VOLUME XX ISSUE 18

HOMETOWN PEOPLE...HOMETOWN NEWS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2023

to God for

Our Nation!

"Teach me your ways, O Lord, that I may live according to your truth! Grant me purity of heart, so that I may honor you." - psalm 86:11



Dawn S. West

The 50th Annual Callahan Christmas Parade will be held this Saturday beginning at 11 a.m. It's hard to believe the parade has been happening for 50 years and even harder to believe that I remember them from long ago. I can remember when my children were little, we would watch the parade from the Barnett Bank yard on A1A (now SR 200). Yes, the parade route has changed throughout the years and continues to give you such pride of a hometown Christmas parade. Accolades to the West Nassau Historical Society for taking on the project of presenting the huge event.

This year, the parade route will begin at Dixie Avenue beside the Depot, turn right and travel down US Highway 1 all the way to 5th Avenue; turn right on 5th and right again on Booth Street, back to the Depot. The official vendor market, with over 85 vendors, will be held at the depot, the Callahan Pavilion and the railroad bed. There are vendors of all kinds including: crafts, woodworking, food, toys, clothing, and much more! There will also be photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Callahan Pavilion, following the parade at 12:30 p.m.

This year's Grand Marshal is Raymond Fachko! Raymond recently retired from Brandies Ace Hardware after working there for 50 years and as manager/owner for the last 40 years. Raymond is a well-known face within Callahan as he has always been such a supporter of everything in town. His grandfather was Cliff Brandies (of whom the store was named) and Raymond got his work ethic from him. Raymond is a wonderful Christian man that well deserves this honor!

The Honorary Grand Marshal is Mr. Elliott Jones, 100-year-old US Navy WWII Veteran, who was born and raised in Callahan. Mr. Elliott celebrated his 100th birthday in October. For the last several years, you have seen Mr. Elliott riding his electric bicycle in the parade. This year, he will be riding in his son's pickup truck pulling a trailer with his bike on it. Thank you, Mr. Jones for your service to our country!

When a Son Becomes the Parent

Book Signing Saturday

Dawn S. West

I recently had the great opportunity to sit down and talk with Shannon Wright about his recent book, When a Son Becomes the Parent. This interview was somewhat different from many of the other ones I have done, as it was personal in many ways. I have known Shannon for several years, as he graduated from West Nassau

High School, with my daughter, Jenny, in 2003. I went to school with his mother, Alma, and her siblings. Going further back, my dad (Coach Jim Stearn) was Shannon's father's (Sidney Wright) coach when he was in high school. Our family was very close with the entire Wright family. So,

this interview was like talking with

Shannon is a very smart young man. Once he graduated from high school, he continued his education achieving his Bachelors Degree from Florida A & M University in Healthcare Management and continued to achieve his Master's Degree in 2011in Public Administration in Health Care Management. He started his own business in the new/used car dealership; along with also starting a physical fitness company, serving as the trainer and owner. As you can see, not many things have stopped Shannon's desire to excel in this world. He is a self-motivated and hardworking man.

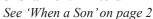
Now, he is a father himself of a sweet baby girl. It seemed like everything was going in the right direction and as he planned. However, God had another plan for Shannon.

Although his parents had been divorced for many years, Shannon still remained close with both of them. During the time Shannon was finishing his degree, he started noticing changes

in his father. Around Sidney 2016, diagnosed with the onset of Dementia. With each visit to his dad, Shannon continued to watch his father decline, so much so that he decided to move in with him and become his caregiver and he has been doing so for about 7 years. "While visiting my

dad I could see him spiraling down each day. He was depressed and withdrawn," said Shannon. "I just couldn't watch it happen. I had to take action. He was smoking and drinking all the time. He had anger issues. Something had to change and I moved in."

Obviously, moving in with his father changed Shannon's life completely. He spends a lot of time talking with his dad. Sidney was also dealing with lots of anger and was sometimes violent with others, even Shannon. "He would call the police on me all the time. Thankfully, that hasn't happened in a while," recalls Shannon. "I told him







Next Saturday, December 9, the 3rd Annual Shoot with Santa Event will be held at Jacksonville Clay Target Sports. 12125 New Berlin Road. This event is a fun day from shooters of all ages, male and female! Local residents David Jackson and Steve Nelson have worked make this event bigger and better

each year. They are currently looking specifically for Station Sponsors (\$250); and Shooters: \$200 per shooter; \$800 per team (4) which includes shells and lunch. For more information on how to get involved call David at 904-403-7688 or Steve at 904-813-2872. This is a fun event for a great cause.

Proceeds from the shoot provided from the last two years provided \$26,000 in gifts students in Hilliard, Callahan and Bryceville schools. School administrators are contacted about the need for each school in Hilliard, Callahan and Bryceville! Join in the fun and help out some students!

