

Westside Seniors Celebrate Thanksgiving



Saturday, the Westside Senior Center was decorated beautifully for Thanksgiving, as seniors arrived to enjoy a wonderful message, singing and a homemade traditional Thanksgiving lunch. The Concerned Citizens of Hilliard prepared a wonderful dinner of turkey, ham, giblet gravy, dressing, mashed potatoes, yams and green beans and a variety of desserts. The group was unable to provide the dinner for the past two years due to the pandemic so it was wonderful to see them back and sharing their giving spirit. There was a great group of young people that also joined in to help serve the dinners to the seniors. It was a special day and certainly got everyone in a 'thankful' spirit! Thank you to the Concerned Citizens of Hilliard for your hard work in making the day special for our seniors! God bless you all!



Hilliard Christmas Tree Lighting Saturday

The Town of Hilliard will hold their annual Christmas Tree Lighting this Saturday, November 26 at Town Hall at 6 p.m. There will be refreshments and Christmas caroling around the tree. The event is open to everyone to come out and enjoy and get it the Christmas spirit.

There will be a visit from Santa Claus and parents are encouraged to bring their cameras for a quick picture! Also, for the children, make sure to bring your Letters to Santa to mail in the special box also at Town Hall.





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A Word S From the Publisher

Happy Thanksgiving! Hopefully, by the time most of you read this, you are ready to enjoy your Thanksgiving dinner or have already enjoyed it. Oh my, there is just something about the smell of that turkey cooking on Thanksgiving morning.

I guess I learned and kept that tradition from my mom. I can remember waking up and smelling the house filled with the yummy aroma of turkey. It takes a little effort to get up and put it in the oven and make sure to get up to take it out, but it's worth it!

Thanksgiving...what

does that really mean? Actually, in my mind it's pretty easy, giving thanks. Many people may think in the world we live in there is not much to give thanks about. How wrong you are! Yes, this world is a big mess but...you must look closer than that. We are so blessed to live in the greatest country in the world. Sometimes, I think we all get so busy that we forget about the little things of life, which are really the big things...like waking up each morning. Being thankful isn't a hard thing to do. While reading a devotional one day, it recommended to make a list of things (or people) I'm thankful for. Before I realized I had a full page of thanks! It really is easy to complain about everything under the sun and some people find fun in that.

This time of year reminds me of how blessed I truly am. I have a wonderful husband that loves and cares for me. I have strong caring Christian parents that, even though I'm grown, continue to help me remember God's faithfulness each and every day. Our children and grandchildren

ing morning. place to be. I do way, but a than the start way, but a the start way, but a than the start way, but a than the start way, but a the s

are happy and healthy and we're blessed to have our siblings close at hand. I have a job that I enjoy and God continues to bless. I want for nothing and that's a great place to be. I don't say that in a boasting way, but a thankful way.

> During this Thanksgiving holiday, there are people who are hurting. Many have lost loved ones or are dealing with health issues. The one thing we can do is to pray for each other. Did you know you can pray anytime? Many of my prayers are done while I'm washing dishes, driving,

sitting on my porch. Did you know our God is always available? He is just waiting for us to call upon Him with our thanks or troubles, just ask and He is there. In this ever changing world, I serve a God that never changes. Boy, I know He has fun dealing with me sometimes! He, our Lord and Savior, is always the same.

I pray that you will be able to celebrate Thanksgiving with your family or at least spend a little time with family. Life is short and we don't know what tomorrow may hold. We need to take advantage of each and every opportunity to spend time with the ones you love. Life is hard and sometimes very busy but you have to take time to just be still. We serve an awesome God that provides our breath each and every day. Perhaps it's time for us to just thank Him for His mercy and grace.

Thanksgiving Blessings!

Dawy S. Hest

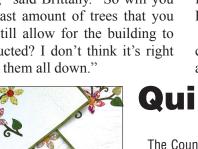


Hilliard Town News

Dawn S. West

The Hilliard Town Council met Thursday night for their final regular meeting of November. Doug Conkey, Intergovernmental Coordinator, St. Johns River Water Management District, approached the podium to update the council on upcoming opportunities. "I just wanted to update the council concerning the SJRWMD Cost Share Program. The amount of money that may be applied for has gone up to \$1 million. Applications for the program begin December 1 and close January 30, 2023," said Conkey. "I believe the last time I was here we discussed our (SJRWMD) artesian well project. Once we are contacted about an abandoned artesian well, we will come and check it out and plug it at no cost. Currently we have plugged 171 artesian wells in the state, which saves 24.2 million gallons of water a day."

