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to God for  
Our Nation!**

# WESTSIDE JOURNAL

FRIDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

FLASHES vs Providence 7 p.m.

WARRIORS vs PK Yonge 7 p.m.

VOLUME XIX ISSUE 11

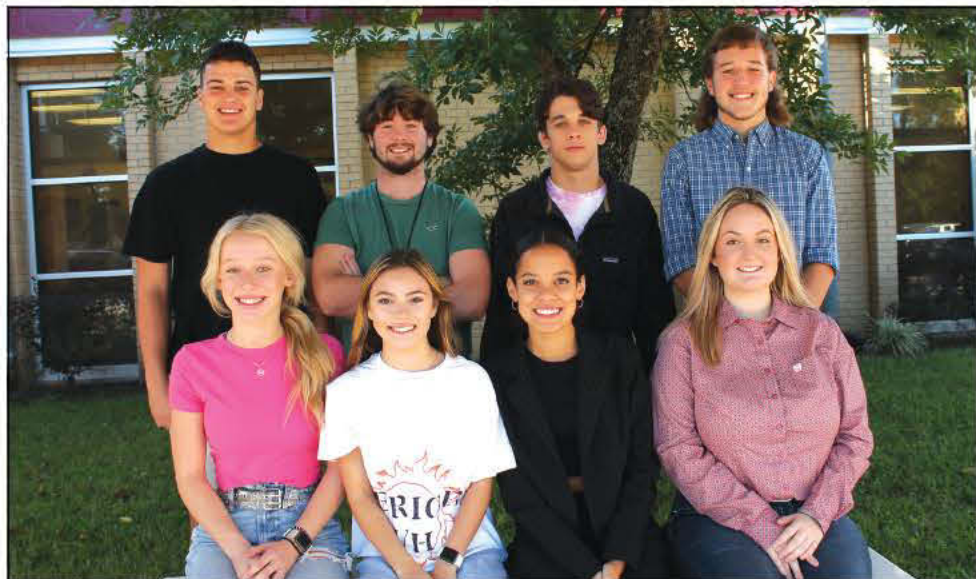
HOMETOWN PEOPLE...HOMETOWN NEWS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2022

"I RESTORE THE CRUSHED SPIRIT OF THE HUMBLE AND REVIVE THE COURAGE OF THOSE WITH REPENTANT HEARTS." - ISAIAH 57:15



## West Nassau High School Homecoming Candidates



This Friday, West Nassau High School will celebrate homecoming festivities. Students will celebrate and dress up all week with events culminating on Friday with the homecoming parade, Hall of Fame induction, crowning of the King & Queen and the football game.

The homecoming parade will begin at 1:30 p.m. at the school with the route traveling through the bus loop at Callahan Elementary School, turning right on Mickler Street, right on US 301, right on US Highway 1 through town and right on 5th Avenue to return to the school.

The Hall of Fame induction ceremony will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Warrior Field prior to the game. Those to be inducted are Mrs. Delores Long; Patsy Page; Josh Baker; Clay Hartley; and the late Donald Braddock. Kickoff time for the game is 7 p.m. against PK Yonge. The crowning of the West Nassau King & Queen will be held at halftime.

The King & Queen Candidates are: Sam Coxwell, Aliyah Alderman, Hunter Freeman, Madison Hutto, Trueman Hill, Gracie Batrous, Jackson Holcomb, Jasmine Brown, not pictured: Russell Weeks and Mary Grace Cox.

## Homecoming Festivities

## Hilliard Senior High School Homecoming Candidates



This Friday, Hilliard Middle-Senior High School will celebrate homecoming. Hilliard had planned their homecoming for last week, however Hurricane Ian had other plans. Students have had a great time at school this week dressing up and preparing for a great homecoming.

The homecoming parade will begin at 3 p.m. from Hilliard Elementary School and the route will travel down Ohio Street, turn left on W. 1st Avenue to CR 108, turn left on Oxford Street, and left on W. 4th Avenue and return to the school.

The crowning of the Hilliard High School King & Queen will be held at 6 p.m. prior to the game that will kick off at 7 p.m. against Providence. Senior athletes for football, cheer and band will be recognized at halftime.

The King & Queen Candidates are: Aliyah Blake, Walker Avera, Anna Buchanan, Lyle Bennett, Cassidy Crews, Austin Dinwiddie, Molly Sutton, Stone Dinwiddie, Delaney Vennard and Seth Moore.

## Callahan Approves Main Street Urgent Care Site Plan

Dawn S. West

The Callahan Town Council met Monday night for their first meeting of October. Callahan resident Sue Henry approached the podium. "My family owns property on Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue down near the Water Treatment Plant. Are you planning on any expansions in the near future to the water plant in that area?" said Henry.

"We are going to hook up a new sewer line in that area but nothing else is currently planned," answered Town Manager Mike Williams. "It will probably be about 5-10 years before growth will hit that particular area you're talking about."

In other business, Council President Ken Bass read a proclamation concerning the 2022 National

Fire Protection Association. The proclamation included: The Town of Callahan wants to remind the people of Callahan of the importance of safety from fires in their homes and to know the dangers of fire. The town also alerts the citizens of Callahan to make sure they have working fire alarms or smoke detectors in their homes to make a fire escape plan for their homes during

October, Fire Prevention Month.

The following agenda item concerned the First Public Hearing on Ordinance 2022-O05. The ordinance concerned the voluntary annexation of 2.13 acres on Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, near the town Waste Water Treatment Plant. The council approved the ordinance.

See 'Callahan' on page 2

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**Callahan** Continued from page 1

The final order of business was the site plan review for the Main Street Urgent Care. Planning & Zoning Commissioner David Mellecker advised that the Planning & Zoning Board recommended approval. The Main Street Urgent Care will be located on US Highway 1 between Brandies Avenue and Dixie Avenue on the property where currently the G & H Land building is. The G & H Building will be torn down and the Main Street Urgent Care will be built in that location. Main Street Urgent Care started in 2015 in Birmingham, Alabama. They currently have 31 clinics open across Florida, Georgia, Alabama and North Carolina. Coming soon will be Starke, Live Oak, Callahan and Hinesville, Georgia. The walk-in clinic will be approximately 2,800 sf and provide 20 parking spaces and will be open 7 days a week. They will employ 8-10 fulltime employees. The council approved the site plan.



In closing comments, Councilwoman Ashton Vargas advised the council that she is still trying to see what is going on with adding a traffic light at the Mickler Street/US 301 intersection. She was told it could be possibly 5 years.

Councilwoman Jacquelyn Fleming informed Councilwoman Janet Shaw at the last meeting when Shaw was absent. Fleming questioned if the town could possibly put a small basketball hoop or a retractable one at the park for the younger children.

Shaw responded that she had consulted with Williams about the idea and they both thought about putting one on the tennis court for the young children. "We are looking in to it," said Shaw.