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When a Son

things are going to change around here. We're going to keep this house clean and no more drinking or smoking! Now we have great conversations and exercise together. It helps to keep him motivated! He is a very smart man. It just takes time and lots of patience."

Shannon wrote the book hoping to give encouragement to caregivers. There isn't a book for that, kind of like parenting. "I have learned through the process I must take time away so I have a CNA to sit with Daddy three times a week. He enjoys the company. The roles have changed and now I make the rules. My dad is much better and I am

Contunued from page 1 much better through this process," said Shannon. "Caregiving is very difficult

but I am reminded every day, he would do this for me."

Shannon will hold a book signing this Saturday, December 2 at 12:30 p.m. at Callahan Barbecue, following the Callahan Christmas parade. His book can be purchased for \$15 and signed Saturday, payable by Cash, Credit Card or Zelle. We will also have his book, When a Son Becomes the Parent for sale at the Westside Journal next week for \$15 cash.

Congratulations, Shannon, I'm very proud of you!

Community Meeting in Bryceville

Wednesday, December 6

A Community Meeting will be held Wednesday, December 6 at 6 p.m. at the Bryceville Community Center on Motes Road. District 4 County Commissioner Alyson McCullough, County Manager Taco Pope, County Engineer Robert Companion, and Brandy Carvalho will host the community meeting.

Information will be shared concerning the visioning exercise and bicentennial celebration in hopes to engage residence in the upcoming 2050 comprehensive envisioning plan. This is the residents opportunity to input long term goals and strategies that they would like to see in the next 30 years.

Also being discussed will be: CR 119; CR 121; Pavement Management Plan; Chip Seal Program; Drainage projects; The CIP in general; Playground Equipment at Bryceville Park; and the Budget / School Board Tax Break Down.

We look forward to coming together and having this opportunity for fellowship and citizen engagement.



Luuch with Sauta Saturday, December 9

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at American Legion Post 401

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DECEMBER

DECEMBER						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
For unto	us a child is	born	AT L	Isaiah 9:6	NAMI Support 11 a.m 12:30 p.m. Fernandina Council on Aging	2 Callaban Christmas TPARADE
3	Pine Forest Alumni Meeting 5 p.m. Bethel A.M.E. Church Callahan Town Meeting 7 p.m.	5 Torah Club 9 a.m. 6230 p.m. Callahan Methodist Church Westside Republicans 6 p.m. Hilliard Comm. Center NAMI Family Support 6:30 - 8 p.m. Alachua Club, Fern. Bch.	6 Callahan Garden Club 10 a.m. Free Community Dinner 5 p.m. Callahan Methodist Church Parents of Addicted Loved Ones (PAL) 6 p.m. Hilliard Library	7 Food Giveaway ⊕Callahan First Baptist 10 a.m 12:30 p.m. Hilliard Town Meeting 7 p.m.	8 NAMI Support 11 a.m 12:30 p.m. Fernadina Council on Aging American Legion & Auxiliary Post 401 Hilliard 7 p.m.	CES Grinch Run 3K 8:45 a.m. Shoot with Santa 9 a.m. Jax Clay Target Sports
10	WN Genealogical Society 10:30 a.m. Lions Club Ch. 154 Order of Eastern Star 7:30 pm @ Masonic Lodge	Torah Club 9 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. Callahan Methodist Church Callahan Lions Club 7 p.m.	13 WNHS SAC Meeting 3:15 p.m. NAMI Support 12-1:30 p.m. Hilliard Journey Church Free Community Dinner 5 p.m. Callahan Methodist Church PAL 6 p.m. Hilliard Library	14	NAMI Support 11 a.m 12:30 p.m. Fernandina Council on Aging	16
17	Westside Optimists 7 p.m. Lions Club Sons of Confederate Veterans 7 p.m. The Pig	19 Torah Club 9 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. Callahan Methodist Church NARFE Nat'l Active & Retirred Federal Employees 11 a.m. The Pig NAMI Family Support 6:30 - 8 p.m. Alachua Club, Fern. Bch.	Pree Community Dinner 5 p.m. Callahan Methodist Church PAL 6 p.m. Hilliard Library	Pood Giveaway @Callahan First Baptist 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Hilliard Town Meeting 7 p.m.	22 NAMI Support 11 a.m 12:30 p.m. Fernandina Council on Aging	23
31	25 Merry Christmas!	26 Torah Club 9 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. Callahan Methodist Church Callahan Lions Club 7 p.m.	Pree Community Dinner 5 p.m. Callahan Methodist Church Parents of Addicted Loved Ones (PAL) 6 p.m. Hilliard Library	28 Historical Society 6:30 p.m. @ Depot	NAMI Support 11 a.m 12:30 p.m. Fernandina Council on Aging	30

