

WESTSIDE JOURNAL



Pray to God for Our Nation!

FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS
HILLIARD vs Lafayette
 Friday @ 7:30 p.m.

VOLUME XIX ISSUE 17

HOMETOWN PEOPLE...HOMETOWN NEWS

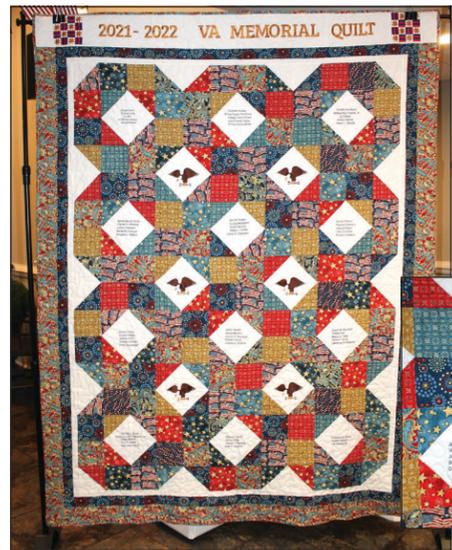
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2022

“DO NOT BE ANXIOUS ABOUT ANYTHING, BUT IN EVERY SITUATION, BY PRAYER AND PETITION, WITH THANKSGIVING, PRESENT YOUR REQUESTS TO GOD.” - PHILIPPIANS 4:6

Country Star Quilt Guild Honors Veterans

Dawn S. West

The Country Star Quilt Guild held their monthly meeting Monday night but it was anything but regular. Their meetings are held at The Anchor Church in Callahan in their fellowship hall. Monday evening, the meeting was held in the church sanctuary. Everyone was greeted with smiles by guild members. Veterans were escorted to a special seating area. The stage was set with a beautiful American Flag at the center.



of the quilts were uniquely designed. As the information was read about the Veterans service, the quilt made for him or her was displayed behind them, then gently placed over their shoulders,

while reading, "This quilt is meant to bring you comfort. Now this quilt becomes a part of your story and we hope it will be a tangible reminder

of our appreciation to you for a job well done. We thank you and your family for your selfless sacrifice." It was a very touching ceremony for each Veteran and the families. Light refreshments followed.

The Quilt Guild also had their Veterans Hospital quilt displayed for everyone to see. The

beautiful quilt has each Veteran's name, that has passed away this year at the hospital, embroidered on it. The quilt will be taken to the Veterans Hospital in Lake City this month.

The Guild's Opportunity Quilt was also on display which will be raffled off December 12. Tickets are available for \$1 each for a chance to win this beautiful queen size quilt. The quilt will be on display at the Westside Journal office, where you can purchase tickets, until December 9!



The meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer. "As we just celebrated Veterans Day Friday, the direction of tonight's meeting is to honor our Veterans," said Guild President Peggy Smith. "We want to honor our Veterans with a Quilt of Valor, each made by members of the guild and also presented by members."

Guild members worked diligently to collect Veterans' photos, branch of service, years of service, rank and places of service. A video presentation was shown with each branch of the military's song represented: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard. As their song played, the Veterans stood up and were recognized. Individually, each Veteran was called up to the stage with their information read as they were presented their own Quilt of Valor along with a certificate. Each and every one

Collecting for Toys for Tots Nassau

The Toys for Tots Nassau was established in 1999 and administered by the Everett P. Pope Detachment 1017 - Marine Corp League of Nassau. The league works diligently throughout the year to raise funds to supply toys for children in need. Their largest fundraiser is a Golf Tournament held each October. The program has grown from serving a few hundred Nassau County children in the beginning to over 1200 children last year. All Toys collected in Nassau County stay in Nassau County!

To apply for a donation box for your company, church or organization, visit: www.toysfortots.org, and go to the menu and choose Get Involved, become a Toy Drop Site.

To apply for assistance: visit: www.toysfortots.org, go to the menu and



choose Request a Toy; go to Florida, choose Nassau County, it will show Toys for Tots Fernandina Beach and this is the correct one for all of Nassau County.

