to check out the Home Arts Building. This is where all the beautiful homemade and handmade items are. We really have a lot of talented people around! One of my other favorite places is the animal barns. I'm so thankful we still have the agriculture...that's what our area is famous for! There is always a huge variety of chickens, roosters, ducks, etc. and of course the livestock! So beautiful! Be sure to check out all the

animals as these students have worked hard to make sure they look their best!

Entrance and parking will be off of Musslewhite Road to the back side of the fair. Once parked in the paved parking you will find the main entrance into the fair. You will be greeted with brightly lit ticket booths and helpful attendants.

Admission prices are: Adults: \$8 (13+); Youth: \$5 (6-12); 5 & under, Free; Military: (with ID) \$5; and Senior Citizens \$5 (65+). The fair will open weekdays at 5 p.m. until 11 p.m.; and weekends at noon-12:30 a.m.

## Hilliard Town News

Dawn S. West

The Hilliard Town Council met Thursday night for their first meeting of October. Hilliard resident Ray Schmoldt addressed the council asking if there were any updates about making golf carts legal in Hilliard? "I'm currently working on a draft to bring before the council and I just received another piece of information from the Florida Division of Driver's License that must be discussed," added Town Attorney Christian Waugh.

The first agenda item was a septic tank approval for Jesse and Kristin Pickett for their property off Old Pine Ridge Road. "You do know that you will have to tie into the town sewer when it is within 1000ft of our sewer?" said Councilman Kenny Sims.

"Yes, we'll see when it gets there," said Jesse Pickett.

"Just a reminder that this is why

these septic tanks have exceptions now, so that when the town sewer comes through your area, you must hook in," added Sims.

The next item was also approved which concerned the final replat for Lots 36-40 and 58-63 of the Deer Run Subdivision (between Kristie Circle South & north on CR 108), to create the SSI Subdivision lots 1, 2 & 3. Ben Buchanan is the contractor for the subdivision.

The following agenda item also pertained to the Deer Run subdivision requiring three (3) septic tank exceptions. The council approved the exceptions but also reminded Buchanan that the properties will have to hook in to the town's sewer once it is available. Town water is already available in the

area.

The next two items concerned Airpark upgrades which are all paid in full by the FAA and FDOT.

These improvements included: the design and construct a hangar, hangar rehabilitation and construct camera & video recording system.

The town approved a capital budget expense of interior and exterior renovation for the 100,000 gallon ground storage tanks 1 and 2 at the Water Treatment Plant in the amount of \$154,622.

The following agenda item was for the capital purchase of a Folder Inserter Application Envelope Stuffing Machine at a cost of \$9,475. "The machine we currently have is 11 years old and at its end of life. The old machine could only



add one insert, where the new one will do up to three inserts at a fraction of the time it takes us now," said Town Clerk Lisa Purvis. The council approved the purchase.

The next two items concerned payments to the town's engineering firm Mittauer & Associates, Inc. for the Water Main Replacement CDBG project. The total payment was \$9,575.00 of the total project cost of \$105,700.00.

The following item was to set a workshop to review the Land Use Administrator's duties and work schedule. The workshop will include the Land Use Administrator, the council, Town Attorney and the Planning & Zoning Board. The council names three dates: October 26, November 4 & November 16. The clerk will notify the council once the date is acceptable for all parties.

See 'Hilliard Town' on page 2

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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.

## I Love Your 'Opinion'

Dear Editor,

I live in Jacksonville, my daughter lives in Callahan. I read your paper when I visit her and she has started saving it for me and brings it to me every Sunday when she visits me.

Why? I love your "Just my Opinion." I like everything you write. We think alike. I told my daughter I could move to Callahan for they are my type of people. I read your paper the week

of 9-27-21, I didn't know you owned the paper. God bless your family with the passing of your mom. You could write junk and I'd still read it. Those two critics of last week don't let them get to you. I've read the Times Union for 42 years and never met anyone like you.

Sincerely,  
Irene Schulman (A country gal from PA)

## Hilliard Town

The final agenda item was the approval of Resolution 2021-27 which concerned the permitting of the Homecoming Parade for Hilliard

Continued from page 1

Middle-Senior High School on Friday, October 15 at 2:45 p.m.

The next meeting of the council will be Thursday, October 21 at 7 p.m.

## Nassau Pride Basketball in November

The Nassau Pride, a semi-professional basketball team based here in Nassau County, is happy to announce the kickoff of its third season. As a member of the American Basketball Association (ABA), the team finished its 2020-21 season once again as a top team in the Southeastern Division. With the recent decline in COVID cases and lifting of many local COVID restrictions, we are excited to announce that fans will once again be invited to attend in person and cheer on many returning fan favorites and some new faces as we contend for the ABA



### NASSAU PRIDE

Championship.

Our organization aims to support the youth through various initiatives, build a stronger community and provide a new and exciting form of family-friendly entertainment to Nassau County. Home games this season will be played at Yulee and Fernandina Beach High Schools. Our first home game will be held Saturday, November 6 at Yulee High School against the Palm Beach Stampede. All games start at 6 p.m. Come and get in on the fun! For a full schedule and additional info, please visit: www.nassaupride.com.

## FREE WEDNESDAY COMMUNITY DINNER

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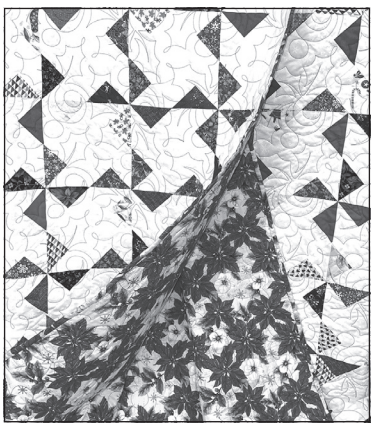
123 Tinker Street, Wildlight, Florida

## Support the Quilt Guild at the Fair!

Peggy Smith, President

Aren't you loving the cooler temperatures at night? I know I am. We had a great meeting of the Quilt Guild Monday night. We missed you! Our fellow quilter, Janet Sabastian, spoke to us about how the process of "Judging" quilts works. Just so happens that in our November meeting (November 8) we will be judging quilts, "Ugly Fabric Quilts" made by the Amelia Island Quilt Guild.