Williams responded to former requests about the CSX area near River Road. "I had a long wait time but finally got someone on the phone and I actually have a work order for the clean-up of the CSX area. I'm not sure when this will happen but I have a work order number," said Williams.

The next meeting of the council will be Monday, October 17 at 7 p.m.

*In the Kitchen...* **Grandma's Salmon Cakes**

1 (14.75 oz.) can salmon, drained and flaked	1 teaspoon ground black pepper
2 large eggs, beaten	3 tablespoons vegetable oil
1 small onion, diced	

Pick through salmon to remove any bones or large pieces of skin. Beat eggs in a mixing bowl. Stir in salmon, onion, and black pepper. Mix thoroughly. Shape salmon mixture into eight 2-ounce patties. Heat oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Fry patties until crispy and golden brown on the outsides, about 5 minutes per side; work in batches if necessary to avoid crowding the pan.

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# JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

other government agencies. It is just another bureaucratic expense that is not needed. I give this Amendment a YES.

**No.3:** (NO) Creates Additional Homestead Property Tax Exemption for Specified Critical Public Service Workforce. This Amendment would give an additional \$50,000 homestead exemption to classroom teachers, law enforcement officers, correctional officers, firefighters, EMTs, paramedics, child welfare services professionals, active duty members of the United States Armed Forces, and Florida National Guard members. Sounds noble and perhaps it is. However, most every worker that serves the public is critical. Don't believe me? Go to the grocery store, go buy gasoline, turn on the lights in your home, crank down the A/C, go out to eat, drive down that dirt road, go to your bank and many more examples could be listed. To me every person working these jobs is critical because I like electricity, I like having food to eat, I like banking and decent roads to drive on. Imagine no waste pickup or drop offs. Every service employee is important! I give this Amendment a big NO.

**County Referendum:** Nassau County General Obligation Bonds for Lands to Protect Water Quality, Wildlife and Rivers: (NO). This is nothing more

than a way for government to acquire more private land utilizing Ad Valorem (our tax dollars) for their pet peeves. It entails up to \$30 million debt to be placed upon not all county residents but only the ones whom pay ad valorem taxes. We the tax payers do not need this extra burden, especially with such broad and vague utilization. My opinion is NO!

**Nassau County School District:** Ad Valorem Millage Election: (NO) This one is supposed to tug on your heart but don't fall for it. If it were to

solely give our teachers a raise that was fair and balanced utilizing seniority, I would be all for it, but it is Not. It is vague at best, hidden agenda at worst. This 1 mill tax increase, once again is placed upon ad valorem tax payers. This tax increase states it is for teacher and staff for retention purposes and to increase security. The kicker is it also is to be utilized to fund "fine arts and athletic programs." We can definitely survive without fine arts and athletic programs. It is once again a broad and vague description of how much and what our tax dollar will be spent upon. I give this one a big No.

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

This week I thought I would share my thoughts on the Constitutional Amendments that will be on the ballot in November. Constitutional Amendments are a very serious matter to vote upon, yet most people pay little attention to the ramifications of their approval. Most all Amendments can be placed into law through legislative means instead of changing our State Constitution. If an Amendment is approved by the voters and it turns out to be detrimental in the long run, it is very difficult to abolish an article in the constitution as compared to changing legislation.

**No. 1:** (YES) Limitation on the Assessment of Real Property Used for Residential Purposes. This Amendment is designed to prohibit local governments from increasing residential ad valorem assessment value if an owner makes improvements to his/her property to enhance their property against flooding. We live in Florida where flooding is a threat to many residents. Therefore, a property owner should not be taxed for improving their property to prevent their home from flood waters. I give this Amendment a YES.

**No.2:** (YES) Proposes an Amendment to abolish the Constitution Revision Commission. This Commission meets every 20 years to submit proposed Constitutional Amendments. This is an expense we taxpayers do not need. A proposed Amendment can be submitted through citizen initiatives and through

## Letters to the Editor



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

### High Electric Bills

Dear Editor,

I am writing in regard to my most recent power bill. It has become the unfortunate norm for my bill to be higher and higher each passing month. My family and I have made a decision to reduce our electrical use in many ways in our household. However, our electric provider continues to charge more and more per kilowatt. For example, they charged .59 cents more PER day even though we used 185 fewer kilowatts last month.

How is this legal? Why should we keep handing over our hard-earned money to pad

someone else's pocket? We are helpless against large, greedy corporations such as this one. I am having a hard time paying these outrageous electric bills month after month with no end to their "grand total" insight. Contact our governor, senators and local authorities to stand up for the citizens of our great state! As a lifelong Florida resident, I appreciate your support for my family and others who work hard each day.

Sincerely,  
Kelly Stevens

## EVENTS AROUND TOWN

The West Nassau Genealogical Society meets the second Monday of each month at the Callahan Lions Club at 10:30 a.m. Visitors are welcome!

Parents of Addicted Loved Ones (PAL) meets every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at the First Baptist Church Boulogne, 28226 Church Dr., Hilliard. PAL provides hope through education and support to parents of addicted loved ones. Visit: [www.palgroup.org](http://www.palgroup.org) to learn more.

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## Knights of Columbus TURKEY SHOOT

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# Expect Great Things from God

Pastor Marty Paparo, Friendship Alliance Church, Callahan



William Carey, renowned Baptist missionary, said, "Expect great things from God. Attempt great things for God."

As a church pastor, you know that there is always something to be fixed, repaired, or maintained. Because of this, many churches have a "Work Day" once a month where everyone is invited to work on various projects around the church property. Often, this is a low attended event. At our church, the property manager and I usually pick something to work on that morning. Normally, 2 or 3 additional people show up and we get something done followed by going out to lunch.

Last month, the church property manager, one of the faithful volunteers, and I had been talking about planning ahead. We wanted to be prepared if we had more volunteers show up. We talked about what needed to be done; we made lists; and made job descriptions with great detail. We planned to serve a lunch. We invited everyone from the church and most importantly, we expected great things from God. That Sunday, instead of 5 or so workers, 24 people showed up!

I think we often don't see God work in incredible ways because we because we don't believe He will. Ultimately, this is a faith a problem. We don't believe He will do great things and then we don't see Him do great things. When the disciples asked Jesus why they could not do something, "He said to them, 'Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.'" Matthew 17:20, ESV. It seems to me God wants to do incredible things in our lives, but we fail to believe that He will.

According to Ephesians 3, God not only wants to do great things that we are asking of Him, but He is much more interested in doing more. "Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen." Ephesians 3:20-21

This verse doesn't just say more than we could ask. It doesn't even say far more than we can ask. It says, "far more abundantly than all we ask or think." God is able to do more than we can even imagine or dream up in our heads. We serve a great God and we should expect Him to do great things. What area of your life this week should you expect great things from God? Once you have the proper expectation, what great things should you attempt for God this week?

# Tree Planting Workshop

In recognition of "Florida Forests Week," the Florida Forest Service will be presenting "Production & Residential Tree Planting," a free public workshop Friday, October 28 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. The workshop will begin



at the Brock Irrigation and Landscaping business location located at 37021 Crape Myrtle Lane, Hilliard, and will conclude with a live demonstration on nearby timberland owned by Mr. Chad Brock.