There are drop boxes at all the County Fire Stations, Ace Hardwares, grocery stores, drug stores, Westside Journal, etc. For a complete list of locations, refer to the website (www.toysfortots.org) as the list grows weekly.

Toys are collected through Christmas as they continue to try and ensure all needs are met, even delivering toys on Christmas when there has been a need. Donations are down this year however applications are trending to exceed last years. Donations of NEW unwrapped toys may be dropped off at any location! Distribution Day is Saturday, December 17 and there are three (3) distribution sites: Fernandina, Yulee and Callahan.

Volunteers are needed to help sort and bag toys. This is the perfect opportunity for students needing volunteer hours for school, or youth groups at local churches! To schedule a time to volunteer, please call Susan Purvis, T4T Coordinator, at 904-716-2462! DONATE TOYS TODAY!

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*Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!
For His mercy endures forever.*
Psalm 118:1



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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.

Destroying America!

Dear Editor,

Once again, America has professed its undeniable ignorance to the conception of a constitution, the laws of Liberty and freedom. They have sent America down the road of destruction. I despise people that voted for this socialism. I have four in my family that have fought for our country. They lived and died for a concept now lost to history. I am disgusted to the point of almost hatred for these people who have destroyed our country. Florida did well in re-electing Governor DeSantis. He is the saving guardian of our freedoms here in Florida. It's hard for me to comprehend that over 1 million people voted for the Socialist Charlie Crist in this state. Who are these people? What kind of America do they want for their children and grandchildren?

Communism and socialism in schools is on the way. It goes to show the effect of 60 years of public school teaching. Let's not say teaching but lack of teaching of the foundation this country was built on. Our children today know nothing about the Constitution, or the laws of our country for that matter. This generation, that we tried so hard to raise in American concepts don't care anymore because they're not taught anything about the value of our freedom today. Dear friends, I think this is the loss of our freedoms. In two more years of this where will we be?

Don't blame God, we did it ourselves, by not taking it upon ourselves to teach our own children, we have caused the loss of our country. I am a very old person but I am sick

to my heart that my grandchildren and great-grandchildren will grow up in this country now. When I was a teenager, this was a country of patriotism, brotherly love and the concept of what our founding fathers had done. The only time in the world this type of republic was created. Now, because of stupidity, it has been demolished!

I'm sick to my heart right now to know that my children and my children's children will not grow up in the country I had. A wonderful country, a prosperous and powerful country now destroyed. Our own soldiers taking our guns is the beginning of the end of America. The Second Amendment clearly states we have a right to own guns. Biden said several weeks ago, "If you come against this government, you better have an F-16 and nuclear weapons."

God is set on His throne to punish us! If you are reader of scripture which most of you say you are, I guess you never read Genesis Chapter 18 verses 16 - 33. Abraham begged God to spare Sodom for the sake of the good people; he begged for a long time. We can beg God as well but will he spare us for the sake of the good people? I think we are responsible for our actions, for not taking a hand in educating our children to the glory of this wonderful country. Even if you don't read the Bible, you know what happened to Sodom and Gomorrah...it might be with us.

Humbly submitted,
Jackie Sikes

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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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Christmas Tree Lighting*

Saturday, November 26 • 6 p.m.

Please join the Town of Hilliard as they hold their annual Christmas Tree Lighting on Saturday, November 26 at 6 p.m. on the lawn of the Hilliard Town Hall located at the corner of County Road 108 and Pine Street.

- Refreshments and Christmas caroling around the tree!
- Santa will be visiting and will be available for a photo so bring your camera!
- Bring your letters to Santa to drop in Santa's Mailbox!

If you are interested in being part of our community Christmas caroling, please call Town Hall at 845-3555.

For more information please contact Town Hall.
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The Westside Journal is published every Thursday by Westside Journal, LLC, owned by Roger and Dawn West. Printed by Florida Sun Printing in Callahan, Florida. Mailed free of charge to all residents in postal zip codes 32011, 32046 and 32009.

