

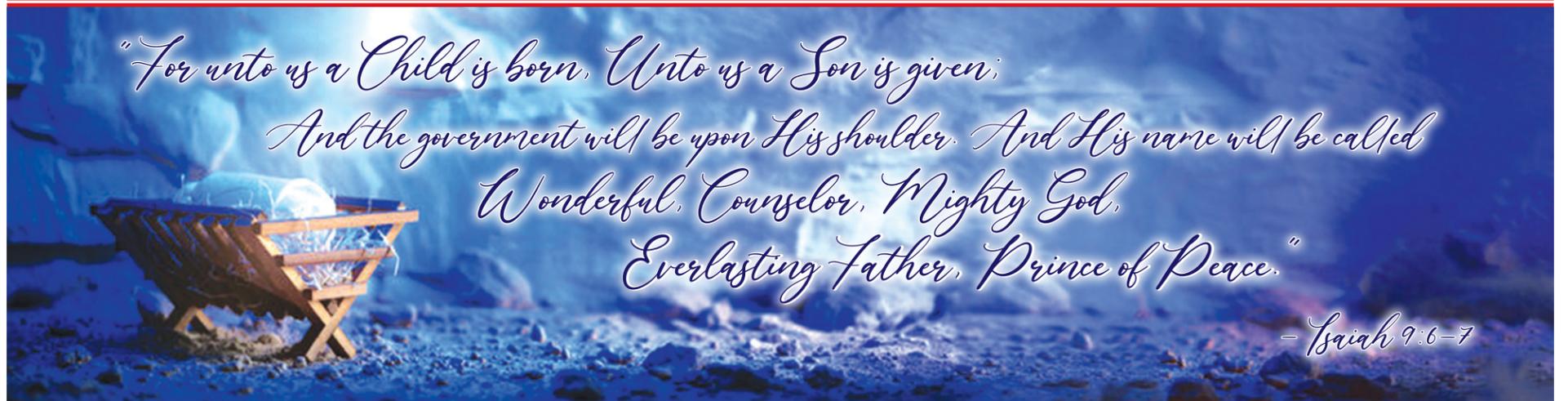
WESTSIDE JOURNAL



VOLUME XVIII ISSUE 22

HOMETOWN PEOPLE...HOMETOWN NEWS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2021



Justice for Joleen: Kessler GUILTY

The nightmare began in May 2018, one that no family deserves. The family of Joleen Cummings realized something was not right when Joleen failed to pick-up her children from her ex-husband on Mother's Day and also her 34th birthday. The next day, Cummings' mother, Ann Johnson, reported her missing to the Nassau County Sheriff's Department.

Through meticulous investigating, the Nassau County Sheriff's Department quickly began finding evidence concerning Joleen's disappearance. On May 15th, deputies found her vehicle parked near the Yulee Home Depot near where Joleen was last seen at Tangles Hair Salon, where she worked as a hair stylist. Through video footage from a nearby business, Kimberly Kessler, also an employee at Tangles Hair Salon was seen driving Joleen's vehicle and parking it. Joleen was not with her. Other leads and evidence pointed to Kessler so the search for Kessler began.

The very next day, investigators found Kessler at an I-95 rest area in St. Johns County. Kessler was arrested on charges of vehicle theft.



Just six days later, Sheriff Leeper announced, "Investigators have reason to believe that Joleen is not alive." The investigation turned to a Georgia landfill, her body was not found but

Leeper states they found several items of interest. On September 7, 2018 Kessler was indicted for first-degree murder.

In July of 2019, Kessler was ruled "not competent" for prosecution even though she was competent enough to have multiple aliases throughout many years and was working as a hair stylist under a fictitious name. She was sent to a Florida State Hospital to restore competency and be reevaluated in six months. Upon return to Nassau County Jail, Kessler went on



a hunger strike which reduced her weight from 200 pounds down to 90 pounds. Two more times the defense requested her competence be re-evaluated. Both times Kessler was found to be competent for trial.

Finally on November 29, 2021, jury selection began for the trial.

The trial began on December 6 with lots of evidence and witnesses. Closing arguments from both the prosecution and defense began on Thursday, December 9. The jury deliberated a little over an hour before

making a decision. On December 9, Kimberly Kessler, aka Jennifer Siebert, was convicted of First Degree Murder and Grand Theft Auto. She is facing mandatory Life in Prison. Sentencing is set for 1:30 p.m. January 27, 2022.

"She (Kimberly Kessler) is evil. She is evil in the flesh. And as soon as she is sentenced, I want her behind out of our jail," said Nassau County Sheriff Bill Leeper. "It's the state's problem from now on."

Joleen's body has yet to be found. The family is praying Kessler will see fit to give them a location of her body so Joleen can be laid to a proper rest and give the family the peace of doing so.

K9s United Hosts K9 Benefit

K9s United recently hosted its inaugural "A Very Merry K9 Christmas" holiday party to benefit the local nonprofit's efforts to ensure K9 units across the country have the highest levels of customized training and animal care needed to protect and serve their communities. The holiday celebration was held Sunday, December 12 at The Barn at Cottonwood Ranch, in Callahan.

At the event, a special presentation was made to the Moyers family. Earlier this year in September, Nassau County Deputy Joshua Moyers was fatally shot during a traffic stop. The community mourned his passing but also rallied around all the departments

who searched during the manhunt for the shooter. Four days later, with the help of K9s, the shooter was found and arrested.

