



WESTSIDE JOURNAL



First Day of Winter
Wednesday, December 21

VOLUME XIX ISSUE 21

HOMETOWN PEOPLE...HOMETOWN NEWS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2022

“TODAY IN THE TOWN OF DAVID A SAVIOR HAS BEEN BORN TO YOU;
HE IS THE MESSIAH, THE LORD.” - LUKE 2:11

Successful ‘Shop with a Cop’ Held

Over the weekend, smiles filled little faces as the Annual Shop with a Cop event was held by the Nassau County Sheriff’s Office. Thanks to all of this year’s donors, 316 children were able to fulfill their Christmas lists!



Fatal Accident Takes Two Lives

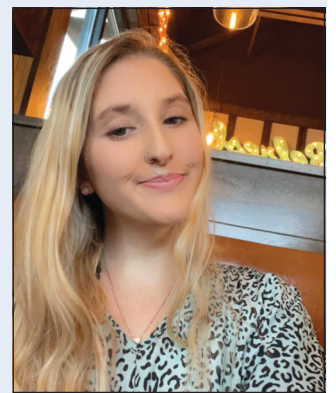
Friday morning the sound of sirens filled the Callahan area. Sirens are heard often but this time there were several sirens. A horrible accident happened south of Callahan near Ratliff Road, off of Wind Chime Lane. Residents living near the area noticed the fencing and signs destroyed near the retention pond and immediately called 9-1-1. According to Florida Highway Patrol reports, the call came in to dispatch around 8:30 a.m. Friday morning. A wrecker was called to the scene and began the process of retrieving a vehicle that was submerged in the small pond.

According to the reports, a Silver Ford Mustang, driven by Zachary Lock,

23, from Hilliard, and his passenger Mara Sullivan, 17, from Jacksonville, was traveling southbound on Wind Chime Lane from the intersection of US 1. As the pavement ended on the dead end roadway, the mustang continued straight and struck various sign posts of reflective signage and then a fence. After the vehicle went through the fence, it entered into the small retention pond and submerged. Both occupants were unable to exit the vehicle after the collision. Both deceased occupants



Zachary Lock



Mara Sullivan

were removed from the vehicle after it was pulled from the waterline. The cause and exact timeline of the crash are still under investigation.

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A Word From the Publisher

Christmas is coming, I think quicker than anyone realized! It's truly hard to believe we are closing in on the end of another year. I sure am getting old, thank you Jesus! The Stearn family celebrated our Christmas together Saturday. We had lots of fun and food! The gathering was a little smaller than previous years but with each year things change. We are so blessed to still have the matriarchs of our family, Mom and Dad. Both 90 years young and 71 years of marriage, they continue to support and encourage our family each and every day. Their constant prayers for each of us; from children to grandchildren, great-grandchildren to cousins, is unwavering. Each of us is so blessed to have them in our lives. All siblings, Marci, Mark, Gus (Christie), me (Roger) and Carol (Dub's wife) were present. As always, we had a great time visiting with everyone and spending some quality time together.

I continue to be thankful for the blessings of being raised in a Christian home with Christian values and morals. The foundation our home was built on never wavered. Was it always just this pleasant loving time day in and day out? Well, of course not. We were children just like everyone else, however, we were disciplined for every action or decision we made. Obviously, we were celebrated for positive things in our lives too. Two things never changed: we always went to church; and we always prayed as we sat at the table together for supper each night. I fall short of being as consistent as my parents were however I still have those same convictions, values and morals. I know that every action I do, I must answer to Christ, for it is because of Him that I live.

Time is really a difficult thing to share, unfortunately especially at Christmas. Everyone is so busy and have two million

different things on their minds. I'm no different and completely guilty! Time however, is one of the most precious things we can give. If we all admit it, we have everything we need. Maybe not everything we want but our needs are met. But time, is one of those hard things to give up. We all seem like we don't have enough as it is. I've tried to learn to be better about the use of my time. Sometimes it works...sometimes not so much! I'm horrible about procrastinating. Recently, I've tried to look at my schedule and plan ahead for things I really need to make time for. Important things! That's a hard one too. Isn't everything in our lives important? Not really. I'm learning with this age thing, there are a lot more things that are more important than me. Ouch! We certainly live in a 'me' society, or some people do. It's certainly easy to do at times.

This year we (Westside Journal) have been so blessed. As I have said many times before, it's not me but the Lord. This is the Lord's paper and for some reason he picked me to run it. There are some days that life is so overwhelming and I'm not sure what direction I'm headed in. It's those times that the Lord takes me aside to rest. There is nothing I like better than to sit on our porch in the morning with a cup of coffee and some Jesus music. More times than none, the tears start flowing and my eyes are opened to the beauty right in my back yard. It's kind of a reset time and a time to put things in perspective. We've all learned how quickly time passes and how important each day is. Try to make this Christmas season a time of reflection and a time to make time for others. Spending time together is time well spent.

Have a blessed week!

Dawn S. West

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.

Merry Christmas!

Dear Editor,

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6

"And behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus." Luke 1:31

"And she brought forth her first-born son and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room in the inn." Luke 2:7

"Jesus saith unto him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.'" John 14:6

DO YOU KNOW HIM TODAY? I want to wish you all a CHRIST CENTERED MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Hank Martinez, Sr.

