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# WESTSIDE JOURNAL

**FRIDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL  
PLAYOFF GAMES!**

**West Nassau  
vs  
Bradford County**  
7:30 p.m.

**Hilliard  
@  
Madison County**  
7:30 p.m.

VOLUME XVI ISSUE 19

HOMETOWN PEOPLE...HOMETOWN NEWS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2019

"SEND OUT YOUR LIGHT AND YOUR TRUTH; LET THEM LEAD ME;  
LET THEM BRING ME TO YOUR HOLY HILL AND TO YOUR DWELLING." - PSALM 43:3

## West Nassau JROTC Holds Veterans Appreciation Ceremony

Dawn S. West

The West Nassau High School AF JROTC held their Annual Veterans Appreciation Ceremony last Thursday at the school cafeteria. As Veterans arrived they were asked to sign in with their names, branch of military serviced and service years. Approximately 200 veterans and their families attended the event. The West Nassau Warrior Band along with the Liberty Express Quartet provided musical entertainment throughout the evening.

ROTC cadets opened the evening with a remembrance of those servicemen and women who never returned with



recognized: Nello 'Bob' Zortea, Elliott Jones and Horace Whitehead. Several gift cards were given out by a drawing. Veterans were asked to gather at the back of the room around their branch of the service flags. As the Warrior band played each military branch song, the Veterans marched proudly behind their flags carried by a cadet.



a table set at the front of the stage in their honor.

SGM(R) John Page and LTC(R) Tom Meissgeier, Vice President Special Forces Association presented four Vietnam War Commemoration Certificates of Honor and pins to relatives of soldiers killed during Vietnam. They were: Thomas Harrell, to honor his two brothers Stanley and Roger Harrell; June Goforth and her grandson Chandler Hudson, to honor her

husband Mike Wildes; and Betty Ray, to honor her brother John Robinson.

Everyone enjoyed a meal but the most unique part was almost every table was also joined by a member of the JROTC. They attended to the needs of the Veterans along with listening and learning about their service and their lives today. Three WWII Veterans were



To close the ceremony, the JROTC did their re-enactment of 'Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima' while the song God Bless the USA by Lee Greenwood was played. It was a touching display and an awesome job by the cadets.

## Hobos, Hot Rods & Heroes Festival and Car Show Saturday

The Hobos, Hot Rods and Heroes Festival & Car Show hosted by the West Nassau Historical Society as a fundraiser will be held Saturday, November 16 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. This is the non-profit's 3rd celebration held at the historic 1881 Callahan Train Depot.

There will be arts, crafts and food vendors. The car show is presented by Cochrane's Collision Center, Callahan Cruisers and AB&B Auto Parts and will be held from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. A children's play area will have a bouncy house and youth-oriented games such as a Hobo Scavenger Hunt. Joel Pace Music students will hold a hands-on instruments session on the front platform of the 138-year old station.

Veterans will all be honored at 10:40

a.m. and will have a Veteran speaker. Local live entertainment will perform on the main depot stage all day. See the complete line-up on page 7.

Inside the train depot museum, visit the newly designed FAA exhibit, which contains Vintage air traffic control radar, vintage photos and other equipment donated by the Hilliard Center. The display will be augmented with local exhibitors showing their various works on the historic depot grounds.

This is primarily an outdoor event so please bring your blankets and lawn chairs. The West Nassau Historical Society is a non-profit organization and monies raised will go towards the promotion of Nassau County's rich and diverse history and the upkeep of the historic train depot.

## Controversy at Hilliard Meeting

Dawn S. West

The Hilliard Town Council met Thursday night for their first regular meeting of November and the meeting wasn't without abnormalities. As the mayor received a unanimous approval on the payables, former mayor Cris McConnell charged to the podium asking, "Was that a unanimous approval?"

"Yes it was," answered Mayor Floyd Vanzant.

"I have a copy of the payables and see that one of the council persons should have not voted on this due to her father is one of the payees. I plan to file a complaint with the ethics committee about this," added McConnell.

"The proper way to handle this is to speak at the end of the meeting, not now," said Town Attorney Christian Waugh.

"Well I will say it again then," said

McConnell.

"I will check on this matter," added Waugh.

The Town of Hilliard recently celebrated city government week by asking third grade students, who wished to participate, to write an essay of 'What they would do if they were the mayor of Hilliard?' Three winners were chosen and the winners were present at the meeting. Attorney Waugh read all of the essays to the council and audience. First Place winner was Hannah Wollitz who wrote three things she would do, "Raise money for medical needs because doctors need medicine to help their patients; Lower candy to only one piece per child so children don't get sick; and Make more outdoor activities because people are on electronics too much." Hannah received a

See 'Hilliard Meeting' on page 2

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# Hilliard Meeting

Continued from page 1



Shown (l to r) are Mayor Vanzant, Councilwoman Callie Kay Bishop, Hannah Wollitz, Charlee King and Mya Fryer. Hannah Wollitz, Charlee King and Mya Fryer received certificates and \$50.

Second Place was Charlee King who wrote: "I would build a Target because of the food, clothes and toys. My mom goes to the grocery store like every few days and it would be convenient." Charlee received a certificate and \$30.

Third Place was Mya Fryer who wrote: "I would add many new places like Chick-fil-A, Target and an amusement center. Then we would have more places to eat, buy clothes and have fun." Mya received a certificate and \$20.

The next agenda item was a septic tank exception from Mr. Donald Gamble. "I am asking for a septic tank exception for my property on Iowa & W. 11th Street. It does exceed 1,000 feet from the sewer line," said Gamble. The council approved the request.

The next item was also a septic tank exception from Mr. Michael Franklin. Councilwoman Callie Kay Bishop abstained from voting or discussing for this item.

"I am asking for a septic tank exception for lots 1 through 4, block 206. They exceed the 1,000 feet from the sewer line," said Franklin. The council approved the request.

The next item was a subdivision final plat approval from Mr. Wayne Bishop.

Again, Councilwoman Callie Kay Bishop abstained from voting or discussing for this item.

"This is for my final plat approval only. Once I have received my certificate from DEP I will come back for the sewer approval," said Bishop. The council approved the final plat.

Public Works Assistant Director Greg Grooms addressed the council concerning the purchase of a new dump truck.

"You have the three bids. I personally would choose number 3 as we can get a longer bed (16') for \$1,000 more. We really need the longer bed," added Grooms. "The cost would be \$78,380."

Again, from the back of the room, McConnell added, "You're going to spend more money on a new truck. I've been looking on a website and saw some for \$68,000."

Mayor Vanzant asked McConnell to not speak out again.

The council approved the purchase of the new truck.

Public Works Director Ritchie Rowe addressed the council concerning payment for a Step down transformer for the Eastwood Lift Station. "The transformer was approved back in July for \$5,000. The transformer has been installed and is working," said Rowe. The council approved payment.

In closing comments, McConnell approached the podium. "I apologize for speaking out of turn. I talked to Mr. Grooms about finding a truck for \$68,000 and thought that's what he was going to do," said McConnell. "I haven't seen or heard when the council is going to meet with members of the SJRWMD concerning property that might need permits."

The next council meeting will be Thursday, November 21 at 7 p.m.

# Letters to the Editor



## Love the Journal

Dear Editor,

I doubt you know me but once I explain, you may remember. At the Veterans dinner about a week ago, you sat next to my father, Mr. Hogrefe. He told you about me and how I began 'The Victory Times' Victory Christian Academy's revived school newspaper. I am very pleased and excited to be writing to an actual editor and learn more about being a true journalist.