Senior Foresters James Tootle and Jon Johnson with the assistance of Mr. Brock, will be providing instructions and live demonstrations of hand planting and machine planting pine trees in a production setting and tree planting techniques when planting shade trees in a residential setting. They will be sharing tips on how to correctly plant trees to promote initial survival and future growth. Whether you are

planting one acre, 40 acres or a single tree, this will be an informative and helpful workshop for all those who attend.

The workshop will be limited to 35 participants. All interested parties need to RSVP by calling James Tootle at (904) 845-7238 or by emailing: james.tootle@fdacs.gov no later than Monday, October 24 at 5 p.m.

The Florida Forest Service, a division of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, manages more than 1 million acres of state forests and provides forest management assistance on more than 17 million acres of private and community forests. The Florida Forest Service is also responsible for protecting homes, forestland, and natural resources from the devastating effects of wildfire on more than 26 million acres. Learn more at FloridaForestService.com.

# Barnabas Listening Sessions

*We want to learn from YOU!*

Please attend and help Barnabas learn more about the needs in your area. We want to hear from you and how we can better serve the needs in your community.

**Tuesday, Oct. 11** at Callahan Fire Station, 542310 US Hwy. 1 from 5:30 - 6:30 pm

**Thursday, Oct. 13** at the NEFL Fair (please stop by our table)

Email Renee Stoffel, Community Outreach at: rstoffel@barnabasnassau.org if you have any questions or would like to host a listening session.

# CHURCH NEWS

Lannie Road Baptist Church, 5998 Lannie Rd., Jacksonville, will celebrate Homecoming Sunday, Oct. 9 at 11 a.m. followed by dinner on the grounds, & special singing from 2-4 p.m., evening service at 6 p.m. They will also hold a REVIVAL, Mon.-Wed., Oct. 10-12 with The Browders, 7 p.m.; Thurs. - Fri., Oct. 13 & 14 with Doyle Harper at 7 p.m.

North Hilliard Baptist Church, 552823 US Highway 1, Sunday school, 10 a.m.; morning worship 11 a.m.; evening service 6 p.m.; and Wed. Bible study 6 p.m.

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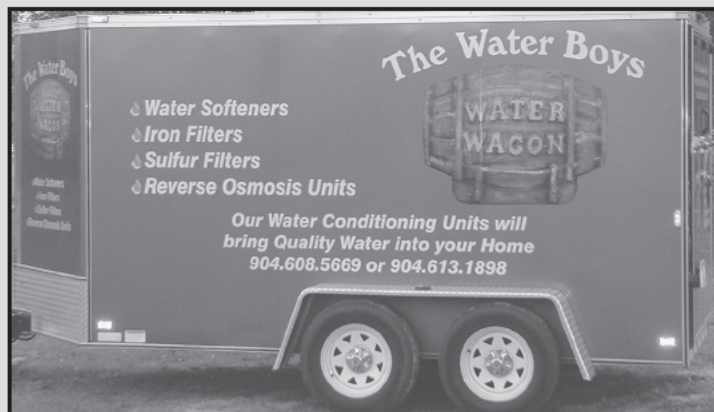


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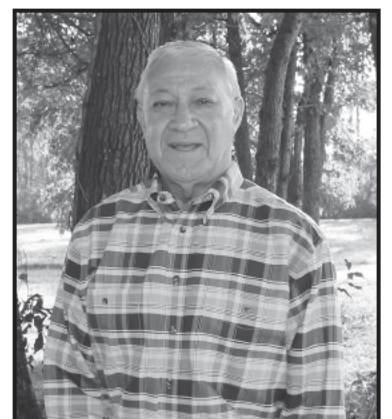
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# Living Financially Free: Financial Coaching Session Overview

Yvette Outler

I may never get the privilege of sitting down with you to discuss your finances, so I wanted to give you a sneak peek into a financial coaching session.

Dave Ramsey has over 30 years of a proven history with success on how to get out of debt. His steps are intentionally called "Baby Steps," because they are easy to do. One small step at a time. His mantra is "Live like nobody else so that you can eventually live and give like nobody else." You sacrifice as needed for now, to be able to have a well-rounded lifestyle later of living and generously giving.

The seven baby steps are:

1. Save \$1,000.00 for your starter emergency fund.
2. Pay off all debt (except the house) using the debt snowball method.
3. Save 3-6 months of expenses in a fully funded emergency fund.
4. Invest 15% of your household income in retirement.
5. Save for your child's college fund.
6. Pay off your home early.
7. Build wealth and give.

In our first session I would explain the baby steps and answer any questions. I would take a close look at your income. I scrutinize your paystub to see where all your money is going with each paycheck. I look for things like loans you are paying back, your retirement contribution amount, and child support.

Afterwards I would look at all your debt. This includes everything you are responsible for paying each

month, such as: Loans, Child Support or Alimony, Credit Card payment(s), Rent or Mortgage Payment, Phone Bill, Utilities, Insurance(s), Gas, Food/Grocery, etc.

During the season of getting out of debt I would have you temporarily pause your retirement contributions and other type investment(s) to throw all your income at debt. More money being thrown at it helps the mountain of debt crumble quicker.

Another important recommendation is to cut up your credit cards and close your accounts. Give yourself no option to use them. Begin to use your debit card or cash only. If you are not ready to cut them up, at the very least lock them up in your safe deposit box. I can teach you how to live within your means. (No matter what you make.)

I would add up your total monthly debt and add up your monthly income and compare the two. It is common to find folks way out of balance on the debt side. One excuse I see is that people use their credit card(s) as a paycheck and spend accordingly, with no plan in place to pay it off. If your credit cards are out of reach, they will not be used. Try it for a month. You can do it!

To counterbalance the heavy side of debt one of two things must happen, either your debt must decrease, or your income must increase.

Unless you find yourself receiving an unexpected windfall of an inheritance, I would talk to you about finding ways to increase your income. In today's job market, it may be as simple as asking for a raise. A friend of mine told me that

in the Electrical Engineering field in Georgia he has had to raise the income level twenty five percent just to keep his current employees. In my world it is no until you ask. We talk through your skillset, and I try to help you find temporary side work, or help you tweak your resume to expand your full-time job opportunities.

The strongest part of my skillset is thinking out of the box for you. On average, I can find at least \$100.00 of what I call trash money in your budget. It is money you are throwing away.

I am an expert at finding the weak spots in a budget. What do I mean by that? I look at things like your overall grocery budget and find savings. I look at your internet/cable service and find savings. I look at your cell phone plan and find savings. In one instance I was able to save a couple \$125.00 in their cell phone plan per month. We will look at your insurance(s) and determine if you could save money by changing carriers. These are just a handful of areas that when I drill down, I usually always discover terrific savings.