K9s United presented Joshua's parents, Tim and Brenda Moyers, of Hilliard and his fiancé Ivy Carter with a beautiful portrait. Nassau County Sheriff Bill Leeper along with several NCSO deputies attended the special event.

Those who would like to further



support K9s United can visit www.K9sUnited.org to make an online donation.

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Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor may be emailed to news@westsidejournal.net but must include a complete name. Letters should be no longer than 300 words.

Merry Christmas!

Dear Editor,

Well, another day of celebration is upon us. The day we celebrate the birth of the one who gave his life on the cross, a ransom for our sins. The God/Man, Jesus Christ, 100% God and 100% man. It would seem that to most people any more just look at this day to see who can give and get the biggest presents under the tree or in the yard. We teach our children about Santa Claus and what he can bring them on Christmas Eve and not what the true meaning of Christmas is all about. The greatest gift of all. We need to dust off the bibles we have sitting around and open them up to Luke 1:26-37 and Luke 2:1-20 and read the Christmas Story to your children. You say, "They will not understand or remember all of that." Well, the minds of little ones are like sponges. You might be surprised at what they learn. I bet that most of them certainly know how to use your (or their) smart phones. How young were they and how long did that take?

My friends, America is on a very slippery slope headed toward total destruction as a nation. Our only hope is hope in Jesus. The very Jesus that the 'left' is trying very hard to totally erase from the face of the American landscape. They got Jesus out of our schools back in the early 1960's and look at what we have now. Schools that teach everything that is against the true and living God. Teaching our children to hate their parents and/or grandparents, CRT, etc. Teachers are afraid of their students and have little or no control over them in the classrooms, though we are very fortunate in Nassau County. They have gotten Jesus out of most facets of our government also.

They hate the name, 'Jesus.' Why?

Because they know that he is the very essence purity, honesty and truth. The left can't stand any of those things because it interferes with their lifestyles.

So, please don't just look at Christmas as a day of giving or getting gifts and eating like there is no tomorrow. Oh yeah this is also not the day to celebrate by getting "drunk" at parties celebrating "Christmas." Keep Christ in Christmas.

Merry Christmas to all!
Hank Martinez, Sr.

Yule Season

Dear Editor,

Let's be sure who Jesus is! In Proverbs 9:10, "...to respect God is the beginning of wisdom." It just so happens that Jesus is God. As is found in I John 5:20, "And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life."

I Timothy 3:16 states, "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory." I John 3:16 states, "Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren."

Please take note that it says God laid down His life for us! I don't see how any plainer the scriptures can portray that Jesus is God. Eternity is too long to get it wrong.

In Jesus' Name,
Jack Lewis

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The 2021 Twelve Days of Christmas

Douglas C. Pearson, Sr.

During this time of year, and after a feast that normally gives us reason to say thanks, we all look forward to the trappings of the Christmas Celebration. In those thoughts and dreams we want nothing but the best for our families, friends and the world's population. In that vein here are some wishes for those Twelve Days:

On the 1st Day of Christmas we wish for you some close family gatherings that bring love and joy to the season.

On the 2nd Day of Christmas we wish for you the freedoms that the Bill of Rights guarantees for all of you, including safe and secure communities.

On the 3rd Day of Christmas we wish for you the abilities to get close enough to actually hug your family and friends, without the threat of being evicted from society.

On the 4th Day of Christmas we wish for you the abilities to burn all of (and anything that might even resemble) your face masks, so that we might actually see the joy and love being demonstrated.

On the 5th Day of Christmas we wish for you the abilities to once again (as an airline slogan says) "be free to move about the country." (And the World!)

On the 6th Day of Christmas we wish for you the ability to return to work and once again enjoy the good feelings of providing a meaningful, positive productive life that can and does impact the world's security.

On the 7th Day of Christmas we

wish for you the ability to return to a more normal relationship with your medical professional, without the illegal interference from that Social Dictatorship in Washington.

On the 8th Day of Christmas we wish for you the ability to provide for your family's needs without the requirement to put another mortgage on the house just to be able to go to the grocery store.

On the 9th Day of Christmas we wish for you the ability to once again purchase an "American Automobile" that is affordable, and not to have to resort to accepting the prohibitive high cost of a vehicle that cannot be sustained or maintained.

On The 10th Day of Christmas we wish for you the freedom to speak your mind and live without fear of being sidelined for successfully pursuing Life, Liberty, Happiness and the practice of your chosen religious beliefs.

On the 11th Day of Christmas we wish for you the energy and drive to continue to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States of America against all enemies, both foreign and domestic, and the Liberties that are the hallmark of the founding fathers.

And finally, **on the 12th Day of Christmas** we wish, and pray, for the continued good health of the President of the United States and that his dementia and dis-connect is reversed quickly, as this country would never survive under the inept and ignorant leadership of the Vice-President.

JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

Perhaps, just perhaps, I am gaining some of my respect back for parts of the judicial system in America. Just recently there have been several high profile cases that caught national attention. Sadly, one was here in Nassau County and another one here that will be in the spotlight when a trial begins.

The reason I state that I am gaining respect is the verdicts that have been handed down on these cases. I am in total agreement with the Kyle Rittenhouse not guilty verdict. It has always been and should always be legal to defend one's own life or the life of another. It should always be allowed to one's right to own and bear firearms! Our 2nd Amendment states that very clearly and is in my opinion, the most important Amendment in our Constitution. Without it, all others become null and void!

