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9-1 HILLIARD FLASHES VS UNION COUNTY FHSAA FOOTBALL REGIONAL SEMIFINALS FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19 AT HOME TAILGATE PARTY 5 P.M. KICK-OFF 7:30 P.M.



Mendy & Company Celebrates New Location Monday

Dawn S. West

Mendy and Justin Pinker can finally take a little break! Mendy & Company celebrated their grand opening at their new location Monday, November 15. They held a small ribbon cutting with all the ladies on Tuesday. The couple made the final purchase on the building in April with a grand design and hopes of re-opening in October. They didn't miss their mark by much. The building was completely gutted down to the studs. Obviously, new plumbing, lots of insulation, new windows and doors. The doors in the front of the building are massive and beautifully designed. The complete building has been painted inside and out. The complete renovation has taken a little over six months. Once the new signs were installed on the building, it just finished off the entire look. Congratulations to Mendy for making all the right decisions on colors and design. The pictures of the before and after renovation are incredible. It doesn't even look like the same building.



The new location is a much larger building with more room for each of the stylists. Joining Mendy as stylists are: Ashley, Becky, Sierra, Laura, Kayla, Kristin and Shirley with assistant Briley. The stylist stations are located along the



walls with lots of space between each one. The center is available for dryers and the back area is for washing and rinsing. There is also a public restroom along the back wall. The ladies began working in the new location on Monday. They closed the former facility Friday and Saturday and began the moving process. The breakroom is located in the very back and across the hall are the washer and dryer along with a private restroom for the ladies.

Taking a walk down memory lane, there was also a white house (The Little White House) directly behind the building. The house, which was in rough shape, was torn down and hauled off. Probably one of the largest telephone poles I've ever seen was also located behind the house. That was also removed and the entire lot was cleared for parking. I visited the new location on Monday and the parking lot was already filled. It didn't take people long to find them! Customers will all park in the back and can enter from the back or walk around to the front. There



is handicap parking along the back of the building. There is an entrance and exit to the salon off of Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue which makes it much more convenient to get there.

Joining Mendy & Company on the other side in the building will be Sweet As Cyn Coffee and Donuts. They hope to re-open later this week following inspections. Sweet As Cyn offers specialty coffees, donuts, sandwiches and bagels.

Mendy & Company's new address is 542430 US Highway 1, Callahan. The



hours are Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.; and Saturdays by appointment. To schedule your appointment, call 904-507-2800.

Pigeon Creek to Dedicate Marker



Saturday, November 20 at 11 a.m. The public is invited to attend. The church is located at 29411 Pigeon Creek Road (off Lake Hampton Road) in Boulougne.

Pigeon Creek Primitive Baptist Church would like to invite the community to join them in celebrating their bicentennial anniversary. They carry the distinct honor of being the first Baptist church to be planted in Florida in 1821. There will be a special historical marker unveiling to honor the church's history this

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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.

Think About It!

Dear Editor,
 To the good people of Nassau County: "How much of your freedoms are you willing to give up?"
 To the people we elect: "How much of our freedoms do you want?"

Chris Book

Expose Biden

Dear Editor,
 Congratulations to the Democrats! You pulled off the greatest single political heist in history to put a man in our highest office who doesn't appear to know what he is saying, has proven he doesn't know what he is doing and looks like he doesn't know where he is most of the time.

The trillion dollar infrastructure budget? Clearly, The Democrats care more about buildings than citizens. Or maybe Daddy wants to increase Hunter's allowance. We are being led to the next Venezuela, bankrupt and without the resources necessary to live. On the other hand, the Republicans, leaderless without Donald J. Trump, stumble around too disorganized to demand a competency hearing. Because if Biden isn't midstream in the River of Dementia, I'll eat my President Trump coffee mug.

Politicians are one step removed from drug dealers. They feed us enough lies to keep us doped up from seeing that they place us in Harm's Way, the catastrophic results of their recklessness economically, internally and internationally every single day. If we need any proof that they stole the election, take a good hard look at Biden. National bankruptcy, here we come.

B. R. Mc Connell

Be Thankful!

Dear Editor,
 Thanksgiving Day is upon us. Let us take a day and forget all that has been going on in our country for the past 10 or 11 months and look at all we have to be thankful for in each of our lives.