We would love to have you join the Guild. Come and join us on the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Anchor Church on US1 just south of Callahan. We also have "Sit-n-Sew" on the



2nd and 4th Friday at the Masonic Lodge located behind the Fire Station in Callahan. Visitors are always welcome!

Our Opportunity Quilt is ready and has been on display at the Westside Journal office. This year our quilt has a Christmas Theme. The quilt will be on display at the Northeast Florida Fair for the entire 10 days of the fair. Make sure to purchase your tickets for your chance to win this beautiful queen size quilt. The tickets are: \$1 each; or 6 tickets for \$5. Tickets will also be continued to be sold at the Westside Journal office. The drawing for the quilt will be at our December meeting. Happy Sewing!

## FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS

**Gray Gables Baptist Church 54031 Church Rd. • Callahan**  
**Mondays 9:30 am - 2:30 p.m.**

**Barnabas @ Callahan Methodist Church 449648 US Hwy. 301**  
**Monday, October 18 • 9 - 11 am**

**Callahan First Baptist Church 45090 Green Ave. • Callahan**  
**Thursday, October 21 • 4:30 - 6:30 pm**

## EVENTS AROUND TOWN

Fall Outdoor Garage Sale, Saturday, October 16, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church, 541668 US Hwy 1 in the back Church parking lot. Baked Goods and lots of garage sale items! For more information call 879-3662.

By opening your heart and home to a youth in Foster Care, you can help forge a lifetime of success and happiness for a child in Nassau County. Are you ready to learn more? Contact recruiter@fssn.org or 904-421-5864 for information.

The Nassau County Library Advisory Board will meet Tuesday, October 19 from 3-5 p.m. at the Yulee Library, FSCJ College Campus, 76346 William Burgess Blvd. The public is invited to attend.

ARMS (Abuse Recovery Ministry Services) offers classes in your area. Women will learn how to recognize, understand & heal from issues of domestic abuse. We use biblical principles to encourage beliefs and behaviors that heal. Call 503-846-9284 or 866-262-9284 for specific locations and time.

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## JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

Have you ever had the desire to live in Cuba or maybe Venezuela? If so, you are very likely to see similarities living in America soon. With the corruption and idiocies of our country's so-called leaders, we as a nation are heading full steam in that direction. We are soon to begin witnessing empty shelves in not only grocery stores but in the big box stores as well. Car dealerships are going to have near empty lots, with few cars to sell. Need a new appliance for your home; it could take months to receive one. What a difference between the present and four years ago!

What puts us in this dilemma has been a long going trend of us depending too heavily on imports. America stopped manufacturing products and fell into this now dangerous position of being a consumer driven economy instead of a manufacturing economy.

So why are we facing peril here? It starts with the man-made COVID crisis and has been exasperated by poor leadership and undo mandates from government. Fear rules people, and our government has used COVID to fuel their socialistic ideals to the max. With Biden's plan in rewarding people to not work, which ended last month and his unlawful vaccination mandates being mirrored by the woke companies, our national work force has dwindled to epic shortages.

Right now there are over 70 cargo ships anchored outside of just one west

coast port waiting to off load their containers. The COVID restrictions have caused port workers to become inefficient due to social distancing and quarantines. There are not enough workers to keep up the demand. Of course the major west coast ports are in California so that alone explains part of the problem. It is projected that ships will be stuck out of ports for at least four weeks awaiting their turn to enter. Then they face a glut of containers to be distributed across the country by truck and rail. Right now a major rail hub has a backup of rail cars 25 miles long.

We also need to prepare for drastic price increases on all imported goods. It cost the shipping companies thousands of dollars a day to sit anchored in the ocean. Regardless of what Biden's Press Secretary Jen Psaki says, the costs will be passed down to us the consumer.

Liberals always say that a trickle down economy does not exist, but once again they are so wrong. Watch what happens in the weeks to come with the economy. It will be a trickle down economy in the wrong direction; soaring inflation is on its way due to a failed government or should I say a well-planned attack.

The war is raging and no longer is it Republican versus Democrats; it is solely good versus evil.

God help us! As always...that's just my opinion!

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## NOTICE OF ROAD CLOSURE

Repair Bridge Decking and Supports – Acree Road (Thomas Rd.)



Jax Utilities Management, Inc. will be repairing the bridge decking and supports on Acree Road (Thomas Road). Due to the nature of the work as well as for safety purposes, Acree Road will be closed for an estimated 8 weeks. Construction is scheduled to begin on October 25, 2021 at 7:00 am and completed on December 23, 2021.

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Words

Pastor Arlie Johns, Hilliard First Assembly of God



Have you ever been hurt by the words of others? The Bible says in Proverbs 18:21, “*The tongue has the power of life and death.*” Our words can either build-up and encourage, or they can tear down and destroy. Often, we don’t realize the affect that we have on others when we are speaking. When we tend to complain and speak negative about our problems or our trials that we are going through, it can affect others around us. Our words can influence others in the way they think. Rather than speaking negatively about others or the problems that we are struggling with, we would be better off keeping it to ourselves and just pray over the situation.

The Bible says, that the way we speak reveals what’s truly in our heart. Luke 6:45, “*The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks.*”

Did you realize that the words that you speak, tells volumes about what is going on in the inside of you? Let me encourage you to guard your thoughts and conversation.

