

**Pray
to God for
Our Nation!**

WESTSIDE JOURNAL

VOLUME XIX ISSUE 16

HOMETOWN PEOPLE...HOMETOWN NEWS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2022



"REJOICE ALWAYS, PRAY CONTINUALLY, GIVE THANKS IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES; FOR THIS IS GOD'S WILL FOR YOU IN CHRIST JESUS." - 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18

Honoring Veterans Day from the Words of a Veteran Five Veteran Family Members in WWII

Editor's Note: This letter was hand written and delivered to me at the office by WWII Veteran and longtime Callahan resident, Mr. Elliot Jones, who is 99 years old. I can't think of a better way to honor our many Veterans on Veterans Day than to share his special memories. Please take time to 'Thank' a Veteran today!

Elliott Jones

My sister, Eleanor Jones, joined the US Army nurses in 1939. She was stationed in the West Indies in 1939 with the Flying Tigers, who were bombing the Japanese that were invading China. Later, Eleanor became an Air Force nurse and a Lt. Colonel. Eleanor got married to Robert Sandal. She continued her service, headquartered in London, over all the US Air Force nurses in Europe until end of WWII and during the Russia blockage of the Germany supply route.

My brother-in-law Robert Sandal was a Bombardier Pilot who was

bombing Germany as a Wing Command and was shot down over Germany. He was able to land the plane on a field in France. He later received a Purple Heart and Distinguished Service Medal. He also flew over the Russian blockage to the Germany supply route.

I, Petty Officer Elliot Jones, joined the US Navy in December 1942 and was sent to the University of Chicago and assigned to Quartermaster school for a 4-year class in 4 months. Upon completion of the class, I was sent to Treasure Island to Special Forces in the US Navy Armed Guard, who operated on their own except in a convoy. The first ship was a troop transport with 400 troops to Guadalcanal to reinforce the US Army fighting the Japanese. We then assisted with three small island invasions with 5 -10 ships who fought off Japanese airplanes. Our crews won every battle. Then we headed to Lima, Peru for a ship load of supplies to make electric wire for Atom bombs in early 1944. I was selected for one of the two



Command ships with 100 (give or take) LSTs. LSTs were landing ships which could carry a tank and troop carrier or a 20-yard truck loaded and jeep or artillery and troops. We encountered a submarine, which a sub chaser depth charged it. When we anchored in Luzon

Bay, a destroyer near a destroyer that was shelling Japanese on a hill, the Japanese sent at least 12 airplanes to destroy us. The destroyer, which had a plane dive on it and the wing of the plane hit the destroyer and the other gun crews shot down all the planes.

My brother-in-law, Gary Herring, joined the US Navy and served on a battleship.

My brother-in-law, John Lansford, joined the US Navy and served on the east and west coast.

Each one of us served our country because the Germans captured most of Europe and to be able to invade New York and the United States. The Japanese captured most of the islands in the Pacific and bombed Pearl Harbor. Following the war, we served God, our families and country to make a great America!

Thank you to all veterans, both past and present, who have sacrificed so much for our freedom. May we never take it for granted.

Ephesus Baptist Church Celebrates Groundbreaking

Dawn S. West

It has been a long time coming and now the members of Ephesus Baptist Church are excited to break ground on a new sanctuary. Sunday morning, Pastor Marvin Lee welcomed church members, family and friends to the special service held outside. God provided to hold off the rain however to shade the crowd with clouds during the service. The building committee has been working on this project for a couple of years and continued to run into one issue or another. All in God's timing the permits are done, the plans are complete and now it's time to begin. This is a huge step for this church as they just celebrated 177 years. Thanks be to Jesus the church is currently holding two Sunday morning services as they have outgrown their sanctuary.

The praise team opened the service with



a few songs and invited the congregation to join in. Pastor Lee shared a special message about building the church on the foundation of Christ for without Christ it's just a building. The final song was Holy Ground which was so appropriate as we all stood in the presence of the Lord on His Holy Ground. It was a special time of fellowship to see all the sweet people celebrating the goodness of God. Bonnie Jackson, 99, was recognized as being the

oldest charter member present.

Following the service, everyone moved over to the area where the new facility will be built. There, Pastor Lee had an old plow with a long rope tied to it. Pastor Lee held the plow as church members lined up and held part of the rope to



celebrate that the church will be built with everyone and for everyone. At his command everyone lifted the rope gently. Everyone went to the fellowship hall where they enjoyed dinner on the grounds together. Thank you, Jesus!

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Hilliard Veterans Appreciation Ceremony Held



Dawn S. West

Despite an early morning shower, the Town of Hilliard's Veterans Appreciation Ceremony was held Saturday morning at Town Hall. A nice group of Veterans and citizens were welcomed to the event with music performed by the Hilliard Middle-Senior High School band playing beautiful patriotic music. What a great job they did filling the air with uplifting music for all to hear. The HMSHS band and their director, Mr. Bill Hazlet, along with members of the West Nassau JROTC and Chief Master Sgt. Edward Spiezio, are to be



commended for attending the early morning event.

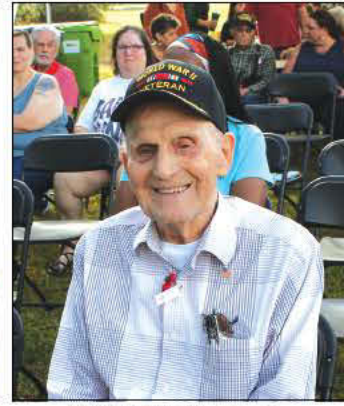
Mayor Elect John Beasley was the Master of Ceremonies for the event. Following a word of prayer by Pastor Gerald Wollitz, the American flag was raised as the band played our National Anthem. Shane Beasley, a US Army Veteran and the Post Commander at the VFW

10095 Post in Hilliard, shared a few words.

"What an honor it is to have a WWII Veteran here. All Veterans continue to be patriots for our nation," said Beasley. "They will never forget the sacrifices they and their comrades made. Now many of them are our neighbors, families and friends. Make sure to thank them for their service."



Jonathan Lee, Youngest Veteran Present



Mr. Elliott Jones, Oldest Veteran Present



Mr. James Hendricks Longest Service

Following, Emily Nunez, a US Navy Veteran, thanked the VFW for continuing to serve those who served.

"It's a true sign of Patriotism. Once upon a time, 17-year-olds were anxious to join the military. Today, our country stands divided as our military is right in the middle of it all," said Nunez. "Our country is under attack from within."

All men and women have the ability to achieve the American dream. We must join together and stand tall for the Flag as the very rights we stand for are being stepped on. Veterans never stop serving."