Brittany Newsome also addressed the council concerning the cutting of the trees on the town property beside town hall. "I am very concerned about the cutting of the trees on the property next door," said Brittany. "So will you cut the least amount of trees that you can and still allow for the building to be constructed? I don't think it's right to just cut them all down."



Councilman Lee Pickett advised the council that he wished to add the tree cutting issue to the agenda. The item was added.

After much discussion, the council decided to have a 'walking workshop' on the property Tuesday, November 29 at 5 p.m. to look at the trees in question and make a decision on exactly which trees need to be taken down for the upcoming town pavilion.

The first agenda item concerned the approval of a Capital Budgeted purchase of Actuator Replacement disk filter from Aqua-Aerobic Systems, Inc. in the amount of \$25,808.23.

The next item, the council approved to donate \$8,000 to the Nassau County Public Library System to the Friends of the Hilliard Library for Fiscal Year 2022-2023.

The council also approved a donation of \$10,000 to the Nassau County Council on Aging for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 to assist senior citizens in Hilliard with their water and sewer bills.

The council also approved the final payable to Mittauer & Associates, Inc. for Project: CDBG 20 NR Water Main Replacement in the amount of \$3,915.

The next regular meeting of the council will be Thursday, December 1 at 7 p.m.

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 will be held Monday, December 12 at their meeting. You do not have to be present to win!



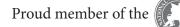
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Letters to the Editor

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.

Does History repeat itself?

Dear Editor,

Ref. Genesis 6:5, "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."

Is this not a picture of the USA today? What do we see happening today in America? Open borders, riots, daily murders in our cities, out of control drugs, child sex trafficking, disobedience to parents, you name it, America is doing it. Has America not become another Sodom & Gomorrah or worse?

What was God's response to mankind then? See Genesis 6:6, "And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart." What was God's answer? Genesis 6:7a, "And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth..."

Probably not exactly what God has in mind for the whole earth at this time but, it could be the beginning of the end of USA as we know it today. Check it out, America is not mentioned anywhere in the Bible. Why would He spare us? I would also challenge you to look what the Apostle Paul said in Romans 1:18-32, is this not another picture of America today?

If Christians, the Church of Jesus Christ as a whole don't take a stand now, we may not have another opportunity. The thing is, we are not to sit idly by and do nothing...period!

The problem with a lot of churches in America today is they preach a health, wealth and prosperity message. They lull people into a state of mind to send me your money so we can grow. Grow what? Bigger buildings, pad their own wallets and drive around in luxury automobiles. They care nothing for the people that they teach a watered-down gospel to.

Wake up Christians, we need to get our heads out of the sand and look toward the heavens and pray and act! Put politics aside. Hank Martinez, Sr.

Unwanted Attention Dear Editor.

There isn't a woman on the planet who has not had her life intruded upon by a man while

enjoying her own company or socializing with a woman friend or group of women. This unwanted aggressive behavior ranges from interruptions to harassment and women are unprotected from them by the legal community.

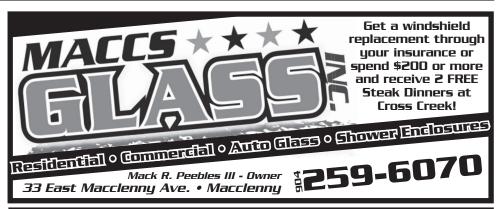
The majority of these social trespassers are spurred on by unresolved anger issues in their lives and the misery they cause, which has nothing to do with the women being assaulted. Most women in this circumstance tend to be polite realizing that telling these fools to SCRAM! might release that anger on them.

Single, separated and divorced women experience the highest instance of this abuse. Preyed upon by these miscreants because there is no husband in her life. The law enforcement restrictions make it very difficult for a woman to resolve this treatment. Proof? Isn't a woman's word enough? Hopefully, this letter will be a wake-up call for a problem much more pervasive than law enforcement appears to realize.