I am sure that all of us have something to be thankful for. Even though we all have problems that we must deal with, sickness, joblessness, worry about what the future holds for our country, etc. But there is One who can get us through those things that worry and drag us down. His name is Jesus. If you know Him, not know about Him, you have no need of letting worry be the focus in your life. He can bring peace no matter what we face if we allow and trust Him to.

What His Word says about worry: Philippians 4:6-7, "Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Think of the things you can be thankful for and thank Him. Spend quality time with family and friends. Don't let the things of this world spoil your day. For one day, forget all the negativity of politics and our political differences and remember who we are... Americans.

I want to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving Day and may God bless each and every one of you. PRAY FOR AMERICA!
 Hank Martinez, Sr.

In the Kitchen... Peach Cobbler Dump Cake
 32 oz. peaches in heavy syrup (2 - 16 oz.) cans, undrained
 15.25 oz. yellow cake mix
 1/2 cup butter
 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
 1 quart vanilla ice cream optional topping
 Preheat oven to 375°. Empty peaches into the bottom of a 9 x 13 inch baking pan. Cover with the dry cake mix and press down firmly. Cut butter into small pieces and place on top of cake mix. Sprinkle top with cinnamon. Bake for 45 minutes. Serve with vanilla ice cream, if desired.

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Annual Town of Hilliard
Christmas Tree Lighting
Saturday, November 27 • 6 p.m.
 The Town of Hilliard will hold their annual Christmas Tree Lighting on Saturday, November 27 at 6 p.m. on the lawn of the Hilliard Life Care Center located on the corner of US Hwy. 1 and Third Street.
 Please come join us for refreshments and Christmas caroling around the tree. Santa will be visiting and will be available for a photo so bring your camera!
 If you are interested in being part of our community Christmas caroling, please contact Charlie Hahn at 904-845-7286.
 For more information please contact Town Hall.
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A Working Veterans Day

Kim Hoffecker, Chaplain

On Veterans Day, members of the Kirby Smith Camp 1209, Sons of Confederate Veterans, erected a grave marker in the Dinsmore Community Cemetery for Captain Peter B. Bedford, Company 'B' 50th Georgia Infantry. Placing headstones for those in previously unmarked graves is one of the many works conducted by S.C.V. Camps throughout the country.



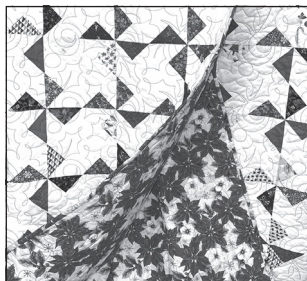
It's Onion Planting Time!



There's just something great about living in small towns! Mr. Bob Spittler dropped by the office to share with me that he just got through planting some 8,000 Callahan Sweet Onion plants. He's hoping for a great crop again this year. "If everything goes right, we should have scallions by late March and the onions in mid-April and May," said Bob. Bob sells his onions from his house so make sure to keep his number, 879-1220, when you're ready for some onions! We're so blessed to have some great farmers!

Country Star Quilt Guild Fundraiser Quilt

This year's fundraiser quilt is quite a work of art! Measuring 88" x 88" (queen size) this lovely quilt is an original custom design and custom quilted. The beautiful quilt is currently on display at the Westside Journal office. Tickets are: \$1 per ticket; or 6 tickets for \$5. Tickets can be purchased from any Guild member, as well as from the Westside Journal office, 450034 SR 200, Callahan.



JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

First off, I want to list all the positive things Joe Biden has done for our country since taking the office of President. . . Okay now that that's taken care of let's move on.

Do any of you sense that something is rotten in Denmark with the overwhelming push worldwide over the 'Vaccine'? I am becoming more and more suspicious every day. You all know I don't trust the government any further than I could throw a donkey, but our government keeps eroding any confidence I may have had stored away. Never in my life have I witnessed such a push it down your throat or should I say jab it in your arm campaign by the Federal Government. This whole vaccine thing has gotten totally out of control. Never, and I mean Never, should the government in a free Republic be able to mandate a person to receive an experimental drug to be introduced into their body. As far as that goes, no government period should force a human to be injected against their will. Biden has overstepped his boundary with his get the jab or lose your job mandate. It has already been proven the vaccine is not the golden egg and now they are calling for people to receive booster shots, it's proven that even with the jab one can still contract the virus. It's been proven that natural immunity is better than the vaccine, yet the jab is being pushed more aggressively than ever.