My father probably didn't tell you that I love getting the Westside Journal on Thursdays after school. I then search for the

'In the Kitchen' recipe and if I would like to try it out, I cut it out (even though I do not cook often). After I find the recipe, I look for interesting and exciting articles. I do find quite a few!

Thank you for your time and I can't wait to hear back!

Yours truly,  
Dinah M. Hogrefe

*Editor's note: Dinah and I had a great talk while she stopped by the office with her mom. She plans to come by one day and watch how we put the paper together!*

## Callahan Christmas Parade Information!

Reserve your vendor or parade spot today!

On Saturday, December 7 at 11 a.m. the Callahan Events Committee will present the Callahan Christmas Parade.

On the following Saturday, December 14, A Callahan Christmas will return to West Nassau High School.

The parade will be conducted and organized by the WNHS Warrior Band Boosters. The theme of this year's Christmas parade will be "The Music of Christmas." To secure your float or marching spots in the parade email: [wnbandbooster@gmail.com](mailto:wnbandbooster@gmail.com). The deadline to enter the parade is Friday, November 15.

For more information on vendor spots for both the parade and A Callahan Christmas email Leanne Ludvigsen at: [Christmasvendorswnhs@gmail.com](mailto:Christmasvendorswnhs@gmail.com). Vendors that book space for both events will receive a reduced rate. The deadline to be a vendor in either event is Thursday, November 21.

Sponsorships for the Christmas Parade and Out With A Boom fireworks spectacular are available now. For more information and a donation form, please visit [townofcallahan-fl.gov](http://townofcallahan-fl.gov).



## Bryceville Community Free Thanksgiving Dinner

Tuesday, November 26<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.

Hosted by Bryceville First Baptist Church

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# Fish Talk

## Cool Weather is Here!

Chris Cockerham, Reel Habit

The great thing about fall is that you can actually sleep late and not worry about being on the water so early. This past weekend, that's just what Klynt Farmer and I did. Just like most crisp mornings you better bundle up for the ride or it will be miserable! After the 5 mile trip, coffee wasn't needed as both of us were wide awake! We made it to our first location at the top of the incoming tide. There wasn't any rush to start casting so we decided to chase a few finger mullet for a warm up. Boy did that turn into a job! Most of the bait was on the surface and just before cast net distance, they'd dive deep. We had to anticipate where these fish were going then make blind casts. After about twenty attempts and two dozen finger mullet we decided to strike out.

After watching the reaction of bait, we had a feeling that artificial lures would be on fire. Well, that's just what happened as we eased up to the first spot. Klynt struck first with a solid trout and several times thereafter. It appeared as though he was going to have the hot hand. His bait of choice was the Unfair Lure, Rip N Slash 90 in the slow sinking, trout pattern. This time of year as the temps start dropping, fish will feed heavily. That said, most all natural colored suspending baits are absolute killers. I have a passion for throwing artificial lures because of the challenge. Second, there's nothing more exciting than feeling a big fish crushing your bait while on the pause. To be precise, we used the twitch, twitch, pause. As our day progressed, the bite became tough. Klynt never gave up and continued to let the lure rip, literally. He ended up filling the box with some quality fish. Klynt also felt very generous and decided to donate nine unfair lures to the big saltwater pond. So if you see any Rip N Slashes lying around, let us know!

With that said, the bite continues to be very good on the incoming tide. All of our Intracoastal waterways are loaded with red fish and trout. Most of these fish are targeting mullet on the end of the run. So, look for the schools of bait running along the ICW and watch for spooked fish, meaning bait that's being ambushed by predatory fish from below. Areas to target include oyster beds, grass points where the creeks turn and any structure where these bait fish can run along the shallows. Also, downsize your fluorocarbon leaders because of our clearing water. Trout can see very well and most of the bigger fish got that way for a reason. Second, pick up your favorite suspending or lipped baits. Use what you have the most confidence with. When I say that it's time for artificial, I mean it. The bite is really turning on and it's only going to get better.

This Saturday, November 16, look for a great bite right after daylight. We will have an incoming tide until noon. There will be some big fish caught especially if we have any cloud coverage.

Okay let's go! Get ready and I look forward to seeing you on the water!

# JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

I was going in a totally different direction this week until I read an article in "The Washington Times." If you have not realized that the far left have totally gone off the deep end, then this should erase all doubt. The title of the story is, "Milk: The new symbol of racism in Donald Trump's America." The column was written by Kelly Riddell as an analysis/opinion and was written in March 2017.

Kelly starts her column with, "If you drink milk, you may be a neo-Nazi racist. No joke." She is referring to an article in the Daily49er, California State University's college paper where staff writer Samantha Diaz wrote that milk has become the new symbol of hate.

Ms. Diaz wrote, "You, along with the rest of the nation, have been so accustomed to hearing the benefits of milk that you probably didn't even realize the subtle racism hidden in our health facts." She went on babbling that, "It may not surprise you that the United States was founded on racism. That every institution we uphold has racist roots that are sometimes difficult to catch and even harder to fight against. This phenomenon affects our voter ID laws, state testing and, yes, even our federal dietary guidelines." Yep, it's all about milk. She says, "The federal endorsement of milk in American diets contributes to the problem of uncritically pushing people to drink milk, despite the potential detriment it has on non-white people's health. It all boils down to milk being a source

to prevent osteoporosis, a disease that weakens our bones. While this is a health benefit, osteoporosis affects Africans at a significantly lower rate than it does most Americans. So, milk may very well do a white person's body good but not a black body, thereby its racist."

Sadly she isn't alone with this warped way of thinking. Mic.com also wrote an article titled: "Milk is the new, creamy symbol of white racial purity in Donald Trump's America." Also Jordan Peele with the Los Angeles Times states there is a link between milk and hate and he depicted it in his movie on racial bigotry in the modern age. The scene he is referring to is an actress sitting in her bedroom, with her headphones on snacking on Fruit Loops and drinking milk through a straw! Now if that isn't the most blatant form of racism you have ever heard of? All I can say is wow!

I think Candace Owens (a black woman, not that it matters) says it best. She states, "What the Left fears more than anything is white people and black people coming together and loving their country. This is why they are doing absolutely everything in their power to inspire a race war. Class and racial warfare are essential to their party platform."

We as Americans need to drop the titles of our ethnicities and just be Americans, all for one and one for all. As always...that's just my opinion!

Visit us anytime at: [www.mywestsidejournal.com](http://www.mywestsidejournal.com)

## EVENTS AROUND TOWN

The Sons of Confederate Veterans monthly will be held Monday, November 18, at the Pig restaurant in Callahan at 7 p.m. If you are interested in the Southern history during 1861-1865, you are invited to attend.

The West Nassau High School Advisory Council monthly meeting will be held Thursday, November 14 in the media center at 4 p.m.

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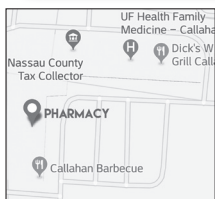


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# Keeping Our Tongue In Check

Pastor Arlie Johns, Hilliard First Assembly of God



Do you ever wonder how the words that you speak affect those around you? This past Saturday morning at our Men's Prayer Breakfast, one of the men in the group shared how the Lord kept directing him to read James Chapter 3. In that Chapter, James talks about the power of the tongue. I believe this is probably an area that we all struggle with at times.

James 3:5-10 tells us: *"The tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be."*

I don't know about you, but my tongue has put me in some difficult situations over the years. I can't tell you how many times I wish I could have taken back some of the words that I have spoken. Our tongue has a way of speaking out of turn at times when we allow our emotions to get away from us. Sometimes we excuse our words by saying that it's the truth, but even the truth hurts at times.