As Christians we should be speaking life into those around us. The Apostle Paul gives us the answer of how we should handle this in Philippians 4:8, “*Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.*” What we allow to occupy our minds will affect our conversations.

Last week, I challenged our church family during the month of October to do their best to speak words of life to those around them. In this challenge I asked them to be positive with their thoughts and conversations. As Christians we need to build up and not tear down. When we speak words of encouragement they will speak life into others and not destroy or tear down. Let’s do our best to encourage the weak. I pray you have a great week.



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Fruits and Vegetables Increase for WIC Families Extended

A continuing resolution of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) has been passed by congress to enhance the WIC benefit for a period of 3 months. The increase expanding the vegetable and fruit voucher from \$9/month for children and \$11/month for women to \$24/month for children, \$43/month for pregnant and postpartum women and \$47/month for partially and fully breastfeeding women.

Florida WIC will be implementing the increase October 1, 2021- December

31, 2021. All women and children 1 - 4 years old who participate in the Nassau County WIC Program will receive an increase in their fruits and vegetables cash vouchers and are encouraged to use all of their fruits and vegetable dollars each month.

For more information on enrollment and eligibility for the WIC Program call the Nassau County WIC Office at 904-875-6111. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Historical Society Seeks Nassau County Artists for Art Show

The West Nassau Historical Society is actively seeking artists and high school students from Nassau County to participate in their 10th annual Nassau Art at the Callahan Depot (NACD) art show. The judged event is designed to showcase the many talented adult artists as well as middle and high school art students who reside in Nassau County. The art exhibit will be held inside the historic Callahan Train Depot, 45383 Dixie Avenue on Saturday, January 22, 2022. The quaint ambiance of the 141 year-old station and museum offers the perfect venue for county artists to display their works while

giving the public a chance to check out many historic photos and artifacts on display inside the depot. Artists will be judged on two art works each but may have more art works for sale in our designated art shop. The all-volunteer nonprofit organization hopes all Nassau County artists will visit: [www.wnhsfl.org](http://www.wnhsfl.org) for entry applications and art show information. Deadline for entering is noon on Friday, January 14. The group also encourages Nassau County middle and high school students to contact the Historical Society or their art teacher for art show information.

**CHURCH NEWS**

BETHANY EPISCOPAL CHURCH will be selling Barbecue Dinners this Friday, October 15 from 5-7 p.m. for \$8 each. The church is located on CR 108 in Hilliard across from Hilliard Town Hall.

FALL OUTDOOR GARAGE SALE, Saturday, October 16, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church, 541668 US Hwy 1 in the back Church parking lot. Baked Goods and lots of garage sale items! For more information call 879-3662.

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# Warriors Scalp the Panthers

Kyle Pipkin

Last Friday night was the game we have been looking for as Warrior fans! It was a game where we see domination in all aspects of the game; a game where they out play the opponent in offense, defense and special teams. After starting 0-3 the Warriors have won two in a row and are 1-0 in district play.

The first quarter the Warriors set the tone for the game and district play moving forward as a whole. Conner Nobles put the Warriors on the board midway through the first quarter with a rushing touchdown, followed by a Davis extra point making it 7-0 Warriors. On the next Panther possession the ball was picked by Davis giving the ball back to that potent Warrior offense. AJ Miller scored stretching the lead to 14. Quarterback Brady Wright completed his first touchdown pass of the night bringing the score to 21-0, making it a dominant first quarter for the Warriors.

On the first Panther drive of the second quarter, they got on the board but missed the extra point. The next big play of the game comes on yet another interception for the Warrior defense that was returned 65 yards by Leon Whitley for another Warrior touchdown. Davis made the extra point increasing the score to 28-6 for the Warriors. Whitley had a big game with 3 passes defended for the game. Dominant in all areas of the game, the Warriors special team blocked the Panthers punt. Wright completed a touchdown pass to Davis ending the first half with a 34-6 Warrior lead. The Warriors absolutely dominated the half.

In third quarter the Panthers tried to make it a game going into the fourth quarter. The Panthers were able to shut

the Warrior offense out in the third quarter by scoring two touchdowns making the score 34-19 at the end of third quarter.

The Warriors got the ball in the 4th quarter, went down the field and scored on a 20-yard touchdown run by Nobles making it 40-19, after a failed two-point conversion. After a strong defensive stand, the Warriors got the ball back and scored on a long touchdown pass from Wright to Miller adding to their lead and the final score of 46-19.

Offensively, this was Wright's best passing game of the season, finishing the game 17 of 27 for 219 yards and three touchdowns and 23 rushing yards. Nobles lead the way rushing with 109 rushing yards and two touchdowns; Leon Whitley had a monster game for the Warriors with 244 yards in every aspect of the game with yards rushing, receiving, kick returns, punt returns and interception returns. Whitley would be my player of the game because in the multiple ways in which he contributed to this Warrior blow out. Up front, big Wyatt Butler lead the way for the Warrior offensive line with five pancake blocks up front.

Defensively, Brooks Miller led Warrior defense in tackles with a total of 14 for the game. Michael Thorn had 5 tackles for loss and 1 sack; Conner Scaff had a sack.

Friday night was an awesome game for the Warriors in their first district match up for the season. Now winning two in a row the Warriors can go into homecoming week feeling confident. Come out and support the home town team and all of the homecoming court for the halftime crowning. Friday night kick off is 7 p.m. at Warrior field against the Fernandina Beach Pirates.