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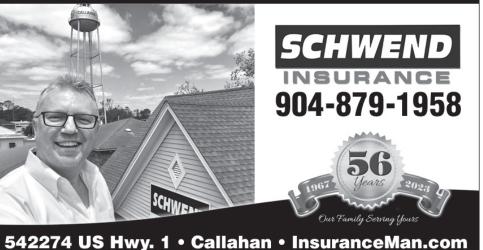
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JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

It was almost like walking into a Hallmark movie scene, of course without the real and/or fake snow. I have often joked with Dawn about the movies she loves to watch this time of year on her two favorite TV channels, Great American Family and Hallmark. The settings so often are small towns celebrating the Christmas season and I tell her that just doesn't seem real to me, even though I have enjoyed watching many of them with her.

Well, Saturday, the Town of Hilliard came very close to being one of those Hallmark experiences. Starting at noon there were vendors lining the street at the town park with all sorts of crafts and gifts. There were local organizations selling food and drinks with festive cheer. The "Grinch" was spotted making his way around the park and doing a little pre-Christmas shopping. Then as it began getting dark there were hundreds of people gathered at the park. A prayer was said. Some of the people were sitting on benches, children were playing, while others were walking around on the park's sidewalk, sipping hot apple cider, munching on cookies and looking at all the Christmas trees that lined the entire route of the sidewalk on both sides. The Christmas trees were all decorated with different themes by local businesses and families. There was Christmas music sing-alongs under the pavilion as everyone anticipated the arrival of Santa Claus and the lighting of the town's huge Christmas tree. Santa arrived along

with his nemesis, the Grinch. Then the long anticipate countdown for the Christmas tree lighting began. What a magnificent sight as all the lights lit up! The epitome of living in a small town! Well done Hilliard, well done!

It's a shame that life can't always be so cordial and friendly, but just as soon as we left the park the reality of the world we live in was still ever present. The reality of a rouge and unlawful government, high inflation, crime all across the nation, the reality of the war Israel was forced into, Americans dying every day from drug over doses, world leaders chomping at the bit to control the entire world. Of course, all of these are driven by one single source, evil. Evil in the likes we have never witnessed, that evil is the sole driver of many people. Even in our own national political scene, politics has been far removed; it is now evil just to hurt other people. We all know the source of evil, it's Satan! He continues to unleash his demons to destroy everything that is good and righteous because he knows his time is now very limited. If only we could bring the small town nuance to the entire world, how wonderful that would be.

Let's all continue to pray for our nation, our homeless veterans and all who are less fortunate than us. Let us also be thankful for what we have and pray we are able to maintain. America still has a lot of good, but we need to make it great again!

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

III Look for us on Facebook!



Staying Settled in an Unsettled World

Pastor Marvin Lee, Ephesus Baptist Church, Hilliard



"Give thanks to the Lord, call on His name; proclaim His deeds among the peoples. Search for the Lord and His strength; seek His face always." Psalm 105:1,3

It is an understatement to say that we live in shaky times. I walked by a room where the Optimist Club was holding a meeting and heard one member say, "This has been a bad, bad year!" And that was from an optimist! It is obvious that things are shaky Politically. Economically. Culturally. And for many personally. Many questions are being asked, "Where are things

going?" "What's going to happen?" "When will things settle down?" And while we may not have all the answers to these questions we can, as believers in Jesus Christ, still say settled in an unsettled world. Psalm 105:1-7 tells us how.

First, rejoice in the Lord. Verses 1-3, tell us to give praise to Him; to sing and glorify His name. When we give Him thanks it turns our attention to Him and reminds us of His person and His promises.

Second, rely on His strength. Verse 4 tells us to do that. Our God will give us the strength to do what He calls us to do. He is always with us. It is important to remember that we do not live this life in our own strength, but His.

Next, we should remember what He has already done. Verse 5 tells us to remember the wonders He has done. God has brought us this far. He has been with us through every battle and every stage of our life. Because He has been faithful in the past, we know He will be faithful in the future.

Then, we need to remember our relationship to Him (verse 6). As those who have trusted Jesus as Lord and Savior, we have become the children of God. We belong to Him. Psalm 8 is a great passage to read if you are wondering about what you mean to

Finally, rest in His sovereignty. He is the Lord our God. His judgments are in all the earth (verse 7). God is in control. We may not understand everything that is going on around us, but He does. Nothing in your life is outside of His power or His love. You can rest in Him. You can trust Him. One day He will make all things right.

If you are feeling unsettled, meditate on these truths and allow the God of all comfort to settle your heart.



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AllieMay Collecting for the Homeless



AllieMay Griffin, 8, of Callahan, is collecting items for the homeless (adults and children) for Christmas. She and her parents plan to distribute the items before Christmas!