This whole vaccine mandate and certain states requiring proof of receiving the vaccine before one is allowed into a restaurant or Movie Theater is none other than tyranny. But my question still remains as to why. Is it just to see how far they can herd the people into total submission? One thing you can be totally confident in is money is a driving force. A major reason the liberal media is pushing so forcefully for the jab is they are reaping big money

from the pharmaceutical community. Big pharm controls our medical community and a great portion of our elected traitors in Washington.

I personally do not watch any of the following broadcasts, however, The Rubin Report showed a compilation of news programs in which they all had one thing in common. "Good Morning America" sponsored by Pfizer, "CBS Health Watch" sponsored by Pfizer, "Anderson Cooper 360" sponsored by Pfizer, "ABC Nightline" sponsored by Pfizer, "Making A Difference" sponsored by Pfizer, "CNN Tonight" sponsored by Pfizer, "Early Start" sponsored by Pfizer, "Erin Burnett out front" sponsored by Pfizer, "ABC This week with George Stephanopoulos" sponsored by Pfizer, "ABC Good Morning America" sponsored by Pfizer, "The count down to the Royal Wedding" sponsored by Pfizer, "CBS Sports Update" sponsored by Pfizer, and "Meet The Press" sponsored by Pfizer. Things that make you go huh?

If the jab is so wonderful, then why are people that have received it so worried and scared of the people that haven't had it? Why do they want the unvaccinated to receive the same injection as they have to help protect themselves? It's the same as telling me I have to wear a life jacket while sitting by a pool in order to prevent someone wearing a jacket while swimming from drowning. Same with the masks, if that mask is protecting you then why are you scared of someone not wearing a mask?

Once again, yes the virus is real and yes it can be fatal to some but so is the seasonal flu in which they have vaccines for, but there is no huge push with mandates for everyone to receive the flu vaccine. Yep, there's something rotten in Denmark.

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



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Something to Think About This Holiday Season

Pastor James MacFarlane, First Alliance Church, Hilliard



As we enter another holiday season of family gatherings and consuming vast quantities of turkey, ham, and desserts in various forms, we should stop for a minute and acknowledge a hard truth. Not everyone will be celebrating with family or enjoying a bountiful table. Even more concerning is that many will not be celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. There are many reasons for this. It could be that they are caught up in the glitz and materialism that the world wants everyone to look to. It could be that they do not see very many reasons to recognize the very purpose that we celebrate Christmas.

Many people are experiencing hard times; loss of jobs, the passing of family and friends, or estrangement from their loved ones. There are a myriad of reasons. The point is, for one reason or another many feel like they are being unfairly punished. They are looking to blame someone or something for their woes. Sometimes we blame others for our problems. Sometimes we blame ourselves. Sometimes we blame God. We think that He must be angry at us because we have done something to deserve punishment.

The truth is that God wants to love, not punish. Jesus died and rose again for this very purpose. We must put our faith in the fact that God is continually moving in our lives for His glory and our good. We must put our faith in the faithfulness of Jesus Christ.

Coming to a saving faith in our Lord Jesus Christ is the most important thing we can do in this life. It is not something that can be done in half measures either. Jesus Christ is our Redeemer. There are several things that must be realized before we can approach Him with a humble heart and ask Him to be Lord of our lives. Two of these are realizing that we are incapable of salvation on our own and that the blood of Jesus Christ is the only thing that will cleanse us of our sin and make us righteous in God's eyes.

Salvation does involve more than these two realizations. Consider these as a starting point on the journey to find redemption at the foot of the cross. We need Jesus and the salvation that only He can provide, more than a man lost in the desert needs water. More than we need air to breath. Jesus is essential for our lives today and in our eternal lives. Seek Him today.

This is the message that we should be broadcasting. Not just during the holidays, but every day. If you have been blessed with plenty, seek those who have not and share with them what the Lord has blessed you with. If you know someone that is lonely or going through a tough time, be the ambassador of Christ's love that they so desperately need. Make Christmas about Christ.

Crawford Road Ribbon Cutting Held



Sabrina Robertson, Public Information Officer

A ribbon cutting was held recently in celebration the Crawford Road improvements project which consisted of paving the existing 6.5 mile-long, two lane dirt road connecting County Road 121 with the existing paved portion of Crawford Road, just west of US 301.