As a financial coach there are no stones left unturned. We create a clear



path to get you out of debt. Getting out of debt takes work. As I mentioned in my last article, you cannot do what you have been doing and expect different results. We all need help sometimes. You can do hard things. Getting into debt was easy. Getting out of debt is possible no matter how much you owe. You can do it!

If you are not up for a coaching session, I would recommend a couple of things:

1. Read "The Total Money Makeover" by Ramsey. (Audio version is a terrific way to use your time going to and from work.)
2. Listen to any of Dave Ramsey's podcasts on getting out of debt. They will motivate you!

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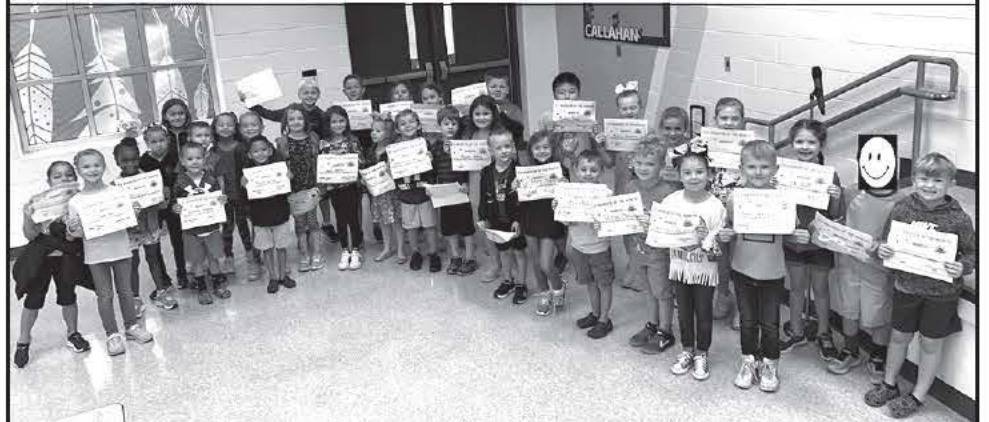


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**CES Warriors of the Month**



Shown are the Warriors of the Month for the month of September at Callahan Elementary School. Our character trait for the month of September was RESPONSIBILITY. Students were chosen for being responsible in the classroom. Great job!

**Get Help NOW!**

If you love someone struggling with drug or alcohol use, you may feel alone and unsure where to turn for help. That is where Parents of Addicted Loved Ones (PAL) can help. PAL weekly meetings provide a structured, evidence-based curriculum to give you the tools you need to encourage your loved one's recovery without enabling their addiction. Equally important is the opportunity to network with other parents and loved ones struggling with the same issues, for support and fellowship.

The meetings are free and confidential. Meetings will be held on Mondays, beginning October 10 at 6 p.m. at the Northeast Florida Baptist Association in Yulee; and Wednesdays,



**PAL** PARENTS OF  
ADDICTED  
LOVED ONES

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

beginning October 12 at 6 p.m. at the Hilliard Library. While I can't guarantee that your loved one will seek help if you attend the meetings, I can say with confidence that you will learn new ways to deal with them and gain a better understanding of addiction. I can be reached at (904) 703-7847 or by email at tashiad210@gmail.com for more information. I urge you to reach out for help. There is hope!

**HILLIARD LIBRARY ACTIVITIES**

**10/10 Medicare Presentation:** Carrie Petesch, SHINE coordinator, will be presenting a program about your health insurance options. There will be a Q&A session after the presentation! The event will be held Monday, October 10 at 11 a.m. at the Hilliard Library.

**10/13 Paranormal Investigators of the First Coast:** Join us on Thursday, October 13 at 6 p.m. at the Hilliard Library. Are you interested in what goes bump in the night? Join Paranormal Investigators of the First Coast as they share their expertise in this field and answer your questions.

Sponsored by the Amelia Island Book Festival, Friends of the Fernandina Beach Library, Friends of the Hilliard Library and the Nassau County Public Library System.

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## Ferst Readers News

Ferst Readers of Nassau County has been prepping for a busy fall season. We are mailing free books and a supporting *Leap Into Books* newsletter to nearly 900 Nassau County children, birth to five, every month. Conner's A-Maize-ing Acres has graciously agreed to host our fall fundraiser, Barnyard Bingo, again this year. Beginning October 1, our Bingo squares will be available. For each bingo square purchased, eight children in our local communities will receive a free book.



Barnyard Bingo will be hosted at Conner's on November 5. All of the square numbers will be painted in a field in random order and whichever square the barnyard animal goes to the bathroom in, Bingos and wins!

We are also very excited to participate in the NE Florida Fair this year. We will have a booth set up with all kinds of information. Our volunteers will be at the booth on October 14, 15, 21 and 22.

On October 28, we will again be participating in the Halloween Festival

at the Yulee Ballpark. We'll have Bingo Squares available and be handing out candy in trick or treat alley so stop by our tent and say hello!

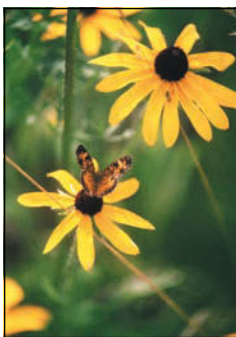
Lastly, we are so grateful to have a standing Spirit Day with Cold Stone Creamery in Fernandina Beach and Yulee (Wildlight). The "Ferst Friday" of every month from 2-4, we receive a portion of all sales during those two hours. It's an easy and delicious way to support early literacy in Nassau County by ending your week with a sweet treat. Our remaining Ferst Fridays for 2022 are October 7, November 4, and December 2. Please mark those on your calendar and make a plan to come see us on those Fridays.

Follow us on Facebook at [nassauferstfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/nassauferstfoundation); and Instagram @ferstreadersofnassaucounty. Feel free to send us a message or email us at [nassaucounty@ferstreaders.org](mailto:nassaucounty@ferstreaders.org) if you have any questions or would like more information about our non-profit. We are eager to share our passion for early literacy!

## Wildflower Gardening

Wildflowers provide dramatic impacts on our landscapes - both visually and environmentally. Join us for this Landscape Matters program as we explore wildflower gardening together and ways we can easily turn parts of our landscape into a wildflower oasis.

A Wildflower Gardening Class will be held Wednesday, October 12 at 10 a.m. at the Yulee Extension Office, 86026 Pages Dairy Road, Yulee. Please register at: <https://bit.ly/NCWildflowers2022>. Join us in person or online. For more information, contact Dr. Taylor Clem, UF/IFAS Extension Nassau County, Horticulture Agent, at 904-530-6351.



## New Beginnings and Milestones

### Bill Marsh to Celebrate 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday

William "Bill" J. Marsh, of Callahan, will celebrate his 90th birthday October 8! He was born October 8, 1932 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Genevieve and William Marsh. He was the oldest of five siblings. Bill joined the US Army/Air Force at a young age and served his country proudly. His first overseas assignment was in Germany during the occupation. He then served in the Korean War and as an advisor to the Vietnamese Air Force during the Vietnam War. Bill retired from the Air Force in 1970 after 23 years of service.