I also feel the three men in Brunswick, Georgia, received their due punishment in the Ahmaud Arbery murder. There is no justification in running a person down and approach him with a shotgun. That type action cannot be accepted. Even though Arbery was known to be a habitual criminal, it was not Travis McMichael, Gregory McMichael or Roddie Bryan's rights to confront Arbery with any type of force. That is why we have law enforcement agencies.

Shamefully, it took three years to bring Kimberly Kessler to trial in the murder of Joleen Cummings, a local

mother who was brutally murdered by her co-worker in Yulee. Kessler tried every play in the book to portray herself as mentally incompetent; however anyone with any sort of common sense could see she was a very intelligent person just by looking at all the aliases she had pulled off in her life. She is a brazen and evil person. My only regret is she will probably just face life in prison. She needs to be put to death!

Then there is Jussie Smollett. Guilty as sin! I didn't have a clue how this would turn out with Smollett being a well-known actor and singer. It seems these high profile entertainment and sports figures often receive preferential treatment that you and I would not receive under the same circumstances. He was convicted on five counts of disorderly conduct for the false statements he made to Chicago police personnel concerning being attacked by two Trump fans and telling him this is MAGA country. Smollett claimed it was a hate crime because he is black and gay and the supposed attackers used racial and homophobic slurs toward him. My only problem with this verdict is, if he proclaimed this was a hate crime, and it would have been if it had actually happened, then why is Smollett not charged with a hate crime? His crime is certainly a hate crime towards white heterosexual conservatives!

The system is far from perfect, but at least there is hope.

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

EVENTS AROUND TOWN

The Sons of Confederate Veterans will hold their monthly meeting Monday, December 20 at 7 p.m. at the Pig Barbeque in Callahan.

TURKEY SHOOT! The Callahan Lions Club will have a Turkey Shoot every Saturday night at 6:30 p.m.



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Place Your Joy in the Lord

Pastor James McFarlane, First Alliance Church, Hilliard



When we feel joy in our lives it is usually because something wonderful has happened or we are anticipating something wonderful happening. The same can be said about experiencing a lack of joy. There are too many things happening in the world that tell us to abandon our joy. This is the devil lying his cruellest lie. We need to remember that he has been defeated.

It is especially hard during the holiday season. This year has been no exception. There are so many voices raised in anger and fear everywhere we look. A great chorus of sadness seems to be all that we hear. In the last few weeks, I have said goodbye to a sweet saint of a lady and helped her family lay her to rest. I have visited several others whose health is not so great. The faith of these saints is what has buoyed my spirit through these hard days. Before the saintly lady went on to be with the Lord Jesus, my wife and I were privileged to sit with her for a time. Her faith was so strong that she did not fear her own death. She simply expressed her concerns for her family. She knew where she was going. She was going to see Jesus, that joy was evident in her every word. She knew where her joy came from. Her joy lay in her faith in the Son of God.

This faith that I saw shining out of her eyes reminded me of the source of my own joy. 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. He fulfilled the law where we could not. Jesus is the Lamb of God that was slain for the propitiation of the sins of the world. He did this because of His great love for each one of us. It is through His sacrifice that we can be redeemed in the eyes of the Father. 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. These are not promises that have yet to happen, these are promises that we can claim today.

When the devil tries to steal your joy with the worldly, remember the heavenly. Jesus is already victorious. Christ is what we need to look to as the source of our joy. If you are reading this and are looking for a reason to be joyful, looking for hope, place your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ today! Do not wait another minute. Come to Jesus now.

Light Boat Parade Saturday



A group of boaters have joined together to have a Light Boat Parade in the St. Marys River Saturday. The parade will begin at 6 p.m. at the Kings Ferry Boat Ramp. Once all decorated boats are launched the parade will head down to Flea Hill on the Georgia side, then turn around and head to Brown Town. The parade will return back to the Kings Ferry boat ramp. All boaters are required to have enough life jackets on board their boat for all passengers.

Following the parade, everyone will be invited to have a hamburger or hot dog at the Kings Ferry Boat Ramp to celebrate the event! The event is scheduled for 6 p.m. so make sure to show up if you want to join in!

FSS Receives Dinner Donations for Families in Need



The Family Support Services of North Florida Nassau office recently received 25 turkey dinners from The Bridge Family Worship Center in Yulee. Pastor Duane Erickson and some of his church family brought them to the office the Monday before Thanksgiving, and they were distributed to local foster families in need.

CHURCH NEWS

NORTH HILLIARD BAPTIST CHURCH is looking for donations for their next indoor yard sale. Items may be dropped off at the church fellowship hall M-F, 9A-1P. People can also call the church office, 845-2515 for donations to be picked up.

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NOMINATION DEADLINE APPROACHING
Nomination Period Extended to January 31, 2022

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.

The County is accepting nominations of properties for potential acquisition by the County through the CLAM Program 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.