Advertisement Deadline: Monday at 5 p.m.
Classified Deadline: Tuesday at 12 p.m.

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Local Company and Churches Share Hurricane Relief

We are so proud of all of those in our community who donated to the hurricane relief efforts after Hurricane Ian devastated so many in Southwest Florida. Locally, the Anchor Church of God and Marietta Church of God in Jacksonville sent out a call for help and the donations began to pour in. AA Bottled Gas Company, with locations in Jacksonville and Callahan, also joined in the collection and donation effort. Church members, family and friends, as well as gas employees and customers dropped off many of the requested supplies and monetary donations. AA Bottled Gas rented a 6' x 12' U-Haul trailer and the employees began to fill it with the amazing amounts of items donated by our community.

Once all items were loaded, David Pinkstaff and his employees went to



Sam's and purchased food, toiletries and clothing until the trailer was fully loaded. They also donated full propane tanks, outdoor cookers, fryers and grills to cook all of the purchased and donated food. The company sent their General Manager and Operations Manager down with the items to cook, clear and help area churches and shelters pass out supplies.

We are proud of our community, churches and AA Bottled Gas Company for answering the call when another small Florida community reached out for help. The group delivering the items were filled with pride when they saw a Nassau County Sheriff's Office vehicle in DeSoto County where the flooding was horrendous! Our community is so proud of its small-town gas company, churches, NCSO and residents with BIG HEARTS and a willingness to help others in need.



JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

It appears that the red wave ended up being nothing more than a pink ripple. I cannot comprehend how this country of ours has fallen so deep in the quagmire that we are witnessing. It is heart breaking to say the least. I won't say the democrat machine stole some important seats, but if you follow the voting matrix there are several things that occurred that makes no logical sense. As in Georgia, Kemp (R) shut down Abrams (D) in solid form for governor; yet Warnock (D) collected more votes than Walker (R) for the senate seat. Why so many votes for a Republican Governor yet the electorates then voted democrat for their senator?

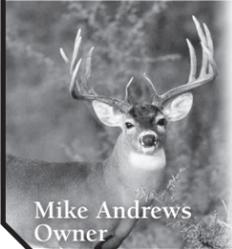
Then of course Arizona had their normal fiasco with a large dump of democrat votes on Friday night, 3 days after the election! I have totally lost all faith in the electoral process in America. There is No such thing as a fair and honest election any longer. Until we rid the voting process of using computers there will never be a fair election. Also, unless America turns from its wickedness and turns back to God there will be no America in the very near future. As of right now, America is doomed.

For several years now I have been writing this column, primarily I have been just preaching to the choir. As a majority who read this has thoughts and beliefs that parallel mine. There are a few lost and misguided sheep amongst us but not very many. With that said, this is going to be my last "Just my opinion" for a while. It has been joyful at times and very disheartening at times. It often just depresses me as I read all the events that are occurring in the country that I love so dearly. Why people don't understand that socialism is the very same thing as a mouse trap. Mice die in a mouse trap because they don't comprehend why the cheese is free. Socialism is America's mouse trap! Democrat once was a political party, now it is a mental health crisis that has ruined the United States.

I will still fight for America with all my heart. I am and always will be a radicalized Americanist with my radical beliefs in the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights and the United States Constitution. May God bless each of you and hopefully God will once again bless America!

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

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What to do While We Wait on God

Pastor James MacFarlane, First Alliance Church, Hilliard



We have all experienced bitter times in our life. We will all experience future tribulations as well. When we are in the deepest part of the bitter valley what do we place our trust in to get us through? The first and most honest answer many of us would give is that our first reaction is to rely on our own abilities. Think of the adage, "If you want something done right, do it yourself." This does not leave much room for faith. In fact, God does not want us to rely on any source or ability other than Him. Not only does God want us to call out to him in the good times and bad, but God also wants us to wait on Him as well.

Calling out to God is but the first step in placing our faith in Him. When we do call out in distress during these bitter times, what are we expecting? One often misquoted verse comes to mind. The first is Psalm 37:4. It reads, "Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart."