This year, flags were donated from Senator Aaron Bean to present to the oldest Veteran present, Mr. Elliott Jones, 99 years old, of Callahan; Secretary of State Cord Byrd for the youngest Veteran, Jonathan Lee; and US State Representative John Rutherford the longest time served in the military, Mr. James Hendricks, 36 years, of Callahan. A nice barbecue lunch followed.

We are thankful the Town of Hilliard was able to hold this special event again this year. If you missed it, you missed a special treat. Make sure to mark your calendars for next year!

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WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Dayspring Village is seeking volunteers to help share the gift of Christmas with the mentally ill residents. Often the holidays are the toughest time of the year for the mentally ill and each year the gift of the giver makes a life changing impact on the lives of these individuals.

How to get Involved:

1. Contact Ashley Turner, Secret Santa Coordinator at 904-845-7501 or ashleyt@dayspringvillage.org.
2. You will be assigned a resident and their 'wishes'.
3. Have your gift wrapped and back to the facility by December 23rd.
4. Baking - If you like to bake we would love to have you sponsor the evening snack for the residents!
5. Music - If you have a musical talent you would like to share we invite you to come and perform!

Dayspring Village is a state licensed limited mental health assisted living facility that is focused on serving the needs of adults with schizophrenia. If you would like to learn more or we can be of any assistance, please contact Douglas D. Adkins, Administrator at 904-583-0134-cell or dadkins777@bellsouth.net - Please consider becoming a volunteer this Christmas season, the gift you make in the life of others will truly change lives around you.

God Bless and Merry Christmas! Call today! 845-7501

www.dayspringvillage.org AL #5766

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Clerks Team Up Against Fraud

Six Clerks of Court in northeast Florida have joined forces to urge property owners in Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns counties to proactively protect themselves against scammers who would steal their homes, vacant land or business property through fraudulent deeds or other official records. Clerks Stacie D. Harvey, Tara S. Green, Jody Phillips, John A. Crawford, Matt Reynolds and Brandon J. Patty recently held a joint press conference launching a regional campaign to urge property owners across northeast Florida to subscribe to free property fraud alert services offered by each Clerk's office.



A key element of the partnership is a shared webpage that provides property fraud signup links in all six counties. The webpage is accessible through both www.ProtectYourFloridaProperty.com and www.ClerksAgainstFraud.com.

"This collaborative effort across county lines offers citizens throughout northeast Florida some peace of mind that these thieves can be interrupted," said Nassau County Clerk John Crawford, who recently launched the county's new property fraud alert service. "Receiving notifications that something may be amiss is the first step to fighting back. We encourage all property owners to register for this free service that your Clerks have implemented for your protection."

Property fraud is when someone illegally uses your property for financial gain. A common example is when a scammer creates a fraudulent document that will deed your home to them and then records that document in a county's official records. But property

owners themselves can easily discern if ownership of their home or business has been modified — if they are notified that a change has occurred.

To combat the nationwide rise in property and mortgage fraud, identity protection companies charge monthly or annual fees to monitor your official records. But your local Clerk of Court offers a free do-it-yourself option — simply subscribe to receive alerts when an official record document is recorded in your name(s) with that office.

Like paid commercial alert systems, the free noticing service does not prevent a fraudulent action from occurring. As a county's recorders of deeds and mortgages, Clerks of Court document property records but are not authorized to determine the validity of the record. The free notification service provides an early warning system for subscribers, giving them a tool to become aware of fraudulent activity that may have otherwise gone undetected. Once notified, a property owner knows to contact law enforcement, seek legal advice, or even file a case in civil court.

Visit the website, accessible through www.ProtectYourFloridaProperty.com or www.ClerksAgainstFraud.com, to sign up for this free service in each of these participating counties.

JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

Well, it's all over as you read this. Be it good or be it bad. As I have stated before, I write my column on Monday of each week. The paper has to be completed on Tuesday because it is sent to the printer first thing Wednesday morning. Normally, the printing is completed early afternoon Wednesday and is delivered to the post office. From there it is supposed to be delivered to every address in the 32011, 32046 and 32009 zip codes, including Post Office boxes. That is almost 13,000 papers delivered each week. I have yet to figure out why our paper is not delivered to several addresses some weeks, and totally can't comprehend post office boxes not having a paper placed in the boxes. Don't get me wrong; in the big picture, most papers are delivered. This is really not rocket science; one just has to place a paper in every mailbox and every post office box. We pay the Postal Service a hefty amount of money each week for this service! I used to be a part-time mail carrier and I realize that the job is not always as easy as it seems to the general public however, as my several years of delivering the mail I also realize that placing an item that goes to every box is not that difficult to accomplish.

With that being said, regardless of the outcome of Tuesday's election we have to remain very vigilant. It is said that **manipulative** people do not understand the concept of boundaries. They are relentless in their pursuit of what they want, and they have no regard for who gets hurt along the way.

If the Democrats maintain control of America, it proves that point. If the Republicans take control, the saying is ever so much important to remember and should make us true Americans more vigilant to the opposing socialist regime, for they will become even more dangerous than ever.

They want power and they want complete control over you and me. That is their initiative by creating a food shortage, if food is abundant and affordable, they have no control over the masses, but if food becomes scarce, they have total control. Same with their zero carbon pipe dreams. They want to eliminate fossil based energy, not to save the world from their fantasy of climate change, but because fossil based fuels are of abundance and can be affordable if the Democrats would stop shutting the production down. They are pushing the "green" energy fiasco because then they can control the people. Do you realize that with their electric cars and crypto money plan that they can turn it all off and leave us with no money and no transportation? That is total control of the people and that's just what they want.

Win or lose Tuesday, the fight will not be over! Remember they are totally ruthless; they are an enemy of America and should be dealt with as the same. Stay vigilant and let's make America great again. It's going to take every one of us to accomplish this task. The civil war we are in is still raging.

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

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I'm Thankful, Jesus

Pastor Walter Cooper, He Changed My Mind Ministries, Callahan



The Thanksgiving holiday season is upon us one more time. We have relatives that will come from near and far to our favorite gathering place. Families will gather around the family table to celebrate this Thanksgiving season with laughter, joy and food. While enjoying the holiday season, we should remember that we have more to be thankful for besides food and fun. Looking back over this past year, we can see all the great things God has done for us. God has brought us a mighty long way; he's kept his loving arms around us day by day. He's protected our family and friends from seen and unseen danger.

For some of us, this Thanksgiving season will be different than what we have been accustomed to. This may be the first Thanksgiving season without some loved ones in our family, which can be painful to understand as we submit to God's will. We may have hardship or suffered loss, but we celebrate life and we'll be thankful to Jesus for the blessings he has given us; we are truly blessed. To God be the glory, yet we're still grateful for him keeping us in our right mind and reminding us of what his word says in all things; in all things, give thanks unto God.