Bill married his sweetheart Margaret "Marge" McGowan on April 2, 1950 in Philadelphia. They celebrated their 72nd wedding anniversary this year! Bill and Marge resided in Mesa, Arizona for 21 years and raised two sons (Bill and Fred) there, before moving to Callahan in 1991. Bill is an active member of Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church in Callahan, where he has many friends and is loved by all.



After Bill's retirement from the military, he bought a semi-truck and trailer. He spent many years trucking across the USA, with his wife sometimes travelling by his side. This is how they found the great little town of Callahan and decided to relocate here. He later retired from the trucking industry as an owner/operator.

Last year, on October 2, 2021, he was chosen to take part in the First Coast Honor Flight to Washington, DC. He flew from Jacksonville with fellow veterans to visit the memorials dedicated to those who served and sacrificed for our country. Bill was very proud to get to make this trip and be honored for his military service.

Happy 90th Birthday, Mr. Marsh!



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## Project Search: Building a Bridge from High School



Project Search is Nassau County School District's Transition-to-Work Program for students with disabilities. As they graduate high school, they can stay and learn job skills and transition into a work program. This program aims to help young adults with exceptionalities make a successful transition to productive adult life. NCSD currently has partnerships with Baptist Nassau and Courtyard Marriott.

A recent Nassau County graduate and Project Search participant, Diego, made a presentation to the Nassau County School board at the September 8th meeting. Diego expressed his enjoyment and success in the program. His goal for the future is to work at the Ritz Carlton.

 Look for us on Facebook!

## Nassau County High Schools Receive Free Heart Screenings

Nassau County School District has partnered with Drenda Vijuk and Who We Play For to bring free heart screenings to Nassau County Schools.

Sudden Cardiac Arrest is the leading cause of death of student-athletes as well as the leading cause of death on school campuses. We are very thankful to Mrs. Drenda Vijuk, a resident, for her willingness to support a great initiative. Mrs. Vijuk's good friend, Kristy Brindley, lost her 16-year-old son to an undetected heart condition, and this has led to her commitment to bringing awareness to Nassau County. In addition to supporting this initiative, Mrs. Vijuk gifted each high school with a \$2,500 donation to support athletics in their school.

Each high school student's parent will have the opportunity to complete a consent authorizing their child to be screened. A link will be shared with



parents through social media and on the school's website with specific information consisting of consent and a scheduled time for parents to select. Parents will only complete a consent form if they want their child to participate in the free Electrocardiogram (ECG) screening. If a condition is detected, the parent or guardian will be contacted by the Who We Play For staff.

We are thankful to Ms. Drenda Vijuk and Who We Play For for this generous life-saving gift to our students.



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## You're invited to the monthly Conviva Callahan Car & Truck Show

**Presented by Conviva Care Center & Callahan Cruisers of North FLA Car Club**

Join other Jacksonville seniors on the second Saturday of each month for a fun car show event with great giveaways! See great cars, take part in fun activities, and learn about senior primary care from Conviva.

- Icees, music & raffles
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- Enter to win at the Conviva booth\*



  
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\*Winners are chosen at random and must be present at the event to win. List of winners can be viewed at the DJ booth. Conviva Care Center® does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex.



## “Call of the Swamp” Tickets on Sale

St. Marys Little Theatre will open its new season with an original musical dramedy “Call of the Swamp” on October 14 running two weekends. Barbara Ryan-Harris, founder and chair of St. Marys Little Theatre says, “Call of the Swamp is an adventure into nostalgia framed by some of the south’s most colorful characters.”

The story takes you back to the late 50s when swamp dwellers were asked to relocate in order for the government to expand the wildlife refuge.

Nadine Mooney, whose family were original swamp settlers, doesn’t take kindly to the government’s efforts. The show opens with Nadine sitting on her shack porch with her shotgun cocked and aimed at Feds. From there, the roller coaster ride begins with mystery, intrigue, laughter and history woven together to deliver a rich tapestry of great entertainment. In addition to Mooney and her wannabe sweetheart, Tommy Lee, you’ve got your red neck sheriff, a swamp witch, some moonshiners, and dancing alligators--anything can happen! “We’ve taken a bit of local history and mixed it with moments of hilarity and romance,” Ryan-Harris said. “Audiences are sure to exit the theatre still toe tapping and laughing, filled with a memory that will last a lifetime.”



Ryan-Harris, who also wrote the play, said that this particular show has special meaning to her. “Spending time around the Okefenokee Swamp gave me the opportunity to meet swamp dwellers whose hearts are huge and personalities even bigger,” she said. Call of the Swamp is produced by Debra Parsons.

Performances of Call of the Swamp are October 14, 15, 21 and 22 at 7 p.m. and October 16 and 23 at 2 p.m. at Theatre by the Trax in St. Marys. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for kids 12 and under. Groups of ten or more get a discount. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.stmaryslittletheatre.com](http://www.stmaryslittletheatre.com) or in downtown St. Marys at Once Upon a Bookseller. Cash or check at bookstore please. Call 954-290-9873 for more information.

## NCSO Provides Assistance to DeSoto County



Sunday, October 2, 2022, the Nassau County Sheriff’s Office responded to a request for emergency assistance from Sheriff James Potter and the DeSoto County Sheriff’s Office due to destruction from Hurricane Ian. Ten NCSO deputies and two sergeants, who volunteered, left at approximately 8:30 a.m. headed to Arcadia in Desoto County. Their mission is to do whatever is necessary to support DCSO and their citizens after being devastated by severe flooding.

Several major roadways and bridges have been damaged and are impassable.

Many residents can only be reached by boat. Due to flooding, several areas of the county are inaccessible. The DeSoto County Sheriff’s Office is requiring a lot of support at this time. The west side of their county is currently being staffed by Manatee County Sheriff’s Office as it cannot be reached from the east. “It is not known at this time, how long DeSoto County will need outside resources, but NCSO will provide whatever we can to assist our law enforcement brothers and sisters in their time of need. After all, if we needed help, they would be here for us,” said Sheriff Bill Leeper.

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## NORTHEAST FLORIDA FAIR YOUTH OPEN HORSE SHOW

### Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>

Gates open at 8 a.m.  
Show begins at 9 a.m.