Thank You!

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the West Nassau Historical Society, we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for making the Callahan Christmas Parade and Craft Fair such a huge success. Sunny weather, combined with 70 arts/craft vendors, 62 parade entrants, an enthusiastic crowd and supportive community made for a fantastic day. We are an all-volunteer nonprofit and we rely heavily on monies raised from events such as this to achieve our goals. But we also enjoy hosting this annual time-honored tradition as a way to say "thank you" to the community. We are extremely grateful for all of the area groups, businesses and citizens who pitched in and helped us host this year's beloved event.

First, we would like to thank the Town of Callahan for the donation and for allowing us to put on this year's event again. Thanks go

to our new neighbors, Sam Saia and Marie McClucas, whose quick decision on a vacant, 3/4-acre parcel made a world of difference to us. It was an honor to have Mr. Thomas Blue, Jr. as our Grand Marshal. He is a treasure-trove of knowledge and kindness. Kudos goes to our other faithful supporters and donors: Schwend Insurance, Anchor Church of God, First Baptist Church of Callahan, Brandies Ace Hardware, Southeastern Bank, Vystar Credit Union, UF Health-Callahan, First Federal Bank, Joel Pace Piano/Music, G&H Land and Meridian Waste. Thanks to the Girls Scouts, Boys Scouts and Cub Scouts for carrying our banners and sponsor signs. Thanks to Nassau Road and Bridge Department and to Sheriff Leeper and the Nassau County Sheriff's Office for keeping the traffic moving around our town during the parade. Kudos go to the parade judges, to Buck Lucontro and to Jerry Peterson for emceeding the parade. Thanks to Joel Pace and his students and elves for providing the music and for helping Saint Nick with his presents. Special thanks go to Santa and Mrs. Claus for taking time out from their busy North Pole schedule to come down to Callahan. Not only did they headline the lengthy parade, they stopped by the Callahan Depot afterwards and listened to dozens of children as they whispered their wishes for Christmas. The looks on the faces of the kids as they gazed into Santa's eyes were priceless.

Last, we would like to thank each and every member of the WNHS who went above and beyond what was asked of them to ensure that we put on a safe and enjoyable event. It sometimes seemed like we were merely actors in a TV reality show, with ratings-hungry producers throwing obstacles in our way. You all continue to show that by working together, all things are possible.

Sincerely,

Emily Baumgartner and John Hendricks,
Co-Chairs

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

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

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Captain Bruton Remembered

Kim Hoeffcker, Chaplain,
Kirby-Smith Camp 1209

On Saturday, December 3, 2022, Kirby-Smith Camp 1209 joined with other Sons of Confederate Veterans camps from Florida and Georgia to unveil a headstone for the previously unmarked grave of Thomas Jefferson Bruton.

Following a year at West Point, Bruton returned to Florida to defend the South. In the latter part of the War for Southern Independence, Captain Bruton commanded a group known as "Bruton's



Light Artillery" and rode with Captain J.J. Dickinson, defending lives and property in northeast Florida. Bruton died January 6, 1876 at age 33. He was laid to rest in Oak City Cemetery in Bainbridge, Georgia, where the marker ceremony took place.

The event began with prayer, presentation of flags, remarks about Captain Bruton with the unveiling of the marker and the placing of a single red rose. It ended with the firing of muskets and an artillery piece as a salute and the playing of "Taps."



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JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

Do we truly understand what sustains life? Of course, we need air to breathe, food to eat and water to drink. All one has to do is eliminate just one of these things and the body begins shutting down. After just a few minutes without air, just 3 days without water and 40 days without food we wither away and die. However, in reality, it's not the air, food and water that sustain life. What actually sustains life is God. God is the Provider and Creator of the air, the food and the water we all need to remain alive. If we eliminate God, we thus eliminate ourselves.

You may be wondering where I'm going with this. We need to put into perspective why our world and our country are withering away. The one and only answer is we have removed God. Back when our country was founded on Christian values, as is plainly seen by the wording in our Declaration of Independence and inscribed on many federal buildings, God blessed our country. Never in the history of mankind has a country flourished like America. We were the greatest power on earth, we had the strongest economy and evil was limited. God was the light of America, he was the air we breathed,

the water we drank and the food we ate. We, as a nation, were blessed beyond all means! So, what happened?

Just as if you remove one of God's gifts of air, water or food you wither away, we as a nation and world have done just that. We as the human race have removed God. He is the one and only God, the creator of all things, the great provider and the one that is needed for our survival. Yes, we threw him out just as one throws out the garbage. We have allowed the wicked to eliminate God from our schools, our government and our public arena. We allowed the wicked to invoke the term "separation of church and state" which is not mentioned anywhere in the Constitution or Bill of Rights. It is just a catchy phrase used by the evil. This is why our country is withering away; we as a country are dying an excruciating death by our own doings. We are committing suicide and most have no clue.

The only way to salvage our great republic is to bring God back to America. Until we bless God again, we cannot expect Him to bless us.

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

EVENTS AROUND TOWN

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 401, 37405 Henry Smith Rd., Hilliard will host FREE Lunch with Santa, Saturday, Dec. 17 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Hamburgers, hot dogs, stockings, crafts & more. Weather permitting!