This does not mean that God will give us what we want. God's timing and will are not a vending machine that gives us instant satisfaction if we only insert our prayers and tell God what we want to be given. The Psalm is telling us that deepening our relationship with God will change our desires. We will desire to glorify the name of Jesus above all else.

God wants us to wait on Him. The Father also wants us to trust in His will. Psalm 130:5 reads, "I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope." Psalm 130 is not the only Psalm that speaks to us of waiting on the LORD. I gravitate to this verse because it teaches us what we are to do as we wait. We are to hope in His Word. When we are struggling to wait on God's timing we must remember all that He has done for us through His Son Jesus Christ. We must remember that those who place their faith in Christ as Savior are already victorious, because Christ has already won the victory.

Trusting in God and waiting on His timing and will comes down to faith. Is our faith in God the first thing we turn to? Can we place our faith in His timing? When God's will does come to fruition, do we accept it? These are all very tough questions that each of us must wrestle with every day. Yet, they are necessary for our spiritual growth. When we are in the bitter valley on the sunny peaks, God's will is always perfect.

CHURCH NEWS

Bethany Episcopal Church will be selling Barbecue Pork Dinners Friday, Nov. 18 from 5-7 p.m. for \$8 each. Eat-in or Take-out! The church is located on CR 108 in Hilliard across from Hilliard Town Hall.

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.

Second Baptist Church, 45019 Johnson Rd., Callahan will hold their Church and Pastor Anniversary Friday, Nov. 18 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 20 at 3 p.m., with Pastor Dr. Malachi L. Clowers.

Attend the church of your choice this Sunday.

"I will give thanks to you, LORD, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds." Psalm 9:1



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Local Karate Group Holds Fundraiser



Our local karate dojo, Copen's United House of Karate, competed in a tournament Saturday to help with a fundraiser for Project Christmas.

The students competed in kata, weapons and sparring. They won 8 gold medals; 4 silver medals; and 3 bronze medals. The tournament was hosted by Family Martial Arts in Woodbine, Georgia at the Agape Church building in Saint Marys, Georgia.

Project Christmas funds go to help less fortunate families in Guatemala and the Philippines. For more information on Project Christmas visit: www.goministries.info.

"I am so proud of all our students who came out to support this great

cause, and represent our community. All your hard work and dedication is inspiring," said Sempri Trisha McHenry.

The First United Methodist Church of Callahan graciously hosts free karate classes to kids and adults, every Tuesday and Thursday at 5 p.m. Volunteer Senseis teach self-defense and Shotokan karate to the community.



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!

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33rd Annual Dayspring Village

SECRET SANTA

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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



Do Not Be Afraid of the Current Interest Rates

Yvette Outler

Do not allow the inflated interest rates to paralyze your plans. When rates are high it affects your buying power. You will need to do a little more pre-budgeting or planning to achieve your goal of a house purchase or build but it is possible!

I know it can seem scary when just 6 months ago you could afford a \$300,000.00 home but now you can only afford a \$230,000.00 home. Interest rates dictate your payment when getting a mortgage for either building or buying a house.

Example numbers:

The payment for a home with total cost of \$350,000.00 at 6 percent for 30 years is \$2,098.43.

The payment for a home with total cost of \$300,000.00 at 6 percent for 30 years is \$1,798.65.

The payment for a home with total cost \$230,000.00 at 6 percent for 30 years is \$1,378.97.

Ideas to help you modify your current plan:

1. Shrink your building plan by two hundred square feet. If the cost to build is \$150.00 per square foot you would be saving \$30,000.00. To show you the pricing difference to consider; \$300,000.00 principal mortgage payment for 30 years is \$1,798.65 but if you shave off two hundred square feet off your building plan, then your principal mortgage payment comes down to \$1,618.79.

2. Consider less land. Since land is at an all-time premium buying three acres instead of ten would help your bottom line.

3. Forgo the garage and back porch. This alone could save you 460 square feet in your building plans which equates to \$69,000.00.

4. Purchase less house. You may have been thinking that you need a four-bedroom house since you have three children. Call it "old school," but it would be okay if your kids shared space. I grew up this way and the interesting thing that happens when you "have" to share, you learn to share.