Nominations must be received by the Nassau County Planning Department no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, January 31, 2022. Nominations received after the nomination period will not be considered. CLAM documents and nomination forms can be found at the following website or can be picked up and dropped off in person at the address listed below:

<https://www.nassaucountyfl.com/933/Conservation-Land-Acquisition-Management>

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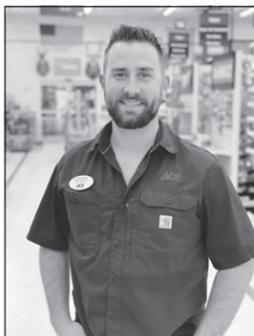
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30 Years in the Making Keep Nassau Beautiful Celebrates

Keep Nassau Beautiful (KNB) recently held a 30-Year Anniversary Celebration hosted by Mocama Beer Company on Saturday, December 4. For the last 30 years, KNB board members and volunteers have worked tirelessly to educate and engage Nassau County residents and businesses in protecting the environment and improving the appearance of our community.



Current local initiatives include programs to clean shoreline or roadways, collect and properly dispose of household hazardous waste, lead educational outreach efforts and sponsor free tree events.

The 30-year anniversary was an opportunity for the community to gather and celebrate those initiatives, as well as to continue educating and raising awareness about the important work of KNB. The event included raffle drawings for prizes provided by generous community sponsors and businesses. KNB thanks the sponsors and local businesses for their support; these donations, and the community response to them, allow KNB to continue important community efforts. "On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you to the Nassau County community for supporting and participating in KNB events now and over the past three decades," said Mike Cole, KNB Board Chair. "Generous donors, sponsors, partners, public officials, and volunteers provide the resources that allow KNB to serve the community."

A highlight of the event included the announcement and recognition of the winners of the KNB Inaugural Community Awards. The award recipients are as follows:

The BEAUTIFICATION AWARD recognized Mocama Beer Company for the repurposing of a landmark Fernandina

Beach building into a thriving business, and their use of Florida-friendly landscaping which adds interest and beauty to the 8th Street corridor.

The ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD was granted to the late Rebecca Jordi, former Director of Nassau Extension and a former KNB board member and officer. Becky championed planting and beautification projects, partnered with KNB on the "We Noticed" program, and provided the educational content for KNB's highly successful Free Tree events.

The SUSTAINABILITY AWARD was presented to White Oak Conservation. They exemplify the award criteria by saving endangered wildlife through sustainable breeding, education, and responsible land stewardship. White Oak partners with KNB and the St Marys Riverkeeper in the annual St. Marys River Cleanup, leads multiple Adopt A Road quarterly cleanup events, and provides supplies that allow KNB to reduce its use of plastic trash bags. "Congratulations to the award winners. By your example, others may be inspired to join us in keeping our community clean, green, and beautiful," said Josh Baker, KNB Board Chair-elect.

To get involved or learn more about KNB programs, 904-261-0165 or knb@keepnassaubeautiful.org.

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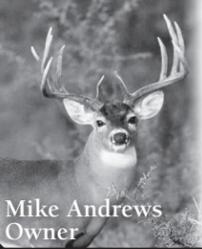
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New Beginnings and Milestones

*Mr. and Mrs. Andy Miller
Celebrate 50th Anniversary*



Andy and Cassie Miller, of Callahan, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary December 10. The Millers were married December 10, 1971. Andy is retired from the US Air National Guard. They celebrated their special milestone with a party held in their honor at their daughter's home with lots of family and friends celebrating with them.



They have two children Amanda and Mickey Hodges of Hilliard, and Christopher and Sarah Miller. They also have one granddaughter Tara Hodges.

Donation to NCSO K9s



Tandem K9, VFW Post 10095 and American Legion Post 401 joined efforts and donated \$1,850 to the Nassau County Sheriff's Office K9 Unit. NCSO Sherriff Bill Leeper was honored to accept the donation. The donation will provide the K9 Deputies with much needed training and supplies.

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32nd Annual Dayspring Village
SECRET SANTA

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

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

How to get Involved:

1. Contact Ashley Turner, Secret Santa Coordinator at 904-845-7501 or ashleyt@dayspringvillage.org.
2. You will be assigned a resident and their 'wishes'.
3. Have your gift wrapped and back to the facility by December 23rd.
4. Baking - If you like to bake we would love to have you sponsor the evening snack for the residents!
5. Music - If you have a musical talent you would like to share we invite you to come and perform!

Dayspring Village is a state licensed limited mental health assisted living facility that is focused on serving the needs of adults with schizophrenia. If you would like to learn more or we can be of any assistance, please contact Douglas D. Adkins, Administrator at 904-583-0134-cell or dadkins777@bellsouth.net - Please consider becoming a volunteer this Christmas season, the gift you make in the life of others will truly change lives around you.

God Bless and Merry Christmas!
Call today! 845-7501

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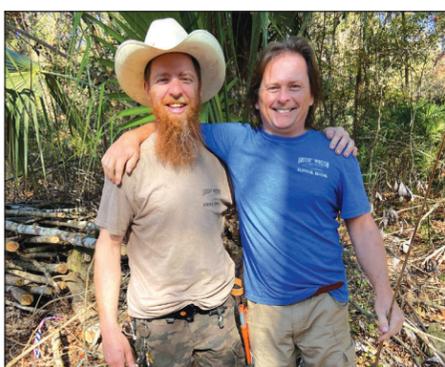
Primitive Skills Weekend Held



Tony Pike, of the Ancient Wisdom Survival School in Southwest Missouri, was in Callahan recently teaching survival skills. Students enjoyed camping in the beautiful forest on Marigold Lane, hosted by the Baldwins who recently moved out of Jacksonville to enjoy the Callahan community.