In Luke 17:12 -19, the story tells us about ten men with leprosy. It was customary for those who had leprosy to remain together in the outer parts of the city because they could not stay in the village or town with all the other locals. It did not matter if they were Samaritans or Jews with this disease; they all had to stay together. One day as Jesus passed by on his journey when the men saw Him, they began to cry out unto the Lord asking for mercy on them. They knew that Jesus could change their situation to make life better for them, so they asked for help from the Lord. In response to their request, Jesus instructs all ten men to go and show themselves to the priest.

Luke tells us in the story that the men obeyed God's word and received their healing. When the Samaritan noticed the change in his outward appearance, he turns back to tell Jesus thank you. The Samaritan showed gratitude for the newness that Jesus had given him. He bowed at Jesus' feet in humble submission to the grace he received. Reverencing the authority and power that showed through Jesus. Here the Samaritan teaches us an important lesson...always give thanks for what God does for us.

We should all be able to reflect and find something in our lives to be thankful for. Being grateful requires looking beyond our current situation and circumstances to see hope in the outcome. Whether we have a little or a lot, we know that God is our source for all we have in our lives today, so be thankful. If you have not shown gratitude to Our Lord and Savior, let's be like the Samaritan and return to show appreciation for what God has done in our lives. Grace and Peace from our Lord and Savior.

Hilliard Town News

Dawn S. West

The Hilliard Town Council met last Thursday night for their first meeting of November. The first order of business was the approval for the town to enter into an Engineering Service agreement for the Oxford Street Force Main re-routing in the amount of \$101,900. This is only the engineering portion of the project. The project is a part of the Legislative Appropriations Grant the town received from the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

The next item concerned a request from the Hilliard Middle-Senior High School Assistant Principal Brooke Smith. Mrs. Smith advised the council that she is requesting donations for the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) for students and staff building throughout the school year. "This program is being implemented throughout the district however it is not funded. I am looking for donations of any amount to assist in purchasing incentives for both the students and staff," said Smith. "We're looking at an event in December."

The council approved a donation of \$250 to the program.

Council President John Beasley advised Smith to please let the council know what exactly the money went for and how she used it.

The council approved a septic tank exception for Douglas R. Loyd for his property at the corner of Ohio Street and West Tenth Avenue.

The next three agenda items concerned Capital Budgeted items for the Public Works department. The first item is a 2022 John Deere 4052R Compact Utility Tractor with attachments for \$66,548.87, which is a 2020 price. The council approved the purchase. The second item is a Vactor RamJet Trailer Series RamJet, 300 gallons, with a 2 year warranty for \$58,774. The council approved the purchase. The final item

is a 2023 GMC Sierra 2500HD, regular cab, 4WD, 8' bed work truck for \$56,122. The department had approved a Ford truck of the same details however Ford canceled the order because they couldn't get the truck in. The council approved the purchase.

The next item concerned an exception for spending limit for the Parks & Recreation Department. PR Director Gabe Whittenburg requested authorization to spend up to \$6,000 on fitness equipment at an upcoming auction. The council approved the request.

The next item concerned the final payable for Dixon Tree and Lawn Service for \$8,750 for the final mow of the contract. The council approved the payable.

The council approved a payable to Taylors Construction of Hilliard, Inc. for Town Hall Renovations in the amount of \$11,682.48.

Added agenda items included setting a workshop for the mayor and council to meet with the Girl Scouts concerning a new badge they are working toward called a Democracy Badge. The workshop will be November 17 at 6 p.m.

Another added item was a special meeting request by Councilman Kenny Sims to discuss the future of the Land Use Administration position. "I think the person needs to be here in the office more to be assessable to contractors and citizens," said Sims. The meeting will be held Monday, November 14 at 6:30 p.m.

The final added item was the tree removals on the town property next to Town Hall requested by Council President Beasley. After much discussion, Beasley and Town Clerk Lisa Purvis were to mark the trees to remain following the Veterans Appreciation Ceremony Saturday.

The next regular meeting will be held Thursday, November 17 at 7 p.m.

CHURCH NEWS

Lannie Road Baptist Church, 5998 Lannie Road Jacksonville, will host a Gospel Sing this Friday, Nov. 11 at 7:30 p.m. featuring LifeLine Quartet and The Gospel Sounds. Refreshments following.

First Alliance Church of Hilliard, 37207 Mill St., will observe Homecoming Sunday, Nov. 20 at 11 a.m. with a meal to follow. Guest speaker will be Rev. Chip DeWitt and special music with Stephen Popwell.



TOWN OF CALLAHAN, FL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

THE TOWN OF CALLAHAN PLANNING & ZONING BOARD WILL HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING FOR A SITE PLAN REVIEW FOR TACY MEDICAL

PARCEL #19-2N-25-0000-0144-0020
Monday, November 14th at 7 p.m.

THE TOWN OF CALLAHAN TOWN COUNCIL WILL HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING FOR A SITE PLAN REVIEW FOR TACY MEDICAL

PARCEL #19-2N-25-0000-0144-0020
Monday, November 21st at 7 p.m.



Callahan Town Hall

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Interested Persons may appear and be heard at the Hearing.
Site plan will be available for review at Town Hall.

Individuals with disabilities needing a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in the program or activity should contact the office of the Town Clerk at (904) 879-3801 or clerk@townofcallahan-fl.gov at least seventy-two hours in advance to request such accommodation.

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the board, agency, or commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Bryceville First Baptist Church

Invites you to help Celebrate our

87th Homecoming

Sunday, November 13th

Service begins at 10:45 a.m.

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HEALTHY LIVING: HAPPY AND SLEEPY AFTER EATING TURKEY?



Myth or not, some find that eating turkey makes them sleepy. It is thought to be due to the consumption of tryptophan that is very prevalent in turkey. Tryptophan is one of the 9 essential amino acids (meaning we need to get it from food or supplementation). Having enough tryptophan allows your body to have what it needs to make serotonin (the happy hormone) and melatonin (so you sleep better).

Yes. You can get happy and sleepy after that turkey. Other sources of tryptophan include: Grass-fed beef

Lamb, Chicken, Tuna, Pumpkin seeds, Cheese, Crab, Eggs and Spirulina.

When raised properly turkey can provide a good source of omega 3 fatty acids, which help to reduce inflammation. Opt for pasture raised turkey when possible. Other benefits of turkey: great protein source, great source of B vitamins, zinc and selenium.

If eating turkey makes you sick, bloated, nauseous, or gives you

diarrhea, you may have an intolerance to it as well as other foods...we can find out!

Please consult your health provider prior to taking any nutritional supplements. Enjoy your time with family during this holiday season, and enjoy the tryptophan.