5. Think online! Check out nerdwallet.com and bankrate.com for online companies that could save you time and money with your mortgage. You do not have to go to a building for a loan. For instance, companies like AmeriSave, and Rocket Mortgage are worth investigating.

6. Save more money to put towards your down payment. If your loan requires twenty percent, then try to save twenty-five to thirty percent. The more down payment you have the less your monthly payment will be for you.

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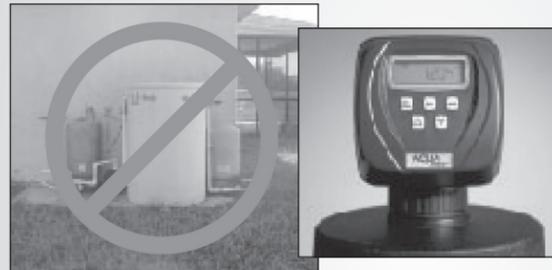
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New Beginnings and Milestones

Mariana Grace Hall

Trey Hall and Oriana Arends, of Jacksonville, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Mariana Grace Hall. Mariana was born October 5, 2022 at 3:45 p.m. at UF North Jacksonville. She weighed 6 pounds 2 ounces and measured 19 3/4 inches.

Paternal grandparents are Ronnie Hall, II and Adrienne Buffington; and Barbara Kaleel and Ralph Jackson, all of Jacksonville.

Maternal grandparents are Orlando and Julien Arends of Callahan.

Proud great-grandparents are Julian and Eneida Perez; Orlando and Pura Arends, all of Miami; Ronnie Hall and Kathy Mitchell-Startatt; and John and Roberta Wood, all of Jacksonville.

Mariana was welcomed home by her brother Jayden!



VFW Fundraiser Saturday



The VFW Post 10095 in Hilliard will hold a fundraiser this Saturday at 6 p.m. with special guest singer Benjamin Owens. The fundraiser is to purchase and fill Thanksgiving and Christmas Dinner Baskets for families in need. Please bring donations of canned goods and non-perishable food items! The event begins at 6 p.m. at VFW Post 10095, across from the Hilliard Airpark off of Eastwood Road.

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OREMC Golf Tournament Yields a \$19,000 Donation

For the 31st consecutive year, Okefenokee REMC held its annual Golf Tournament to raise money for the Southeast Cancer Unit, Inc. The tournament, presented by Oglethorpe Power/Georgia Transmission Corporation/Georgia System Operations, raised \$19,000 to help support cancer patients undergoing treatment in Brantley, Pierce and Ware counties with medical and travel expenses related to their care.

Accepting the check from OREMC was Linda Henderson, along with her sister Carol McQuaid and brother Larry Lee, with the Brantley Branch of the Southeast Cancer Unit, Inc. (SECU). She said, "Fundraising has been difficult the past couple of years due to COVID. We haven't been able to do many of the activities we usually do, so this means so much and we appreciate all the hard work that goes into the tournament to make a donation like this possible," said Henderson.

In recent years OREMC has significantly enhanced the golf tournament experience and increased the monies raised for the SECU. Tournament sponsors and donors have played a key role in ramping



up OREMC's fundraising efforts. In addition to the presenting sponsor, major sponsors included: EnerVision, Links/Hospitality Sponsor; Altec, Towel Sponsor; Southeastern Bank, Golf Ball Sponsor; Cart Sponsors Asplundh, Current Edge Solutions, Greer Wealth Advisors, Irby Utilities and Pike Electric; and Fairway Sponsors Tri-State Utility Products, Brantley Beacon/Waycross Journal-Herald, GRESCO, Helena Agri-Enterprises, Meridian Cooperative and Mountaineer Electric. A special thank you also goes to Canaday Grocery in St. George for their donation of meat to feed the

golfers and volunteers.