GRINCHY CHRISTMAS PARTY! Saturday, December 17, 3-6 p.m., 241905 CR 121, Hilliard (Boulogne). Bounce House, petting zoo, Christmas photos with the Grinch, train ride, games and more! \$10 per family.

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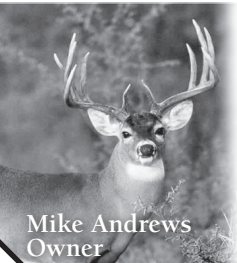
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WE NEED YOUR HELP!

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 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!

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The Joy of Christ

Pastor James MacFarlane, First Alliance Church, Callahan



When we think of the holidays, what comes to mind? Presents? Family dinners? Christmas trees and string lights? We live in Florida, so thinking about snow is usually not where our minds go. Overall, we normally adopt a more optimistic outlook. We treat each other a little better. Our sense of charity is more evident. Why is this the typical mindset during the Holidays?

“The Holidays” was not always the moniker used to refer to this time of year. “The Christmas Season” or “Christmas” was the title. The simple truth that we have lost sight of is that Christmas is about Jesus Christ. Luke 2:10-11 reads, “*And the angel said to them, ‘Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.’*” This is the origin of the joyful feeling we have during Christmas. It is not about what we get, or what Black Friday sales we can take advantage of. It is all about Jesus.

While I am all about the increased awareness of the plight of others and the giving nature prevalent during Christmas, we should take some time out of these busy days and spend some time thanking Jesus for being who He is and what He has done for each one of us. Not just done but is doing and will do.

Jesus Christ is our source of joy. Jesus is the Son of God that descended from heaven to live a sinless life that we could not. Jesus is the Lamb of God that was slain for the propitiation of the sins of the world. Jesus is the intercessor that sits at the right hand of God pointing to His blood covering those who have put their faith in Him. Jesus is the Coming King that will break the eastern sky in all His glory and power.

This Christmas feeling does not have to end January 1st either. John 15:11 reads, “*These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.*”

This is a feeling we can focus upon every day of the year. Jesus wants His joy to become ours, and that ours would not just fill us. Jesus wants our joy to fill us to overflowing. Jesus wants our joy to spill over into the lives of those around us every day of the year, not just a culturally appropriate “Season” that just happens to be in December. May you all have the joy of Christ in you today and always.

HEALTHY LIVING: NEW YEAR, NEW YOU



December is a time for spending time with family, being grateful and giving thanks to Christ for all he has done for us. For many, it is a time to start a new resolution, something that will improve their health or other life goals.

Sadly, 80% of people who make them, abandon their New Year’s resolution before February! Instead of aiming for a yo-yo diet or haphazard lifestyle changes, try something new. Instead of calling it a “diet” or a New Year’s resolution, make this new change part of your lifestyle, part of who you are. Of course, it helps to have a buddy to do this with; or a health consultant or life coach.

I like to teach my clients to think about areas in their life that they need to maximize, minimize and prioritize. Are you ignoring pain or other medical

symptoms that have been ongoing for so long that they have become part of your life? Are you eating out more than eating at home? Are you forgoing sleep to stay up late binge watching that favorite show? Or are you not able to fall asleep at all? Are certain people draining you of your mental peace? As we near the end of 2022, take some time to reflect on where small changes can have a major impact in 2023 and beyond.

Keydella Fuller is a nurse practitioner and the health consultant at Fuller Health & Wellness, a functional medicine based virtual practice and is currently accepting clients. To discuss your goals and challenges, call 904-479-4696.

CHURCH NEWS

BETHANY EPISCOPAL CHURCH will be selling Barbecue Pork Dinners Friday, Dec. 16 from 5-7 p.m. for \$8 each. Eat-in or Take-out! The church is located on CR 108 in Hilliard across from Hilliard Town Hall.

Attend the church of your choice this Sunday.

Lock Family Fundraiser



Making Memories Thrift Store in Hilliard is holding a Fundraiser to raise money to pay funeral expenses for Zachary Lock. Zachary was killed in a fatal accident last Friday. All proceeds will go towards funeral expenses and donations will also be accepted.

The fundraiser will be held Friday, December 16 from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; and Saturday, December 17 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. and will include 50% OFF at Making Memories Thrift Store, 551709 US Highway 1, Hilliard. There will also be a Car Wash.

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“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save His people from their sins.”

Matthew 1:21



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Conviva Care Center Is Prepared for Early Flu Season

Vanessa De Oliveira Inacio, M.D.

Flu season is here and Conviva Care Center is prepared to provide seniors with the preventive care needed to age well. Studies show that senior adults with dual flu-COVID infections are at a greater risk of severe disease and potential death than patients who only have COVID-19, or another virus. The only way to stop the expected health burden of influenza is to get a flu shot. A flu shot is the only factor that reduces the risk of illness and hospitalizations. The 2022/2023 flu season began earlier this year, so it's important to be vaccinated as soon as possible. It's critical for older adults because they experience a natural decline in immune function, which places them at high risk for developing complications from the flu and COVID-19.