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Anyone is welcome to participate!  
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2. Halter - Gelding	21. JR Walk Trot Equitation 12 & under	
3. Halter - Mare	22. SR Walk Trot Equitation 13-18	
4. Halter - Pony	23. JR English Equitation 12 & under	
5. JR Showmanship 12 & under	24. SR English Equitation 13-18	
6. SR Showmanship 13-18	<i>Trail Classes are completed at will during Judged Events</i>	
<i>20 Minute Break (Arena Open)</i>		
7. JR Western Walk Trot 12 & under	25. JR Trail Walk Trot 12 & under	
8. SR Western Walk Trot 13-18	26. SR Trail Walk Trot 13-18	
9. JR Western Pleasure 12 & under	27. JR Trail 12 & under	
10. SR Western Pleasure 13-18	28. SR Trail 13-18	
11. JR Ranch Pleasure 12 & under	<i>15 Minute Break</i>	
12. SR Ranch Pleasure 13-18	29. JR Pole Bending	
13. JR Walk Trot Horsemanship 12 & under	30. SR Pole Bending	
14. SR Walk Trot Horsemanship 13-18	31. JR Texas Barrel Weave	
15. JR Western Horsemanship 12 & under	32. SR Texas Barrel Weave	
16. SR Western Horsemanship 13-18	33. JR Arena Race	
<i>20 Minute Break (Arena Open)</i>		
17. JR English Walk Trot 12 & under	34. SR Arena Race	
18. SR English Walk Trot 13-18	35. JR Cloverleaf	
19. JR English Pleasure 12 & under	36. SR Cloverleaf	

**For questions or more information, contact Crystal McLain at [mclainperformancehorses@gmail.com](mailto:mclainperformancehorses@gmail.com)**

Northeast Florida Fair is not responsible for injuries or damage to personal property while attending or participating in its shows. ALL horses are required to have a current negative coggins.



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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.*

### Saturday, September 24

James Daniel Clark, 30, 44282 Lee Drive, Callahan: Tamper Destroy Evidence; Possession of Cocaine

### Monday, September 26

Ronald Gilbert Beasley, 37, 14432 Ruth Lane, Hilliard: Possession of Methamphetamine; Possession of Schedule 1-5 Substance; Possession of Drug Paraphernalia with Residue; Possession of less than 20 grams of Marijuana

### Tuesday, September 27

Crystal Marie Lacey, 42, 43754 Keen Cemetery Road, Callahan: Aggravated Assault with Deadly Weapon; Battery Simple

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## County Welcomes Chief Innovation Officer

Please join us in welcoming Derrick Lindsay as the County's first Chief Innovation Officer. Derrick brings with him over 30 years of experience in management of information systems, telecommunications and technical support of business software and hardware.



program.

Derrick has served as the Information Systems Director for the Mississippi Attorney General's Office, the Chief Information Officer for the Mississippi Department of Education, Vice President of Technical Services for a MS Technology Company, Vice President of Broadband,

and a Government Account Executive for a Fiberoptic Company. While serving in these positions, Derrick offered oversight of system performance and operations while providing technical support to hundreds of employees. Derrick obtained his education from the University of Mississippi where in Minored in Business and obtained a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science. He also has knowledge in Local Area Networks, Wide Area Networks, Data Storage, Network Security, Document Management, system migration, and data workflow.

As the Chief Innovation Officer, Derrick will support the County by providing effective leadership of information technology resources to ensure stable business applications and the efficient delivery of service to support the Board of County Commissioners. Derrick will lead the Technology Services Department by providing management and strategic direction to the County and its partners to certify that the department's priorities are aligned with the overall goal of the County. He will also develop multiyear action plans, financial forecasts, policies/programs for procurement of technology software and applications, and oversight of the County's cybersecurity

program.



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**MARY JANE ALBERT**



Mary Jane Albert, 94, passed away October 1, 2022. Mrs. Albert moved to Hilliard four years ago from the Oceanway area of Jacksonville where she lived for most of her life. She attended the Good Samaritan Church at Hollyford. She was predeceased by her husband of 60 years, John "Jack" Albert who passed away in 2005.

Her many names are a reflection of her love for so many people from family, friends and those lives she touched. She was known as Mama, Grandma, Great Grandma, Mrs. Albert, Mary, Mary Jane, Aunt Mary Jane and even Mama Mary Jane. She had four children of her own, but once you met her you became part of her family. She was a quiet woman who never met a stranger. To have known her was to love her. She loved life itself and was always willing to listen to anyone's troubles.

There were many things in life she enjoyed: family gatherings, gardening, fishing, camping, trips to the mountains, days at the beach and weekend get-a-ways with her husband who was the love of her life. Gardening was always a lot of work, but oh the rewards were forever so sweet and worth every moment. She had such a green thumb and could make any flower grow.

Seeing her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren grow over the years is a true reflection of everyone's love and upbringing. Thank you so much for all you've done for so many of us and we will forever treasure your memories. From the loving people who are here today and those who have passed before you our hearts are blessed to have been a part of your life.

Survivors include her four children Mary Alice (Brantly) Tucker, Richard (Sandy) Albert, Roy Albert and Peanut (Jimmy) Beville; a brother Elmer N. Hill, Jr.; six grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and seven great-great-grandchildren.

# OBITUARIES

The family will receive friends Saturday, October 8 from 10:00 a.m. until the funeral service at 11 a.m. in the chapel of Green Pine Funeral Home. Interment will follow in Green Pine Cemetery, Yulee.

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

Arrangements by Green Pine Funeral Home, Cremations & Cemetery, Yulee.

**GRACE BRANDIES BELL**



The world lost a beloved wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Grace Chloe Brandies Bell, on September 27, 2022. She had battled much physical pain in her later years, but it never stopped her from giving everything she could for her family. She never served out of obligation to others, but because love was a part of her very core. Grace passed away peacefully in her home, after spending many days surrounded by her family at her bedside.

Grace was born December 14, 1930 in Callahan to John S. Brandies and Grace E. Pickett Brandies. She worked hard her entire life. She cared for the family dairy as a child and young adult, waitressed, worked in the school cafeteria, taught cake decorating classes, crafted, gardened and worked tirelessly as a homemaker providing for her family.

She was preceded in death by her husband JQ Bell; her son William Bell; her parents; and many siblings Helen Beasley Hodges, Wimp Beasley, Irene Beasley Russell, John Henry Brandies, Cleo (Sis) Courson, Gene (Shug) Stanley Brandies and Charles Brandies.

Grace is survived by her children Stanley (Brenda) Bell, Daniel Bell and Janie

(Richard) Musgrove; many grandchildren Bruce (Hillary) Musgrove, Wayne (Lorrie) Bell, Amy Bell, Justin (Beth) Bell, Kristi (Chad) Seeley, Troy Morris, Joshua (Kristen) Musgrove and Chelsie Morris; 19 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; a sister Norma Fernandez; and many nieces and nephews.

A graveside service will be held Saturday, October 8 at 11 a.m. at Jones Cemetery in Callahan.

daughter-in-law Susan Clay of Sellersburg, Indiana; grandchildren Holly Clay, Hannah (Derek) Young and Kiya (Mark) Stewart, and Alex Clay and James Clay; five step-grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

A graveside celebration of his life will be held Friday, October 14 at 1 p.m. at Jacksonville National Cemetery with Military Honors.

Please leave condolences at [www.warrenfuneralservices.com](http://www.warrenfuneralservices.com).