Items requested are: Hairbrushes, combs, hats, gloves, hand sanitizing wipes, toothbrushes/toothpaste, lap blankets, deodorant, etc. If anyone would like to donate, items may be dropped off at: CG's Hair Salon, 541671 US Highway 1, Callahan.

CMS Band to Hold Winter Concert

The Callahan Middle School Band will hold their Annual Winter Concert Monday, December 18 at 6 p.m. in the CMS Cafetorium. This is a time the band students can share and celebrate their achievements and talents with an audience. For admission, the school will be accepting donations of new socks of all sizes for the homeless through the 'Be the Change of Northeast Florida' organization. Boxes will be located at the door for your donations. Come out and support our band students and bring a new pair of socks!



Student-Led Worship this Friday



Sonshine Christian Academy, at Crossroads Church in Callahan, will host an impactful night of studentled worship Friday, December 1. This event is not only for youth and families but is intended for anyone who desires to draw closer to the heart of Jesus.

The Sonshine worship team has played together since 2020. In the school year of 2021-2022, they started to experience the move of God in their high school chapel service. The move of God showed them that what was happening at the school needed to be open to the public which led to hosting worship nights. Their purpose is to bring unity within the body of Christ and to spread the Good News of the gospel.

Join us Friday, December 1 at 6 p.m. Crossroads Church is located at 542284 US Highway 1, Callahan.

New Contemporary Christian Church Join us Sundays at 6:30 p.m.



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Kim Hoffecker, Camp Chaplain

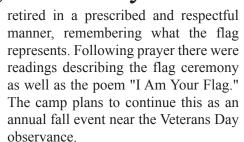
On November 18th, Kirby-Smith Camp 1209, Sons of Confederate Veterans, held its Annual Flag Retirement Ceremony at Kirby-Smith Park. Fifteen camp members participated in the solemn ceremony in which flags that are torn, faded or otherwise aged beyond their use are



Last Chance for Quilt Guild Raffle

This beautiful quilt was made by the Country Star Quilt Guild and is up for raffle! \$1 could win you this handmade, twin-sized quilt, perfect for hanging!

The quilt is currently on display at the Westside Journal, 450034 SR 200, Callahan, where you may purchase tickets until December 8. The drawing will be held December 18!











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WE NEED YOUR HELP!

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

How to get Involved:

1. Contact Jenna D., Facility Manager at 904-874-5261 or email her at jenna@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 doug@ dayspring, health - 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! 904-874-5261



New Beginnings and Milestones

Margie Lee McCullough Celebrates 90th Birthday

Margie Lee Hodges McCullough, of Hilliard, celebrated her 90th birthday Saturday, November 18. She enjoyed a party held in honor at Buford Grove Baptist Church Social Hall with over 200 people in attendance. Her actual birthday is November 17. Mrs. Margie was just speechless as she was overwhelmed with the love of everyone who had a part in making this day so very

Margie and her husband Ray have been married for 72 years! They have four sons David and Sueann, Lee and Sandy, Mark and Janet and Timmy and Amanda. They also have 11 grandchildren and 21 greatgrandchildren.



Facob Russell Fohnson



Jake and Leah Johnson, of Hilliard, are proud to announce the birth of their son Jacob Russell Johnson. Jacob was born October 20, 2023 at 8:11 a.m. at Baptist Health Hospital Jacksonville. He weighed 7 pounds 7 ounces and measured 20 inches.

Paternal grandparents are Russell and Nancy Johnson of Hilliard.

Maternal grandparents are Bransom and Kay Arflin of Hilliard.

Proud great-grandparents are Freddie and June Geiger of Hilliard; the late Bill and Tracy Arflin; the late Leon and Dorothy Carroll; and the late Russell and Betty Johnson.

Jacob was welcomed home by his big sister Kaylin Lee Johnson!



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Callahan Councilwoman Janet Shaw Honored

Dawn S. West

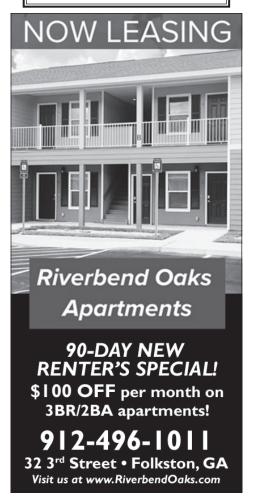
The Callahan Town Council met last Monday, November 20 for their final meeting of November. The first order of business was a presentation by Eryn Russell, representing the Florida League of Cities. "I am here tonight

to recognize and honor Callahan Councilwoman Janet Shaw for her 21 years of service to the Town of Callahan as a councilwoman. She has served as the magnet voice for the Callahan citizens by supplying information to them," said Russell. "For your many years of service, the Florida League of cities is also presenting you the Legacy of Leadership John Land award to recognize you, for your unselfish commitment to local government. We also appreciate your constant work to improve the quality of life for Callahan citizens. We thank you for your time and talents while serving on this council."