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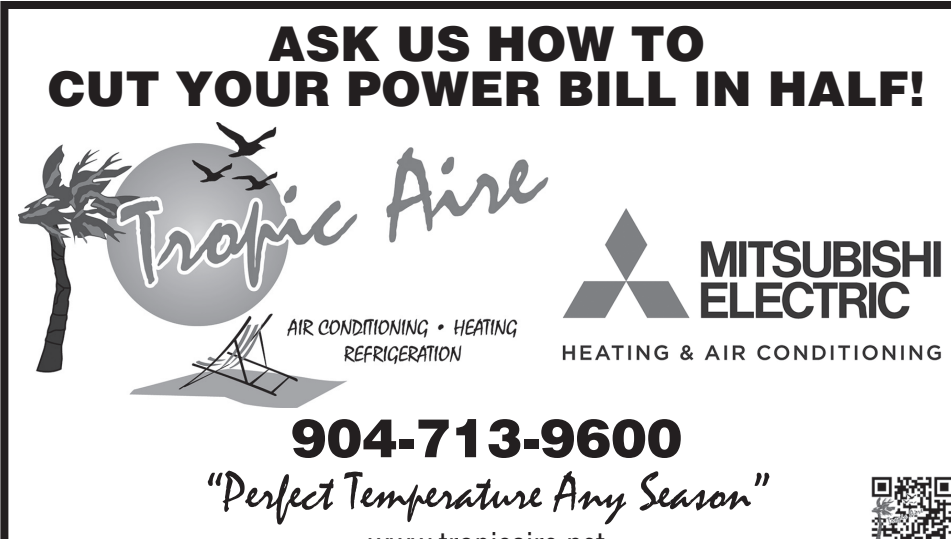
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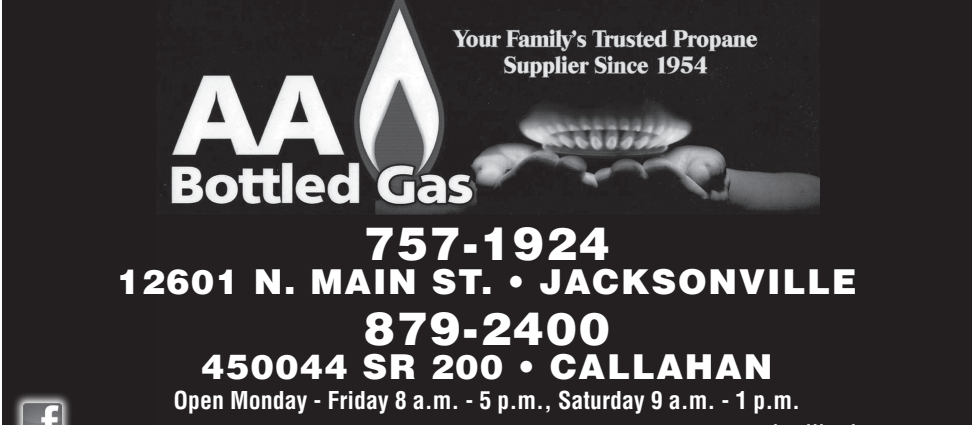
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# Mr. Elliott Jones Celebrates 98<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Mr. Elliott Jones, of Callahan, celebrated his 98th birthday October 14. Mr. Elliott was born October 14, 1923 in Callahan. His parents were Ester and Elliot Jones, Sr. Mr. Elliott still resides beside the home he was born and raised in and is frequently seen riding around Callahan on his 3-wheeled electric bicycle. He plans to ride again in this year's Christmas parade. He is also a WWII US Navy Veteran. He plans to celebrate his birthday with his family!

In celebration of his birthday, Mr. Elliott wanted to share the history, as he remembers it, of Callahan before WWII. Following is his memories of Callahan in the 'Good Ole Days':

Callahan electricity was from an electric plant in Baldwin. In the city, you could have electric light and fans. Some people had a little electricity, all other had hand fans, lamps and lanterns. The telephone office and switchboard was in a home and wires were fastened to trees, light poles and telephone poles. Running water was supplied from a flowing well owned by groups of owners of a well. Some people owned their flowing well while others had hand pumps. Ice was delivered to homes and businesses for ice boxes to keep food cool. Seafood trucks delivered seafood and perishable food. Milk was delivered to homes from several local dairy farms, if you didn't have a cow. The chicken farms in Callahan were from Schwend Insurance to Lem Turner Road and US 1 to Hodges Road. The chiropractor office was in the egg & feed barn. There were over ten more chicken farms around Callahan.



The grocery store was a 2-story building with groceries downstairs and apartments upstairs (where city hall currently is). In the 1930s, the building became a restaurant and the grocery store moved across US 1 (where Hardee's currently is). Also in the 1930s, the Conner's built a 3-part store with a Drug Store/Soda Fountain & Curb Service, Grocery/Meat & Dry Goods, and Seed Feed & Farm Supplies. There was a grocery store on US 1 and Brandies Avenue. The Post Office was on the railroad



with a horse water tub. Mail delivery began in 1919, and Mr. Elliott's father was the mail carrier, on horseback two days a week. The office later moved to the 2-story apartment next to Ace Hardware, then moved to US 1 next to Ann's Diner, then moved to US 1 where The Link currently is, and to the current location on SR 200.

The school was a 2-story house with 2 rooms downstairs for classes 1-6; 2 rooms upstairs for classes 7-12, with a small auditorium. There was a 2-part outhouse: boys on one side; girls on the other side. We had a clay tennis and basketball court to play on. In 1930, a new 12 classroom was built with bathrooms and heating. The community gym was built in the 1930s and we had boys football, basketball & baseball; and the girls had basketball. There was also a colored school on US 1.

There was a gas station on US 1 & 5th Street and gas was hand pumped to a glass tank above. The pump had marks to see the amount of gas in the tank. Gas station attendants would clean your windshield, check your tires & oil and pump your gas. Later there was an electric gas pump in the city and a truck stop where CVS currently

is. There were two 2-story hotels, one on US 1 next to Ann's Diner that had a soda fountain & dining room, barber shop and beds upstairs. The other was a 2-story on Mickler and Railroad Street (now Dixie Avenue) that had a buffet 3 times a week. There was one bank, where the Nassau County Record currently is, but went broke in 1929 depression. Residents then had to bank in Jacksonville until the 50s.