Keydella Fuller, MSN, FNP-C, APRN is a functional health consultant at Fuller Health & Wellness, specializing in helping individuals improve energy and mental focus by optimizing the gut. Functional medicine labs testing available. Visit www.Keydellafuller.com or call me at 904-479-4696 to book a call to discuss your health goals.

Keydella Fuller is a nurse practitioner and the health consultant at Fuller Health & Wellness, a functional medicine based virtual practice and is currently accepting clients. To discuss your goals and challenges, call 904-479-4696.

Visit us anytime at: www.mywestsidejournal.com

NARFE Meeting Tuesday

The First Coast Chapter 2273 of NARFE (National Active and Retired Federal Employees Assn.) will meet Tuesday, November 15 at 11 a.m. at The Pig Barbeque, 450102 SR 200 in Callahan.



We will discuss the FEHBP Open Season. BCBS, Aetna, GEHA and United Healthcare 2023 literature will be available and some representatives from these plans will be attending.

All active and retired federal and postal employees, and their families are welcome to attend. Attendees start arriving after 11 a.m. and have lunch on their own. The formal program will start around noon. Chapter 2273 has regular luncheon meetings the third Tuesday of the month, except December. For more information, contact Greg D'Alessio at 904-347-3338 or gregdale713@gmail.com.

Nassau County Teen Court

Join us for Teen Court! Real Teenage offenders...Real Crimes...Real Court Sanctions handed down. All by Teen Attorneys, Jurors and Court Officers.

Next Session: Tuesday, November 15, 2022

We need you to volunteer to serve on our Jury today! Stay in touch by phone or emails! Sign-in between 5:30 to 5:45 p.m. Jeans and collared shirts required for boys; and modest dress for girls. Court begins promptly at 6 p.m. and is over by 7 p.m. 3 Hours Community Service for each Court Session! We are always seeking new students to serve as Attorneys in Court. Anyone wishing to learn and serve in this position, serve on the jury and speak to the coordinator about joining the team!

Court meets at the Robert M. Foster Judicial Center in Yulee. Simply show up, sign up and serve on the Jury. Call Nancy, the coordinator, at 904-548-4520 or email nbeasley@nassaucountyfl.com.

JROTC Veterans Appreciation Dinner Canceled

The West Nassau JROTC Annual Veterans Appreciation Dinner scheduled for Thursday, November 10 has been canceled due to the inclement weather expected in our area.

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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.

Vote Reflections

Dear Editor,

The divisive media are at work again, determined to convince us that elections should be about race. Their propaganda is almost inescapable as the poison infiltrates every communication outlet. The most flagrant is the bastardization of the meaning of our political parties.

The Republicans are portrayed as the white ruling class power mongers and the Democrats as the humanitarians of the non-white races. If we examine America in the relief of commerce, that is the backbone of the country's growth. We may have been born Puritans, but we grew up builders. Our work ethic is foundational to what keeps the wheels of progress turning.

To put it simply, the Republicans are the work party and the Democrats, the

government subsidy party. Who knows what negative effects the use of the "dole" has put in the way of helping non-whites adapt to a commercially driven world. Biden's policy to pay people to stay home is dissembling our workforce and has impacted the economy with a lack of applicants and restricted business hours. In history, this country has never been infected with this rapid a decline since Biden took office.

Is it too late for us all to consider voting for candidates for office who have clearly demonstrated competence throughout their work history? As to race, these words come to mind. "America, America, God shed His grace on thee and crown thy good with BROTHERHOOD, from sea to shining sea."

B.R. McConnell

NCSO Looking for Special Process Servers

The Nassau County Sheriff's Office is looking for Special Process Servers. The list will be the first 50 process servers to respond in person to the Civil Division, with additions to that list as vacancies arise. This is to let the public know they will have to contact a SPS person as of January 1, 2023 to serve non-enforceable process, instead of the Civil Division serving this process. The Civil Division will have the approved list they can provide to the public as requested. This does not change the fact that NCSO will still serve Enforceable Service of Process.



Non-Enforceable Service of Process includes, for example: 1) Notice of Hearing. 2) Notice of involuntary assessment. 3) Rule to show cause (three (3) types of cases: Divorce, Replevin, Forfeiture). 4) Subpoena Duces Tecum. 5) Summons. 6) Witness Subpoena. 7) Eviction Summons.

For more information visit: www.nassauso.com and click on the Join NCSO tab or call Human Resources at 904-548-4012.

FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Gray Gables Baptist Church 54031 Church Rd. • Callahan
Monday, November 14 • 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Callahan First Baptist Church 45090 Green Ave. • Callahan
Thursday, November 17 • 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Barnabas @ NEFL Fairgrounds 543378 US Hwy. 1 • Callahan
Monday, November 21 • 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

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TOWN OF CALLAHAN, FL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

THE TOWN OF CALLAHAN PLANNING & ZONING BOARD WILL HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING FOR REZONING OF PROPERTY

PARCEL #30-2N-25-400A-0001-0031

Monday, November 14th at 7 p.m.
Callahan Town Hall
542300 U.S. Hwy. 1 • Callahan, FL 32011

Interested Persons may appear and be heard at the Hearing.
Site plan will be available for review at Town Hall.

Individuals with disabilities needing a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in the program or activity should contact the office of the Town Clerk at (904) 879-3801 or clerk@townofcallahan-fl.gov at least seventy-two hours in advance to request such accommodation.

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the board, agency, or commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Flashes Win Thrilling Season Finale

Holden McMillen

Fresh off their bye week, the Hilliard Flashes returned to the gridiron looking to close out the regular season on a high note by beating the Christ's Church Academy Eagles on the road. The game began with both teams getting their bearings and into the flow of the game. Quickly it became a back and forth duel. The scoring festivities started with the Flashes' second drive of the game, using a balanced offense to reach the end zone, courtesy of a 3-yard run by Braydon Holley. After missing the extra point, the Flashes sprung out to an early 6-0 lead. The Eagles got involved in the scoring, using their aerial assault to march down the field to reach the end zone finishing with a 4-yard pass. After the extra point was good, the Eagles took a 7-6 lead. The Flashes responded using a scoring drive of their own. They leaned on the run game to get to the end zone and Lyle Bennett took it in himself with a 4-yard run. With the 2-point

conversion good, the Flashes closed out the opening quarter with a 14-7 lead.

The action continued to heat up in the 2nd quarter. It started with the first play of the quarter, when Damon Kibler read the quarterback's eyes perfectly and intercepted the pass near the Flashes sideline. The Flashes offense enjoyed the freshly baked turnover and proceeded to go down the field. Holley broke loose for a 25-yard score. With the extra point no good, the Flashes widened their lead to 20-7. The Eagles responded with back-to-back scoring drives. It started when their defense forced a turnover, that led to the Eagles scoring with a 5-yard touchdown pass. Then, the Eagles special teams recovered the onside kick. And it translated to a 10-yard touchdown run. With the extra point good both times, the Eagles went into halftime with a 21-20 lead.