"I have been here a long time. I'm so grateful and thankful to be a member of this council in my hometown," said Councilwoman Shaw. "I love the Town of Callahan and the people. It's such an honor and a blessing to serve here. Thank you so much!"

The first agenda item concerned a request for re-zoning at 45261 Fourth







Avenue. "My name is Sherrie Spaulding and I am representing the owner of Thompson Mall requesting a re-zoning of 45261 Fourth Avenue in Callahan directly behind Thompson Mall from residential to commercial," said Spaulding.

"This re-zoning request has already been through the Planning & Zoning Board," said Councilman David Mellecker, also Commissioner of Planning & Zoning. "The board approved the request with one exception: the owner must have a privacy fence placed between the property and the Garden Club building next door before any work can begin."

"When would the fence need to be placed?" asked Spaulding.

"It needs to be up no later than mid-January," added Town Manager Mike Williams.

The final agenda item concerned making a donation to the Ferst Readers organization. Resolution 2023-R22 was approved to donate \$500 to the Ferst Readers organization.

In closing comments, Town Clerk Shawna Gugliuzza reminded the council about the Annual Callahan Christmas Parade: Saturday, December 2 at 11 a.m.; Callahan Movie in the Park at Ewing Park, Saturday, December 9: and the Christmas Santa Run with the Callahan Volunteer Fire Department: Saturday, December 16.

The next meeting of the council will be Monday, December 4 at 7 p.m.

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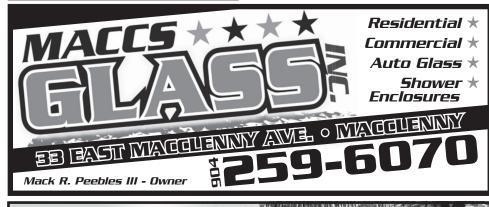
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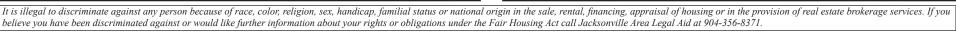
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Skirmish at Brandy Branch - July 1864

Larry Skinner

In late July 1864, Union "US" forces in Jacksonville took a steam transport up Black Creek to just east of Middleburg, offloading three infantry regiments and one mounted troop. The object of this raid was to drive Confederate "CS" forces out of Camp Milton and Baldwin to Lake City, opening up the Florida counties to the south to US raids.

The US Infantry units marched through Clay Hill to threaten Baldwin from the south while the US mounted force went and came up on the west side of the Little St. Marys River. This allowed them to surprise the CS trestle guard, capture them, and burn and destroy the railroad trestle. This cut off CS forces in Baldwin from their supply line and headquarters in Lake City. Late that night CS officers in Baldwin decided to abandon Baldwin. Being cut off to the south and west they marched northwest at 3 a.m. July 26th, reaching Brandy Branch (Brandy Branch Baptist Church today) at about 6 a.m. Here they stopped to wait for a company of men who had abandoned a train at Lewisville

(near Ford Rd. and US 301 today).

Young Josh Frier, who was in this company, said that as soon as they got to Brandy Branch, they were put in a line of battle because of an approaching US force. In just a few minutes about 100 US mounted troops appeared and drove in the CS pickets; both sides opened up with musket fire. Private Frier said this was the first time he had heard the whiz of mini-balls and he was trying to stand just as small as he could. It took a few minutes, but when the CS artillery opened up, the US troops fell back toward Baldwin. CS troops crossed the St. Mary's River and marched to the west side of the Little St. Mary's River (Baker County High School today) and established their line there, while US troops held Baldwin until August 15th when they marched south. The US mounted troops would be defeated at the Battle of Gainesville on August 17th.

For many years after this, Mr. Emery Stokes, of Bryceville, said you could still see a cannonball stuck in a tree at the Brandy Branch Crossing.





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NORMAN RONNIE ALLEN



Norman Ronnie Allen, 63, of Callahan, passed away November 19, 2023. He was born September 8, 1960 in Jacksonville, to the late

Norman Robert Allen and Sandra Jeanette Clark. Norman was raised in Jacksonville, but has been a resident of Callahan, for the past 25 years, and was proud to call it home. He enjoyed riding his bicycle and from time to time you may have even seen him riding around town. Norman was very talented and had a passion for painting and drawing. Not only did he enjoy it, but he was good at it. Norman spent many years working as a landscaper and doing yard work was a form of therapy for him. When Norman wasn't working, he enjoyed fishing. Norman was preceded in death by his parents; and sister Valarie Myers.