So guys, here's the message. Women are not soliciting your craving for attention. Women don't want it and what's more, Women don't like it! If you need attention, find somebody else. We're not Mommies. If you're unhappy, see a professional. It's not the job of women you don't even know to solve your misery.

In other words, Grow up and Stop acting like a jerk! Let's also hope law enforcement realizes that the protect part of "Protect and Serve" comprehends protecting our unsuspecting women, which is a legitimate mandate.

B. R Mc Connell



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Christmas Tree Lighting Saturday, November 26 • 6 p.m.

Annual Town of Hilliard

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. 845-3555 • 15859 West CR 108 • Hilliard



Fearfully and Wonderfully Made

Pastor Benjie Loyd, River Road Baptist Church, Hilliard



As I am thinking about thanksgiving this year, a couple of passages are coming to mind. The first is Psalm 139:14 -16, "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be." This passage was

brought home to me in a very real way in an experience I had a couple of years ago.

I thought that this was going to be another boring night, but this night turned into a night that I will never forget. This boring night involved a field trip to a hospital in Jacksonville. During the field trip, we were given the opportunity to go into a cadaver lab. During this visit, we were open to look at and hold a human heart. I walked into the room and I saw these hearts laying on a table and I was given the opportunity to hold one of them. The human heart is a muscle and it looks like a small piece of steak to the untrained eye. I am not a cannibal. I had no interest in eating the heart, but as I held this human heart in my hand, I was shocked and moved to gratitude as I reflected on the fact that our Creator has created us in such a way that this little muscle that weighs less than a pound sustains our lives.

Consider some of the aspects of the heart that show us how we are fearfully and wonderfully made. According to the American Heart Association, the heart does more physical work than any other muscle in the body. The average heart pumps 2,000 gallons of blood per day! In a 70-year lifetime, an average human heart beats more than 2.5 billion times. Every minute your heart pumps 1.5 gallons of blood. During an average lifetime, your heart pumps about 1 million barrels of blood or enough to fill more than three supertankers. This little muscle that looks like nothing more than a piece of steak, that I could easily eat at one sitting, does all this!

This experience was humbling and worshipful. It was humbling, because I was reminded of how frail we are. This little muscle is all that is keeping us alive. We are powerless to sustain our lives. If God chooses not to give us our next heartbeat, who can protest it or demand another one? No one. This was worshipful because of the God who has made us. This was all His design. The second passage that this made me consider was also from the Psalms. In Psalm 73:21-22, Asaph says, "When I was embittered and my innermost being was wounded, I was stupid and did not understand; I was an unthinking animal toward you." May God help us all not to be brutish animals before Him at thanksgiving. Life is a gift and we should treasure it all as it comes to us from the good hand of God.

Attend the church of your choice this Sunday.





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Chip Seal Program Improves Public Safety on Roads

Road County Nassau The Department is happy to announce it has completed its scheduled list of chip sealed roads for the 2021 and 2022 fiscal years. Twenty-two dirt roads totaling 29,145 feet (roughly 5.5 miles) were upgraded to a newly paved surface utilizing the chip seal process. When the repetitive maintenance of dirt roads becomes timely and costly and/or driver safety is compromised, chip seal is a great option because it's similar to asphalt in durability and appearance, but much less expensive.

The chip seal surface treatment consists of an application of heated asphalt liquid, followed by a layer of crushed rock with a roller to create a smooth surface. Chip seal roads enhance public safety by providing good skid resistance, an anti-glare surface during wet weather, and an increased reflective surface for night driving.

During adoption of the Fiscal Year 22/23 budget, the Board allocated \$900,000 for the Chip Seal Program. This will allow an additional 15 roads totaling 17,975 feet to be resurfaced this Fiscal Year. Roads identified for chip seal this Fiscal Year include: Oelsner Drive; Wilder Boulevard; Arbor Lane; Seymour Lane; Nassau River Road; Freeman Road; Myrtice Road; Milton Road; Dawson Road; Boyd Road; D. Fouraker Road; Middle Road; Lawhon Road; Debbie Road; and Howard Road.