Over the years I have found that the things we dwell on the most, are the things we tend to speak about most. If we spend time thinking about the love and mercy of God; we speak about God's love and mercy. If we think on the negative or critical side of things, we tend to speak to the negative or judgmental side. It's important that we try our best to focus on the positive rather than the negative. You and I have the opportunity to either build people up or tear them down with the words that we speak. My goal is to build people up and not tear them down. I know that I'm not always the best at doing this, but it's my goal.

I think that the month of November would be a great time to practice this principle. This is the month that we celebrate Thanksgiving, so why not focus on the things that you are thankful for. Do your best for the rest of the month to look at all the blessings that you have in your life instead of the negative things that try to clutter your mind. Let's use the rest of the month to practice speaking words that encourage one another, rather words that teardown or discourage others.

Remember, once the words are out of your mouth there's no way to get them back. We have to be careful and think before we speak. Do your best over the next couple of weeks and practice speaking the positive. It might just change your whole attitude and outlook in life. Don't forget Jesus "Loves You!"



## Community Fun Day Saturday

Greater Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church in Callahan will host their Annual Community Fun Day this Saturday from 12 noon - 5 p.m. The church is located at 45031 Historical Lane, just north of Callahan. There will be bounce houses for the children, musical entertainment, face painting, food and lots of fellowship together! Everyone is invited to come out and enjoy the fun!

## Bryceville Library Fall Festival Held



The Bryceville Library held a Fall Festival Saturday, November 2 and had a spectacular turn out! The guests enjoyed a petting zoo, crafts, hay rides and were able to interact with members from the Florida Forestry Service, the Nassau County Sheriff's Office, Nassau County Fire Rescue and the Agriculture Law Enforcement. There was also a representative for the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge.

Hot dogs and other goodies were provided by the Bryceville Friends of the Library. We would like to thank all of our participants for volunteering their time, and effort.



## CHURCH NEWS

The United Christian Men's Fellowship will meet Sat., Nov. 16 at 9 a.m. at the Methodist Church in Baldwin (51 Chestnut St.). Open to all men. To create unity; to empower men to focus on the word of God in everyday life.

Gateway to Life Ministries will have a Food Giveaway Saturday, November 16 for families in need from 10 a.m. - noon. The church is located at 37837 Eastwood Rd., Hilliard.

Greater Mt. Pleasant MB Church will celebrate Family and Friends Day Sunday, November 17 at 4 p.m. Former Pastor Rev. Charles E. Williams, Jr. and the Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church of Orlando will be our special guest church.

Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church invites all women to a free night of fun, friends and fashion; shop from 15 vendors for early Christmas Shopping; food and beverages provided. A 50/50 raffle with proceeds going to Pinky Promise. Join us Friday, Nov. 15 from 3-9 p.m. at 541668 US Hwy. 1, Callahan.

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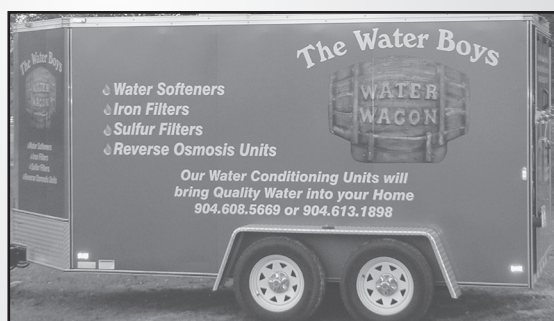
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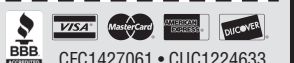


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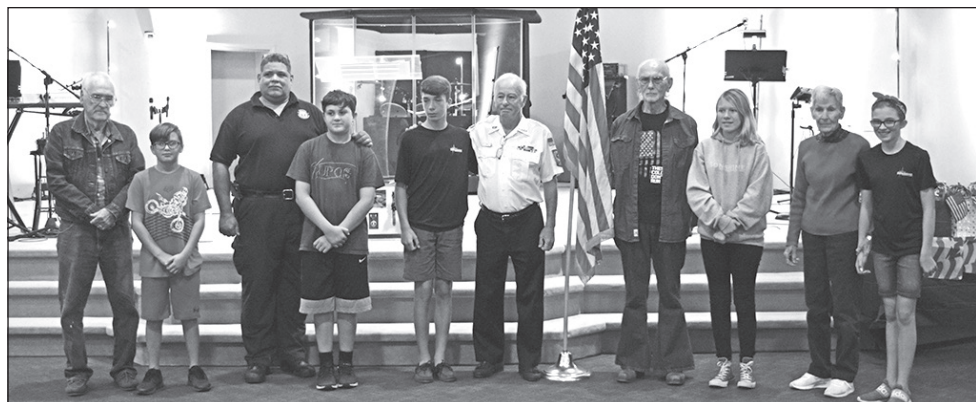
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## Sonshine Celebrates Veterans

Sonshine Christian Academy hosted "Bring your Veteran to Chapel Day" on Wednesday, November 6. Students and staff members proudly introduced each veteran to standing ovations by a cheering audience. Sonshine students presented veterans and their family members with handmade cards expressing gratitude to our hometown heroes for service to our country.



## North Florida Building Trades Apprenticeship Career Day

North Florida Building Trades Apprenticeship Programs have been training the future work force in the city of Jacksonville and surrounding counties since 1946. Our training programs continue to be "Tuition Free" and offer a lifetime career in an ever changing environment.

Make sure to attend our Career Day Saturday, November 16 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. to find out more about a thriving career with 'Earn While You Learn' opportunities! The event will be held at 489 Stevens St., Jacksonville, FL, 32254.

Apprenticeship Opportunities in the following trades: Carpentry; Electrical; HVAC; Iron Worker; Operating Engineers; Pipe Fitting; Pipe Welding; Plumbing; and Sheet Metal Workers. Benefits of Apprenticeship: Free Health insurance; Pension/401 Retirement; FREE Training; Competitive wages with guaranteed pay increase; and VA Registered Programs.

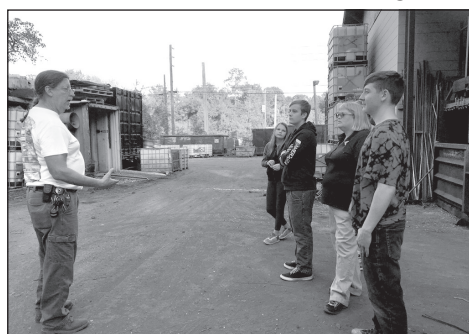
## CMS Earth Warriors are Busy Saving Our Planet

*Amanda Thien, CMS/WNHS Gifted*

Did you know 5 plastic bottles can make a polyester t-shirt? At the conclusion of the Northeast Florida Fair, the Callahan Middle School Earth Warrior 4-H members sorted all the recyclables and filled three green totes with plastic bottles alone! Over 50% of the aluminum cans produced are recycled. We were able to recycle 56 pounds of aluminum thanks to your support of our efforts.



Club members took a walking field



trip this past week to learn more about different metals being recycled at the Callahan facility on the corner of US1 and Old Dixie Highway. A special thank you to the community and the staff at Callahan Recycling for helping us save our landfill from all of this plastic and aluminum. Keep an eye out in the community as these young people will be raising funds for a trip to visit California National Parks in the summer of 2020 and they would be thankful for your support!