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

**JACOB ROY CREWS**



Jacob Roy Crews, 36, of Folkston, passed away Tuesday, September 27, 2022. He was born February 24, 1986 in Jacksonville to William Lee Crews and Lency Michelle Wiggins Crews. He is preceded in death by his father William Lee Crews.

He is survived by his two children Angela Leann Crews and Tristan Eli Isaiah Crews; his mother Lency Michelle Wiggins Crews; his girlfriend of 5 years, Amanda Reynolds; their children Kyndall Reynolds, Jorja Crews and Liam Crews; three sisters Rachel Marie Crews, Sarah Lency Crews and Tonya Renee Crews; and two brothers Michael William Crews and David Lee Crews.

A memorial service was held Thursday, October 6 at Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home. Burial followed at Mill Creek Cemetery in Hilliard. The family received friends prior to service.

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

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, Folkston.

**QUENTIN K. CLAY**



Mr. Quentin K. Clay, 91 of Bryceville, passed away Friday, September 23, 2022. Mr. Clay grew up in Indiana and was a proud United States Air Force Veteran having served during the Korean War.

He obtained his pilot's license and loved flying and all aspects of aviation. He also enjoyed music and woodworking. In 1985, Mr. Clay settled in Bryceville and into the home he built himself. He was a member of Bryceville First Baptist Church. He retired after 26 years of employment with CSX Railroad. He was known as a generous man who loved doing for others and was always working on a project to help someone. He was preceded in death by his son James Michael Clay; and sisters Jacinta Scott and Joyce Denise Clay.

He is survived by his wife Carolyn Ann Clay of Bryceville; son David (Edith) Clay of Bryceville; step-sons Kenneth (Charlene) Gainey of Keystone Heights and Amos (Angie) Gainey of Callahan;

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**JEWELL JOHNSON DINKINS**



Jewell Yvonne Johnson Dinkins, 83, of Waverly, Georgia, passed away Thursday, September 29, 2022. She was born December 2, 1938 in Hilliard to the late Billie Marie Johnson and Raiford Johnson. Yvonne was a Christian woman who enjoyed sewing, quilting, crocheting and gardening. She and her husband, Gene, were avid dancers, including square dance, jitterbug and several ballroom dances. In addition to her parents; she is preceded in death by her daughter Julia Marie Dinkins; and her brother Ronnie Johnson.

She is survived by her loving husband of 64 years, Robert "Gene" Dinkins, Sr.; three children Robert Dinkins, Jr., Victoria Lynn (Pete) Peterson and Jacqueline (Jeff) Garrison; six grandchildren Julia Browning, Hillary Kelly, Tyler Garrison, Sean McManus, Taylor Garrison and Tanner Garrison; nine great-grandchildren; and a sister Paulette Johnson Kilgore.

The family will receive friends Saturday, October 8 at 2 p.m. prior to the funeral service at 3 p.m. at Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home with Bro. Randall Morris officiating. Burial will follow at Homeland Cemetery.

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

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, Folkston.

**ELMO A. HARRIS**



Elmo A. Harris, 77, of Hilliard, passed away September 28, 2022 at his home. He was born on October 1, 1944 in Winokur, Georgia to Roy Harris and Estelle Hendrix Harris. Elmo worked as a truck driver for more than 20 years, mainly for Dixie Transport. His CB handle was "One Eyed Jack." When

**OBITUARIES**

he wasn't out on the road, Elmo loved to spend time at his feed store, Harris Feed & Farm Supply, and with his family. He was a loving husband, father, brother, uncle, grandfather and friend that will be dearly missed. Elmo was preceded in death by his parents; brother Mitchell Harris; sisters Faye Harris-McLaurin and Mary Alice Manning; brother-in-law Carroll "Hoppy" Manning; grandson Zane Harris; and nephew James Elton Harris, Jr.

Elmo is survived by his loving wife, Caroline Harris; children Greg (Kristen) Harris, Treana (Gene) Jackson and Carol Jean Harris; siblings Elton Harris, Beatrice (Jimmy) Cowart and Maxine (Johnny) Everly; sister-in-law Debbie (Dean) Woehrle; seven grandchildren Courtney, Brianna, Zach, Erynn, Karyn, Abby and Elayna; two great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers will be Dean Woehrle, Greg Harris, Zach Harris, Mitchell Harris, Michael Harris and Matthew Harris.

A celebration of Elmo's life was held Tuesday, October 4 at Nassau Funeral Home. Interment followed at Bethlehem Cemetery in Nahunta, Georgia. The family received friends prior to the service.

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

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

**CHARLENE MULLIS KIGHT**



Charlene Mullis Kight, 60, of Hilliard, passed away Thursday, September 29, 2022. The Florida native was a member of North Hillard Baptist Church. She loved to listen to live music and was adored by her grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her parents Forest and Earlene Mullis; and brothers Rex and Bruce Mullis.

She is survived by her husband of 42 years, Randy Kight of Hilliard; two daughters Tammy (Richard) Holoka of Hilliard and Beverly Kight of Idaho; a son Clay Kight, Jr. of Hilliard; 10 grandchildren; siblings Charles (Cathy) Mullis and Sheri (Eddie) Manning.

A graveside service was held Sunday, October 2 in Big Creek Cemetery with Rev. Chuck Mullis officiating. Active pallbearers will be her family and friends.

Rinehart and Sons Funeral Home of Jesup, Georgia handled arrangements.

**LECY MARIE STEPHENS**



Lecy Marie Denmark Stephens, 94, of Folkston, passed away Monday, September 26, 2022. She was born January 21, 1928 in Jacksonville to the late Marion Franklin Denmark and Mabel Louise Dunkley Denmark. She was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints.

In addition to her parents; she is preceded in death by her husband of 56 years, Thomas Lloyd Stephens; daughter Marcia Faye Stephens; and two brothers H.M. Denmark and M.F. Denmark.

She is survived by her children Billie Stephens (Gordon) Hand, Linda Stephens (Robert) Jones and Zane (Melanie) Stephens; sister Irene Hutto; brother Tommy Denmark; two sisters-in-law Meriam Denmark and Beverly Stephens; 13 grandchildren; 33 great-grandchildren; and 15 great-great-grandchildren.

The family received friends prior to the memorial service which was held Tuesday,

October 4 at the Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints, 3741 Heavenly Lane in Hilliard with President Clay Hartley officiating. Burial followed at Evergreen Cemetery in Jacksonville.

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

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, Folkston.

**SYLVIA TYLER**



Sylvia Tyler, 61, of Hilliard, joined the arms of Jesus, September 24, 2022. She was born March 2, 1961 at Charlton Memorial Hospital in Folkston,

Georgia to the late Louis Matthew Tyler and the late Esther Lee Tyler. Gloria Sylvia Tyler, was affectionately known by many as "Sylv," "Ceil," and "Ms. Sylvia." Sylvia was raised in Kings Ferry. She received her early education at Pine Forest Community School and after integration, continued at Hilliard Junior Senior High School now Hilliard Middle Senior High School where she held the title of MVP in basketball, ran track and played softball. She graduated in the class of 1980. Sylvia began working in her late teens for Gold Kist Eggs in Hilliard. Later she worked at the Dixie Restaurant where she was a cook, Patricia Ann's Restaurant, IGA where she was the Produce Manager; the Sewing Factory in Folkston; Armor Holdings in Jacksonville where she was promoted to Supervisor; the Nassau County School Board as a Custodian; and Winn Dixie where she was a lead seafood associate.