Available Vaccines: While there are different flu vaccines available this year, Conviva recommends that seniors receive one of two available flu shots: either the high-dose vaccine or the vaccine containing an adjuvant, a substance that creates a higher immune response post-vaccine. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the flu season began earlier this year than in past years. In preparation for the onset of flu season Conviva Care Center received ample supplies of vaccines in September, which patients have been receiving. Aging well is a philosophy that guides all we do at Conviva Care Center. Our medical team is making every effort possible to take preventive measures for senior wellness and educating older adults about getting a flu shot is a natural tie-in to that philosophy.



It is completely safe to get a flu shot and a COVID-19 booster on the same day. In terms of side effects, the flu vaccine is very benign, with the most common complaint being soreness at the injection site. Seniors are prone to the flu. Wearing a mask is not enough to protect against getting the flu, and the 65-and-over population can also be prone to hospitalization when getting the flu because of declining pulmonary function. Symptoms include upper respiratory cough, fatigue, fever, and body aches but our seniors are at a higher risk due to age and any predisposed conditions.

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Hilliard's Steedley Signs with FSCJ



Congratulations to Hannah Steedley on your letter of intent to continue playing softball with Florida State College at Jacksonville! Hannah plans to major in Chemistry and plans to become an orthodontist. She has maintained a 4.5 GPA and plays shortstop and catcher for the Flashers. Hannah's proud parents are Paul and Christine Steedley of Hilliard.

2nd Annual Christmas Light Boat Parade Saturday

All boat owners need to polish up your boats and deck them out with Christmas lights for this Saturday's 2nd Annual Christmas Light Boat Parade on the St. Marys River! The event will be held at the Kings Ferry boat ramp around 5:30 p.m. Boaters are encouraged to dress your boats up with Christmas lights for this festive event. The boats will parade around the Kings Ferry area, travel to Flea Hill and make about 3 laps. They will then congregate back to the boat ramp and enjoy hamburgers and hot dogs together! There is no cost to enter the event...just show up! And if you don't have a boat, you can certainly bring your lawn chairs to the boat ramp and watch the parade! It's truly a great community event!



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YET Celebrates New Graduates



Recently, Nassau County 4-H and Emergency Management celebrated the graduation of their 5th 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 of afterschool instruction. This year we are welcoming 10 new YET graduates!

Welcome: Gage Bryan, Rescuer Down Under; Ava Draughn, Most Organized; Lily Dunham; Lukas Eiras, Most Improved YETie; Isabella Eiras; John Hardin, Future Fireman; Theresa Hardin, Outstanding Mentor; Nicholas Hardin, Outstanding Patient Care; Eva Hawkes, Future Emergency Management Director; Amelia Hawkes; Eden Hawkes, Future Doctor; Elena James, Future Veterinarian; Brooke McCormick, Overall YETie; Alexis Sizemore; and Sophia Causer.

Thank you to all five Major YETies Natalie Stevenson, Lillian Peeples, Gabriel Gierhahn, Lainey Walters and Seth Benenate for returning to help lead this program. Additionally, we want to send special thanks to the county partnering agencies for teaching this YET group: Nassau County Animal Services, Station 71, Starting Point, Dr. Sarah Spelsberg, Jim Bollenbacher and our NCEM director Tim Cooper.

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.

HMSHS Students Share Christmas Cheer with Paint!



Heather Cash-Canode, HMSHS Art Educator

I was recently contacted by Hilliard Winn Dixie Manager, Taylor, to see if I had any art students who would like to paint their store windows for the holidays. I already had a small group in mind who jumped at the chance. They exceeded my expectations and enjoyed the community involvement. All day long people stopped and complimented them on their work. The students enjoyed putting a smile on peoples' faces. Taylor was wonderful to work with and indicated that she would like to make this an ongoing activity throughout the year! The students that participated were: Emma Mecom, Ellie Osilka, Dakota Brown and Rebecca Blalock.



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VFW YARD SALE, Saturday, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., at the VFW Post 10095, across from the Hilliard Airpark. New donations! Last chance for Christmas items. Everything \$5 Bag Day! Support our Veterans!

GRINCHY CHRISTMAS PARTY! Saturday, December 17, 3-6 p.m., 241905 CR 121, Hilliard (Boulogne). Bounce House, petting zoo, Christmas photos with the Grinch, train ride, games and more! \$10 per family.



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Times Are Changing Quickly!

Douglas Pearson, Sr.

We have fond memories of our youth, when we learned right from wrong, as we looked forward to the opportunities that we all knew were out there. We learned our true history, before it was perverted and disavowed. We enjoyed our relationships and friends, even when we knew we were all different and likely not to agree on some things. But what stood out most was our learning process, as far back as elementary school. It was a pain, but we remember having to memorize the Gettysburg Address, the Ten Commandments and more importantly, the Constitution and its preamble. They all reinforced our understanding of the foundation of this great nation.

But most recently, as we were distracted with FIFA soccer, China and Iranian protests, the dirty politics and lies, our President and his monopoly on the legislative process, which he holds until January, has done all he can do to turn this nation into his personal dictatorship.