Norman leaves behind his siblings Ethan James Allen, Deborah (Albert) Wilkes and Laura Lynn (Albert Jr.) Wilkes, all of Callahan; and numerous extended family members and friends.

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

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

CHRISTINA NICHOLE BELL



Christina Nichole Bell, 47, of Hilliard, passed away November 21, 2023 at Community Hospice Jane and Bill Warner Center for Caring

in Fernandina Beach, with her loving family by her side. She was born July 7, 1976, in Jacksonville, to Lawana Trouille and Gary Bell.

Christina is survived by her mother Lawana (Billy) Trouille; children Mariah (Dean) Degener, Danielle (Anthony) Stahlecker, Avalon (Emily) Allan and Jeremy Head; grandchildren Raya Degener, Noah Degener, Henry Pagel and Murphy

BITUARIES

Stahlecker; brother Joshua Bell; nieces Sarah Harshaburger, Brooke Bell and Lacie Bell; special friends LeeAnn Sampson and Arlinda Green Clark; and a host of extended family members and friends.

A visitation memorial service was held Saturday, November 25 at Nassau Funeral Home.

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

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

PATRICIA COOPER BOBBITT



Patricia Cooper Bobbitt, 81, of Hilliard, passed away Thursday November 16, 2023. Patricia was affectionately known as "Gammy" by

everyone she met. After 30 years of service, she retired from the Duval County School system. She served most of that time as a bookkeeper and last served at Sandalwood High School. She loved the Georgia Bulldogs and was often recognized by the Bulldog flags flying from her car windows. But what she was most passionate about was sharing her love for Christ, asking everyone if they knew Jesus. She was a member at First Baptist Church Hilliard and served there as a Sunday school teacher to young elementary aged students for many years. Gammy loved people and enjoyed celebrating birthdays by mailing birthday cards to everyone she knew. She will be greatly missed by all. She was predeceased by her parents Lawrence R. and Iva Nell Cooper.

She is survived by her son Stephen (Becky) Bobbitt and grandchildren Adam Dowdell, Cade Dowdell, Bryn Dowdell and Benjamin Bobbitt; her daughter Becky (Nick) Mirando of Hilliard, and

grandchildren Roman Mirando, Dallon Mirando and Rocco Mirando; and her sister Lvdia Cooper.

A celebration of life service was held Wednesday, November 22 at the First Baptist Church Hilliard with Pastor Ryan Mason officiating.

CASEY JAY CARNEY



Casey Jay Carney, 41, passed away unexpectedly November 23, 2023. He was born August 12, 1982 in Madison, Wisconsin. Casey

spent most of his years in Callahan. He was a graduate of West Nassau High School. Casey was a kind-hearted soul, friend to all, and never met a stranger. He enjoyed fishing, playing guitar and mint chocolate chip ice cream. Casey was a tugboat captain and a licensed crane operator. He thoroughly enjoyed every aspect of marine

Casey is survived by his mother Patricia (Joseph) Holden; father Casey (Linda) Carney; children Baileigh Carney, Emily Carney, Angelina Carney, Lucas Phillips, Mallory Douglass, Caselynn Carney and Vada Carney; fiancée Deanna Hagan; sister Alexis Bruno (Davie); brothers Mark (Sheri) Schmidt, Kevin (Serena) Braaksma and Nathan Braaksma; and many uncles, aunts, nephews and nieces.

A memorial service for Casey will be held Sunday, December 3 at 11 a.m. at Nassau Funeral Home with Rev. Tim Hudnall officiating.

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

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

DANIELLE MULDER CROGNALE



Danielle Amber Nicole Mulder Crognale, of Miami, passed away unexpectedly November 18, 2023. Dani thrived in literature.

She enjoyed writing from the deepest parts of her soul and reading other's work of the same nature. Dani loved the arts and eclectic music. She was a big city girl who loved New York City, Miami, Hollywood and anywhere else with big buildings and hard roads. She loved and bragged about

her nieces and nephews. Dani always tried to be the strong one, even in her struggles. She didn't judge anyone on their choices but encouraged them to follow their dreams and hearts and loved them unconditionally. She was preceded in death by many family members including her grandmother Linda K. Johnson; and aunt Pamela "DeeDee" Johnson; and her wonderful little Chihuahua Chi man.

She is survived by her husband Vincent Crognale; parents Tina and Kelly Mulder of Bryceville; siblings Kyle and Leah Mulder and Dylan and Curren Moore; grandparents Len and Terry Mulder, Marvin Johnson, and Lois Kight; nieces and nephews Kyleigh, Tristian, Elijah, Ellie and Katherine; along with many other family members and friends.

The funeral service was held Tuesday, November 28 at Blackburn-Curry Funeral Chapel. The family received friends prior to the service.