There were two sawmills, one where First Coast Shopping Center currently is; and one where the high school baseball field currently is. The sawdust piles were 15-20 feet high. We had 2 turpentine stills: one on Comanche Street & US 301; and the other on Musslewhite Road with a store and living quarters. There was a brickyard and clay holes from US 1 to Page Street and MLK to SR 200. They dug their own clay, they had conveyor belts that took the clay through a brick shaper, cut the clay and made bricks and dried and cured in dungeons. There was a crate mill from the current State Farm Insurance building to Mills Creek. They made thin sheets of wood for cabinets and baskets.

Some residents had large tracks of land and timber. They sold the land and timber and built town houses. Some residents kept part of the land and retired. Seven townhouses were built on Booth Street. Callahan had a 2-story City Hall and jail upstairs, Justice of the Peace for Misdemeanors. Other criminals went to Fernandina. There was swimming pool with covered picnic tables with a snack bar and meeting room and dance floor on US 1 at Gray Gables. We had one doctor, Doctor Brewster, for emergencies. He would call for an ambulance in Jacksonville or we would take the emergency in our cars to the hospital.

These were the 'Good Ole Days' per Mr. Elliott Jones! Happy Birthday, thanks for the history!



Shown are the beautiful trees of US 1 looking south from Green Street around 1929. Photo is courtesy of the Jean Hodges Mizell Collection, Yesterdays Reflections II.



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# WNHS Homecoming Friday

## With Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

This Friday, October 15, West Nassau High School will celebrate Homecoming festivities with the annual parade through Callahan. WN will also celebrate the new inductees for the West Nassau Hall of Fame. This year's inductees are: Dr. Tyrone Blue, Dr. Drew Sauls, Charlie Wilkie, Dale Braddock, the late Freddie Johnson. The inductees will serve as Grand Marshals of the annual parade.



West Nassau High School will celebrate homecoming this Friday night at Warrior Field. The King and Queen will be announced during the halftime of the football game where the Warriors will face county rival the Fernandina Beach Pirates with a 7 p.m. kick off. The Homecoming parade will also be held Friday at 1:30 p.m. with the parade beginning at West Nassau High School; traveling through the Callahan Elementary bus loop; turning right on US 301 to US Highway 1; right on US 1 to 5th Avenue; and return to West Nassau.

Candidates for 2021 Homecoming King and Queen are: Gabby Howell, Morgan Kincade, Teana Harpman, Macy Bagocius, Reagan Moloney, Michael Thorn, Ben Johnson, Benjamin Velasquez, Zane Harris and Wyatt Butler.

# HMSHS Homecoming Court

Hilliard Middle-Senior High School will be celebrating homecoming this week however they will change the schedule up a little. On Thursday night at 6 p.m. the Homecoming festivities and crownings will be held for both the middle and high school. Friday the annual Homecoming parade will be held beginning at 2:45 p.m. The route will begin at Hilliard Elementary School and travel down Ohio Street; turn left on W. 1st Avenue to CR 108; turn left on Oxford Street; left on 6th Street back to Hilliard Elementary.



Candidates for 2021 Homecoming King and Queen are: Catherine Crump, Emma Jarrett, Holli Rodgers, Taylor Courtney, Sophia Westerman, Wesley Price, Sean Salis, Aiden Allen, Angelo Benjamin and Tristen Roddenberry.



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We listened to the community. We heard what you had to stay. We crafted a plan that incorporates the community's ideas and addresses the issues that are important to you. Now, we'd like your thoughts on prioritizing implementation.

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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.

**Friday, October 8**

Marion Joseph Jammes, Jr., 49, Bryceville: Violation of Probation Community Control

Tara Geneene Whittier, 39, Callahan: Violation of Probation (x 2)

**Sunday, October 10**

Chirayu Nilkanthray Patel, 47, 542953 US Highway 1, Callahan: Felony Battery with Strangulation

**Monday, October 11**

Nicholas David Sevoy Long, 32, 4749 Mandarin Station Drive, Hilliard: Possession of Methamphetamine; Possession of Schedule 1-5 Substance

## Closing the Achievement Gap

On a recent call with the Florida Department of Education and statewide Exceptional Student Education (ESE) administrators, a shout-out was given to Nassau County Schools for having the lowest gap in performance for students with disabilities of all 67 counties!

For the second year in a row, Nassau County School District ranks #1 in the state for the percentages of students with disabilities who scored at a level 3 or above on the Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) in grades 3-10 for English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, and on the combined score for Math and Algebra 1.

Yulee Elementary School boasts the highest gains for elementary schools on the FSA/ELA with a 6.8% increase, and West Nassau High School had the highest gains for secondary schools in the district with a 3% increase.

Sixty percent of all elementary school students with disabilities scored a level 3 or higher on the FSA/Math, which is excellent, but Bryceville Elementary and Hilliard Elementary took home the trophy with 80% or more of their students with disabilities scoring at or above proficiency. For secondary schools,

Yulee Middle had significant gains in student proficiency scores with a 10.4% increase and West Nassau increased their Algebra proficiency results with a 10.6% increase over the last two years!

Patsi Kelly, the Director of Exceptional Student Education, stated, "We are very proud of the hard work that our teachers, paraprofessionals, and especially our students with disabilities, have put forth in order to make these phenomenal gains in closing the achievement gap."

Amidst all the gains, the shining star for achievement in 2021 goes to those students with disabilities who took the Civics end of course exam! Extraordinary gains were made in this area for students at Callahan Middle who increased proficiency rates by 19.5%, Fernandina Middle increasing by 19.9%, and Yulee Middle increasing by 22.9%.