This \$6.95 million project is critical to improving mobility, promoting job growth and attracting industry to western Nassau County. The project is strategically located to become a future industrial and technological epicenter supported logistically by a robust roadway and railway transportation

hub. The Board entered into an agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation in March 2014 for Small County Outreach Program (SCOP) grant funding to assist with project costs.

While we were hopeful the project would be completed by today's Ribbon Cutting, the contractor had a few more items left to complete. However, we anticipate it being fully opened late next week.

Thank you to everyone who came out today to celebrate with us. If you have any questions about the project, please contact Engineering Services at (904) 530-6225.

CHURCH NEWS

BETHANY EPISCOPAL CHURCH will be selling Barbecue Dinners this Friday, November 19 from 5-7 p.m. for \$8 each. The church is located on CR 108 in Hilliard across from Hilliard Town Hall.

Lifeline Concerts Presents: LEGACY FIVE and THE BUTLER BROTHERS QUARTET in concert Friday, Nov. 19 at 7 p.m. at Old Plank Baptist Church, 8964 Old Plank Rd., Jacksonville. \$10 admission.

FIRST ALLIANCE CHURCH OF HILLIARD will celebrate Homecoming Thanksgiving event Sunday, Nov. 21 at 11 a.m. A meal will follow the service.

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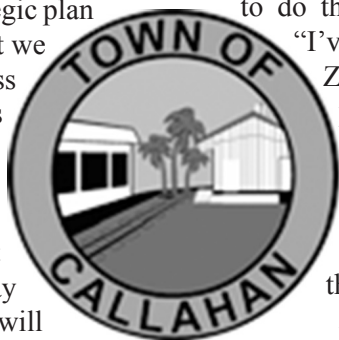
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Callahan Town News

Dawn S. West

The Callahan Town Council met Monday night for their final meeting of November. Sherri Mitchell, Executive Director of the Nassau County Economic Development Board addressed the council. "The NCEDB is a non-profit made up of a 28 person board of people throughout all of Nassau County," said Mitchell. "We have a strategic plan focusing on four goals that we are working on: Business Recruitment, Business Retention, Business Expansion and Incentives and Services. We would appreciate our support on Rural Counties Day January 26 & 27 which will be focusing on Callahan/Hilliard."



The only business completed was the election of Council President for Fiscal Year 2021-2022. The council chose Ken Bass to continue as Council President and Fire Commissioner. The assignment of departments didn't change either as all council persons chose to keep their current positions which are: Councilwoman Jacquelyn Fleming, Water Wastewater Commissioner; Councilwoman Ashton Bishop Vargas, Street Commissioner; Councilwoman Janet Shaw, Town Promotions and

Parks & Recreation Commissioner; and Councilman David Mellecker, Zoning Department Commissioner.

In closing comments, Town Manager Mike Williams updated the council on the approved paving projects on Page, Booth and Dixie Streets. "I've talked with Duval Asphalt and it looks like it will be January before they get up here to do the paving," said Williams. "I've also talked with the Zoning Board about the possibility of closing Page Street from SR 200 and making the entry through the new entry beside Popeye's. That's just a thought right now."

Also, Council President Ken Bass advised the council that the Callahan Volunteer Fire Department are moving forward with showing a 'Movie at the Park - Remember the Magic' on Saturday, December 4 starting at 6 p.m. with food (to purchase) and a bounce house. The movie will begin at 7 p.m. Bass also added that the CVFD will be having the Santa Run on December 18 and they could use help purchasing toys to give out on that day.

The next meeting of the council will be Monday, December 6 at 7 p.m.

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 Don't miss it!
 Only Cash and Checks Accepted

Warriors Fall Short in Bowl Game

Kyle Pipkin

Last Thursday night's game, the Warrior Bowl, was a penalty-filled contest between the West Nassau Warriors and Flagler Palm Coast Bulldogs. The Warriors jumped out to an early lead but fell short in the end. They missed the playoffs needing a .491 for the season and they had a .490. They were right on the cusp of making the playoffs yet again this season. The Warriors fell to the Bulldogs 42-24 in the Warriors final game of the season.

In the first quarter, the Warriors jumped out to an early 2 touchdown lead over the Bulldogs. This has been happening all season for the Warriors. They are one of the best first half teams in the area. Conner Nobles did it yet again for the Warriors like he has done his entire time as a Warrior. McDuffie added both extra points on the first two touchdowns. McDuffie has been a very accurate kicker for the Warriors. The first quarter ended with the Warriors up by 14-0.