But the real beneficiaries of OREMC's day of fun, fellowship and fundraising are friends and neighbors in the community battling cancer. When Carolyn Carter of Hoboken was diagnosed with breast cancer back in 2008 gas prices were high, and she traveled to Brunswick for five weeks of chemotherapy followed by 30 days of radiation. Henderson reached out to her and asked her what she needed. Carter noted, "I knew about the Southeast Cancer Unit, but I would never ask for anything. Then Linda offered and the money was so helpful. I had people

driving me because I couldn't. I really admire Linda and the others for what they are doing. It is a wonderful thing."

Joe Shear of Waycross agrees, but unlike Carter he was not familiar with SECU. "I was diagnosed with a cancerous tumor in my colon in June 2020. My first colonoscopy was at age 67 after a Cologuard test put up a red flag. Let that be a lesson, don't wait to have a colonoscopy," said Joe. "Between travel for treatment and medications, those extra costs add up. My pharmacy told me about the Southeast Cancer Unit and I called Linda. The money for medications and gas cards have been a godsend. It took a lot of worry off of me."

Shear has ongoing treatment, and his surgeon is in Savannah. He says he is indebted to the Southeast Cancer Unit and encourages anyone undergoing cancer treatment who needs help to reach out: "Don't hesitate. They are wonderful people and eager to help."

If you are a resident of Brantley, Pierce or Ware County undergoing treatment for cancer, and need financial assistance with care related expenses, contact the Southeast Cancer Unit, Inc. at 912-287-2008.

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FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 10 a.m. until? 615331 River Road, Callahan. Cleaning out for Fall!

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!

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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.

Tuesday, November 1

Kortney Ruth Barber, 33, 36364 Shaffer Road, Callahan: Theft of Motor Vehicle; Burglary

Brittany Lauren Littleton, 35, 54459 Church Road, Callahan: Possession of Schedule 1-5 Substance

Friday, November 4

Mark Allen Windham, 42, 44159 Kingbird Drive, Callahan: Possession of Methamphetamine

Sunday, November 6

Christopher Charles Pennala, 57, 2496 Cholerton Lane, Hilliard: Aggravated Battery; Battery Simple

Marvin Edward Wasdin, 33, 35601 Glory Road, Callahan: Possession Schedule 1-5 Substance; Possession Drug Paraphernalia with Residue

John Lawrence Linton, 57, 542953 US Highway 1 #26, Callahan: Theft over \$750 under \$5,000; Theft of Motor Vehicle

Justin Byron Creamer, 46, 54001 Cornelia Court, Callahan: DUI 4th or Subsequent Offense (Felony); Felony Driving While License Suspended with Knowledge; Refuse Breath Test

Monday, November 7

Donna Jean Lang, 48, 3736 S. Lilly Road, Jacksonville: Possession of Schedule 1-5 Substance (x 2); Possession of Drug Paraphernalia with Residue

Crystal Marie Hemingway, 40, 2089 D E Long Road, Callahan: Theft Under Retail; Battery on Detained Person

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RICHARD DALE BOOTHE



Richard Dale Boothe passed away November 7, 2022 in Columbia, Missouri. He was born April 16, 1971 and lived the first 17 of his years of his life in Hilliard. He is preceded in death by his son Cory Christopher Boothe; grandmother Lois Patterson; and several aunts and uncles.

He is survived by his mother Patsy Patterson Fischer; brother Glenn Boothe; father Larry Boothe; and many nieces, nephews, aunts and uncles.

ELSBETH "EBBY" CONKLIN



Elsbeth "Ebbby" Schmulzeck Conklin, 85, of Hilliard, passed away Sunday, November 6, 2022. She was born July 7, 1937 in Hannover, Germany to the late Walter Emil Schmulzeck and Edith Wanda Schwanz Schmulzeck. Ebbby grew up in Germany during WWII. She met and married her husband, who was in the U.S. Army at Panzer Kaserne Boeblingen, near Stuttgart, Germany. They transferred to the United States in 1966 and moved to Port Jervis, New York. Ebbby worked at Kolmar Labs, Holiday Inn, Eddy Farms, Millrift Inn, Concord Hotel and Best Western. She loved rafting down the Delaware River, camping at High Point State Park and going to the Jersey shore. Her travels took her to the Caribbean Islands and to Canada. In 2004, she moved to St. Marys, Georgia, where she worked at Goody's and also Food Demo at Winn Dixie. She loved listening to Rock & Roll music, playing basketball at the park and telling stories of growing up in Germany to all that cared to listen. Ebbby could be seen biking around downtown St. Marys on any given day. She was known as the "German Bike Riding Lady." In addition to her parents; she is preceded in death by a grandson Patrick J. Conklin, Jr.; and a sister Karin.