Superintendent Kathy Burns stated, "We are proud of our students, staff, schools, and supportive families. We will continue to work together for the success of students and the improvement of our schools."

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**BALERIE ANN ANDERSON**

Balerie Ann Zamecnik Anderson, 57, of Callahan, gained her angel wings on October 6. 2021. Balerie was born on August 20, 1964 to Fred and Pauline Zamecnik, in Russell, Kansas. Balerie graduated from Lucas-Luray High School in 1982 where she met her forever soulmate Gordon Anderson. Gordon and Balerie have been married for over 39 years and had 3 children Jade, Meghan and Hilerie. Balerie was the most dedicated wife, mother and grandmother. She was our rock and our entire world. Balerie loved and absolutely adored her grandchildren. She gave so much love and support to family and friends by always putting everyone else’s needs in front of her own. She will be sorely missed by everyone whose lives she’s touched.

Balerie is survived by her husband Gordon Anderson of Callahan; daughters Meghan (Dan) Kochevar and Hilerie (Curtis) Batura, all of Callahan; grandchildren Brooke Kochevar, Austin Kochevar, Jadyn Batura, Brantley Batura and Kaylee Batura; sister Wilma Shiroky; brothers Ron (Sandy) Zamecnik and Kelly (Mark) Holland.


She was preceded in death by her son Jade Anderson; parents Fred and Pauline Zamecnik; and sisters Linda Hlad, Roberta Zamecnik and Tammy Ward.

The family received friends Tuesday, October 12 at Callahan Funeral Home. The funeral service was held Wednesday, October 13 in the funeral home. Interment followed in Buford Grove Cemetery, Hilliard.

Condolences may be expressed at [www.callahanfh.com](http://www.callahanfh.com).


Arrangements by Callahan Funeral Home, Inc., 879-2336.

**CHARLES ERVIN CRIBBS, SR.**



Charles “Por Boy” Ervin Cribbs, Sr., 74, of Callahan, passed away on October 6, 2021. He was born on October 6, 1947 in Jacksonville, to Dewitt Cribbs and Ruth Parker Cribbs. Por Boy served in the United States Army National Guard and then went on to pursuing a 30-year career as a lineman for Florida Power & Light. He was also a Shriner. In Por Boy’s spare time, he enjoyed running dogs in Scrub Island Hunting Club in Manor, GA, collecting guns, and eating at The Pig Bar-B-Q. He was preceded in death by his father.

Por Boy leaves behind his children Charles (Denise) Cribbs and Daryl (Jennifer) Cribbs, all of Hilliard and Renee (Keith) Whaley of Callahan; siblings Jerry (Rosiland) Cribbs and Pat Chaney; grandchildren CJ Cribbs, Morgan (Austin)



Cribb, Maci (Austin) Drew, Dustin Cribbs, Blayne Cribbs, Mia Cribbs, DJ (Ashton) Whaley, Gretchen (Garrett) Mixson and Chelle Whaley; great-grandchildren Hazel Cribb, Addilyn Whaley, Garren Mixson and Grayson Mixson.

The family received friends Wednesday, October 13 prior to the celebration of Por Boy’s life at Nassau Funeral Home. Interment followed at Jones Cemetery.

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

Visit [www.nassaufh.com](http://www.nassaufh.com) to sign the family’s guest book.

**LYNDA SHAW MITCHELL**



Lynda Shaw Mitchell, 74, of Callahan, passed away on October 5, 2021. She was born on October 10, 1946 in Waycross, Georgia to Lloyd and Audrey Shaw. Lynda was an avid Georgia Bulldogs football fan who loved cheering her team on “Sic 'em! Woof! Woof! Woof! She enjoyed dog sitting for her grand-dogs Buckett, Thor, Chloe and Jayden. More than anything, Lynda loved spending time with her family and watching her grandchildren play sports. She was preceded in death by her parents.


Lynda leaves behind her sons Chuck (Cindy) Mitchell and Shawn Mitchell; grandchildren Jacob (Tasha) Mitchell, Ariel (Dylan) Mathis, Chase Mitchell and Carson Mitchell; great-grandchildren Tatum Wade Mathis and Hudsyn Elisabeth Wells; and many others that called her Nana.

A celebration of life service for Lynda was held Tuesday, October 12 from 6 - 8 p.m. at Nassau Funeral Home.

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

Visit [www.nassaufh.com](http://www.nassaufh.com) to sign the family’s guest book.

**BENJAMIN RAYMOND NABERS**



Benjamin “Benji” Raymond Nabers, 41, passed away on October 6, 2021. He was born on August 14, 1980 in Jacksonville, to Bennie and Cynthia Nabers. Benji was a simple man with a heart of gold. Although simple in needs and wants, he had a larger-than-life personality and always left you with a “Benji-story” to tell. He loved his family, friends, fishing, cookouts, tinkering with things, being outdoors, and drinking beer. Benji loved to laugh and to make others laugh. He was an avid fan of the Florida Gators and the Jacksonville Jaguars.


As a child, Benji participated in pop-warner football and little league baseball. He graduated from Frank H. Peterson Academies of Technology in 1998, where he learned the HVAC trade.

Benji leaves behind his parents, Ben and Cindy Nabers; daughter Alyssa Nabers; sisters Kristy (Tee) Vickers and Kerrie (Travis) Rice; nieces and nephews Kayla Nabers, Jared Nabers, Michael Vickers, Kaitlynn Bennett and Brooke Rice; significant other Nikki Stanfield; as well as his grandmother, many cousins, aunts, uncles and friends.

The family will receive friends Thursday, October 14 at Nassau Funeral Home from 6-8 p.m. A memorial service for Benji will be held Friday, October 15 at 3 p.m. at the funeral home. For those that may be inclined to send an arrangement, plants are preferred in lieu of flowers.