Tony taught classes on having the right survival mentality, foraging for natural resources, improvising natural hunting and trapping tools, and making fires using ferrous rods and bow drills. He also demonstrated atlatl throwing. Students were able to carve their own atlatl throwers, and make & fletch darts to take home. You can watch the highlights of the weekend on YouTube

by searching for "Primitive Skills Weekend Highlights" by The Mess. The Baldwins are planning on bringing Tony back next year for another weekend of learning primitive survival skills. For more information or to sign up, email: OurMessHisBest@gmail.com.



Fatal Crash Friday Near Callahan

Last Friday afternoon around 1:40 p.m., a fatal car accident occurred on U.S. Highway 1 at Charwood Drive south of Callahan. According to the Florida Highway Patrol report, three vehicles collided leaving a 76-year-old man from Jacksonville deceased.

The FHP report states that the 76-year-old man was driving north on U.S. 1 in the outside travel lane. The second vehicle involved was also traveling north and was ahead of the first vehicle. The third vehicle involved was traveling southbound on U.S. 1 in the outside lane and was driven by Gary Howard of Hilliard. The first car that was heading north slowed to make a right hand turn



off U.S.1. The second car failed to slow and attempted to swerve to the left to avoid striking the car turning right.

The front of the second car collided with the left rear of the car making the right hand turn. This caused the second car to careen forward through the median and travel north in the southbound lanes. The car struck the southbound pickup truck head on. The driver of the second car was announced deceased at the scene. The drivers of the first car and the pick-up truck had minor injuries according to the report. All traffic lanes were blocked for several hours and traffic was rerouted around the accident.



FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS

**Callahan First Baptist Church 45090 Green Ave. • Callahan
Thursday, December 16 • 4:30 - 6:30 pm**

**Gray Gables Baptist Church 54031 Church Rd. • Callahan
Mondays 9:30 am - 2:30 p.m.**

**Barnabas @ Northeast Florida Fairgrounds, Callahan
Monday, December 20 • 12:30 - 2 p.m.**

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YARD SALES

YARD SALE, VFW Post 10095, Hilliard, across from Hilliard Airpark, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. \$5 Bag Day. Lots of new men's items and holiday décor.

SATURDAY, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., 44022 Campbell Court, Callahan. Kitchen item's, tools, beer mirrors, NASCAR die cast, custom jewelry, silver rings, rifle cases. Little bit of everything!

SATURDAY, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., 55066 Wetland Way, Callahan, in Spring Lake Estates. TVs, baby items and toys, baby boy clothes (0 - toddler), lamps, miscellaneous household items, old records: 45 and 33, new adult potty seat, new above ground pool still in the box, artificial plants, rocker and much more!

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MULTI-FAMILY yard sale! 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., 45618 Musslewhite Road, Callahan, 3 miles down Musslewhite Road (from Callahan fairgrounds on the right). Kitchen items, clothes, electronics, maternity clothes and much more!

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 8 a.m. until 7: 54845 Church Road, Callahan. Boxes of teacher supplies (bulletin board art), beautiful King bedspread set, Christmas décor and much more!

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES now available at LIFE CARE CENTER OF HILLIARD- Now Hiring FL Licensed CNAs-Great starting pay rate! We offer a team-oriented environment along with a great benefit package. Please apply in person at 3756 West 3rd Street, Hilliard, (904)845-3988 or fax resume to (904) 845-4456. tfn

Life Care Center of Hilliard now hiring **RNs and LPNs**, must have FL License. Please apply in person to: 3756 West 3rd Street, Hilliard or fax resume to 904-845-9487, or email to: Loren_Reddish@lcca.com<mailto:Loren_Reddish@lcca.com>. tfn

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POLICE REPORTS

Names, Addresses and all information appearing in the Police Reports are taken from the Sheriff's Department files and do not necessarily indicate guilt, only that arrests were made or charges were filed.

Tuesday, December 7

Bryan Avery Crews, 46, 37281 Cody Circle J1, Hilliard: Driving While License Suspended with Knowledge; Possession Schedule 1-5 Substance; Possession of Methamphetamine

Bobby Cecil Davies, Jr., 32, Callahan: Failure to Appear (x 2); Tag Not Assigned Vehicle; Possession of a Weapon by Convicted Felon (x 5); Possession of Drug Paraphernalia with Residue; Possession of Marijuana less than 20 grams; Carry Concealed Firearm; Carry Concealed Weapon

Wednesday, December 8

Merrill Dewayne Herrin, 48, 3710 Falcon Drive, Hilliard: Possession Schedule 1-5 Substance

Amanda Gayle Smith, 41, 37416 W. 6th Avenue, Hilliard: Possession of Methamphetamine (x 2); No Florida Driver's License

Friday, December 10

Justin Devon Bunkley, 44, 44199 Osceola Way, Callahan: Possession Drug Paraphernalia; Possession of Schedule 1 Substance more than 20 grams Cannabis; Possession of Methamphetamine

Richard Charles Crews, Jr., 23, Callahan: Violation of Probation Community Control (x 2)

Shellie Lorene Stiles, 50, 27056 Michael Lane, Hilliard: Habitual Traffic Offender; Possession of Methamphetamine

Mark Allen Windham, 41, 44159 Kingbird Drive, Callahan: Possession of Methamphetamine; Habitual Traffic Offender

Saturday, December 11

Daniel Joseph Fernandez, Jr., 45, Bryceville: Failure to Appear; False Imprisonment; Battery Simple

Monday, December 13

Robert Eugene Salsbury, III, 41, Callahan: Battery Domestic Violence



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JAMES LLOYD BYRD, SR.