In the second quarter, the Bulldogs scored first making the score 14-6. The Bulldogs weren't done yet. They quickly scored again, tying the game up with a successful two-point conversion. After two quick touchdowns from the Bulldogs, the Warriors drove down the field and settled for a McDuffie field goal; Warriors, 17; Bulldogs, 14. The Warriors were able to score again with

Leon Whitley putting the Warriors up 24-14 at the half. This was a penalty-filled game from the start and continued until the end of the game with multiple penalties and personal fouls on both teams.

The second half was all Bulldogs. They came out scoring and got the two-point conversion making the game 24-22. It was another score for the Bulldogs making it 28-22 after a failed two-point conversion. The Bulldogs extended the lead to 12 after a failed two-point conversion. In the fourth quarter it was penalty after penalty. The Bulldogs tacked on a couple more scores making the final score 42-24 with the Warriors falling to the Bulldogs.

I personally hate that the Warriors did not make the playoffs because I really feel they could have made some noise pulling off an upset somewhere with the way they have played the second half of the season.

This team needs to be proud of themselves because of the way they have battled all season long without giving up.

Following a 0-3 start they were able to end the season 5-5 having one of the best second halves of the season in the area.

To all the senior players, best of luck in your future endeavors. You have had an excellent career as Warrior football players and cheerleaders. Can't leave those champions out with everything they have accomplished with yet another state and national championship in their trophy case.



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32nd 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!
Call today! 845-7501

www.dayspringvillage.org AL #5766

Veterans Appreciation Dinner Held

The West Nassau JROTC cadets hosted a Veterans Appreciation dinner last Tuesday night at the West Nassau High School cafeteria. Each Veteran was met at the door with a 'Thank you for your service' and 'may I assist you with anything' from a cadet. Veterans signed in with their name and branch of service and were given a ticket to be entered in a drawing. The JROTC Program was unable to hold the event last year due to the pandemic so they



honoring them the entire night. The WNHS Warrior band and the Liberty Express were on hand to provide the musical entertainment for the evening. Everyone enjoyed a wonderful dinner with a huge variety of desserts. At each table, a JROTC cadet joined the attending Veteran for conversation and company. The oldest Veteran, Mr. James Hendricks (92), was recognized and given a gift card.



were very happy to be able to host the event again this year.

The JROTC always does such a great job making the Veterans feel special and



School District Opens Tiny House

Nassau County Schools is proud to announce that the long awaited "Tiny House" is open and ready for move in! The Tiny House, located in Yulee, was established as part of the district's curriculum to provide a setting wherein students with disabilities could practice functional living skills in a real-life home environment. As always, the community

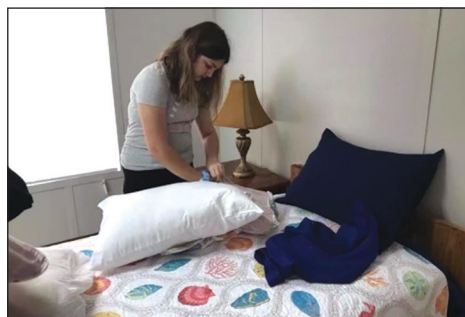


items so that students can learn/refine functional living skills needed to live independently.

Students in Ms. Christine Loomis's class at Yulee Middle School were the first to take a field trip to the new Tiny House. During this visit, they had the opportunity to set up the house and work together to accomplish tasks just as they would if moving into

a new home for the first time. This included unpacking all the donations, wiping down shelves, washing dishes, vacuuming the floors, and finding the right place for all household items and supplies. These are extremely important skills that we want to impart so that every student has the tools to successfully transition to independent living.

To further enhance the experience, Mrs. Loomis and her team, which includes the occupational therapist, Kristin Coleman, are creating lesson plans that support the students' goals and increase their independence. Future activities include lessons in hospitality and gardening.

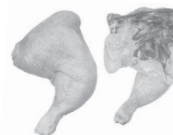


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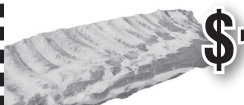
Family Pack Fresh, Lean GROUND BEEF
\$2.99 lb.