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

**DAVID DUANE PETTYJOHN**



David “PJ” Duane Pettyjohn, 40, of Hutto, Texas, passed away October 6, 2021. David was born to Effie Aldridge VanGorder and Daniel Pettyjohn May 2, 1981, in Cordele, Georgia.

David lived a fulfilling life as a loving son, brother, husband, father and uncle. Aside from his family, David's greatest devotion was to the military. David served honorably for 11 plus years as a Cavalry Scout with the 1-7 Cavalry and the 82nd Airborne Divisions in the United States Army, achieving the rank of Sergeant. His decorating awards and medals include the Bronze Star Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal with four Campaign Stars, Army Commendation Medal (fourth award), the National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Army Service Ribbon, the Army Parachutist Badge, and many more. PJ was a generous, kindhearted, outspoken, full of life individual that always put his loved one’s first. He enjoyed cooking, family game nights, off road trailing in his Jeep and wrestling.


David will be lovingly remembered by his wife of 11 years Elida Pettyjohn; his five children Marissa (19), Isaiah (18), Leticia (16), Makayla (16) and Jonathon (10); his mother Effie VanGorder; brothers Roland (Kim) VanGorder, III, Matthew (Alexis) VanGorder and Miguel Pantojas; his sisters-in-law Rosanna Pettyjohn, Rocio (Samuel) Hernandez, Alexis (Valorie) Rodriguez, Esperanza (Lance) Rodriguez and Marisol

(Abelardo) Rodriguez; and a host of other family members and friends who loved him very much.

David was preceded in death by his father Roland VanGorder, Jr.; brother Shawn Pettyjohn; and biological father Daniel Duane Pettyjohn; and sister Amanda VanGorder-Golob.

The family received friends Monday, October 11 at Elgin Funeral Home. Graveside services with Military Honors will be conducted at Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery of Killeen at a later date.

**MELISSA MARIE ROWLAND**



Melissa Marie Rowland, 40, of Callahan, passed away October 2, 2021. She was born in Columbia, South Carolina on June 4, 1981 to Margret and Micheal Kronz, III. There are so many words to describe Melissa, you can’t just pick one. She was most of the time known as “Mom” or “Nana.” She took care of everyone else before herself. She was so compassionate about the people around her. If you were to meet her, you would know that she was so kind and generous and always caring about the people she was around. She is one of the strongest people anyone could meet. Growing up, she didn’t have what all the cool kids had. She managed to raise three kids and work as a security guard.

Most say that she was a hero to them, swooping in to save the day with her generosity. She was always learning new things under the hood of a car, a garden and pretty much anything she found interesting. If there is anything to think of about Melissa, she loved adventures. She has been to Legoland in Orlando, traveled to Nashville, Tennessee, to Panama City for concerts, even all the way up to Pennsylvania to see family. There was never a dull moment with her. Family meant more to her than anything in the world. She has made such an impact on the people around her. Anytime she walks in the room with that smile, it would just light up with a glow so strong that you could see the natural wings of an angel. She was a homemaker, living her best life and spoiling her family with the love of no other. Melissa was always known for her redhead craziness, she didn't take negativity lightly and she definitely didn’t let anybody tell her what to do.

Melissa was preceded in death by her mother Margaret Kronz; and an unborn son Kameron Rowland.

Melissa is survived by her husband Wallace Rowland; three children Hannah Fromknecht, Jesse Fromknecht and Tyler Fromknecht; a grandson Jesse Douglas Fromknecht; siblings Melinda Hartwig, Marcus Kronz and Micheal Kronz, IV.

A memorial service will be held for immediate family and friends Saturday, October 16 at 2 p.m. at Victory Celebration Church, 3202 New Berlin Rd, Jacksonville.



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## Flashes Tame Stallions

Holden McMillen

The Hilliard Flashes returned to action last week on Thursday night as they travelled to do battle against the Providence Stallions. The Stallions won the toss and elected to defer, so the Flashes began the contest with the pigskin first. The offense was set up inside their own 40 yard line and relied on a balanced diet of the run and pass to march down the field 58 yards. The drive was then capped off with Lyle Bennett using the strong surge from the offensive line for a 1 yard touchdown. With the extra point missed, the Flashes struck first jumping out to an early 6-0. But, the Stallions were able to respond with help from their aerial attack with a 25-yard touchdown strike down the near sideline. With the extra point missed, the game was locked in a 6-6 stalemate at the end of the quarter.

After both teams' defenses traded blows in the 2nd quarter, the Stallions broke through the stalemate and answered the call with a 12-yard touchdown run. With the 2-point attempt good, the Stallions took their first lead of the night 14-6. But, the Flashes were able to respond using both their offense and defense to do so. It started when the Stallion offense was pinned inside their own 5 yard line and Carson Newkirk broke into the Stallion backfield and tackled the ball carrier into the end zone for a safety. The Flashes offense capitalized when Bennett connected with Bradyn Matto for a 30-yard touchdown strike. After the 2-point conversion was good, the Flashes retook the lead 16-14. But, the Stallions stole the momentum back in their favor with a 69-yard touchdown run on the outside of the defense. With the extra point good, the Stallions went into halftime with a slim 21-16 lead.

In the second half, however, the Flashes were able to steal the momentum away. The Stallions were pushing down the field and were on the doorstep to extend the lead, but the Flashes denied any further advancement and forced a stop on 4th down. The Flashes offense then used the defensive stop and orchestrated a methodical drive capped off with a 44-yard touchdown run courtesy of Walker Avera. With the 2-point conversion good, the Flashes retook the lead again 24-21. The Flashes continued to roll on offense

using crucial completions to Dylan Coston and his brother DJ, capped off the drive with a 4-yard touchdown run. With the 2-point conversion good, the Flashes began to stretch the lead to 32-21. Needing an immediate response, the Stallions put a drive together with time running out. But, the Flashes defense rose tall with crucial sacks by Newkirk and Tucker Pickett. With that defensive effort, the Flashes put the bow on another win on the road against the Stallions with the final score 32-21 and advance to 6-0.