Sylvia accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior at an early age and was baptized in the St. Marys River by the late Reverend J.L. Hall of Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Kings Ferry, where she held membership in later years and received the gift of Holy Ghost. God anointed her with the gift to sing. She sang at an early age in the Youth

*Obituaries continued on page 14*

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Dana Forbes, Preneed Agent/Office Manager

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# OBITUARIES

Choir at Mt. Olive Baptist Church and in the 1980s she and her sisters formed the group, The Tyler Sisters, where she was the lead soloist leading songs such as: Searching Until I Found The Lord, Since I've Been Born Again, Liberty, What Do You Know About Jesus and their most popular Jesus Can Work It Out and they were invited to sing to churches and events throughout Nassau, Charlton and Duval counties. She served as an honorary choir member and lead soloist in the Adult Choir at Mt. Charity Baptist Church. She was a member of the Community Mass Choir of Hilliard where she was a lead soloist. She was invited to minister as soloist for programs, weddings, funerals, throughout Nassau and Camden counties.

Sylvia, in her spare time, was very multitasking. She was a phenomenal seamstress and could sew and make anything. She loved cooking; she could make homemade chocolate and coconut cakes and homemade biscuits from scratch. She was a member of the Silver Sneakers Fitness group in Hilliard. Whenever the WNBA was on television there was no disturbing her because she was into her basketball. As much as possible she made sure to find time to visit her grandmother Cora Lee Timmons at the Life Care Center in Hilliard. She was known to the public as a down to earth person who danced to the beat of her own music and always wore a smile on her face. If she could do anything to help anyone, she'd do it.


Sylvia is preceded in death by her parents Esther Lee Tyler and Louis Matthew Tyler; uncles John Timmons, Sr. and George Timmons, Jr.; and grandfather George Timmons, Sr.

She leaves to cherish those memories her son Michael Taylor, Jr.; brothers Kenneth M. Tyler, Louis Tyler and Lenard Tyler; sisters Sharon Mitchell, Charlene Mainor, Josetta (Robert) Lawson, Debra Tyler, Sharon Tyler and Sheryl Tyler;

grandmother Cora Lee Timmons; Uncle Jerry O. (Anita) Timmons, Sr.; special aunts Anna Timmons and Mercedes Timmons; special friends Angela Russell, Tony and Emmy Smith, Beatrice Alderman, Katie Mae Davis and Larry Mitchell; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, neighbors, coworkers and sorrowing friends.

A homegoing service for Sylvia will be held Saturday, October 8 at 1 p.m. at the First Baptist Church Hilliard. A fellowship will follow at Mt. Olive Church in Kings Ferry.

### S. KENT WILLIAMS



S. Kent Williams, 77, of Callahan, passed away September 28, 2022 following a brief illness. He was born January 5, 1945 in Lumberton, North Carolina. He retired as a Manufacturers Representative from Kent Williams & Associates. He and his wife Ellen enjoyed traveling to Texas, where their children live, Alaska and all over the country in their motor home. He enjoyed working on his motor home and spending time with his grandchildren. They were members of Jacksonville First Baptist Church. He is preceded in death by his son Justin K. Williams.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Ellen; daughter Kimberley (Michael) McCranie of Frisco, Texas; and daughter-in-law Margaret Riveria of San Antonio, Texas; and grandchildren Lindsay and Lane McCranie and Isabella Williams.

A celebration of life service will be held Sunday, October 9 at 2 p.m. at Naugle Funeral Home, 1203 Hendricks Avenue, Jacksonville.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations made to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

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## Russ Gibson Fundraiser Auction this Saturday

Due to Hurricane Ian the Russ Gibson Fundraiser Auction was postponed to this Saturday, October 8 at 7 p.m. at The Ranch at Traders Hill. If you have not visited this beautiful facility, this is a great time to ride out and check it out plus be able to help someone in need.



being held to help support him and his family as his recovery continues.

There will be all kinds of horse items and gear up for auction along with several different items. They will also have a silent auction for many donated items along with a cake auction, a raffle and lots

The Ranch at Traders Hill is located at 30816 Nelson Road, Hilliard.

We shared the story about Russ Gibson, a farrier, who was seriously injured in a tragic accident while competing in a roping event. Russ has endured several surgeries and is unable to work at this time. The fundraiser is

more. There will be great food to enjoy and lots of fellowship with friends. All proceeds from the event will go to Russ Gibson and his family. If you would like to donate privately, checks made out to: Roping for Russ, c/o Waycross Bank & Trust, PO Box 1339, Waycross, GA, 31501.

## Country Star Quilt Guild Fundraiser Quilt



### \$1 Tickets

Tickets may be purchased from any Guild member, as well as from the Westside Journal office, 450034 SR 200, Callahan.

The quilt is currently on display at the Westside Journal office and will be on display at the NE FL Fair (October 13-23) this year where you can also purchase tickets.

The drawing for the quilt winner, will be held Monday, December 12 at their December meeting. You do not have to be present to win!

**Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>**

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# Operation Heavy Weights Results in 54 Arrests

In a five month long operation, the Nassau County Sheriff's Department, in conjunction with the Fernandina Beach Police Department, the FBI, DEA and ATF, successfully took 54 drug traffickers off of the streets between April and August. During the investigation, it was found that the majority of the drugs were being brought into Texas from Mexico, then making their way to Florida.

Of the 54 arrests, 25 were from Fernandina Beach, 11 from Yulee, five from Callahan, five from Hilliard, five from Georgia, two from Jacksonville and one from Lake City. A total of 223 drug related charges resulted with the departments confiscating 380 pounds of illegal marijuana/THC, 6.5 pounds

of methamphetamine and 3.5 pounds of the deadly drug fentanyl, among other substances. Also confiscated were 25 firearms and assets of \$72,000.



In 2021, NCSO responded to 156 possible overdose calls. Of those calls, 26 ended fatally and 75% of those were fentanyl related. So far this year, they have responded to 101 overdose related calls and 12 have been fatal, half of those being fentanyl related. Fentanyl is a schedule 2 controlled substance that's often mixed with other drugs to increase the potency however, it also increases the likelihood of it being fatal.

"If you are a drug dealer, poison peddler, in Nassau County, we are coming after you," stated Sheriff Bill Leeper.



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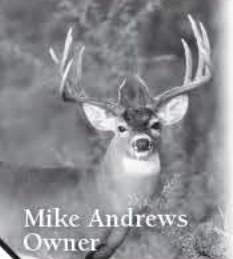
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