Cremation arrangements entrusted to Blackburn-Curry Funeral & Cremation, Macclenny. Please share your condolences at: www.blackburncurryfh.com.

PATRICIA ANN GODWIN



Patricia Ann Godwin, 74, of Callahan, passed away November 18, 2023. She was born October 31, 1949 in Taylor, Florida, to the late

Johnnie Douglas Taylor and Pauline Lily Gill. Patricia spent the majority of her life residing in Hilliard. She was a Christian woman who loved the Lord. Everyone loved Patricia's cooking especially her fried chicken, which she was known for. She enjoyed vacationing in Tennessee, shopping, gardening and tending to her rose bushes. More than anything. Patricia loved to spend time with her grandchildren, who she loved dearly. Patricia was preceded in death by her parents; and husband Jacob G. Godwin.

Patricia leaves behind her loving children Jacob (Gail) Godwin of Hilliard, Johnny (Lori) Douglas Godwin, Theresa Godwin and Tamatha (Dave) Clark, all of Callahan; sisters Nadine Godwin and Marlene (James) Dukes, all of Callahan; grandchildren Josh, Gaby, Ashley, Jake, Cody, Duck and Jason; and greatgrandchildren Brooklyn, Lucy, Brinley, Paisley, Kaden and Kinsley.

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

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ADEXX

NATHANIEL BRUCE KATO



Nathaniel Bruce Kato, 18, best known as "Nathan," entered into heaven Wednesday, November 22, 2023. Nathan was the son of Daniel Kato

and Amy and Travis Horne. He was born October 21, 2005. He was a junior attending the Lighthouse Christian School in Callahan. Nathan's life revolved around his family and music. He was a talented guitar player and he loved singing karaoke. He was very involved with his church family at The Anchor Church. Nathan had also been enjoying spending time in the gym working out. He will be dearly missed by his family, friends and church. He is preceded in death by his grandmother Vicky Kato.

He leaves behind to cherish the memories his parents Amy (Travis) Horne of Callahan; and Daniel Kato of Homosassa; his siblings Daniel Kato, Jr. of New York, Dalton Kato of Fernandina Beach, Gavin Horne of Jacksonville, Grace Horne of Callahan, Jordan Kato and Isaac Kato; grandparents Robert and Kathy Ellis, Patricia and Ken Marks, Wayne and Debbie Dennis, Tammie and Richard Davis, Roy and Collette Horne and Dan Kato; aunts and uncles Natalie and Dan Villano, Robert and Maricel Ellis and Ethan and Allie Boger; as well a host of extended family and friends.

A celebration of Nathan's life will be held Thursday, November 30 at The Anchor Church, Callahan, at 6 p.m. with Rev. Ethan Thompson officiating. The family will receive friends from 5-6 p.m. In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be made in memory of Nathan to Rising Star Guitars for Kids https://www. paulwanemusic.com/guitars-4-kids.

Forbes Funeral Home is assisting the family, Macclenny, (904) 259-4600.

Please leave condolences at: www. forbesfuneralhome.net.

MICHAEL G. KAUFMAN



Michael G. Kaufman, 54, of Jacksonville, passed away unexpectedly Sunday, November 19, 2023. He was born August 12, 1969,

in Jacksonville. Mike was a lifelong Pittsburgh Steelers and Florida Gators fanatic. He enjoyed fishing, playing pool, loud music and throwing himself a birthday party every year. Mike was also very proud of his grilling skills, always having delicious food ready for any event or holiday. He was always the life of the party and was a friend to so many. Mike worked for Palace Pools for several years prior to becoming a crane operator at Coast Chips, a subsidiary to Rayonier. As Mike got a little older, climbing up that crane 100 feet every day grew old. He then returned to Palace Pools where he was currently employed.

OBITUARIES

Mike was preceded in death by his two dads: Darrell Kaufman and David Everett; grandparents Nina and Mott Watkins; and the love of his life Shea.

Mike leaves behind his beloved children Michael (Brittaney) and Megan (Justin); five cherished grandchildren Bella, Brayden, Lucas, Madilyn and Tucker; three wonderful bonus children Brenna Kay, Tara and Summer (Anthony); as well as their beautiful children; mother Jane Everett; sisters Sam (Johnny) Moore and Day Butler; his only brother Stephen "Rerun" (Cami); one niece and several nephews; as well as other family members and a multitude of friends.

It has always been Mike's wish to be cremated and taken to Pittsburgh for one final game and his wish will be fulfilled. Tentatively, a celebration of life is planned for Saturday, December 9. Mike always enjoyed hosting gatherings, so the celebration will be held at his home. Details will be announced later.