Offensively, the Flashes generated 320 yards of total offense with 213 of those yards coming on the ground. Lyle Bennett went 10/21 for 107 yards, a touchdown and an interception; DJ Coston led on the ground with 21 carries for 108 yards and a touchdown; Walker Avera had 6 carries for 74 yards and a touchdown; Braydon Holley had 5 carries for 18 yards; and Bennett had 5 carries for 13 yards and a touchdown. On the receiving end were Matto with 2 catches for 45 yards and a touchdown; Seth Moore had 3 catches for 39 yards; and Dylan Coston had 3 catches for 18 yards.

Defensively, the Flashes pitched a shutout in the 2nd half and sacked the quarterback 4 times. Carson Newkirk led the charge with 6 tackles, a sack, pass breakup, and quarterback pressure; Avera with 5 tackles; Tucker Pickett with 4 tackles, 2 sacks, and a quarterback pressure; Angelo Benjamin and Colton Conner each collecting 4 tackles.

This week is the one week of the year where kids and adults can channel their inner kid. It's Homecoming week for the Hilliard Flashes as they return home to Flashes Field on Friday to welcome the Branford Buccaneers for a 7 p.m. kickoff.

Go Flashes!

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ANTHONY HOLLAND

Congratulations to Pvt. Anthony Holland who recently graduated from US Army Basic Training at Ft. Jackson in Columbia, South Carolina. Pvt. Holland is currently in AIT at Ft. Sill Army Post in Lawton, Oklahoma training for Artillery/Airborne. He will be stationed in Germany.

Anthony is a 2021 graduate of Hilliard Middle-Senior High School. His proud parents are Hank and Andrea Holland of Hilliard and proud siblings are Mathew, Hardy, Michael, Hunter, Cole and Heather!



\*\*\*\*\*

West Nassau Girls Volleyball

The West Nassau varsity volleyball team traveled to Starke last week and faced the Bradford County Tornadoes in a non-conference game. Both teams played extremely well, this game went for five sets. The Lady Warriors played tough but in the end lost in a tie breaker. Friday the team traveled to Hilliard. The Warriors pressed and played hard but unfortunately lost.

We would like to recognize our 2021 Team Captains Senior Laney Whitaker and Junior Gracie Batrous. The girls have done a great job leading the team and always encouraging the team to fight for the win. The team has another player that deserves recognition, freshman Rylie Turner. Rylie is an outstanding player and we are honored to have her as a Lady Warrior!



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**Opening Night Special** - Official Fair Opening @ 5 p.m.  
Free Admission with Paid Unlimited Ride Armband at Gate - \$20

**Friday, October 15** - Open 5 p.m. - 1 a.m.  
**Moonlight Madness** - All Day Unlimited Rides: 5 p.m. - 1 a.m. - \$30  
**Midnight Madness** - Unlimited Rides: 10 p.m. - 1 a.m. - \$25

**Saturday, October 16** - Open Noon - 12:30 a.m.  
**Family Day** - Matinee Unlimited Rides: Noon - 6 p.m. - \$20  
All Day Unlimited Rides: Noon - 12:30 a.m. - \$30

**Sunday, October 17** - Open Noon - 11:30 p.m.  
**Sunday Funday** - Unlimited Rides: All Day - \$30  
(Children Under 42" - \$25)

**Monday, October 18** - Open 5 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.  
**Feed The Hungry Monday** (4 Canned Goods = Free Admission For One Person)  
Unlimited Rides: All Day - \$25

**Tuesday, October 19** - Open 5 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.  
**Two-for-Tuesday & School Night** - With Barnyard Olympics  
Free Admission For Students & Teachers With Valid ID (No ID needed for Age 12 & Under)  
**Get Two All-Day Unlimited Ride Armbands for \$30!**

**Wednesday, October 20** - Open 5 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.  
**Guess What Day It Is? It's Hump Day!**  
Parents Ride FREE with Paid Child Armband -or- Ride Tickets  
Unlimited Rides: All Day - \$25

**Thursday, October 21** - Open 5 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.  
**Drug Abuse Resistance Education Night**  
Free Admission For All Students With D.A.R.E. Bracelet, Shirt, or Identification  
Unlimited Rides: All Day - \$25

**Friday, October 22** - Open 5 p.m. - 1 a.m.  
**Moonlight Madness** - All Day Unlimited Rides: 5 p.m. - 1 a.m. - \$30  
**Midnight Madness** - Unlimited Rides: 10 p.m. - 1 a.m. - \$25

**Saturday, October 23** - Open Noon - 12:30 a.m.  
**Family Day** - Matinee Unlimited Rides: Noon - 6 p.m. - \$20  
All Day Unlimited Rides: Noon - 12:30 a.m. - \$30

**Sunday, October 24** - Open Noon - 11:30 p.m.  
(No Livestock, Exhibits or Entertainment)  
**Final Fling** - Free Admission  
Unlimited Rides: All Day - \$25

Ride tickets and family ride packages will be sold daily on the midway.  
The more tickets you buy at once, the more you save. Rides range from 2-4 tickets per person.

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The Northeast Florida Fair is not responsible for typographical errors.

Thank You Youth Market Sale Buyers!

The Northeast FL Fair would like to thank the following buyers for supporting the youth at our fair at the 2020 Livestock Market Sale. To learn more about how you can be a part of this year's livestock market sale please call the Northeast Florida Fair Association at (904) 879-4682 or come to this year's livestock auction at 7 p.m. on Friday, October 22.

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