We want to thank the citizens of Nassau County for their patience during the preparation process. We would also like to thank our County Commissioners, (District 1) John F. Martin, (District 2) Aaron C. Bell, (District 3) Jeff Gray, (District 4) Thomas R. Ford, (District 5) Klynt A. Farmer, for their support and allocating funding for this initiative.

Hilliard Primary Care Now Millennium Physician Group

Recently, the Ascension St. Vincent's Medical Group in Hilliard changed names to Millennium Physicians MILLENNIUM Group. The office is still a Primary Care office and has PHYSICIAN GROUP the same staff: Amanda West, APRN and Kimberly



Bravo, APRN, along with staff members Laura, Jennifer, Samantha, Lisa, Trisha and Terry. The affiliation has changed as they are no longer connected with Ascension Medical Group.

The only drawback with the new company is the phone lines are giving them difficulty getting appointments at the front desk. As they continue to work out the glitches, the staff hopes to soon have the problems resolved so all the current patients can be reinstalled. For patients who need appointments, right now, they are best served by stopping by the office at 551616 US Highway 1 and making an appointment until the phone issues are resolved. We are looking forward to serving your medical needs!



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for a wonderful community, for the friends and families we have come to know. It has been an honor and privilege to serve our community for a combined 137 years.

Wishing you all a Blessed Thanksgiving!

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Dayspring Village Annual Shoe Drive

Each year for the last 32 years, Dayspring Village and advocates have worked to provide new shoes for the mentally ill residents who call DSV home. A local mom, Hattie Morris from Fernandina Beach, called Doug Adkins, the administrator of Dayspring Village. She was actively involved

in advocating for persons with mental illness since her son, Doug, also struggled with a mental health condition. She asked him, "Doug, what can we do as a community to help impact the lives of the residents?"

He told Hattie, who was at home at the time, to sit down and take the laces out of her shoes and walk around the house. Hattie did exactly what was requested and she soon discovered how cumbersome and difficult it was to manage her feet without the shoe laces. Doug explained to her that when residents go to the hospital, they take away the shoe laces and they often do not get them back. The Velcro straps

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3RD

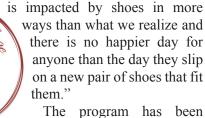
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OR VISIT WWW.WNHSFL.ORG HOSTED BY THE WEST NASSAU HISTORICAL SOCIETY associated with a new pair of shoes was life changing for many of the residents. "Perhaps more important is that many of the adults with mental illness struggle to obtain adequate foot wear and often their shoes are worn out, broken or otherwise ill fitting," said Adkins. "The simple truth is that recovery and dignity



modernized this year. In order to help people get engaged we have made supporting the annual shoe drive easier with a simple GoFundMe page where volunteers can donate. "We have raised \$1,175 so far towards our goal of \$5,000 to help provide shoes for 120 mentally ill adults," added Adkins. "If you would rather write a check to help support the program or want to buy shoes yourself that can all be arranged with our staff by calling McKena Dunn at 904-675-9181."

To learn more about Dayspring Village, visit: www.dayspringvillage. org or call 904-675-9181.







Flashes Stung by the Hornets

Holden McMillen

The stage was set last Friday night for a gladiator type rematch between the Hilliard Flashes and Lafayette Mayo Hornets. Last time these two faced off was week 4 of the season, with the Hornets escaping Flashes Field with a narrow 21-14 win. The Flashes looked to avenge the loss and earn a bid to the Regional Final Rural FHSAA Playoffs.

The Hornets began the contest with the pigskin and marched down the field to set themselves up to reach the end zone. The Flashes' defense rose up and stalled the drive and the Hornets were forced to settle with a 24-yard field goal. Despite the stop, the Hornets earned an early 3-0 lead. The Flashes' offense were hoping for a drive of their own however, the Hornets' defense forced a turnover with an interception after a deflected pass. The Hornets looked to take advantage, but the Flashes' defense rose up and came up with back-to-back clutch stops to stall the Hornets' drive to close out the opening quarter.