## HES Craft & Vendor Fair Saturday

Hilliard Elementary School, at 27568 Ohio Street, will hold a Craft & Vendor Fair this Saturday from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Rain or Shine! Come and shop for unique, handmade and vendor items at the school. There will also be face painting, balloon art, children's craft stations, photo booths, concessions and a huge yard sale in the bus lot!

There will be lots of vendors joining in the fun including: HMM Threads; St. Mary's Bee Ranch; Thirty-One; Angie's Fabulous & Fashionable Bling; The Traded Rabbit Co.; Denise Sutton Painting; The Vintage Brush; Antiques, Crafts & Oddities; Rustic at Heart; 4Daughters Designs; Plunder Jewelry; Tillman Family Creations; Everything You; Farm & Lace; Sister's Coffee; Button Blue; Brannen & Hazlip Wood Crafts; Southern Pine Designs; K's Creamery; Dana Reed Woodworking & Crafts; Sims' Custom Shirts & Candles; Trader's Hill Farm; Taylor'd-n-Style; Sarver Family Woodcrafts; Christmas Ornaments Galore and much more!

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# New Beginnings and Milestones

## Lorraine Swinehart Celebrates 85<sup>th</sup> Birthday



Lorraine Swinehart, of Hilliard, celebrated her 85th birthday October 14. Mrs. Swinehart is a very active lady and enjoys working in her yard. She attends Boulogne Holiness Church.

Each year, on her birthday, her daughters Diane and Linda, travel to Florida to celebrate and spend the week with her and their sister Taylor. This year the ladies went to Fernandina Beach and St. Augustine along with a few other places. They ladies shopped, had lunch, went to the beach and crafted together. They also enjoyed the lake and having bonfires. Most of all, they enjoyed time together!

She has five children: Dale and Barbara Swinehart, Randy and Tara Christner, Taylor Diamond of Hilliard, Diane Tattrie of Arizona and Linda and Donnie Yant of Michigan. She also has 13 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

## Blank Check Society ROCKS!

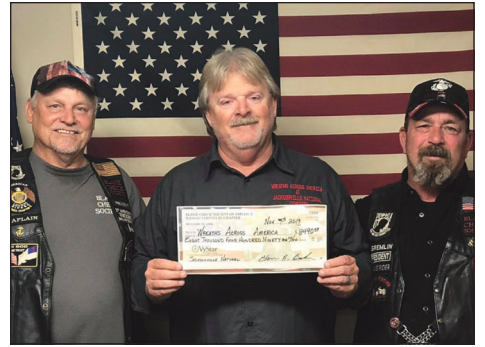
Mike Mekara, National President/Chaplain

The Blank Check Society held their 4th Annual Pork Butt Cook-Off, Wreaths Across America (WAA) Raffle Drawing and Annual Blood Drive Saturday, November 9. We had a great turn out. Thirty-five units of blood (breaking our previous record of 29 units) were donated and over 100 dinners prepared. There were well over 200 people that attended. This was an excellent turn out, since there was another Blood Drive conducted in Hilliard the same day!

We want to thank the community for sharing the power to save lives! The recent blood donations are vital to our community and will likely be transfused into a patient within the next two to three days. The turnaround is that fast, the need is constant. We ask our community to "please give when you can."

We want to thank our Cook-Off Judges: Hilliard Mayor Floyd Vanzant, Nassau County Sheriff Bill Leeper and Tim Wysocki. It was a challenge choosing our top three winners but here they are: 1st Place Buckie Carroll; 2nd Place Wesley "Cowboy" Watson; and 3rd Place Bert/Judy Winer.

During the Blood Drive, a raffle drawing was done to further support Wreaths Across America. The Blank Check Society (BCS) of America, Nassau County Chapter, with the assistance of the VFW Post 10095 Hilliard had been conducting numerous fundraisers to raise money for the purchase



of Christmas Wreaths. The fundraiser began at the Annual Boots-On-The-Ground event in May. Mike Smith, Jacksonville National Cemetery WAA Coordinator, was present to receive a donation of \$8,490.00. These wreaths will be placed upon the Veteran graves at the Jacksonville National Cemetery on December 14. Over 12,000 wreaths were needed.

This continued effort would not be possible without the support of our local businesses, specifically: Callahan Barbecue, Callahan Country Kitchen, AA Bottle Gas and SCW Liquors. Special thanks to numerous businesses for their donated items and allowing us to advertise on their premises. Community support is needed. Please contact the Wreaths Across America, Blank Check Society (BCS), Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), American Legion or any other local veteran organization about how to help.

It takes a total community effort to ensure ALL the graves at the Jacksonville National Cemetery receive a Christmas Wreath. The Wreath escort will arrive at 8:30 a.m. Volunteers unload/prepare wreath placement at 10 a.m. and the ceremony commences at 11:45 a.m. For more information about the wreaths visit: [www.wreathacrossamericajacksonville.com](http://www.wreathacrossamericajacksonville.com) or search Wreaths Across America Jacksonville National Cemetery on Facebook.

## Westside Journal Visits Mexico

A copy of the Westside Journal newspaper recently went to Mexico City for Day of the Dead! Day of the Dead is a yearly celebration spanning 3 days, October 30 - November 2, where families remember their loved ones by building ofrendas (memorials) at the graves and their homes consisting of food, flowers, candles, and other things the person enjoyed. This tradition is represented in the Disney Pixar film 'Coco'.



Shown (l to r) are: Ashley Stinson and Mary Reid who were also joined on the trip by Corkie Reid who was taking the picture!

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Multi-child discounts available  
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## 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Dayspring Village SECRET SANTA

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!

www.dayspringvillage.org Call today! 845-7501



AL #5766



# Hilliard Holds Veteran Appreciation Ceremony

Dawn S. West

The Town of Hilliard held their Annual Veterans Appreciation Saturday at the American Legion Post 401 in Hilliard. The weather was great and there was a large presence of Veterans. The Hilliard Middle-Senior High School Flashes Band entertained the crowd with music. The flag presentations were done by members of the West Nassau AF JROTC and the band played the National Anthem.

Three speakers captivated the crowd with their patriotism and love for our country. They were: Mr. Billy Chaires, a Hilliard Veteran, who served in the US Marine Corps, Veteran of Desert Storm; Thomas F. Howe, Jacksonville Veteran, US Marine Corps Vietnam Veteran; and Dean Diana, also a Hilliard Veteran, US Air Force Captain.

The Hilliard American Legion Auxillary held a Flag Essay Contest. The winners were: 1st Place Elizabeth Horton, 8th Grade, Callahan Middle School, won a \$25 gift card, a ribbon and plaque; 2nd Place Brianna Decker,



6th Grade, Callahan Middle School, won a ribbon and \$15 gift card (not present); 3rd Place Baylee Cruce, 8th Grade, Callahan Middle School, won a ribbon and a \$10 gift card.

Flags were given for the oldest Veteran in attendance, Mr. Nello 'Bob' Zortea, 98, US Navy; the youngest Veteran, Mr. Aaron Johnson, 22, US Army; and the Veteran with the

most years served, 36, Mr. James Hendricks, who is 90 years old, US Army.

Bobby Franklin gave a heart-warming speech of his love for his country and for his military brothers that he served with. "Those were some hard times and we all lost a lot of friends. This honor 'Veterans Day' is truly a special day to

honor ALL Veterans," added Franklin.

Everyone enjoyed dinner together. OneBlood was also on site for blood donations.