After halftime, the game was caught in a stalemate with both teams trading turnover on downs.

The stalemate would be broken in the 4th quarter when Bennett took the zone read keep 4-yards for the touchdown. With the 2-point conversion missed, the Flashes retook the lead 26-21. The Eagles' passing attack helped claw their way back in, as they marched down the field to cap off the drive with a 10-yard touchdown pass.



With the 2-point conversion good, the Eagles clung to a slim 29-26 lead with 7:05 left in the game. The Flashes offense orchestrated a methodical drive that took 6 minutes and 56 seconds off the game clock. The Flashes then found the end zone one more time with a 4-yard quarterback sneak by Bennett. With the 2-point conversion no good, the Flashes retook the lead with 49 seconds remaining in the game. The Flashes defense rose up and got the stop they needed to win the game 32-29 and close out the regular season with a record of 8-2.

Offensively, the Flashes produced 289 yards of total offense with 213 of those yards coming from their ground game. Bennett went 7/14 for 76 yards, rushed 13 times for 77 yards and scored 3 touchdowns; Holley had 17 carries for 136 yards and 2 touchdowns; Bradyn Matto had 3 catches for 52 yards; and Prestin O'Quinn had 2 catches for 20

yards.

Defensively, the Flashes forced a turnover, and got a sack on the Eagles' final drive of the game. Kibler and Colton Conner each tallied 10 tackles on the night with Kibler recording an interception; Billy Moore had 7 tackles; Klayton Bright 6 tackles; Brandon Matthews, Brogan Johns and Camauri Bolden all tallied 4 tackles. Jake Franklin had 3 tackles and a pass breakup; Tucker Pickett had 2 tackles and a sack; and Malcolm Howard had 2 tackles.

The Hilliard Flashes are the 2nd seed in Quadrant 3 of the FHSAA 1 Rural Playoffs. They will have a bye week this week to prepare to host the winner of the matchup between the Branford Buccaneers and the Lafayette Mayo Hornets. Kickoff for the Flashes game will be at 7 p.m. next Friday, November 18 at Flashes Field.

Go Flashes!



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

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**Conviva Callahan Car & Truck Show
Saturday, November 12**

4pm - 7pm



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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.

New Beginnings and Milestones

Caroline Ruth Fouraker

Clinton and Chelsea Fouraker, of Callahan, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Caroline Ruth Fouraker. Caroline was born October 28, 2022 at 5:42 p.m. at Baptist Medical Center in Jacksonville. She weighed 7 pounds 10 ounces and measured 10 3/4 inches.

Paternal grandparents are Jason and Kerry Fouraker of Callahan; and Angela and David Stevens of Hilliard.

Maternal grandparents are Bo and Deborah McFall of Callahan.

Caroline was welcomed home by her siblings Lane and Lakelyn!



Morticia Ann Jordan



Katie and Matthew Jordan, of Callahan, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Morticia Ann Jordan. Morticia was born September 15, 2022 at 5:07 p.m. at Baptist Hospital Jacksonville. She weighed 6 pounds 11 ounces.

Proud grandparents are Renita Ritch, Ronnie Tschappat, Tim and Lisa Harris.

Morticia was welcomed home by her big brother Skiler Jordan!

WNHS Swim Team Competes in Regionals



The West Nassau High School Swim Team went to Pensacola Thursday, November 3 for the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSA) Class 2A Region 1 Regional swim meet. The team had a boys 4x100 freestyle relay qualify which was the first in school history. The relay consisted of Brody Singley, Carlos Lauzurique, Nathan Davis and Charlie Ryan. They dropped 13 seconds in their relay and earned a new school record. Brody Singley also qualified for Regionals in the 200 free and 500 free individual events. He came away with a 3rd place finish in the 200 freestyle and Regional Champ in the 500 freestyle. He will move on to the State Meet in Stuart Saturday, November 19. Good luck Brody!

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Callahan Movie in the Park

Dawn S. West

The Callahan Town Council met Monday night for their first meeting of November. Doug Conkey, representing the St. Johns River Water Management District, approached the podium. "I just wanted to stop by and update you all on a few things. Our (SJRWMD) Artesian Wells project is going very well. Since we started the project we have located and plugged 171 abandon artesian wells. That adds up to 24.5 million gallons of water a day saved," said Conkey. "Also, the Cost Share Program is opening again on December 1."

The first order of business was the Resolution 2022-R16 which concerns making a donation to the West Nassau Historical Society for their much needed repairs to the Historic Depot. The council approved a donation of \$39,200, which was the total amount of money needed to make all repairs quoted on. The council used a portion of the money they received from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The town actually received \$683,000 from the ARPA fund.

Resolution 2022-R17 was also approved which concerned approving \$1,500 for the year end dinner for the council and town employees.

The next item concerned the town and Mayor Matt Davis presenting the cadets of the West Nassau High School JROTC Program a donation of \$1,000. The JROTC cadets help the town in many different ways through the year.

Town Manager Mike

Williams advised the council that he and Councilman Ken Bass had met with Nassau County Fire Chief Brady Rigdon concerning the rental agreement with the NCFR department. "Chief Rigdon wants to sign a long term agreement for a cost of \$2200 per month rental with rates to increase each year," said Williams. The council agreed to continue the contract.

Callahan Volunteer Assistant Fire Chief Larry Downey advised the council that the Volunteer Fire Department would like approval to sponsor the Movie in the Park (Ewing Park) again this year. "We plan to show the movie "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas on Sunday, December 3 starting at 6 p.m. The movie will begin at 7:30 p.m.," said Downey. "Residents are asked to bring blankets and chairs to sit on and make sure to bring your family and friends. There will be eats, treats and fun things to do!"

The council approved the Movie in the Park.

The next meeting of the council will be Monday, November 21 at 7 p.m.



Blank Check Society Cook-Off Saturday for Wreaths Across America

Every year, numerous non-profit organizations conduct a fundraising event in support of Wreaths Across America (WAA). Funds are needed to purchase Christmas Wreaths, to be placed upon our Veteran Heroes graves at the Jacksonville National Cemetery. There are well over 17,500 graves in need of a Wreath.

This Saturday, November 12, the Blank Check Society of America, with the generous support of the VFW in Hilliard and the heartfelt generosity of Callahan Barbecue and AA Bottle Company, will be hosting the 6th Annual Pork-Butt Cook-off. During the event, there will be a Blood Drive, a raffle drawing for amazing items and a live Auction. Those donating blood will receive a FREE dinner prepared by our amazing chefs.