James "Jimmy" Lloyd Byrd, Sr., 80, of Callahan, went to his Heavenly home on December 14, 2021, at Community Hospice Alice and T. O'Neal Douglas Center for Caring in Jacksonville. He was born in Evinston, Florida on March 20, 1941, to the late Heber Brown Byrd and Christine Bichard Byrd. Jimmy was raised in Jacksonville and graduated from Paxon Senior High School in 1960. He met the love of his life, Martha Janell Wilkins, while in school, and they were happily married on April 15, 1960. Jimmy and Janell enjoyed an amazing marriage filled with many blessings, four beautiful children, 10 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. Jimmy loved spiritual things and enjoyed fellowship with those of like precious faith. After school, Jimmy worked for a short season at A&P Grocery until he started his longtime career at JEA as a Lineman where he proudly served for 30 years until his retirement in 1995. Jimmy loved working with his hands. He made numerous pieces of furniture and bird houses for family and friends. Jimmy also loved helping others especially his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He enjoyed fishing, gardening, working on his tractor, spending time with his family and will be remembered as one of the most loving and caring husband, father, papa, brother and friend. He was preceded in death by his parents; and a great-grandson Wyatt Byrd.

Jimmy is survived by his loving wife of 61 years, Janell Wilkins Byrd of Callahan; children Jim (Connie) Byrd, Jr. of Jacksonville, Jeff (Karen) Byrd of Callahan, Joanne (Tom) Shadle of Savannah and Jananne (Corey) Chappell of Milford, NH; brother Robert H. (Marianne) Byrd; sisters Sharon (Fred) Bacon and Jane (Dan) King; grandchildren Lucas, Brandon, Tiffany, Warren, Eric, Dustin, Derek, Brianna, Brooke, and Garret; along with 10 great-grandchildren and numerous extended family members and friends.

The family will receive friends Saturday, December 18 from 10-11 a.m. prior to the memorial service at 11 a.m. at The Outdoor Life Farms, 542201 SR 115, Callahan with Mr. George Lee officiating. A private graveside service will be held Saturday at Riverside Memorial Park.

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

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

OBITUARIES

AMENDA "JEAN" CLOWERS



Amenda "Jean" Clowers, 83, of Bryceville, passed away on December 8, 2021. She was born on September 9, 1938 in Charlton County, Georgia to Oscar and Emma Ellison. Jean was one of 11 children. She enjoyed attending church services, baking, going to yard sales and fishing. Most of all Jean enjoyed spending time with her family. She was preceded in death by her husband of 44 years, Kenneth Clowers.

Jean leaves behind her children, Dale (Louie) Johnston, Donna (Terry) Todd, Trellis (Freddie) Cantrell and Wayne (Janice) Clowers; brother-in-law Alton Clowers; sister-in-law Lorene Manasco; 18 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

A celebration of Jean's life was held Saturday, December 11 at River Road Baptist Church. Interment followed at River Road Baptist Church Cemetery. The family received friends prior to the service.

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

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

RUBY CONWAY DELL



Ruby "Eva" Register Conway Dell, 92, of Callahan, passed away December 10th, 2021 following a short illness. Eva was born on May 15th, 1929, in Hoboken, Georgia to John and Bessie Mae Register (Garner). Eva was a longtime member of Callahan Church of God where she enjoyed teaching Sunday school. She later became a member of Live Oak Baptist Church. She enjoyed driving the school bus for several years and really loved her students. She also enjoyed tending to her flower beds, going to Vegas with Shirley Rountree and other friends, as well as playing the slot machines. Eva was preceded in death by her parents; sons Warren, Joe, Larry and David Conway; brothers Ollie, Vaudy, J.W. and Carlton Register; grandson Jay Workman; and first husband Leonard Conway.

Eva leaves behind her husband and friend of 42 years, Lewis Dell of Callahan; her children Sharon Conway and Kim (Craig) Perdue; special daughter-in-law Hazel Conway; grandchildren Lori (Duane) Cooper, Misty (Alan) DiMaria, Polly (Derrick) Hodges, Brandy (Tim) Bryant,

Jimmy (Shelley) Lott, Susan (Berto) Jimenez and Daveda Smith; along with numerous great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

A celebration of Eva's life was held Tuesday, December 14 at Nassau Funeral Home with Dr. Sonny Foraker officiating. Interment will follow at Jones Cemetery in Callahan. The family received friends prior to the funeral.

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

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

PATRICIA WADE HENDERSON



Patricia Wade Henderson, 80, passed away peacefully Friday, December 10, 2021, while surrounded by family. Pat was born in Folkston, Georgia on August 6, 1941 to Marion and Ruth Wade. She was strong willed, sometimes obstinate, but always genuine, Pat's love for her family was immense. She enjoyed reading, crocheting, and tending to "her girls" (chickens). Pat will forever remain in the hearts and memories of her children as both a mom and a best friend. She was preceded in death by her loving husband, Darrell.

Pat is survived by her children Craig Caudill, Steve and Becki Dyal and Jennifer Henderson (Victor Varti); her two grandchildren C.J. Caudill and Kelsey Caudill (their mother, Karen); her great-grandchildren Nathan Petrie, Kaleb Hicks, Klayton Bright, Kazmera Caudill, Kayleia Shaw and Bryson Caudill; two brother, Gary and Leland Wade; and her canine friend, JJ.