Mr. Nello 'Bob' Zortea



Mr. Aaron Johnson



Mr. James Hendricks

## ToyMakers of Yulee Fall Festival Fundraiser

The ToyMakers of Yulee will hold their annual Fall Festival Fundraiser this Saturday from 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. at Yulee United Methodist Church, 86003 Christian Way. All proceeds from the festival will be used to help the group donate brightly painted, handmade, wooden toys to children in stressful situations through local, well-organized agencies.

In the past two years, they have provided nearly 2,000 toys to local organizations. This is one way we can help them continue to expand their mission of 'Making smiles one toy at a time!'

The Fall Festival will include a Silent Auction with all kinds of unique items including a 2018 Race Track, Artist Paintings and Handmade Quilts and much more. There will be a huge yard sale, Derby Races for all ages, craft tables filled with handmade Christmas Ornaments, decorations, jewelry, wood and fabric products, collectible Boyd's Collectible Bears starting at \$5 and much more! The Sheriff's Department will have a K-9 demonstration and also vehicles to check out; Fire-Rescue personnel to talk with and look at their trucks and also a Car Show! Food will be available for purchase from Island Brothers Sauce Company! Come out this Saturday to support a great organization!

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**Annual Fall Bazaar**  
**Bethany Episcopal Church**  
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**Veterans Appreciation Festival & Car Show**  
**Saturday, November 16**  
 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
 Car Show 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
 at the Historic Callahan Train Depot  
 Hosted by the West Nassau Historical Society

From the Liz Mobley Main Stage

9 a.m.	Arts/Crafts, Kids' Area, FAA Air Traffic Exhibit & Musical Exhibits All Open
9 a.m.	Buck Lucontro Performs
10 a.m.	First Baptist Church of Boulougne Bluegrass Ministry Performs
10 a.m.	Classic Car Show Opens
10:40 a.m.	Veterans Appreciation Ceremony
11:20 a.m.	Benny Alford and Friends Perform
12:20 p.m.	Liz & Randall Smith Perform
1:20 p.m.	Traditional Country
2 p.m.	Classic Car Show Awards Ceremony
2:30 p.m.	Random Tandem Performs
3:20 p.m.	Back in Time Band Performs
4 p.m.	All Exhibits Close

Joel Pace Students Hands-on Music Zoo - 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Depot Front Platform  
 Entertainment Coordinator - Jerry Peterson • Emcee - Buck Lucontro  
 Car Show portion presented by Cochrane's Collision, Callahan Cruisers and AB&B Auto Parts. All proceeds from this event goes to the non-profit West Nassau Historical Society. For more information, visit [www.wnhsll.org](http://www.wnhsll.org).



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**SATURDAY,** 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., 55595 Bear Run Road, Spring Lake Estates. Tons of Christmas items and more! Rain cancels!

**SATURDAY,** 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., 45158 Mickler Street, Callahan. Tools, toys, Christmas, household, material, crafts, books, Bible covers, housewares, lots more!

**ANNUAL HYATT YARD SALE!** Friday & Saturday, 8 a.m. until? 614674 River Road, Callahan. Something for everyone!

**MULTI-FAMILY** garage sale! FRIDAY & SATURDAY, Nov. 15 & 16, 8 a.m. until? 456375 Old Dixie Highway, Hilliard. Christmas lights & decorations, household items, fabric & yarn, plants, homemade items & much more. Rain or shine!

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**THE ROYS** on Griffin Road are not selling firewood. We recommend calling: Unka Dave at (904) 583-4616. 111419

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# POLICE REPORTS

*Names, Addresses and all information appearing in the Police Reports are taken from the Sheriff's Department files and do not necessarily indicate guilt, only that arrests were made or charges were filed.*

## Monday, November 4

Eric Tyler Edwards, 21, 2903 Jane Lane, Hilliard: Baker County Warrant Violation of Probation

Lesla Rena Tison, 48, 17153 Whistler Spring Lane, Hilliard: Possession of Methamphetamine

Erica Danielle Petty, 32, 17194 Buckskin Road, Hilliard: Possession of Methamphetamine

## Wednesday, November 6

Michael Eugene Moyer, 38, 54021 Jodi Lane, Callahan: Clay County Warrant Violation of Probation Domestic Battery

## Fatal Accident Saturday Night

A Callahan woman lost her life in a single vehicle accident Saturday night on Thomas Creek Road. According to Florida Highway Patrol reports, around 10:21 p.m. Saturday, November 9, Marianne Hand, 34, of Callahan, was traveling northbound on Thomas Creek Road when she lost control of her vehicle. The vehicle traveled off of the roadway and onto the west shoulder. The left front of the vehicle collided with a standing tree. Ms. Hand was pronounced deceased at the scene.

## Hilliard Man Sentenced to Prison

U.S. District Judge Marcia Morales Howard sentenced Richard Earl Carroll, 55, of Hilliard, to 10 years in federal prison for conspiring to distribute 500 grams or more of methamphetamine. Carroll had pleaded guilty on July 26, 2019.



Multiple witnesses identified Carroll as a methamphetamine supplier in Nassau County. During the execution of two separate search warrants at Carroll's home, local, state and federal law enforcement officers seized methamphetamine, assorted prescription pills (including hydrocodone and Xanax), marijuana plants and baggies containing marijuana, and 24 firearms. During a post-arrest

interview, Carroll admitted to obtaining more than 500 grams of methamphetamine from a source to sell to his customers. He also admitted that, at times, he traded the drugs to his customers for firearms.

Carroll's sentencing follows a series of related state and federal drug prosecutions involving the distribution of methamphetamine, including Billy Crayton Skinner, 43, of Hilliard, who was sentenced to 37 months in federal prison on September 9, 2019; and Thomas A. Crews, 45, of Hilliard, who was sentenced to 29 months in federal prison in 2017.

This case was investigated by the Nassau County Sheriff's Office, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the Drug Enforcement Administration. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Michael J. Coolican.

# West Nassau Shuts Out Ridgeview!

Kyle Pipkin

The warrior defense shut out Ridgeview Friday, November 1 to end their regular season by a score of 47-0. The Warriors are in the playoffs as a number 2 seed in their region. They will host Bradford County this Friday night at Warrior Field for a 7:30 p.m. kick-off. Playoff admission is \$8 per person.



The Ridgeview win was a huge game for the Warrior defense as they shut out Ridgeview. As a team they had some video game stats. They had a team total of 15 sacks. Eleven different Warriors had a sack in the game. Ridgeview lost 163 yards on those 15 sacks. Trent Fort, Ethan Webb, Colby Beverly, Carson Murray and Jason Rowell all had multiple stats. This is the type of defense Champions play!

The secondary was just as dominant. Zorian Stanton had the game's only interception. Chaz Davis lead the team with three passes defended. The secondary, as a whole, had seven passes defended. Colby Beverly also recovered a fumble. All around, it was a great defensive effort for the Warriors.

I am a firm believer that defense wins championships. The Warriors have a great defense. They have had some rough games but have always bounced back the next game. The pass defense has been a lot better since the Lee game. This week the team only gave up 179 total yards. The run defense has been great all year, hopefully they'll continue to play like this.

As for the offense, they had another big game putting up points. They scored 27 points in the second quarter. The passing game continues to evolve Chaz Hirschman and Blayze Padgett. The duo teamed up for a combined total of 231

yards and 4 touchdowns through the air. This type of balanced attack will help the Warriors in the playoffs. The key is to keep putting stress on the opponent's defense!

Ethan Johns lead the team in rushing having 3 carries for 50 yards and 1 touchdown. The Warriors only ran the ball 13 times which is a season low. They still had 126 yards on the ground averaging over 9 yards a carry. The team had 2 touchdowns on the ground.