The 2nd quarter became the turning point of the game. After the defense forced a turnover on downs, the Flashes' offense went to work and





answered the call when Lyle Bennett took the quarterback keeper 14 yards for the score. With the 2-point coverage unsuccessful, the Flashes took a 6-3 lead. Then, the Hornets' scoring onslaught ensued. The Hornets gashed the Flashes' defense and reached the end zone courtesy of a 20-yard run. Then, the Hornets' passing game got involved in the scoring fest. The Hornets scored with a 78-yard touchdown pass; followed by an 8-yard touchdown pass. With the extra point for all three scores good, the Hornets went into halftime with a commanding 24-6 lead.

Both teams traded scores in the 3rd quarter. It started with the Flashes' defense forcing a turnover, thanks to a bad snap from the Hornets' center. Billy Moore recovered the ball near the 40 yard line. The Flashes' offense took advantage of the turnover with Bennett connecting with a wide-open Nathaniel Vroman near the Flashes' side line for a 48-yard score. With the extra point good, the Flashes began to claw back into the game, cutting the deficit down to 24-13. Any sort of momentum generated from the Flashes was quickly evaporated due to the Hornets' offense going down the field and scoring on a 16-yard touchdown pass. With the extra point good, the Hornets widened the lead to 31-13. The remainder of the game stalled out with defensive stops. As a result, the Flashes were defeated by the Hornets 31-13 and were eliminated from the playoffs.

Offensively, the Flashes generated 241 yards of total offense and 133 yards rushing. In his final game as a Flash, Bennett went 8/20 for 108 yards, a touchdown and ran the ball 13 times for 54 yards; Braydon Holley had 13 carries for 63 yards and 3 catches for 15 yards; Vroman led the team in receiving with 4 catches for 53 yards and a touchdown; Bradyn Matto had a catch for 20 yards.

Defensively, the Flashes forced a turnover and a sack on the game. Damon Kibler and Colton Conner both led the team with 5 tackles; Billy Moore had 4 tackles and a fumble recovery; and Tucker Pickett and Malcolm Howard tallied 2 tackles.

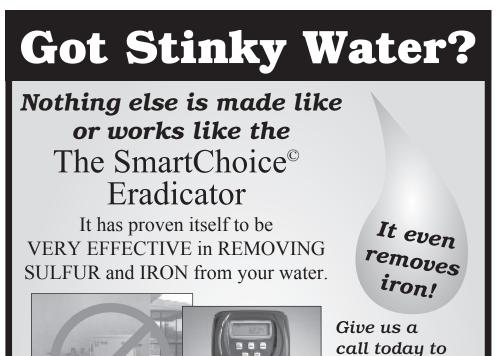
Congratulations to the Hilliard Flashes on a great 8-3 season! Go Flashes!

Collecting for Toys for Tots Nassau



Collections are once again happening for Toys for Tots! 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, visit our website, www.toysfortots.org. 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 of NEW unwrapped toys may be

dropped off at any location! Distribution Day is Saturday, December 17. Volunteers are needed to help sort and bag toys. To schedule a time to volunteer, please call Susan Purvis, T4T Coordinator, at 904-716-2462! DONATE TOYS TODAY!







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Longest of Nassau County's "Worst" **Roads Scheduled for Repaving**

Tracy Connors

If you have ridden on Kings Ferry Road in recent months, you know how uncomfortable, and even dangerous the road is in its current advanced state of disrepair and deterioration. You might not be surprised to find that of the 437 miles of paved roadways under County responsibility for maintenance, Kings Ferry Road was ranked the 5th worst in Nassau County.

Only four other roads, three in Fernandina and one in Yulee, were rated worse in the Nassau County Pavement Management Plan, adopted July 2021 (readers who wish to see whether their road is scheduled for resurfacing can find that information in the Pavement Management Plan online). Based on funding levels in place prior to 2021, approximately 3-6 miles of roadways were resurfaced per year. Prior to the adoption of the Plan, a Nassau County Road might expect to be resurfaced every 86 years. Because the expected useful life of a paved roadway is 15-25 years, a typical roadway would reach the end of its useful life 60 years prior to it being repaved.