OBITUARIES

She is survived by her sons Patrick J. (Aileen) Conklin of Kingsland and Gilbert (Colleen) Conklin of Whitesboro, NY; one grandson John (Tina) Thiel of Folkston; one granddaughter Amanda (John) Rooney; four great-grandsons Skyler Rooney, Gannon Thiel, Bryce Thiel and Tyler Thiel; siblings Gerda (Bernhard) Kliche, Sonja and Harry; and several nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Alzheimer's Association (<https://www.alz.org/>).

Condolences may be expressed at www.shepardrobersonfh.com.

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, Folkston.

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. He was a member of First Baptist Church in Hilliard. Larry loved hunting and instilled his love of the outdoors to his sons and grandchildren. They spent many happy times enjoying God's green earth. Larry also loved cooking good BBQ & ribs and having family over to enjoy it! He was a retired tractor and equipment salesman who met many customers along the way that later became lasting friends. He enjoyed sitting on his porch and reminiscing to his family all the good times he had as a youth. He had famous fishing trip memories of his dad and uncles. They caught lots of fish and had huge family fish fries. All his aunts, uncles and cousins came together and had a wonderful time.

He had many great stories about the hog butchering days and how he always got

to tend the lard pot! He also loved to tell stories about his childhood friends and what fun they had fishing, squirrel and rabbit hunting. They were always keeping the rats in control. He said catching and cooking the fish right on the bank with his friends was the best! All this fun was after a hard day of doing chores and keeping the family garden growing. Larry had a full rich life and loved his family and grandchildren to the moon and back.

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 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.

NORMA JEAN GILLIARD



Norma Jean Gilliard, 65, of Hilliard, passed away September 28, 2022 at Baptist Medical Center in Jacksonville, following a battle with pancreatic cancer. She was born November 11, 1956 in Fernandina Beach to the late Inez M. Dyson Sellers and Y. Cecil Sellers.

Norma married the love of her life, Richard L. 'Ricky' Gilliard and they lived their lives to the fullest and serving God for

the last 24 years. She is preceded in death by her parents; siblings Diane L. Sellers and Cecil R. Sellers.

She is survived by her husband Ricky Gilliard; sisters Bessie M. Sellers Wilson, Debra Sellers and Margie A. Sellers Eason; nieces Angela Wilson Mastella and Amy Wilson Smith; nephews Robert T. Companion and Russell G. Companion; and numerous other family members.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, November 19 at 11 a.m. at Buford Grove Baptist Church in Hilliard with Rev. Johnny Eason and Pastor Curtis Harrington officiating.

JASPER GRIFFIN, SR.



Jasper Griffin, Sr., 92, went to be with the Lord November 7, 2022, at Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville following a brief illness. He was born

December 18, 1929 in Callahan to Hansford Maynor and Geneva Higginbotham Griffin. He, by his testimony, came to know the Lord as his Savior at Mt. Olive Baptist Church when he was 14. Jasper became a member of Callahan First Baptist Church in 1964 and attended regularly most of his life. He worked in the Audiovisual Ministry for a time and enjoyed it a great deal. Jasper lived a long and honorable life and was well respected by his community.