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3-Pack Bundle MEATY PORK SPARE RIBS
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LOOKING FOR DIRECT CARE STAFF for individuals who are developmentally challenged. Must have HS Diploma or GED and pass background screening. Yulee/Fernandina area, call or text 904-507-9976 for more information. tfn

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SATURDAY, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., 44257 Charwood, Callahan. Riding mower, leaf blower, electric weed eater, computer & more!

BIG CHRISTMAS SALE! Thursday, 9 a.m. until? Saturday, 9 a.m. until? 614957 River Road, Callahan. Lots of Christmas items! Don't miss it!

HUGE YARD SALE! Thursday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday, 9 a.m. until? 54001 Plantation Road, Callahan, dead end of road, when pavement ends keep going through gate. Also the following weekend!

SATURDAY, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m., 450188 Old Dixie Hwy., Callahan, brick home in front of the Middle School. Downsizing, furniture, household items & more!

VFW POST 10095, Hilliard Yard Sale, Saturday, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Lots of new Christmas items, holiday décor, and new men's clothes! \$5 Bag Day! Located across from Hilliard Airpark.

MULTI-FAMILY GARAGE SALE Saturday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Lance Rd, off River Rd., 2 miles west of the Railroad tracks. Look for signs at Sherry Rd.

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ROOM FOR RENT - No smoking, drugs or alcohol. Interview required. Working, single, mature professional looking for the same in my furnished home on 2 acre lot near downtown Callahan. \$150/ deposit; \$250 every two weeks, includes utilities and internet. Call 904-418-1664. tfn

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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 2

Patrick Darwin Rewis, 21, 3168 River Road, Hilliard: Possession of Schedule 1-5 Substance (x 2); DUI

John Robuskie Sallas, Jr., 49, 27517 Swearigen Road, Hilliard: Burglary Dwelling Occupied; 2nd Degree; Theft from Dwelling more than \$100 less than \$750

Monday, November 8

Johnathan Bradley King, 23, Hilliard: Violation of Injunction Protected Ordinance

Wednesday, November 10

Alvin Earl Epperly, Jr., 42, 54144 Heller Road, Callahan: DUI with Property Damage/Injury; Leaving Crash with Property Damage; Felony Driving While License Suspended with Knowledge; Resist without Violence; Felony Battery with Prior Conviction

Ashley Rene Moore, 33, 36065 Kelly's Lane, Callahan: Possession of Methamphetamine; Violation of Probation Community Control Felony

Jack Wesley Tyson, III, 19, Hilliard: Failure to Appear Felony

Monday, November 15

Emma Jane Leeper, 56, Bryceville: Improper Exhibiting/Deadly Weapon; Aggravated Assault with Deadly Weapon

Schools Continue to Receive State Recognition

The Nassau County School District is excited to announce that nine schools have been recognized as a Florida MTSS Recognized School! MTSS, which stands for Multi-tiered System of Supports, is a framework built upon layers of targeted instruction and behavioral interventions to increase student performance. This research-based framework is adopted throughout the state of Florida, and there is no doubt that it has been an effective practice in Nassau County. To be eligible for recognition as a Florida MTSS Recognized School, the following criteria had to be met: Complete a school self-assessment of MTSS implementation;

Submit a school profile, and ...70% or more of students had to make learning gains in ELA.

Out of 67 districts in the state of Florida, only 20 schools received recognition for meeting all three criteria and NINE were in Nassau!

Congrats to our schools for making Nassau proud: Bryceville Elementary School; Callahan Elementary School; Callahan Intermediate; Hilliard Elementary School; Emma Love Hardee Elementary School; Southside Elementary School; Wildlight Elementary School; Yulee Elementary School; and Yulee Primary School. We Are Nassau!

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ROBERT JOSEPH ALLEN



Robert Joseph "Joe" Allen, 74, passed away suddenly, Saturday, November 13, 2021, at Baptist Medical Center, Jacksonville. He was born in Folkston, Charlton County, Georgia on September 10, 1947. His parents are the late William Robert "Bob" Allen, Jr. and Winona Tomlinson Allen. Joe is also predeceased by his only child, a beloved son, Robert Joseph "Bart" Allen, Jr.

Joe was a proud graduate of the Charlton County High School graduating class of 1965. He was a member of the CCHS football team, the basketball team and the track team, Beta Club and FFA. Joe continued his studies at the University of Georgia graduating in 1969 with a Bachelor of Science in Forestry. Following graduation, Joe was employed by Union Camp in Eulonia, Georgia and Gilman Paper Company in St. Mary's, Georgia before entering into private business in the forestry and logging industry. Joe served as the Executive Director of Southeastern Wood Producers for a number of years.