The 2021 Pavement Management Plan put the county's roadway network on a 22-year resurfacing cycle, and recommended an annual budget of \$3.900.000 for road maintenance. This will allow resurfacing 18-20 miles of roadway per year, and enable roadways within the county to be resurfaced approximately every 22 years based on current uses and proposed funding.

The new County Pavement Management Plan ranks Kings Ferry Road as 3.31 on a 5.0 scale (worst). The worst road in Nassau County (according to the Plan) is Little Piney Island Pt. (800 feet), with a 3.84 rating. However, the combined lengths of the four roadways in Nassau County rated worse than Kings Ferry Road totaled .56 miles. The "worst" rating for Kings Ferry Road includes 7.94 miles, with an estimated budget of \$1,588,763 to

repave. The average lengths of the next 29 worst roads after Kings Ferry were less than .5 miles. Kings Ferry Road is by far the "worst" length of paved road in Nassau County, and will be until it is repaved.

Nassau County Road Director, Cameron Hansen, recently surveyed both Kings Ferry Road and Bill Johnson Road in Kings Ferry. Residents had contacted his office to report the advanced deterioration of the pavement, and the near obliteration of many pavement markings. They had pointed out the near absence in many places on that much-traveled and sinuous road, of pavement markers. The majority of them are very faint, and in other places are almost impossible to distinguish based on weathering, wear and tear... [we] consider the condition of this main artery to constitute a serious and priority safety issue. We have no doubt that in its present condition, Kings Ferry Road is dangerous to drive on.

Hansen agreed with the condition of the road. He pointed out, "When I drove to Kings Ferry to visit you on Bill Johnson Road some weeks back, I observed the condition of the road firsthand, and had the repairs put on the schedule. This led to us being out there this past Friday, in an effort to reduce the potholes and shoulder issues I noted at that time." Hansen noted, "Kings Ferry Rd. is scheduled for overlay this 2022-2023 fiscal year, to include new striping as well."

"I anticipate the roadwork for 22-23 should be complete, (unforeseen circumstances aside) in Summer/Fall 2023 timeframe," continued Hansen. "Meanwhile I will review the current striping conditions with the area Supervisor, as well as those that do our in-house striping. We can schedule temporary striping in the problem areas to ensure better visibility, until the new pavement and markings work takes place."



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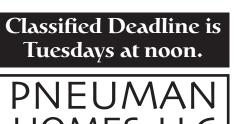
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THE TOWN OF HILLIARD is seeking a highly motivated, qualified individual for an entry level **PUBLIC WORKS POSITION** which includes landscaping, facility maintenance and the ability to perform multiple tasks as required. A current Driver's License and High School Diploma are required and at least one years' experience in the public sector or equivalent work experience. Experience in landscaping, water, and sewer utility work is a plus. The Town of Hilliard is an Equal Opportunity Employer and a Drug Free Workplace. Post-offer physical required. Applications may be picked up at Town Hall located at 15859 West County Road 108, Hilliard, Florida from 9am until 5pm Monday through Friday, or downloaded from www.townofhilliard.com. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.120122

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HAMPTON S. BENNETT, JR.



Hampton S. "Bubba" Bennett, Jr., 88, the greatest dad ever, passed away Thursday, November 17, 2022 at his home surrounded by his

family. Mr. Bennett was born January 22, 1934 in Fernandina Beach and was son to the late Hampton Sullivan Bennett, Sr. and Maudie Olivia Wilder Bennett. He was a graduate of Yulee High School and worked for 42 years with St. Regis Paper Company where he retired in 1999. He was a member of the United Steelworkers Union for Paperworkers Local 9292 and loved playing cards with friends and family, hunting, fishing, Blue Grass music and cooking for his family including his specialty shrimp salad & fried fish. He loved his log cabin in West Jefferson, North Carolina, that he named "Top of the Hill" after his beloved Nassauville home. He loved his family dearly. He was preceded in death by his parents; and a brother Charles Bennett.