There will also be an opportunity for guests to purchase Wreaths for the Jacksonville National Cemetery. Those purchasing a wreath will be able to hang



a WAA tag identifying an individual for honorable recognition. ALL proceeds go directly toward these much-needed Christmas Wreaths. Festivities begin at 10:30 a.m. at the VFW Post 10095 in Hilliard, across from the Hilliard

Airpark. Please, come and help to be a part of this great cause!



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I Am A Promise Celebrates Halloween!

I Am A Promise Preschool recently celebrated Halloween with a costume party. Four Halloween Costume Winners were chosen: Funniest - Robert Gorman; Most Colorful - Alice Roberson; Most Creative - Flossy Brock; Most Original - Nathan Lowdenslager. Everyone looked great in their fun costumes!



Quilt Fundraiser \$1 Tickets



The Country Star Quilt Guild has made this beautiful opportunity quilt as a fundraiser item. The quilt is currently on display at the Westside Journal office. Tickets may be purchased from any Guild member, as well as from the Westside Journal office, 450034 SR 200, Callahan.

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!

Annual Fall Bazaar

Bethany Episcopal Church

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12th

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YARD SALES

FALL BAZAAR at the First United Methodist Church of Callahan (449648 US Hwy. 301, next to CES). Saturday, November 12, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Crafts, vendors, plants, raffles, kids corner, bake sale & more! See you there! 111022

CRAFT & YARD SALE, Saturday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., 27029 Country Drive, off CR 108 CR 108, Hilliard. Wreaths, vintage sewing and knitting machines, Ashford spinning wheel, Antique spinning wheels, books, patterns, boys clothes and toys!

SATURDAY, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., 34202 Honeybee Lane, off Sandy Ford Road. Home décor, women & men's clothes, household items, some Vintage items & much more!

Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church at 541668 US Hwy. 1 is having a **FUN, FRIENDS & FASHION EVENT** Friday, November 18 from 3 - 8 p.m. Do some Christmas shopping early! Event is free and includes 15+ vendors. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. Raffle tickets for a wooden yard art Nativity Set for \$5/each or 5 tickets for \$20, as well as, \$1 raffle tickets (or 6 tickets for \$5) for two beautiful Christmas wreaths. Come join in the fun!

FRIDAY, Nov. 18 & **SATURDAY,** Nov. 19, 8 a.m. until? 1766 Bell Road, Hilliard. Shoes, glassware, small appliances, furniture, paintings, pots & pots and home décor.

ESTATE SALE, SATURDAY, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., 45151 Heritage Place, 2 miles south on SR 200 (A1A) from Callahan to Jones Way. Follow signs! Furniture, dishes, household items, ladies clothes, Christmas Santa's, antiques & more!

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EMILY ELIZABETH ADKINS



Emily Elizabeth Adkins, 23, passed away October 21, 2022 at Baptist Medical Center surrounded by her parents. Emily began her love for learning at Amelia Island Montessori School where she quickly made friends and influenced others with her love of dresses. She graduated from Fernandina Beach High School in 2017. She received the Bright Futures Scholarship and graduated from the UNF in 2021 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Administration. She was employed as the People Success Officer at the family-owned assisted living facilities (Dayspring Senior Living and Dayspring Village). Upon graduation from college, Emily bought a house in Yulee and was enjoying her new home.

Emily was an emerging leader in Florida's Assisted Living Communities and had gained the skills necessary to manage the most important aspect of any business – people. She successfully completed the ALF Administrator Competency certification and held a professional food service manager's license. Emily was kind, logical, practical, fair, rule-driven, and clear-headed when a problem had to be addressed.

As a child, Emily loved to go to the beach where she would run and play in the ocean's surf and look for shells or seaside treasure. She loved swimming, enjoyed movies and was an expert in Anime movies. Emily was an avid reader and what could be described as a classic "bookie." Everything from fan fiction to Marvel were her genre. Emily accepted Jesus Christ as her personal Savior and Lord on May 26, 2011 and was a member of Blackrock Baptist Church. Emily loved to sing worship songs and had the voice of an angel. She enjoyed singing in the Glenwood choir. Her childhood trips to Bell, Florida with her grandparents was a highlight each summer as she sang, "Boys and Girls for Jesus." Her joy was contagious

as her face glowed with smiles.

Growing up, Emily was active in local sports with YMCA basketball and AIYS soccer association. She played the piano and participated in middle and high school band. She graduated from Fernandina Beach Cotillions and was always interested in the next big event. Emily loved to travel and was looking forward to the next family adventure. She travelled to Austria, the Bahamas, Belize, Canada, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Israel (twice), Italy, Mexico, Switzerland, and many of the states. She had a great sense of direction and was always leading the way through airports, train stations, and city streets.

Wise for her years, Emily was a hard-working volunteer in local, state, and federal campaigns. No one would outwork Emily whether it was knocking on doors, making calls, stuffing envelopes, or waving a sign for her candidate. She loved America and the freedom she enjoyed.

Emily was her mom's best friend, the heart of her father, and a constant companion with her brother. She loved July 4th family reunions at Hart Springs. She loved Christmas and the special meaning and blessing of the holiday. She was full of life and fun!

Emily was blessed to have a Godly heritage and leaves behind two loving parents Janet and Doug Adkins; her adoring brother Douglas; grandparents Joan Adkins and Ron Huey; numerous cousins, Nicholas (Samira) Hodges, Zachary (Brittany) Hodges, Gerry (Meghan) Harter, Sibylle (Marc) Bourdon, Marissa Harter, Jamie (Jon) Mitchell, Karla (CJ) Carter, Aaron Fuller, Rebecca Fuller, Sarah (Mark) Talbot; and aunts and uncles Margot Adkins, Robin (Pete) Rivera, David (Carol) Adkins, and Dawn (Gerry) Harter. Emily's

OBITUARIES

grandparents Frances Elizabeth Huey and Eugene Max Adkins, are now reunited with Emily in Heaven.

Emily's life was celebrated Saturday, October 29 at Blackrock Baptist Church. Visitation was held Friday, October 28 at Oxley-Heard Funeral Directors in Fernandina Beach. Emily will be laid to rest at Bosque Bello Cemetery at a later date.

Please share your memories and condolences at www.oxleyheard.com.