He was known through the states of Georgia and Florida as a strong advocate and voice for the logging industry. His vital work in both legislative bodies resulted in several important bills being passed to benefit the logging industry. In 2008, Joe was hired as the Manager of the Caterpillar Forest Training Center in Auburn, Alabama. He retired from this position in 2015 and returned to Folkston.

OBITUARIES

Joe's first love was his Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. He lived his life as a willing servant sharing the gospel and ministering to others. As a longtime member of First Baptist Church, he has served in many capacities including, the Finance Committee and the Board of Deacons, of which he was the current Chairman. Joe was also the teacher of the Gene and Trease Crews Sunday School Class and a faithful member of the food ministry team delivering meals every Wednesday night. While a resident of Opelika, AL, he faithfully served at the First Baptist Church of Opelika where he had many wonderful Christian friends. During the time Bart was a child and teenager, Joe served in many capacities for the Charlton County Saddle Club, including President. Joe loved his country and strongly believed it was important to be involved in the protection of this great country.

Joe is survived by his high school sweetheart and wife of 54 years, Marion Murray Allen; sister Donna (Randy) Nance; brother William R. "Bill" (Patsy) Allen; eight nieces and nephews Mark (Catherine) Murray, Heather (Brian) Huling, Miranda (JB) Campbell, Lynn (Shanon) Murray, Cindy (Hank) Alexander, Will Nance, Paige (Jeremy) Nobles and Forrest Allen; 12 great nieces and nephews Hampton, Walker and Lilly Huling, Alaina and Ella Campbell, Taylor and Tanner Murray, Kaylee and

Alyssa Alexander, Rhett and Tucker Nobles, and Marah Allen.

The family will receive friends Wednesday, November 17 at Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home from 5-7 p.m. The funeral service will be Thursday, November 18 at 11 a.m. at First Baptist Church in Folkston with the Rev. Dr. Randy Jacoby officiating.

Pallbearers will be Mark Murray, Brian Huling, JB Campbell, Jeremy Nobles, Will Nance, Lynn Murray, Forrest Allen, David Lee, Hampton Huling and Walker Huling. Honorary pallbearers will be the Board of Deacons of First Baptist Church Folkston.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations in memory of Joe to the First Baptist Church Folkston Building Fund, Philadelphia Freewill Baptist Church or the Bart Allen Memorial Scholarship.

Condolences may be expressed at www.shepardfh.com.

More than anything, he enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren and was most passionate about his family who he loved dearly. Bill was preceded in death by his parents; loving wife of over 30 years, Candy Allen; brother Charlie Allen; and son William Jackson Allen, Jr.

Bill is survived by his loving children Crystal (Kevin) Rumsey of Lawtey, Jesse Allen of Jacksonville and Angel (William) Rewis of Hilliard; brother Jimmy (Joyce) Allen of Jacksonville; and grandchildren Kaddy Smith, Emily Smith, Alicen Rewis, Benjamin Rewis, Ava Rewis and "Little Foot" Kevin Neal Rumsey, Jr.

A graveside celebration of Bill's life will be held Monday, November 22 at 12 p.m. at Evergreen Cemetery in Jacksonville.

Arrangements by V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services, Macclenny, (904) 259-5700.

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

MARVIN EZELL ROWELL



Marvin Ezell Rowell, 86, of Hilliard, passed away Wednesday, November 10, 2021, at the Community Hospice Warner Center for

Caring in Fernandina Beach. He was born on September 15, 1935, in Jacksonville, the only son of the late Ozie E. and Willie Belle (Nitschke) Rowell. Mr. Rowell lived a number of years in Reidsville, Georgia, until moving back to Hilliard earlier this year to be closer to his grandchildren. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather who enjoyed being outdoors, hunting, fishing and listening to Bluegrass music. Marvin proudly served this nation during the Korean War as a United States Marine. He was of the Baptist faith and loved the Lord.