A railroad strike, which Uncle Joe touted as being resolved in September, is now likely to become reality. Our president has not only instructed "His" congress to pass legislation that will ignore the collective bargaining process, but it will force workers to NOT Strike. Parallels are now being discussed recalling the Air Controllers Strike in 1981. Problem there is the controllers worked for the government and all had signed an agreement with the understanding that a strike would be illegal when they were hired. The railroad workers do not work for the

government and, therefore, have signed no such agreement.

Then, during the week of November 28, the entire law making process was reversed, when the Senate passed another "Defense of Marriage" act by a 61 to 36 margin. I say it is in reverse, as the normal process requires bills to originate in the house and then, if passed, move over to the senate.

What's wrong with this? In 1996 a "Defense of Marriage" act was passed with nearly unanimous support by all parties concerned, including a certain Senator from Delaware. A Democratic President signed it into law. That bill established that "Marriage is between a Man and a Woman." This most recent effort, to negate what is already understood, is to include same sex marriage and the rest of the LGBTQ+ community. If successful, and it goes go on through the House and reaches the President's desk for signature (a man that agreed with the 1996 decision) will "Flip" again and complete another cardinal sin against the Church and community, as he continues to undermine our own laws. Laws which he agreed to protect and defend against all enemies. Foreign and domestic!

Thomas Jefferson advocated "building a wall" between the Church and Government and the constitution was written with that barrier in mind. Here, our 46th president, is tearing down that wall, further eroding the security of our freedom of religion and choice.

This man has committed so many sins against society and the church (violating his own words and established

FSCJ Funeral Services Program to Offer Online Classes

After a thorough review from the American Board of Funeral Service Education (ABFSE), Florida State College at Jacksonville's (FSCJ) Funeral Services program was named an ABFSE-approved distance learning (online) program during the October 2022 ABFSE Committee on Accreditation meeting in Chicago. Out of the 58 ABFSE-accredited programs, less than 25 are currently approved for distance learning. The program has been accredited by the ABFSE since 2004, but the new approval means that qualified students may now take all courses online, except for the two clinical laboratory embalming courses. These laboratory classes are offered at the embalming lab located at FSCJ's North Campus, with special attendance opportunities available for students from outside the service area.

"FSCJ is known for our high-quality instruction leading to graduates who have gone on to be compassionate

funeral services leaders," said Program Director and Professor Howard Beckham Jr., CFSP. "We know that these online learning experiences will open to the door to even more students throughout the country, only strengthening the future of the industry for the good of the loved ones and families we aim to serve."

From its inception in 2002, FSCJ's Funeral Services program has helped develop funeral directors that are licensed not only in Florida, but also in many other states across the United States. As a limited access program, applicants must meet academic and testing qualifications for admission. Upon completion, graduates earn the Associate in Science in Funeral Services and may pursue their state's licensure process. For more information, visit fscj.edu/academics/areas-of-study/hs/funeral-services-as or email howard.beckham@fscj.edu.

laws) that it will literally take an "Act of God" for him to gain entrance into the hereafter. But of foremost concern is the transition where our Constitutional laws are being destroyed/modified to such a point where the following just likely might be the new "Preamble" to the edicts that will replace our constitution.

We, the "they" of the Socialistic

States, In order to destroy a most perfect union, Establish two-sided justice, Insure domestic dysfunction, Remove the ability for a common defense, Promote the equity of welfare for all, And disavow the blessings of liberty, Do commit to the destruction of The Constitution of the United States of America, And dedicate ourselves to the only thing that really matters. ME!

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STEVE WILEY GILBERT



Steve Wiley Gilbert went home to be with the Lord on November 27, 2022. He was born July 23, 1967, in Macon, Georgia. He was a beloved father, son, brother and friend. Steve was the first child of Charles and Diane Gilbert and was always curious and inventive. Steve exhibited strong mechanical skills from an early age through his love of Hot Wheels cars, tinkering with small electric motors and rebuilding carburetors. As an adult, Steve channeled over 40 years of talent to become a Master Mechanic ASE-Certified Technician, specializing in transmissions and much more. Steve was a business owner of "Quik Trans" of Hilliard, working alongside, his then wife, helping the community with any and all car troubles. He also worked at American Transmission on Beach Blvd., Jacksonville as a Dyno Tech and Transmission Tech. Steve ended his work for the community alongside the St Mary's AAMCO teams as a master transmission builder.

Steve also made time for his family and friends. He loved taking his girls out fishing on their boat named, "R Reel Time." One thing about Steve, he loved taking his daughters to the "Red Fish Hole" in Simpsons Creek and they would spend hours fishing and would not leave until they caught dinner. Steve also spent many hours watching his share of NASCAR and Drag racing. Back in the day, Steve was a professional "Mud Bog" racer and enjoyed the adrenaline rush racing gave him. Steve would also take his daughters on the side by side to cruise the neighborhood and hit shallow mud holes just to watch his girls laugh. He enjoyed spending time outside of work with his coworkers playing pool. Everyone loved Steve as he was always there for anyone in need and loved to help his community with car troubles. He was a great friend to many, a helpful mentor for most, and the best father to his two

OBITUARIES

daughters. Steve was a loving father, a great son, supportive brother and a cherished friend to many. He will be truly missed by everyone he knew. May you rest your soul. He was preceded in death by his father Charles M. Gilbert.