He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Patricia Harrold Bennett; four children Hampton "Rusty" (Pam) Bennett, III, Lisa (Tom) Rayburn, Judson (Melinda) Bennett and Marsha (Robert) Veal; eight grandchildren Josh (Brittany) Rayburn, Kristopher (Randi Jean) Bennett, Joni (Donal) Rayburn, Jenni (Thomas) Pike, Sara (Jason) Wynn, Lorin (Chris) Jakes, Judson (Noel) Bennet, II and Travis (Abigail) Veal; 21 great-grandchildren Lyle, Katelynn, Sydney, Conner, Nyla, Riley "Hampton", Landen, Natalee, Cooper, Callie, Kailey, Logan, Layden, Nate, Damari, Judson, III, Donisha, Laila, Xavier, John and due in February Chandler; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

The family received friends Monday, November 21 prior to the funeral service at The Event Center at Peeples Funeral Home, Jacksonville, with Pastor Chris Drum officiating. Burial followed in Eubanks Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family

OBITUARIES

requests that donations may be made to Community Hospice of Nassau County.

Peeples Family Funeral Home served the Bennett family.

Condolences may be expressed at: www.pffh.com.

JOHN CARLTON EDDY

John C. Eddy, 69, passed away November 2, 2021 in Fernandina Beach. He was born on April 17, 1952 to Lemuel Joseph (Joe) Brinson and Elsbeth Marie Gnueg in Washington, D.C. Elsbeth later remarried to Leonard John Eddy and Leonard adopted John in 1958. John married Sharon E. Thompson on September 11, 1971.

John was a kindhearted man always giving of himself. As a child he was in the Boy Scouts and obtained Eagle Scout. During the Vietnam War he joined the US Coast Guard straight out of high school. In boot camp, he was selected to join the elite Honor Guard. The U S Coast Guard Honor Guard not only serves our Presidents but has the respected honor of lying to rest our brave military soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. He also flew helicopters in the Guard and eventually got his private pilot's license.

From there he became a Firefighter/ Paramedic and joined the Maryland Army National Guard as a 1st Lieutenant. After falling through the floor of a burning building, severely injuring his leg, he was retired on a disability. But that didn't stop him, he became a Deputy Sheriff until he was shot in his other leg. When healed, he decided to join the U S Merchant Marines. He became a Captain and commanded Supply Ships to Cruise Liners. When he was unable to go out to sea full time, he taught men and women to become Mariners.

John was a mechanical engineer graduating from Northwestern College, capable of building and or fixing anything. He was a motorcycle rider, one of the founders of Legion Riders of the American Legion Post in St. Augustine. John and Sherri owned a horse drawn carriage company outside of Washington, DC. They also ran a Boat and Breakfast on the Chesapeake Bay. He was a world traveler.

In John's spare time, he was a Civil War Reenactor and was in many prominent civil war movies like "Glory." He was a scuba dive instructor, certified rescue diver and an accomplished cave diver. John was a gifted guitarist and was honored to have played with Carlos Santana prior to his rise to fame.

And John was a phenomenal storyteller. If you got him going, you were trapped! You were going to hear about ALL THE THINGS... He was an encyclopedia of knowledge. But you always came away enlightened and lighter in heart. Vikings/ Norsemen became his passion after tracing back his roots. John's laugh was contagious. You could hear it from across the room and laugh without even knowing why you were laughing. But most of all, he was a friend to many and touched so many lives.

John was diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer in August of 2021. He put up a valiant, amazing fight for almost three months, but the cancer was swift and took him much too soon.

John leaves behind his loving wife of 50 years, Sherri; children Christopher John Eddy and Karla Marie Eddy Barger; three grandchildren Ainslee, Flynn and Lochlan; three siblings Bruce C. Eddy, Lisa Eddy Mrongowuis and Robin Rinearson; three nephews, two nieces and many cousins and friends.

Celebration of John's Life was held March 19, 2022, at their home in Callahan. John's inurnment was held November 23, 2022 at Arlington National Cemetery at 2 p.m. with Military Honors.

PATRICIA ANN HUTCHINSON



Patricia Ann Hutchinson, 57, of Callahan, passed away on November 12, 2022. She was born October 5, 1965, in Jacksonville to Albert Wilkes,

Sr. and Charlene Dell Singleton Wilkes. Patricia was a social butterfly who always had a smile on her face. She had a fun personality and thoroughly loved life. Patricia developed a love for traveling after her children left the nest. She enjoyed traveling all over the country to visit them. Patricia also enjoyed cooking, tending to her animals, listening to country music, collecting whatnots and knick-knacks, but more than anything she loved her family and spending time with them. She is preceded in death by her mother; brother John Wilkes; and sister Pamela Wilkes.