HAZEL JEANETTE CONWAY



Hazel Jeanette Conway, 84, of Callahan, passed away November 7, 2022. She was born in Charleston, South Carolina on June 28, 1938 to the late Barry Parker Causey and Sarah Smith Causey. Hazel went to hair school in the 1960's and was self-employed as a hairdresser until the late 1990's. She then decided to stay at home and care for her grandchildren until 2002 when she started working for the Nassau County Sheriff's Office. Hazel finally retired for good in 2012. She moved to West Virginia and lived there for a few years but decided to move back home to Callahan. Hazel enjoyed quilting, fishing, cooking big dinners, shopping and spending time with her family who she loved dearly. Her grandchildren and great-grandchildren were her heart and soul. Hazel will be missed for many reasons but mainly for her great hugs, sweet words and always praying for everyone. Her family is thankful for the knowledge that she was saved and is now in the loving arms of Jesus along with her family and friends that have already passed on. Hazel was preceded in death by her parents; husband

Larry Conway; sons Ronald Kelly, Frank Kelly and John Kelly; brothers Earl Causey and Jim Causey; sisters Ethel Kennedy and Brenda Cornwell.

Hazel leaves behind her daughter Lori (Duane) Cooper; grandchildren Frank (Tracy) Kelly, Jeremy (Megan) Cooper, Sarah (Michael) Mills and Kimberly (Daniel) Kelly; great-grandchildren Gracie, Braiden, Hadilyn, Cooper, Owen, Peyton, Addison and Jacob; brothers Robert (Freida) Causey, Bubba Causey and Johnnie (Teenie) Causey; sisters Pam Gauze, Annie Slater and Mary Lou Kendall.

A celebration of Hazel's life will be held Friday, November 11 at 1 p.m. at Nassau Funeral Home. Interment will follow at Jones Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. prior to the service.

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

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

LARRY ALEXANDER DYAL



Larry Alexander Dyal, 73, of Hilliard, passed away November 1, 2022. He was born in Folkston, Georgia on January 23, 1949, to the late Alexander Dyal and Betty Louise Henderson Dyal. Larry loved hunting. He was a member of First Baptist Church in Hilliard.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Ann Dyal; two sons Adam (Stephanie) Dyal and Charles (Missy) Dyal; five grandchildren Annah Dyal, Amelia Dyal, Ryland Dyal, Hadley Dyal and Lux Dyal; and three sisters Sharon (David) Manning, Alexis Herrington and Debbie (James) Hobbs.

A funeral service was held Friday, November 4 at First Baptist Church of

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Boulougne with Rev. David Manning and Rev. Paul Lucas officiating. Burial followed at Oakwood Cemetery. The family received friends prior to the service.

Condolences may be expressed at www.shepardrobersonfh.com.

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, Folkston, GA.

RALPH EDWARD HODGES



Ralph Edward Hodges, 74, of Jacksonville, passed away on October 29, 2022, at Baptist Medical Center following a brief illness. He was born on January 8, 1948 in Jacksonville. Ralph was a drywall finisher by trade and retired from Acousti Engineering in 2002. He was an avid outdoorsman. Ralph also enjoyed meeting his friends for breakfast, spending time with his family, hunting, trapping, yard work and wood working. He was a proud papa. Ralph never missed the opportunity to brag on his grandchildren. He loved telling tales and maintained his sense of humor up until the very end. Ralph was a good, humble, down to earth man, a loving father and grandfather who will be dearly missed. He is preceded in death by his parents, Freddie E. Hodges, AllieMae and William C. Green; and brother Don Green.

Ralph leaves behind his children Barbara (Ricky) Blalock, Christie (Darrell) Carter and Robert Hodges; sister Helen Eidson; grandchildren Ashley, Kimberly, Ricky, Winter, Kane and Dillon; three great-grandchildren; one nephew; and three nieces.

The family received friends Wednesday, November 2 at Nassau Funeral Home.

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

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

OBITUARIES

MARK LAVAINE HOWARD



Mark Lavaine Howard, 57, of Jacksonville, passed October 28, 2022 at HCA Florida Memorial Hospital in Jacksonville. Mark was born on January 22, 1965 to Willie Lee "Peggy" Howard and Simon Johnson in Fernandina Beach. Mark was reared in the Nassau County area known as "Lessie." He attended the schools of Nassau County and was a 1983 graduate of Fernandina Beach High School. He was employed by Dirt Works of Atlantic Beach. On December 2, 2021 Mark was in a vehicle accident and sustained debilitating injuries and from that day his health declined.

Mark was a fun-loving, hard-working man who loved to be around family and friends. He considered himself an awesome cook. He was a great friend, loving father and son, Mark adored his daughters and granddaughters and loved spending time with them.

Mark leaves to cherish his memory, his daughters Brittany and Whitney Howard of Jacksonville; granddaughters Aaliyah Howard and Cheyenne Jenkins; mother Willie Lee "Peggy" Howard of Hilliard; father Simon (Verdell) Johnson of Kingsland; Aunt Carroll Yopp; sisters Selma Robinson and Tarshia (Alex) Hopkins; brothers Pervis (Grace) Johnson and Darryl (Marsha) Johnson; uncles Joseph (Jan) Gates and Corinthian Gates; aunts Queen Williams and Louise Johnson; special cousins Michael (Winifred) Favors, Timothy Donald and Corey (Elisa) Donald; godson Aaron Favors; and a host of extended family and friends including good friends Anita Palmer, Darryl Mason, Beatrice Jones, Robert Reed, Gina Evans and Wille B Evans, Jr.

A funeral service was held Saturday, November 5 at Mount Horeb Missionary Baptist Church, Hilliard with Rev. Dr. Wallace Wyatt officiating. The family received friends Friday, November 4. Interment followed Brickyard Cemetery.

Arrangements by A.B. Coleman Mortuary, Jacksonville.

MATTHEW EVERETT McCANCE



Matthew E. McCance, 37, beloved son, brother, nephew and friend, went home to be with our Lord on Sunday, October 30, 2022, after a sudden unexpected illness. Matthew was born November 27, 1984 and raised in Jacksonville. He worked as a transporter for Jax Port. He was an entrepreneur by trade, he loved fixing up motorcycles to sell and trade. He was the most talented mechanic and handyman. There wasn't anything he couldn't fix. Matthew was the son of Everett and Gail McCance. He was a family man; he loved his family and his friends dearly. Especially his two favorite nephews Rylen & Carter.

Matthew is preceded in death by his older sister Amanda Gail; his maternal grandparents John and Jo Bennett and Carolyn Maddox (Bennett); and his paternal grandparents Dudley and Vera McCance.

Matthew is survived by his parents Everett and Gail McCance; sister Miranda (Brandon) Nelson; his favorite nephews Rylen and Carter; and many aunts, uncles

and cousins.

The family received friends prior to the funeral service held Saturday, November 5 at Cedar Bay Funeral Home in Jacksonville with Bro. George Kratochvil officiating. Interment followed at Jones Cemetery.

Condolences may be expressed at www.cedarbayfuneralhome.com.

Arrangements by Cedar Bay Funeral Home, Jacksonville.