The offensive line play was very good, having 16 pancake blocks; Trey McCullough had 5; and Wyatt Butler and Patrick Conner each had 4 tackles. Hopefully, this type of play will continue during the playoff game.

Come out and join the Warriors at home this Friday, November 15 at 7:30 p.m. when they host Bradford County. Let's have Warrior Field rocking! Just a reminder that playoff admission is \$8 per person for everyone!

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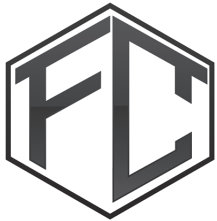
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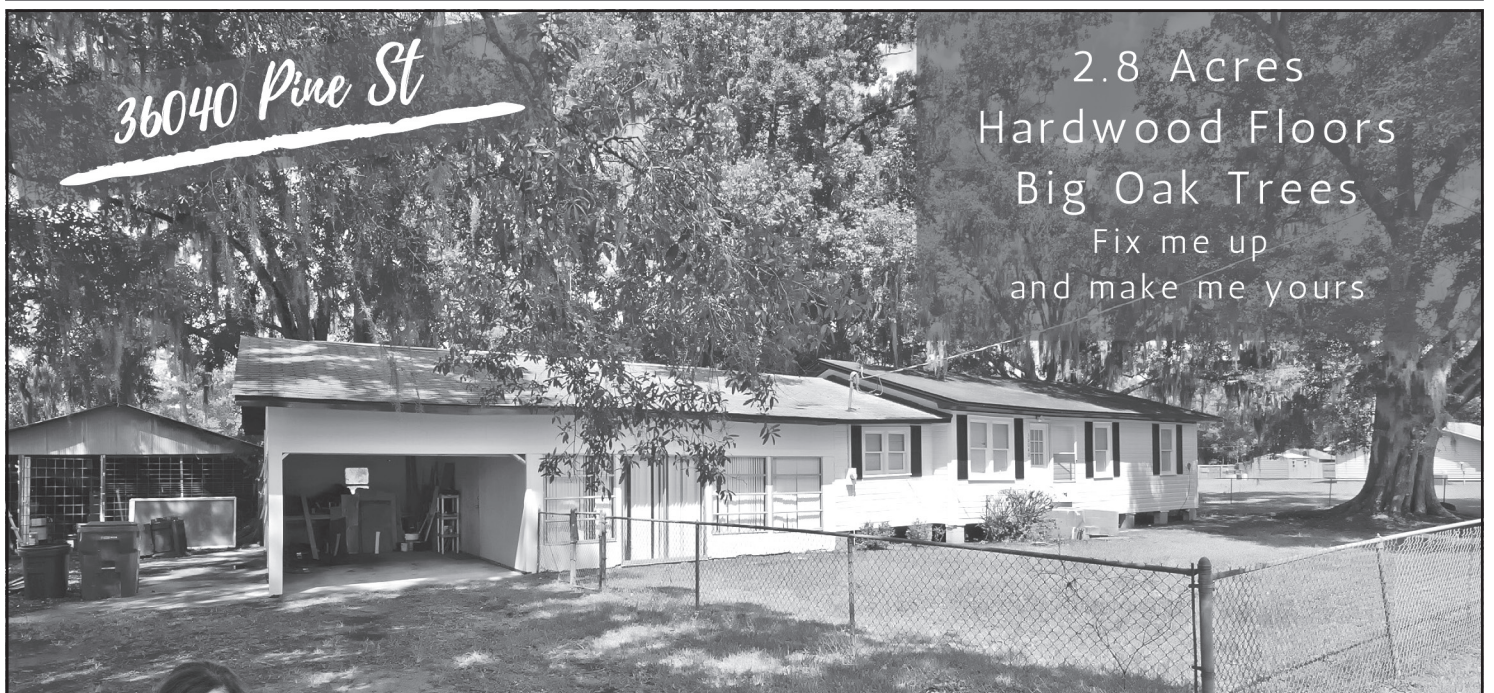
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**LEWIS HUBERT CONNER**



Mr. Lewis Hubert Conner, 93, of Bryceville, passed away Thursday, November 7, 2019. Mr. Conner was born in Hilliard, to the late John Upchurch Conner and Dola McIntosh Conner. He was a farmer and a retired Supervisor at Southern Wood Piedmont Company, where he was employed for over 30 years. Mr. Conner was a member of Bryceville First Baptist Church and served as a deacon for many years. He loved singing bluegrass gospel music and going fishing on the St. Mary's River. A kind and loving man, he cherished time spent with his family.

He is survived by his sons Rex (Patricia) Conner of Bryceville and Ray (Hope) Conner of Callahan; grandchildren Chad Conner, Michael Conner, Kristin (Richard) Geiger, Erica Johns, Kelly Kennedy, Ashley (Darrell) Padgett, Traci Bailey, Brent Johnson and Melody (Eric) Beursken; great-grandchildren Makayin, Conner, Kendall, Kelby, Grant, Cameron, Cade, Cole, Kellen, Cohen, Christian, Colby, Conner, Abigail, Cooper, Jonah, Jacob, Paityn and Shane.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers Ellis, Aubrey, Melvin and Clyde; and sister Beulah Bell.

The family received friends prior to the funeral service held Monday, November 11 at Bryceville First Baptist Church with Pastor Paul Abernathy and Reverend Richard Fish officiating. Interment followed in Conner-Green Cemetery, Hilliard.

Serving as pallbearers were: Eddie Conner, Richard Conner, Lawrence Conner, Stanley Conner, James Bell and Brent Johnson.

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

Arrangements by Warren Funeral Services of Baldwin, 904-266-0072.

# OBITUARIES

**HERSHELL VIRGIL HURST**

Mr. Hershell Virgil Hurst, 85, of Bryceville, passed away Saturday, November 9, 2019 at St. Vincent's Medical Center Riverside, under the care of Community Hospice.

Born in Waycross, Georgia on April 2, 1934, he had lived in Jacksonville, for several years prior to moving to Bryceville, 40 years ago. Mr. Hurst had been a diesel mechanic and had worked for several different companies: Mercury Motor Express, Terminal Transport, Great Dane Trailer and American Freight, over the years. He also farmed and enjoyed working on tractors. Mr. Hurst was an avid outdoorsman. He raised/trained dogs for quail hunting and had worked as a quail hunting guide at WW Ranch. He also enjoyed dove hunting and fishing. Mr. Hurst was a Mason and was one of the original members of the Bryceville Volunteer Fire Department. He was a member of Beulah Baptist Church.

He was a son of the late Thomas Pinkney & Sally Johnson Hurst. He was also preceded in death by his wife, Ruby Alice Benton Hurst; three sisters Myrtle Varnell, Mary Elizabeth and Jewell; and all of his brothers Madison David, Thomas Pinkney, Jr., Charles Grover, William Howard, Gene Autry, James Albert and Oden Ezekiel.

Survivors include his son and daughter-in-law Michael and Sonja Hurst of Bryceville; his sister, Sally Karsten of St. Cloud, Florida; his granddaughter and grandson-in-law Mikki and Ryan Silcox of Jacksonville; two great-grandchildren Celina and Colton Silcox; and several nieces, nephews and other relatives.

The family received friends at Pearson-Dial Funeral Home Blackshear, prior to the graveside service held Wednesday, November 13 at Beulah Cemetery in

Blackshear.

Sympathy may be expressed by signing the online register at [www.pearsondial.com](http://www.pearsondial.com).