Patricia leaves behind her father Albert (Debbie) Wilkes, Sr.; children Jason (Renee) Wilkes, Jeanette (Brian) Turner, Dennis (Janet) Brown, Jr. and Sabrina (Yahia) Hedaisy; siblings Lee (Cheryl) Wilkes, Albert (Laura) Wilkes, Jr., Jennie Knight and Levada (Dean) Wilkes Duggar; grandchildren Thomas, Jade, Kayda and Kayden, and two bundles of joy on the way; and several nephews, nieces and cousins.

A memorial service was held Friday, November 18 at Nassau Funeral Home.

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

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







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OBITUARIES

HARRY "BUDDY" JAMES, JR.



Harry "Buddy" James, Jr., 68 years young, passed away Saturday, November 12, 2022 in Callahan. He was born July 30, 1954 in Columbus, Georgia

to Harry H. James, Sr. and Dorothy Mae Weaver James. Buddy attended school in Jacksonville. He married Debra Lawson on November 30, 1971. They were blessed with three daughters Debra Lee Padallia, Cheryl Marie James Waddell and Janie Lynn Oliver. As a 2nd Pressman, he worked in the printing field for many years.

Buddy was of the Baptist faith. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and the great outdoors. Riding his Harley was his favorite activity. He also loved going 'scrappin" for anything and everything because you never know, he might need it one day! Buddy was predeceased by his parents Harry and Dorothy Mae James; his daughter Cheryl Marie James Waddell; and his grandson Mark Anthony Padallia, II.

He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Debra; daughters Debra Marie Padallia and Janie Lynn Oliver; 14 grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren.

The family received friends prior to the funeral service held Friday, November 18 at Hardage-Giddens Funeral Home, Jacksonville. Burial followed at Riverside Memorial Park, Jacksonville.

Condolences may be expressed at: www.hgriversidefuneralhome.com.

Arrangements by Hardage-Giddens Funeral Home, Jacksonville.

Obituaries are published free of charge. They may be emailed to news@westsidejournal.net.

NOAH "RED" KIRKLAND

Noah "Red" Kirkland, 82, of Hilliard, entered heaven's gate on November 18, 2022 at St. Vincent's Hospital, surrounded by his family. Red

was a devoted man of God and active and faithful member of St. George Church of God. He was known in the community for his kindness and dedication to family, friends and church. His favorite hobbies were fishing and being a fisher of men for God. Red was always found in the garden, on the water or riverbank, or with his grandchildren playing on the floor. His heart was not ready to leave us, but his spirit was Heaven bound.

In addition to his parents; he was preceded in death by his loving wife of 61 years, Carolyn Kirkland; daughter Linda Gail Kirkland Gay; sisters Sarah Harper and Ruby Burch; brothers Buck Kirkland, James Henry Kirkland, Daniel Kirkland, George Kirkland and Ed Kirkland.

He is survived by his daughters Pam (Ralph) Snider and Brenda (David) Brantley; grandchildren Casey (Carmen) Jones, Nikki (Brad) Brooks, Michelle (Pat) Harter, Daniel (Ashley) Sofge, Harlee (Alex) Thomas and Alec Quintavalle; 15 great-grandchildren; two sisters Eva Pullen and Penny Johns; and numerous of other relatives.

The family received friends Monday, November 21 at St. George Church of God. The funeral service was held Tuesday, November 22 at St. George Church of God with Pastor Grady Albritton and Pastor Carol Lee officiating. Burial followed at River Road Baptist Church Cemetery.

Condolences may be expressed at: www.shepardrobersonfh.com.

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, Folkston.

In Loving Memory of my Husband **EDSEL HUTCHINSON**

November 24, 1932 - September 8, 2008

It's been 14 years since you left us but your memories are still vivid. I still miss you and am thinking of you on your birthday. I know you are happy and I long to see you again. Happy Birthday!

I love you, Geneva



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