A private celebration of Pat's Life will be held at Nassau Funeral Home.

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

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

WARREN HIGGINBOTHAM

Woodrow "Warren" Higginbotham, 80, of Dinsmore, in Jacksonville, passed away on Friday, December 10, 2021. Warren was an avid outdoorsman who was notorious for his love of nature and animals. Warren was preceded in death by his parents Raymond Woodrow and Ruby Irene Higginbotham.

He is survived by his children Talisa TC (Tracy) Sweat, Bobby (Amber)

Higginbotham, Tammy (Mike) Bennett, Leslie (Mike) Johnson and Wayne Earick; sisters Bertha Zortea, Linda Gregory, Rita Willams, Donna Danson and Debbie (Wayne) Malone; grandchildren Clint (Courtney), Brittany, Ty, Chelsea, Brandy, Kayla, Scottie and Ryan; great-grandchildren Anaston, Brooklyn, Oaklyn and Jerry; along with a host of lifelong friends he considered family.

A celebration of life was held Tuesday, December 14 at The Barn at Cottonwood Ranch, Callahan.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Community Hospice or The Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch.

BETTY MAE NORRIS



Betty Mae Norris, 93, of Callahan, went home to be with the Lord Monday, December 6, 2021. She was born in Covington, Oklahoma to Jay and Ambie (Page) Congdon on July 5, 1928. Betty was raised in the farming community of Marshall, Oklahoma by her parents, along with an older brother and two younger sisters. Early in childhood, Betty began developing a lifelong love of pencil and charcoal sketching, progressing over time to pastel chalk then oil painting. Her eye for detail resulted in a number of beautiful (some commissioned) works that she lovingly gave away to family and friends. Betty was blessed with an abundance of creativity. In addition to painting, she was an expert seamstress of clothing, fabric dolls and doll clothes. She also enjoyed quilting and always had a beautiful flower garden. In the kitchen, her claim to fame was Cherry Pie and homemade ice cream!

After graduation from Marshall High School, Betty worked as a telephone operator. She married Robert L. (Bob) Norris on June 4, 1949. Across 56 years of marriage, they raised one son, Tommy, and one daughter, Connie, predominantly in Enid, Oklahoma and Oklahoma City. Through the years, they enjoyed many family camping and fishing trips with Betty's parents and traveling to large family reunions in the summer. They often enjoyed visiting Robert's parents and extended family at their farm.

Betty was a loving wife, mother and devoted caregiver who loved being with her family more than anything. Though often short on means, there was always an abundance of love and she managed to make every event fun and special. Betty was a kid at heart, with a playful sense of adventure. On camping/fishing trips, she loved to go exploring, leading her children



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on hikes along the shoreline or through the woods, across streams, making every journey an adventure.

After Robert retired, they fulfilled their dream of lakeside living, making their home on Pine Creek Lake, in Oklahoma. They lived there for 16 years, developing enduring friendships with church members and neighbors. Their door was always open with the welcome mat extended for family and friends who were always greeted with a big hug.

In 2002, Bob and Betty moved to Florida to be near their daughter. Kings Road Fellowship became their new church family. They loved going to fellowship and loved their "peeps" dearly, appreciating their beautiful music and prayer support. After Robert passed away in 2005, Betty continued living in her house for 14 years. Her family grew with the addition of three great-grandchildren, the youngest affectionately dubbing her GooGoo. In 2019, she moved to assisted living at Lakes Crossing Senior Care in Kingsland, Georgia where she lived for two years. Betty was well loved and cared for, becoming known as "Grandma" by her affectionate caregivers.

Betty is survived by her children Thomas D. Norris of Claremont, NH and Connie M. (David) Nicholas of Callahan; two granddaughters Tina M. (Dave aka Snake) Sabo of NY and Amber M. (John) Bovinette of Callahan; three great-grandchildren Ava and Drezden Tucciarone and Eliana Bovinette; siblings Harold R. Congdon, Joyce Brock, Letha (BZ) Clarke; and numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

Betty was preceded in death by her beloved husband Robert; her parents; sister Edith; daughter-in-love Nancy Norris; sisters-in-love Zilpha Congdon, JoAnn Congdon and Virginia Congdon; brother-in-love Steve Brock; nephew Harry Jay Congdon; and niece Linda Congdon.

The family will receive friends at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, December 18 prior to the celebration of life service at 11:30 a.m. at Nassau Funeral Home with Pastor David Westmoreland officiating. Graveside services will follow at Oakwood Cemetery in Hilliard.

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

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

OBITUARIES

MILDRED RENFROE



Mildred Renfroe, 86, of Callahan, passed away December 11, 2021. She was born on November 11, 1935 in Jacksonville, to Milton and Sarah Norton. She and her husband, James, moved to Callahan, from Jacksonville in 1973. Mildred retired from Independent Life in 1997 after 45 years of service.

She was a faithful follower of Christ and served her Lord by loving others. Almost everyone in her world would quickly be able to name one of her cakes or pies that she dropped by their house on more than one occasion. Her table often had more food than people to feed as she always ensured everyone had their specific favorite dish of hers, whether it was fried chicken, dressing, mac and cheese, a roast or potato salad. Her people always left full and well loved. Mildred is preceded in death by her husband, James; daughter Kim Mitchell; and brother Buddy.