He is survived by his daughters Lydia Gilbert and Emily Gilbert; mother Diane C. Gilbert; sisters Rachel Gilbert Sullivan and Sara (Libby) Courson; and several other extended family members and friends.

A memorial service will be announced at a later date.

HENRY PAT KELLY



Henry Pat Kelly, our beloved Papa Pat, went to be with his Lord on December 12, 2022. Mr. Kelly was born June 23, 1940 in Bell, Florida. He was a self-made, successful businessman and built Kelly's Countryside RV Park. He was well-known in the Nassau County community as a generous, hardworking man; a man who loved his family and was a fun-loving prankster. He was happiest when he was cooking and surrounded by his family.

While he was working for the City of Jacksonville, he started a small tractor repair business. His business grew. He retired from the City and moved to Callahan in 1977. Once settled, he also opened a mobile home park. He loved people, cooking, campfires and gatherings, so he opened up Kelly's Countryside RV Park. People come from all around, traveling from as far as Canada, to stay there for the winter. Pat had a knack for making people feel loved and a part of his family.

He loved to have gatherings and opened his pond to churches, schools, private parties

and for over 30 years he hosted the Next of Kin Kelly Reunions. These reunions would last 2 to 4 days with anywhere from 200-300 people in attendance. He loved family, he loved for everyone to have a good time and he wanted everyone to eat! Pat attended The Anchor Church of God where more than 25 of his family members attended with him. Once you met Pat Kelly, you would never forget him. He was that kind of man! He is predeceased by his parents Arthur and Ivera Kelly; sister Helen Creamer; and brothers Ray Kelly, Malone Kelly and Jack Kelly.

He is survived by his loving wife of 64 years, Viola Frances Kelly; his sons Mike (Sonya) Kelly, Randy (Robin) Kelly and Marty (Patsi) Kelly; daughter Patti (Doug) Smith; grandchildren Joshua, Crescent, Tiffany, Kasie, Wendi, Matthew, Chelsea, Caitlin, Christopher and Colton; great-grandchildren Tyler, Harley, Hunter, Waylon, Paisley, Kellen, Dallen, Owen, Scarlett, Luke, Breylee and Addilynn; great-great-grandchildren John Tyler, Greyson, Hudson and Lynndi; sisters Doris Brewer and Jean McGregor; and brother Jimmy Kelly; and many, many nieces and nephews who adored their "Uncle" Pat.

The family will receive friends Friday, December 16 at The Anchor Church of God from 6-8 p.m. His homegoing service will be held Saturday, December 17, also at the church, at 11 a.m.

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

Arrangements by Nassau Funeral Home, 879-1770.

CLAYTON N. McRAE



Clayton N. McRae, 90, affectionately known as Mr. Mac or Clay, passed away November 28, 2022, at Community Hospice Hadlow Center. He was a Christmas baby, born in Jacksonville to the late Jack Walter McRae and Louise Mae Bell McRae. Clay's birth mother passed away when he was very young. His father married Viola Irene Wall, who loved and raised him well, and was the only mother he ever knew. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and served around the world for over 22 years, retiring as a Master Sergeant. He returned to Jacksonville and started a second career with the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office and served faithfully for 20 years, retiring as a Sergeant.

Clay shared his life with his one true love, Jackie McRae, who sadly passed away

in August of 2022, just short of celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary. He and Jackie were avid antique bottle collectors. Mr. McRae shared his love of the outdoors with family and friends while bottle digging, camping, fishing and hunting. He was preceded in death by his wife Jackie; son Michael George; brother J.W. McRae, Jr.; and grandchildren Gina Mabry McGee and Nathaniel Oliver Mabry, Jr.

Surviving family include his children Jenine McLarty, Denita Herres and Mark (Sharon) McRae; grandchildren Crysta (Mark) Roberts, Sean (Dessica) Mabry, Jennifer (Joel) Long, Carly (Johann) Forrest and Kyle McRae; great-grandchildren Dalton (Connie) Roberts, Brooke Roberts, Audrey Long, Lucas Long and Celia Mabry; and great-great-grandchildren Trenton Thompson and Baby Clayton Roberts, arriving in 2023.

A graveside funeral service was held Monday, December 5 at Jacksonville National Cemetery with Chaplain Jackie Hayes officiating. Final Military Honors were reverently bestowed by the Moody Air Force Base Honor Guard.

HARRY EROS SCABAROZI, IV



Harry Eros Scabarozi, IV, 48, passed away December 6, 2022 at his home in Jacksonville.

He was born December 4, 1974, in Rockledge, Florida to Harry Scabarozi, III and Cynthia Scabarozi. He grew up alongside his sister, Michelle Jean Scabarozi, who he loved dearly. They enjoyed spending time together. When Harry was younger, he enjoyed fishing, hunting and being outdoors. He was with the Operator Engineer Union Local 673 for over 20 years and worked with Florida Mechanical as a crane operator. Harry is preceded in death by his father Harry Scabarozi, III; and sister Michelle Scabarozi.

Those left to treasure Harry's memories include his mother Cynthia Scabarozi; children Harry "LH" Scabarozi, V (Brittney Marie O'Brien) of Folkston and Jack Hunter Scabarozi (Elaynni Rebekah Abry) of Jacksonville; nephew Dakota (Raven) Smith and their son, Camden Duke Smith of Hilliard; niece Brandi Floyd of Sunrise; granddaughters Madalynn Jean Scabarozi and Motley Rose Scabarozi.