Pearson-Dial Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

**MATTHEW G. MEZIERE, JR.**



Matthew 'Matt' G. Meziere, Jr, 77, of Hilliard, passed away following a brief illness on November 9, 2019 surrounded by his family. He was much

loved and admired by his family and friends for living life fully and with integrity.

Matt was born on March 31, 1942 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma as one of six children. He was preceded in death by his father Matthew G. Meziere, Sr. (1981) and mother Mabel Meziere (2004). He was married to his beloved wife Peggy V. (Hodges) Meziere, for 46 years. Matt devotedly cared for Peggy for several months prior to her passing in 2012.

Matt developed his values of family first and hard work from an early age. He was mechanically gifted and took up his father's vocation as a sheet metal tin bender, a career that he pursued for over 30 years, working out of Jacksonville Local #435 and then at St. Regis and Container Corporation paper mills. From his father, he also developed a lifelong love of hunting and was a well-known member of the South Hilliard Hunting Club. Though Matt lived in the Jacksonville area for over 50 years he embraced his Okie roots and frequently traveled to Oklahoma to spend time with his family there, rejoicing in each new addition.

A true patriot, Matt enlisted in the US Navy following a short stint in college and was a decorated 2-term Veteran who served on the USS Harry E Hubbard (DD 748) and the USS Ault (DD 698) during the 1960s. His life changed forever in 1966 when he met and fell in love with Peggy while stationed at Mayport. He embraced her two sons, Tim and Ken, as his own and rejoiced in the births of Gary and Sherry. Eventually settling in Hilliard, Matt always made sure his family came first, attending school and sporting events and spending many hours coaching little league games for which

he is still remembered fondly by many in the community. He continued to pass that legacy of caring on to his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, by arranging numerous fishing trips to his second home in Florahome, excursions to Chuck E. Cheese, attendance at their sporting events and movie outings.

In his retirement years, he continued to pursue his interests in hunting, fishing and travelling frequently with Peggy to their favorite vacation spots in Daytona Beach and the Keys. He was an amateur historian who was well versed on the Civil War and visited many battlefields on family trips. Outgoing and gregarious, Matt was knowledgeable about many current events and loved to engage in conversation with others. Matt was also a long time, born-again Christian and passed with blessed assurance in his faith. His witnessing and personal testimony over several decades helped bring many others into relationship with the Lord. He was a member of Live Oak Baptist Church in Hilliard and Buford Grove Baptist Church where he taught Sunday school classes and helped with Vacation Bible School.

Matt's memory will be cherished by his three sons Tim (Sue) Howard, Kenneth Howard and Gary (Decie) Meziere; daughter Sherry Meziere (Richie) West; former daughter-in-law Shannon Meziere; grandchildren Tiffany (Dustin) Gardner, Genevieve Howard, Adam Howard, Cody West, Chase West, Trevor Meziere, Jessie Wetherhill and Jack Wetherhill; and great-grandchildren Malcom Howard and Georgia Aubrey Gardner; and by his sisters and brothers Annie, Judy, Mary, Patrick and Steve and their spouses, children and grandchildren; and many dear friends.

According to Matt's wishes, the visitation and viewing for family and friends will be held at Nassau Funeral Home, Thursday, November 14 from 6-8 p.m. Funeral services will be held at Live Oak Baptist Church, Friday, November 15 at 11 a.m. with Pastor Steve Wolgamott officiating. Interment will follow at Bethel Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery, Hilliard.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in support of military veterans at: [www.garysinisefoundation.org](http://www.garysinisefoundation.org).

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

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

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**THORNTON FAMILY THANK YOU**  
 The family of Wayne Thornton extends their heartfelt gratitude to all the neighbors, friends and "friends to be" that have rallied around us, prayed for us and those that continue to pray for us. The loving care and words of remembrance given during these first weeks of our changed life have been overwhelming. Simply Thank You! Our prayer is for God's blessing on each of you.

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# OBITUARIES

## MAE SCUSSELL



Mae Scussell, 99, went home to be with her Lord and Savior November 7, 2019. She was born January 2, 1920 in Hawkins County Tennessee and moved to Hilliard in 1945.

Mae enjoyed reading, search a word, crocheting, camping, reminiscing with her peers and spending time with her family and friends. She worked for many years at Lil Champ and Magic Market and was an active member of Ephesus Baptist Church in Hilliard.

She was preceded in death by parents Edward and Cora Synamon; son Carl Scussell; grandson Andrew Scussell; step grandson Joshua Erwin; and great-granddaughter Daphne Sanders.

Mae is survived by her son Frank, Jr. (Tracey) Scussell; daughters Betty (Hank) Martinez, Frances (Rayford) Conner and Virginia (Gary) Davis; grandchildren Carl Scussell, Jr., Michael Scussell, Hank Martinez, Jr., Brant Gay, Michelle Conner Gore, Michael Davis, Ricky Davis, Jeffrey Davis, Frances Scussell, Alisha Scussell, Savannah Scussell and Matthew Scussell; 11 great-grandchildren; several step grandchildren; four great-great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

The family received friends Monday, November 11 at the Nassau Funeral Home Chapel in Callahan. The funeral service was held Tuesday, November 12 at Ephesus Baptist Church in Hilliard with Pastor Marvin Lee officiating. Burial followed at St. Teresa Cemetery in Hilliard.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations in her memory be made to the Ephesus Baptist Church's Building Fund, 48143 Ephesus Church Road, Hilliard, FL 32046.

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

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

## GREGORY WAYNE SPENCE



Gregory Wayne Spence, 63, passed away November 7, 2019 in St. Marys, Georgia. He was born May 4, 1956 in Waycross, to the late Gordon

Lewis Spence and Jean Orrizell Crews Spence. Gregory was an outdoor person. He never played sports at school but he enjoyed watching the games, especially football. He enjoyed walking in the woods and being on the river. Fishing with his father in the creeks of Camden County was one of his favorite things. Throughout his life, he maintained his fascination with the tides of those creeks. Even during the days when he was no longer able to fish, he wanted the driver to slow down so he could check out how low or high the waters were as he crossed the bridges over Borrell Creek on Highway 40. He usually checked on his way back home to see the changes in the flow. Along with his parents; he was preceded in death by his sister Vicki L. Spence.

He is survived by his aunts Leola Crews, Leona Brisbane and Anita Turner; an uncle Verldon Spence; cousins Sharon Spence Allen, Iris Turner, Gail Faucette, Donna Drury, Sherri Cox, Lori Avery and Pam Prevatt; and a number of other relatives.

Funeral services were held Monday, November 11 in the chapel of Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home with Rev. Parnell Aldridge officiating. The family received friends prior to the service. Burial followed in Homeland Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Brandon Drury, Josh Owens, Jessica Drury, Brian Avery, Tommy Faucette and David Prevatt.

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

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home in Folkston.

## PEGGY MARSH WEATHERFORD



Mrs. Peggy Ann Marsh Weatherford, 93, of Greensboro, Georgia, formerly of Twin City, Georgia, passed away Monday, November 4, 2019 at The Glenn at Lake Oconee Village.

Mrs. Weatherford was born August 13, 1926 in Reidsville, Tattnall County, Georgia to the late Harville and Eunice Tyler Smith Marsh. She was a graduate of Portal High School, attended Georgia School for Women in Milledgeville and graduated from Georgia Teachers College in 1959. Mrs. Weatherford taught school in Charlton County, and retired from Nassau County Florida Court System in 1987 after 30 years. Very active in her community, she was head of Girl Scouts of America Troops in Fernandina Beach, for many years and served twice as Regent of the Adam Brinson Chapter of the DAR. She was a member of the Twin City First Baptist Church, attended Metter Primitive Baptist Church where she taught the Trapnell-Bekle Sunday School Class, was secretary of the Marian-Again Circle for many years and was very interested in and a big supporter of the youth of the church. Mrs. Weatherford dearly loved her family; traveling around the world with her husband; her friends; helping others; and her God. In addition

to her parents she was preceded in death by her loving husband of 55 years, Judge Joseph Eugene "Gene" Weatherford; one sister; and three brothers.