Survivors include his beloved wife of 54

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OBITUARIES

years, Minnie Rowell of Hilliard; sons Paul (Tina) Ray of St. Augustine, Robert Rowell of Hilliard and Jonathan (Stacey) Rowell of Jacksonville; daughters Sharon (Joe) Howell of Callahan and Amanda Rogers of Hilliard; grandchildren Joey, Kayla (Christian), Christian, Gabby, Hannah, Zachary, Isabelle, Abby, Gabriel and Clara; and great-grandchildren Carson, Cambri and Cohen.

The family received friends prior to the funeral service held Monday, November 15 at Oceanway Assembly of God, Jacksonville, with Pastor Ken Barney officiating. Interment followed in Evergreen Cemetery, Jacksonville.

Arrangements by Blackburn-Curry Funeral & Cremation, Macclenny, (904) 259-2806.

Please sign the guestbook at: www.blackburncurryfh.com.

to be a jack of all trades; could fix or build anything. Brian was a social butterfly, never met a stranger. In his spare time, he enjoyed hunting, fishing, boating, shopping, tinkering and rock climbing in his Jeep. Brian was a loving father, son, brother, uncle and friend, who will be missed dearly. He was preceded in death by his father; and son Austin Riley Spires.

Brian leaves behind his mother, Mary Spires of Jacksonville; sisters Christy (Jason) Braughton of Fruit Cove and Michelle Spires of Glen St. Mary; nieces Taylor Braughton, Kinsley Braughton and Addison Braughton; step-son Trevor (Kelsey) Perry of Bryceville; significant other, Laura Forshee of Callahan; close friend Torin Perry of Callahan; numerous cousins; and countless special friends.

A celebration of Brian's life will be held Wednesday, November 17 from 6-8 p.m. at Nassau Funeral Home, Callahan.

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

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

BRIAN EDWARD SPIRES



Brian Edward Spires, 50, of Hilliard, passed away on November 8, 2021. Brian was born on April 3, 1971 in Jacksonville, to Ernest Edward Spires and Mary Catherine Bryan Spires. Brian was self-employed. He was known

Obituaries are published free of charge.

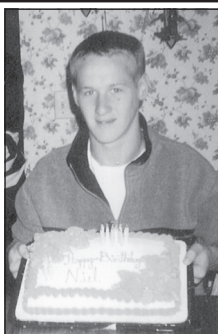
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Youth Emergency Team Celebrates New Graduates

Kelsey Irvine, 4-H Extension Agent I

On Saturday, November 6, Nassau County 4-H and Emergency Management celebrated the graduation of their 4th Youth Emergency Team (YET) cadre. Far too often in life youth are expected to follow an adult's lead, especially in emergency situations. However, these organizations recognize the importance of empowering our youth with life-saving measures now. In YET, graduates must pass a written test and practical drill where they demonstrate their abilities to work



both independently and as a team by: extinguishing fires; assessing/searching disaster scenes and rescuing trapped victims; administering first aid; calmly providing professional communication to victims and first responders; setting up & manning animal shelters; and managing animals in disaster scenarios including first-aid and low-stress handling. On top of these requirements, each cadre member completes a capstone public communication outreach project, additional homework, creating their family, animal and human disaster kits/plans, and over 25 hours of

after-school instruction. This year we are welcoming 10 new YET graduates! Congratulations to: Seth Benenate, Jacob Burns, Aaron Keisling, Andrew Keisling, Ethan Keisling, Vivianne Morales, Emily Pilcher, Raelin Tew, Lainey Walters and Lauren Walters. This year we also handed out graduation superlatives: Overall YETie: Vivianne Morales; Future Emergency Management Director: Lainey Walters; Outstanding Mentor: Andy Keisling; Future Doctor: Emily Pilcher; Future Veterinarian: Lauren Walters; Most

Organized: Raelin Tew; Future Fireman: Aaron Keisling; Most Improved YETie: Seth Benenate; Rescuer Down Under: Jacob Burns; and Outstanding Patient Care: Ethan Keisling.

Thank you to all five Major YETies: Natalie Stevenson, Danielle Jones, Chellie Whaley, Lillian Peeples, and Gabriel Gierhahn, for returning to help

lead this program. Additionally, we want to send a special thanks to the county partnering agencies for teaching this YET group: Nassau County Animal Services, NCFR Station 30, Fernandina Beach Fire Department, Break Throughs, Dr. Amir Wind and our former NCEM director Greg Foster.

If you are interested in learning more about fun, hands-on learning opportunities available to your children or the youth you work with, contact Nassau County 4-H at 904-530-6353.

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