GARY WILLIAM MORGAN



Gary William Morgan, 74, of Callahan, passed away October 28, 2022. Gary was born April 15, 1948 in Pontiac, Michigan to William and Betty Morgan. He served honorably in the U.S. Navy and music was his passion. He was a great guitar player and he had his own band for years called Gary and the Ghost Riders. In addition to his parents; he is predeceased by two sisters Carolyn (Rick) Campbell and Patsy (Lumuel) Jesse.

Survivors include two sisters Mary (Glenn) Brookshear and Kathleen (Gary) Nichols; brother Timothy (Dawn) Morgan; his children Christie (Damian) Ruesink, Curtis (Joyce) Morgan and Amy (Shawn) Morse; as well as 14 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

A memorial services with Military Honors will be held Monday, November 14 at 2 p.m. in the chapel of Callahan Funeral Home with Mr. Justin Selvera, nephew, officiating.

Condolences may be expressed at www.callahanfh.com.

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

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TOWN OF CALLAHAN, FL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

THE TOWN OF CALLAHAN PLANNING & ZONING BOARD WILL HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING FOR A SITE PLAN REVIEW FOR PARCEL #51-2N-25-0000-0060-0000

Monday, November 14th at 7 p.m.
Callahan Town Hall
542300 U.S. Hwy. 1 • Callahan, FL 32011
Interested Persons may appear and be heard at the Hearing.
Site plan will be available for review at Town Hall.

Individuals with disabilities needing a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in the program or activity should contact the office of the Town Clerk at (904) 879-3801 or clerk@townofcallahan-fl.gov at least seventy-two hours in advance to request such accommodation.

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the board, agency, or commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Speaking for Stilled Voices

Tracy D. Connors, CAPT USN (Ret)

"There are literally thousands of abandoned cemeteries in Florida, many of them unknown and forgotten... some counties had more than 100 such cemeteries, and thousands probably remain undocumented and uncared for in the state." (Florida Division of Historical Resources)

Kings Ferry Cemetery is believed to have been a burial ground since the 1700s. It is both an active cemetery and a major historic site in West Nassau County. However, the future of one of the County's oldest cemeteries is unclear. A group of citizens with relatives buried there have been meeting with county officials seeking clarification of the cemetery's ownership, and how to put into place the planning needed to protect those buried there, and to take the steps needed to fulfill its proper role as an historic cemetery. The cemetery has essentially been abandoned for many years.

Florida law authorizes a county or municipality to maintain and secure an abandoned cemetery and private funds may be solicited and spent on such maintenance. The findings of the Florida

State "Final Report of Task Force on Abandoned and Neglected Cemeteries," concluded that "Legislation is needed to establish guidelines...methods of establishing care for neglected and abandoned cemeteries, agencies responsible for providing such care, the funding mechanism for such projects, as well as a permanent structure to continue the location, identification, protection, preservation and care of such cemeteries." It also established "that local governments are the best way to handle the problem created by abandoned and neglected cemeteries within their respective jurisdictions, combined with a statewide approach through the designated agency and non-profit corporation."

Kings Ferry Cemetery was deeded to the Town (Kings Ferry) in 1894 with three Trustees named as administrators. By the 1970s the Trustees had passed or disappeared, and basic maintenance was donated by families with relatives buried there, led by the Lewis Family. The majority of those attending the recent exploratory committee meetings and who have reviewed the original deed, have concluded that the intent

by the owners was to set up a cemetery for the Town of Kings Ferry that would be administered by three trustees. By that interpretation, the cemetery was deeded to the then incorporated Town of Kings Ferry, and when that town was unincorporated, that property would then be absorbed by Nassau County.

"...Preserving Nassau County heritage and history should be the utmost priority. As we proceed forward, I am looking forward to preserving this historical piece of Nassau County. I am grateful to have a team willing to preserve the characteristics of Nassau County that make us who we are," Alyson McCullough, Nassau County District 4 Commissioner-elect.

"We have a duty to ensure respectful and proper treatment of those bodies, and their respective families and loved ones. I'm willing to do whatever is necessary to help this process move forward so the cemetery has a structure into the future and we guarantee the preservation of our County's rich culture, heritage and history." Klynt A. Farmer, Nassau County Commissioner District 5.

If this interpretation of ownership by Nassau County is sustained upon further review, it would cut through all of the questions surrounding who owns Kings Ferry. This clarification would



enable county leaders to endorse state recommendations and guidelines and to establish the policies and structure needed not only to effectively ensure the best outcome for this cemetery, but for any other historic cemeteries that are surely to be identified in the future.

Corroboration of ownership by Nassau County and governance by a suggested "Nassau County Historic Cemetery Oversight Committee," reporting to the County Commission, would also position the county to be eligible for grants from various other sources to support needed surveys, e.g., geographic and ground penetrating radar, and other preservation initiatives, not only for Kings Ferry Cemetery, but for other abandoned, historic cemeteries in Nassau County.

We have a duty to speak for the stilled voices of all those who have preceded us. If they could, they would ask that we respect and honor their lives and sacrifices and that we protect their mortal remains. We should do no less.



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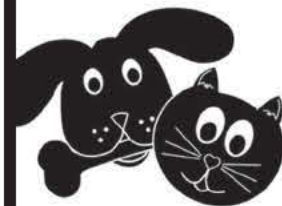
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Historical Society's Hobos, Hot Rods & Heroes Festival Held

Despite a couple of rain showers, the Hobos, Hot Rods & Heroes Festival was held Saturday. The West Nassau Historical Society did an amazing job working around all the construction happening in the rear of the Depot. Vendors were lined up in front and down the sides of the Depot area. The Classic Car Show was a hit, as usual, as many visitors passed through taking picture after picture. They sure had some cool 'Classics' at the show! Thank you to the Historical Society for a great festival despite the issues!



Citizenship Sunday Celebration



Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, located at 5401 Dunn Avenue in Jacksonville will be hosting a special patriotic event this Sunday afternoon November 13. Citizens are also encouraged to attend the 10:30 a.m. worship service with the theme, "Citizens of Two Kingdoms."

We invite you to come together as Americans to celebrate under the theme, "All for America!" The Citizenship Sunday Celebration with a Salute to Veterans will be held from 12 noon - 3 p.m. and is a free event. The event will begin with a luncheon served from noon to 2 p.m. A citizenship fair will be held from 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. with displays by church and community organizations, a bounce house and other activities for children, and a distribution of the US Constitution. Entertainer Cyndi Fraser and other musicians will perform. A patriotic musical program concludes the day at 2:30 p.m. The guest speaker will be the honorable Jason Fischer, Florida House of Representatives, District 16. He will speak on the blessings and responsibilities of citizenship.

We hope that in the early days after the general election, members of the larger community will come together in the spirit of unity to celebrate the blessings which we enjoy as citizens of our country. We will also provide information for those interested in becoming citizens of the United States.

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