She is survived by son-in-law Donald Mitchell; grandchildren Lacey Mitchell and Chase (Katie) Mitchell; great-grandchildren James Reamer Mitchell and Charlotte Kate Mitchell; and brother Kenneth (Brenda) Norton of Callahan.

A celebration of Mildred's life was held Wednesday, December 15 at Callahan First Baptist Church with Pastor Todd Carr officiating. Interment followed at Jones Cemetery. The family received friends one hour prior to the service at the church.

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

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

Bridge, Grand Canyon and New York City and dozens of other interesting places. With his job, he drove tour buses carrying dozens of different singing groups and their crews to all parts of the US and Canada and visiting all the wonders of America on the way. Touring rock groups and any other traveling group, motivational speakers were transported hundreds of miles all over the country by Chris. He enjoyed his life of travel and interaction with many "interesting" people including: David Lee Roth, Jimmy Buffet, Korn, Molly Hetherington, Credence Clearwater Revival (his favorite people), Alan Jackson, The Beach Boys, the B 52's, Tony Robbins, Cher in her world tour and Little Romeo. Little Romeo's dad was Master P. Master P was instrumental in getting Chris started in the touring business.

Chris was very patriotic and attempted to join the US Navy in 1983. He was denied admission because of a back injury which deformed his back.

Chris is survived by his son Nicholas Rudin; grandsons Seth Rudin and Silas Rudin; mother Jackie Sikes of Callahan; and brother Donald Sikes; Uncle Buddy (Kathy) Newman; loving first cousins; Michelle, Troy, Cindy, Alex and Cory; his good friends Tammy Czigan and Roy Dunlap; and of course, his sweet furry babies Trump and Argyle.

Arrangements for Memorial Mass will be announced at later date.

LONNIE "HARDIE" THOMAS, SR.



Lonnie "Hardie" Thomas, Sr., 87, a lifelong resident of Callahan, passed away on December 13, 2021 at the Community Hospice Alice and T. O'Neal Douglas Center for Caring with his loving family by his side. He was born in Callahan on June 25, 1934, to the late Willie Peoples Thomas and Jewel Higginbotham Thomas. After school, Hardie worked as an attendant at Gulf Gas Station where he

proudly served 18 years; and then at Nassau Road Department as a Dump Truck Driver until 1990 when he retired.

Hardie married the love of his life, Lila Rose Armstrong, on April 23, 1965, and they have enjoyed the past 56 years of marriage. He was a devoted husband, loving father and grandfather who enjoyed spending time with his family most. Hardie also enjoyed umpiring Little League baseball in Callahan, Hilliard and Highlands for 32 years. He loved baseball and certainly enjoyed helping young boys to perfect their skills. Hardie was a longtime member of North Jacksonville Baptist Church where he thoroughly enjoyed attending, praising and worshipping His Lord and Savior, as well as serving as an usher. He truly had a great spirit, loved bringing smiles to others and was known for handing out peppermints. Hardie was a treasure to his family and friends and will be greatly missed.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and his brothers, Warren Thomas, Irvin Thomas, Leslie Thomas, and Sidney Thomas.

Hardie is survived by his loving wife, Lila Rose Armstrong Thomas of Callahan; children Lonnie Hardie (Sheri) Thomas, Jr. and Josie Caroline Thomas Douglas, all of Callahan; brother Wayne (Danielle) Thomas of Callahan; sister Gloria Thomas of Callahan; sister-in-law Joyce Thomas of Callahan; five grandchildren Chris (Rosland) Reynolds, Janice (Bobby) Smith, Samantha (Cary) Wicker, Stephanie Douglas and Zachary (Taylor) Thomas; great-grandchildren Micah, Kinsey, Noah, Elijah and Isaiah Reynolds, Layton, Lyvia and Ruby Wicker and Waylon Thomas.

The family will receive friends Sunday, December 19 from 2-4 p.m. at the Nassau Funeral Home Chapel. A celebration of Hardie's life will be held Monday, December 20 at 11 a.m. at Callahan First Baptist Church with Brother Steven Peeples officiating. Interment will follow at Jones Cemetery in Callahan.

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

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

CHRISTOPHER MARK RUDIN



Christopher Mark Rudin, 61, of Callahan, went home to be with Jesus Friday, December 10, 2021 at Baptist Hospital Hospice, following a long battle with cancer. Chris was born on August 7, 1960 in Jacksonville to Jacqueline Newman Sikes and Norman Rudin (deceased). He lived in Callahan since he was 12. He married Crystal Williamson in 1979 and had one son.

Chris was very well traveled, visiting places like Yellowstone National Park, Yosemite National Park, the Golden Gate

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SUCCESSFUL GRINCH RUN HELD

The 11th Annual Grinch Run was held, last Saturday at Callahan Elementary School. There were over 200 runners who participated. There were many runners and walkers for the annual event. Parents, grandparents, students and faculty had lots of fun!

There were 3 winners in both the adult and youth divisions. Adult division winners are as follows: 3rd

place (19:26) Chris Arnold, 2nd place (19:02) Charlie Lusk and 1st place (18:51) Sean Roberts.

Youth division winners are as follows: 3rd place (17:21) Waylon Arnold, 2nd place (16:20) Jensen Lusk, 1st place (16:15) Jace Simmons.



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