Except for when Jasper served in the US Air Force in Alaska during the Korean War, he lived in Nassau County. The Air Force apparently had a sense of humor. Jasper was adventurous and loved to travel but always returned to Nassau County. After serving his country, he came home and at a young people's gathering at Bryceville Baptist Church he met the love of his life, Shirley Brooks. They were married there in June of 1954. Jasper began a lifelong career in the railroad (40 years) working first as

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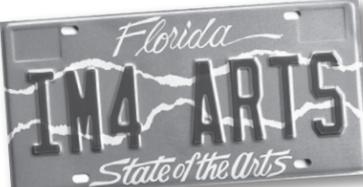
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a Fireman, then becoming a Locomotive Engineer. He began in 1952 with Atlantic Coastline and retired in 1992 from what was then CSX. Jasper loved trains and all things associated with them. His grandchildren liked to hear his "train stories." After retirement, Jasper and Shirley often traveled by motorcycle all over the Southeast and into the Smokies-often with a motorcycle club called the Retreads. They made many new friends and had great experiences traveling this way. They also often took their grandchildren on vacation-but not on the motorcycle! Jasper had a mischievous sense of humor and loved to play pranks on his children, grandchildren and nieces and nephews or the many dogs that traveled through his life.

In his 40's, Jasper became a Master Mason and spent many hours teaching other young men the Craft. He was a past Worshipful Master of Callahan Lodge #32 and was honored to be the first District Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Florida from Callahan Lodge. Jasper was Mason for over 55 years. He was also a member of Callahan OES Chapter #154, the Scottish Rite and Shriners.

Jasper loved genealogy and the history of Nassau County. He was an active member of the West Nassau Historical Society and West Nassau Genealogy Society until he was unable to attend. Jasper's ancestry included much of the history of Nassau County, as a direct descendant of Burris Higginbotham, a Revolutionary soldier who is considered a founding father of Nassau County. Jasper's

family was precious to him, and he was a loving father. He loved his stepchildren and their children as well.

Jasper's sweet wife Shirley, of 44 years, passed away in 1998. He later married Maxi Lou Wesch and they were married over 20 years until she passed in August 2021. Jasper is also preceded in death by his parents; brothers Ralph (Alice) Griffin and Oliver Terry (Angeline and Geri) Griffin; sister Nancy (Rolf) Rosseland; nephew Perry Griffin; sister-in-law Dorothy (Donald) Surrency; and brother-in-law Elmer Fouraker.

Jasper is survived by his daughter Angelyn "Angie" (Gerald) Smith; son Jasper (Missy) Griffin, Jr.; step-children Debbie Wesch (Tommy) Riggins, Tina Wesch (John) Lessard and Hugo "Chip" (Lisa) Wesch; brother-in-law Gene (Olivia) Brooks; sister-in-law Mary Fouraker; grandchildren Brooks Smith, Grant Smith, Mark Smith, Julie Griffin, Brenda Sue Griffin and Michael Griffin; foster grandson Jasper (Sarah) McGrath; great-grandchildren Cheyanne Wilson, Hayley Wilson, Madison Wilson, Hunter Wilson and Sloane Smith; and several other extended family members.

A celebration of Jasper's life will be held Tuesday, November 22 at 11 a.m. at Callahan First Baptist Church with Dr. Lynn Hyatt officiating. Interment will follow at

Verdie Cemetery. The family will receive friends Monday, November 21 from 5 - 7 p.m. 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

JUDITH BARBER MERRITT



Judith Annell Barber Merritt, 76, of Hilliard, passed away on Sunday, November 6, 2022. She was born December 23, 1945 in Jacksonville to the late Carl Barber and Mamie Hickox Barber. Judith was the last living child of Carl and

Mamie. She was a member of Oak Grove Primitive Baptist Church in Nahunta, Georgia. In addition to her parents; she is preceded in death by three daughters Dana Merritt, Jana Stoner and Lana Tanner; and a granddaughter Whitney Lee Merritt.

She is survived by her loving husband of almost 59 years, James Merritt, Sr.; five children James (Sherry) Merritt, Jr., Gina (Neil) Bolen, Donna Dale, Marlena (Randy) Michael and Jonathan Merritt; 28 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

The family received friends November 11 at Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home. A graveside service was held November 12 at Sardis Cemetery with Pastor Daniel Dowry officiating.

Condolences may be expressed at www.shepardrobersonfh.com.

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, Folkston.

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