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

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

JOHNNIE FELTON LAYDEN



Johnnie Felton Layden, 100, of Elizabeth City, North Carolina, passed away Saturday, November 11, 2023, at The Brian Center in Hertford,

NC. He was born December 15, 1922 in Pasquotank County, NC to the late Cora Layden Morris and Thomas Langley Layden. He was married to the late Marjorie Bright Layden. Johnnie grew up in Elizabeth City, NC, but lived many years in Florida and raised his family there. He attended and was a deacon for 60 years at Live Oak Baptist Church in Callahan. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy and had a long career as an Aircraft Mechanic at the Naval Air Station. He was a member of the American Legion #84. He loved farming and gardening.

He is survived by his children Kay Fain and Freddie Layden, both of Elizabeth City; step-daughters Teresa McPherson and Janet Hoggard; grandchildren Jonathan (Brenda) Layden and Justin (Nicole) Layden; two great-grandchildren Lyles and Pierson Layden; and a sister Elizabeth McIntosh of Hilliard.

The funeral service was held Thursday, November 16 at the Twiford Memorial Chapel. Burial followed at the Layden Family Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial donations be made to the Veteran Affairs Department, 1023 US Highway 17 South, Elizabeth City, NC.

Arrangements by Twiford Funeral Homes, Elizabeth City, NC.

Condolences and memories may be shared at www.TwifordFH.com.

CHARLES HENRY SNIPES



Charles Henry Snipes, 75, went home to be with his Lord & Savior Thursday, November 16, 2023. He was born April 18, 1948 in Colquitt, Georgia to

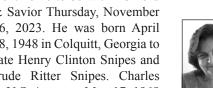
the late Henry Clinton Snipes and enlisted in the U.S. Army on May 17, 1968 28 days. He attained the rank of SP5 and received the following commendations: Sharpshooter (rifle M-14), Expert (M-16), VSM, VCM w/ 60 Device, GOMDL (First Award), CMS, NDSN and Purple Heart. He served 1 year, 6 months and 15 days during the Vietnam Conflict. Following his discharge, he worked with the Savannah Police Department. Thanksgiving of 1971, he met the love of his life, Marlene O'Berry and they were married on March 17, 1972. He attended Savannah State College and received his Bachelor's Degree from Logos Christian College. He served many years as a Pastor, Missionary and Evangelist. His

51 years, Marlene Snipes; two daughters Beth (Richard) Arnau and Cheryl Snipes; four grandchildren Isabella, Zoey, Layla "Maddie" and Coleman; sister Ann Snipes; and a host of extended family and friends.

The family received friends Monday, November 27 at The Anchor Church in Callahan. His celebration of life service was held Tuesday, November 28 also at the church with Pastor Dwight Allen, Rev. Larry Collins, Rev. Henry Thornton and Pastor Carlton Jones, officiating. Burial followed at Jacksonville National Cemetery with full Military Honors.

Peeples Funeral Home served the Snipes family.

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



Gertrude Ritter Snipes. Charles and proudly served 2 years, 11 months and greatest joy was his family and grandbabies. He was happiest when he could fish or squirrel hunt.

Surviving family include his wife of

DEBRA MAE WILLIAMS



Debra Mae Williams, 67, of Hilliard, passed away November 11, 2023. She was born October 26, 1956 in Ironton, Missouri. Debra was

raised in Ellington, Missouri by her mother, Lois and stepfather Bud Long. She was a wonderful, kindhearted and loving woman who loved her family dearly. Even though Debra had a tendency to be a little nosey at times, her family knew that was her way of showing that she cared. We all love her dearly and will miss her with every passing breath. Until we meet again. She was preceded in death by her husband Theodore Williams; her mother and stepfather; sonin-law Chad Tyson.

Debra leaves behind her loving children Samantha (Jack) Williams, Keith Williams, Mindy Williams and Heather Williams; and 16 grandchildren.

A celebration of Debra's life was held Monday, November 27 at Nassau Funeral Home with Chaplain Jim Cox officiating. The family received friends prior to the

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

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

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Hilliard Lights New Town Christmas Tree



Saturday the Hilliard Town Park was filled with vendors and shoppers throughout the day. Around 5 p.m. the crowds changed a little as the shopping stopped and the crowds gathered around the town pavilion to get the best view of the town's new 18' Christmas tree as it was lit! Everyone enjoyed cookies, hot chocolate, punch and apple cider as the waited for the unveiling and Santa to arrive. Around 6 p.m. Santa Claus and the Grinch arrived and

shortly thereafter, Hilliard Mayor John Beasley began the countdown! The tree is beautiful and is in a perfect location at the park. Hilliard also has the parade of Christmas trees lining the sidewalks all the way around the park. Trees are decorated by businesses, churches, schools and citizens all around. The town tree is now for everyone to enjoy. As the town staff has named the event: #HallmarkOurHilliard, it truly is a festive and beautiful place to enjoy!





















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