She is survived by her son Joseph Eugene 'Joe' (Carol) Weatherford, Jr. of Greensboro, Georgia; her daughter Susan Ann 'Suzanne' (Mike) Weatherford Graham of Birmingham, Alabama; her sister-in-law Sue Marsh of Callahan; five grandchildren Joseph Eugene 'Joey' Weatherford, III and Kacey Marie Weatherford (Dr. Brad) Young, Kimber Leigh Weatherford (Dr. David) Clark, Henry Michael (Kelsey) Graham, Jr. and Matthew Ware (Alex) Graham; two great-grandchildren Kale Carter Young, Joseph Lee 'Josey' Young; and many nieces, nephews and extended family.

The funeral service was held Saturday, November 9 in the Metter Primitive Baptist Church with Elder Mike Newman officiating. The family received friends prior to the service. Interment followed in the Old Canoochee Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Barry Marsh, Ed Marsh, Monty Shuman, Elliott Marsh, Brad Marsh and Gary Franklin.

Honorary pallbearers were Mike Graham and John Jenkins.

Condolences may be submitted at: [www.durden-hudsonfuneraldirectors.com](http://www.durden-hudsonfuneraldirectors.com).

Durden-Hudson Funeral Directors handled arrangements.

## In Loving Memory of R. NIEL HAMPTON, JR. November 17, 1984 - October 11, 2003

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Love,  
Mom and Dad



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# Flashes Win in Overtime Thriller

Holden McMillen

With an electric atmosphere, fans, alumni and anxious parents filled the stands Friday night as the Hilliard Flashes returned home for their first playoff game since 2014 and first home playoff game since 2004 to welcome a rematch with the Branford Buccaneers. With the misty rain and playoff weather in full display, Nathan Dowie, injured Flashes quarterback, attended the game uplifting the team!

The Flashes opened the game with the ball, but quickly went 3-and-out. The Buccaneers took advantage of a shanked punt and marched down the field that ended with a 1-yard touchdown run. With a successful extra point, the Bucs jumped out to an early 7-0 lead. The Flashes responded. The drive was capped off when quarterback Lyle Bennett found Jason Sheffield with a touchdown pass from 33-yards out. With a successful extra point, the Flashes tied the game at 7-7 at the end of the 1st quarter.

The momentum started to shift in a hurry. After another bad punt, the Bucs took advantage and went down the field that led to a 6-yard touchdown run. A successful extra point later, the Bucs extended the lead to 14-7. It got worse for the Flashes as Bennett threw an interception. The Flashes defense stood tall and stopped the Bucs from scoring on 4th down. After getting a 3-and-out, the Bucs once again got good field position off a punt from the end zone. The Bucs then used it for another 6-yard touchdown run. After an extra point made, the Bucs went into halftime with a strong 21-7 lead.

The winds of fortune began to blow in the Flashes direction. On the first play of the 3rd quarter, the Flashes defense came up with a much needed stop when Seth O'Neil recovered a fumble. The Flashes took the much needed boost and used it to orchestrate a drive that led to Bennett finding D.J. Coston for a 34-yard touchdown pass. After a missed extra point, the Flashes cut into the deficit 21-13 and kept on rolling. The Bennett-to-Coston began to catch fire at the right time as the pair connected on back-to-back touchdowns, one from 29-yards and the other from 15-yards. And just like that, the Flashes roared back to score 20 unanswered points in the 3rd quarter to take a 27-21 lead, their first of the night.

Heading into the 4th quarter, the Flashes came up with a crucial defensive stop on 4th down. The Flashes orchestrated a masterpiece of a drive that used the run game and a crucial 13-yard pass from Bennett to Sheffield on 4th and 11 to keep the drive going. The drive consumed almost

7 minutes of the game clock, but the Bucs' defense stood tall and stopped the Flashes on 4th down. The Bucs were successful capping off a drive that ended with a 20-yard touchdown pass with 11 seconds remaining in the game. With their kicker injured, the Bucs had no choice but to go for 2 to win the game. The Bucs ran their play, but the Flashes got the stop when Cameron Chavarria intercepted the pass to send the game into overtime.

Needing four plays to score from the 10-yard line, the Flashes got the ball to start the first overtime. The Flashes found the end zone on 4th and goal when Lee scored from 1-yard out. With a successful extra point, the Flashes took the lead back 34-27. All the



Flashes needed to end the game and move on to the next round of the playoffs is a defensive stand on the Bucs' ensuing possession. On 2nd and goal, the Flashes got the stop they needed when they intercepted a pass, but it did not stand courtesy of a pass interference call. The Bucs took

advantage and scored off a 7-yard scramble. The Flashes defense needed a crucial stop on the 2-point try. They did just that when Anthony Conner intercepted the pass.

The Flashes generated 267 yards of total offense with 102 yards rushing off 33 carries and 5 total touchdowns. Leading the charge on offense was Tywuan Lee who had 20 carries for 70 yards and a touchdown; Cody Bright with 12 carries for 29 yards; and D.J. Coston had a carry for 3 yards. Lyle Bennett went 10/19 for 165 yards, 4 touchdowns and an interception. On the receiving end were Coston with 4 catches for 94 yards and 3 touchdowns; Sheffield with 4 receptions for 65 yards and a touchdown; and Bright with a catch for 8 yards.

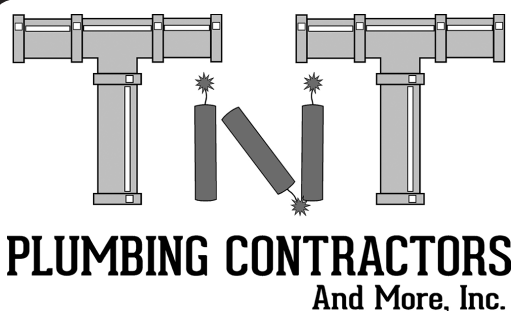
Defensively, the Flashes forced 3 turnovers and sacked the quarterback 3 times. Leading the effort on defense were Kale Corbitt and Josh Yancey, who each had 7 tackles with Corbitt having 2 sacks; Chavarria with 4 tackles and an interception; Carson Newkirk had 3 tackles; Tanner Morgan had 3 tackles and a sack; Seth O'Neil had 3 tackles and a fumble recovery; Coston had 3 tackles; Sheffield, Tristin Moody and Bright each had 2 tackles; Lee had 2 tackles and a pass breakup; and Conner had 2 tackles and a game-sealing interception.

The Hilliard Flashes have advanced to the second round of the FHSAA football playoffs as they travel this Friday night to face the top seed in the district Madison County Cowboys at 7:30 p.m. The Flashes need your support! Come out and support your hometown team! Go Flashes!

## CALLAHAN CLEANUP SATURDAY



The Callahan Community Cleanup will be held this Saturday from 9-11:30 a.m. at the Boatright County Building on Mickler Street. The volunteer cleanup begins with registration and sign in at 9 a.m. There will be a FREE lunch for volunteers. Residents may bring trash, debris, recycling and yard debris. No hazardous waste will be accepted.



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