A memorial service for Harry will be held Friday, December 16 from 5-7 p.m. at Nassau Funeral Home. Arrangements by Nassau Funeral Home, Callahan 904-879-1770.

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

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OBITUARIES

ALLEN E. STARLING



Allen "Pete" E. Starling, 83, of Hilliard, passed away December 3, 2022. He was born on February 21, 1939 in Jacksonville to Roland G. Starling and Jewel Venita Braddock. Growing up, Pete and his family would take weekend trips to the lake and that is where he developed a love for fishing and water skiing. He became extremely good at water skiing and won many slalom ski competitions. Pete proudly served in the United States Air Force as an Aircraft Radio Repairman. After his time in the Air Force, Pete met the love of his life, Joan Anderson. They married on August 4, 1967 and had two beautiful daughters, Alana and Crystal. Pete knew after seeing Joan at the Miss Blaze beauty pageant, she was the one who lit his flame in many ways. After they wed, Pete began his long-time career as a firefighter/engineer for the Jacksonville Fire Department. He retired in 1993 after 27 years of service. Pete was the ultimate family man and adored spending time with his family especially his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He also enjoyed watching Gunsmoke and other westerns while indulging in a honeybun from time to time. Pete was known for blasting old country tunes through his big speaker on music nights. He is preceded in death by his parents; and daughter Crystal Renee Starling.

Pete leaves behind his loving wife of 55 years, Joan Anderson-Starling; daughter Alana Jensen (Collin Rewis); sister Joan Witt; nephew Jerry (Patricia) Millikin; grandchildren Chance McClinton, Chessie (Ian) Farhat and Ceegan McClinton; and four great-grandchildren.

A graveside service was held Monday, December 12 at Jacksonville National Cemetery with Roland Coleman officiating.

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

MARA ELAINE SULLIVAN



Mara Elaine Sullivan, 17, of Jacksonville, passed away December 9, 2022. She was born December 5, 2005 in Jacksonville, to Billy Sullivan, Jr. and Shelly Rowe Sullivan. Mara was a student at West Nassau High School and was in the 11th grade. She was a hard worker and was employed at the The Sheik. Mara was very head strong about fulfilling her dreams of becoming an EMT. She was adventurous and loved going to the beach and the mountains. Mara was taken far too soon and will be dearly missed. She is preceded in death by her father, Billy Sullivan, Jr.; and great-grandparents Toby and Gayle Quarles.

Mara leaves behind her mother Shelly Sullivan; brothers Nicholas Sullivan and Austin Sullivan; grandparents "Papa" Richard Colson, "GiGi" Janice Peeples, "Papa" Thomas O'Neal and "Grandma" Linda O'Neal; uncles Allen Peeples and Billy Whitaker; aunt "Nanny" Sandra Whitaker; and several other extended family members and countless friends. The family would like to recognize Mara's GiGi for doing such a wonderful job with raising her. If it was not for her, Mara would not have been the person she was.

The family will receive friends at 11 a.m. Friday, December 16 prior to the celebration of Mara's life at 12 p.m. at Nassau Funeral Home with Pastor David Harris officiating. Interment will follow at Edgewood Cemetery.

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

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

ADAM JOSEPH TOOMES



Adam Joseph Toomes, 39, of Hilliard, passed away December 5, 2022. He was born on June 20, 1983 in Charleston, South Carolina to John Robert Toomes and Veronique LaRoche. Adam had a fearless curiosity about life. This was evident from a young age. It seems Adam's first words should have been "but why?" Adam never knew a stranger and was quick to make friends, a quality that can also be seen in Nikolas and JD. He wasn't timid about taking chances or making bold choices which sometimes landed him in hot water!

Adam grew up in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina attending Christ Our King Stella Maris Catholic School, Bishop England High School and graduating from Camden Military School. In 2008, he graduated from the College of Charleston with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Intermodal Transportation. After graduation, he joined Mediterranean Shipping Company where he worked for 10 years. Adam was kind and generous, always willing to help with any task. He had his dad's sly wit and conservative values. Adam was a Mama's boy at heart and would drop anything he was doing to take care of any of her needs.

Adam loved his brother Kelly; their bond continued to grow after the loss of their father. Adam and Cat met in 2011, he was smitten with her from the start. She was the love of his life and they exchanged

vows on April 16, 2018. Together, they have two amazing sons, Nikolas and John David. Later that same year, Adam and Catalina moved their family to Florida where Adam began working as the Terminal Manager at SSA Marine. Adam will always be remembered for having a smile on his face, being gentle and kind. He had a down to earth personality and was a laid back "simple man" who could be found on the grill or doing miscellaneous outdoor activities. Adam loved spending time with his sons, watching football (Go Panthers!), hunting and target practice. He was a loving husband, devoted father, and a cherished son, who will be missed dearly. Adam is preceded in death by his father John Robert Toomes; grandparents; and uncle Richard Toomes.

Adam leaves behind his loving wife, Catalina Ponce; sons Nikolas Robert Toomes and John "JD" David Toomes; mother Veronique Toomes; brother Patrick Kelly Toomes; uncles Jay (Donna) Toomes and Marc (Myra) LaRoche; aunts Elizabeth Toomes and Arlene Toomes; cousins; and godmother "Aunt Lisa" Mauer. His dad's best friend, Donny (Ellen) James have always been an important part of his life. Life-long friends, Taylor Scott, Steve Terry and John Gibbs.

A celebration of Adam's life was held Saturday, December 10 at Nassau Funeral Home with Pastor Gerald Wollitz officiating. The family received friends prior to the service.

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

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

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NASSAU COUNTY IS ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS OF PROPERTIES FOR POTENTIAL ACQUISITION THROUGH THE CONSERVATION LAND ACQUISITION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (CLAM)

NOMINATION PERIOD FOR THE CURRENT CYCLE
ENDS ON JANUARY 31, 2023

Nominations are accepted on a rolling basis.

The Nassau County Conservation Land Acquisition and Management (CLAM) program was created to preserve and conserve the county's natural, historic, and working lands resources by identifying, ranking, and assessing conservation lands for acquisition and management.

During the initial CLAM nomination period, July 24, 2021 through January 31, 2022, over 750 parcels were nominated for inclusion in the CLAM program. Staff completed its evaluation of the nominations and presented its top 25 ranking recommendations to the CLAM Committee. The Committee's final ranking was approved by the Board of County Commissioners on September 26, 2022.

Nominations of properties may be submitted from any person or organization, including the County, nonprofit organizations, and local, regional, state, or federal governmental entities. To nominate a property for potential acquisition, the nominator shall submit an application to the Nassau County Planning Department. Nominators may nominate an entire parcel for acquisition in fee simple or only a specific portion thereof or interest therein. In nominating properties, nominators should consider, at a minimum, the information contained in the Conservation Plan, the CLAM Resource Rankings Map, and the CLAM Manual.

Previously submitted parcels do not need to be resubmitted. All previously submitted nominations remain eligible for consideration.

Nominations must be received by the Nassau County Planning Department no later than 5:00 pm on Tuesday, January 31, 2023. Nominations received after the nomination period will not be considered for the 2023 cycle. CLAM documents and nomination forms can be found at the following link or can be picked up and dropped off in person at the address listed below:

<https://www.nassaucountyfl.com/formcenter/clam-12/nassau-conservation-lands-acquisition-an-79>

Nassau County Planning Department
96161 Nassau Place • Yulee, Florida 32097

WN AFJROTC Students Receive Flight Academy Scholarships

Gregg A. Kline, Col, USAF(Ret)

Five Juniors and two Seniors in West Nassau's AFJROTC Program have received a scholarship to attend an accredited aviation university participating in a Private Pilot Certificate training program in the summer of 2023.

Alanah Dohm, Brandon Miller (alternate), Rick Miller, Caydee Pine, Allen Price, Arianna Rosen and Ryland Weyburn are part of 200 Air Force Junior ROTC cadets around the world to receive the scholarship from Headquarters Air Force Junior ROTC, Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, AL. More than 1300 cadets applied for one of the 200 scholarships. There are almost 120,000 high school students enrolled in Air Force Junior ROTC programs at approximately 870 high schools in the U.S. and overseas. The

scholarship covers transportation, room and board, academics and flight hours required to potentially earn a Private Pilot Certificate. The scholarship is valued at approximately \$22,500.

The Air Force Junior ROTC Flight Academy Scholarship Program is an Air Force-level initiative in collaboration with the commercial aviation industry to address the national civilian and military pilot shortage. The Flight Academy allows aspiring young aviators to get their Private Pilot's Certification, at no cost, during an eight-week summer course at partner universities. Those who participate in the program will earn a college transcript but do not incur a military commitment to the Air Force or other branch of service, nor does completing the program guarantee acceptance into one of the military's commissioning



Shown (l to r) are: Cole Miller, Ryland Weyburn, Alanah Dohm, Brandon Miller, Arianna Rosen, Allen Price and Caydee Pine.

programs.

The mission of Air Force Junior ROTC is to develop citizens of character dedicated to serving their nation and

community, while instilling values of citizenship, service to the United States, personal responsibility and sense of accomplishment.

First Coast Honor Flight Visits Veterans Council

Ryan Bauman, First Coast Honor Flight and Mike Doran, Chairman of the Veterans Council of Nassau County, are all smiles after Bauman's talk to the council about the thousands of veterans in northeast Florida who are eligible for a one day, all expense paid honor flight to Washington, D.C. Bauman explained that the veteran is teamed up with a volunteer, called a "Guardian," for the day as they visit the memorials dedicated in their honor while they exchange experiences with other veterans on the trip.



First Coast Honor Flight is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that runs on volunteers and donations. In its two short years in the area, First Coast Honor Flight has honored 50 veterans with a flight. For more information visit: www.firstcoasthonorflight.org to apply, donate, or volunteer.



presented by CMS Band

The Callahan Middle School Band will hold a Christmas Concert Tuesday, December 20 at 6 p.m. in the CMS cafeteria. The event is free however guests are requested to bring a pair or two of new socks to donate to the Be the Change NE FL for their homeless ministry!

CALLIE KAY'S WELCOMES

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