

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-His good, pleasing and perfect will." - romans 12:2

## **Pastor Steve Wolgamott to Retire** *Pastor at Live Oak Baptist Church for Over 20 Years*



Dawn S. West

The summer of 1999 Live Oak Baptist Church was in a transition period. It was then that Pastor Steve and Mrs. Charlotte Wolgamott accepted the invitation to serve at Live Oak. They settled in to the pastorium located right beside the church and made their home. The Wolgamotts are such a friendly God-loving family that fit right into the Live Oak fellowship. The historic church needed some help. Pastor Steve along with his group of deacons made a plan to renovate the church and also the little church. If you haven't driven out to their location, Live Oak Baptist Church is cradled among the oak trees making such a serene setting for a church. The church also has its own cemetery, which is also well kept. During the renovation, the group also created a new parking lot. "I am proud to say, we (the church) don't owe any money to anyone. We are strong supporters for our missionaries, which is a priority for our church," said Pastor Steve. "I've been on several mission trips. I've been to the Philippines, South Africa and Kenya. While in the Philippines, we held a stadium revival with around 100,000 people. We were told about 10,000 came at the invitation to know more about Jesus!"

Live Oak Baptist Church is a member of the Northeast Florida Baptist Association. Pastor Steve has been very active in the association serving in many different capacities and offices with Brother David Drake at the helm.



"Brother David is one amazing person. I'm so thankful we have had the opportunity to work together so many times," added Pastor Steve.

During his tenure at Live Oak Baptist, Pastor Steve recalls he has done 276 funerals (two of which were his close friends) and 46 weddings. He now is traveled full circle with many of his fellowship; the young people have grown up and now we are getting to minister to their children and grandchildren. Mrs. Charlotte will also be retiring from her position at Hilliard Middle-Senior High School where she has worked for 18 years. She will truly be missed! "We (Charlotte & I) feel like we are following God's direction for our lives at this time. Once we made the decision we have grieved greatly about it," said Pastor Steve. "We have many people that are just like our family. This is hard for us but necessary at this time. The people here at church and within the community have made us the richest people in the world. I've enjoyed every minute of it!"

Pastor Steve will preach his last sermon at Live Oak this Sunday morning. Sunday evening at 6 p.m. the church will welcome the Winston Miller Family for a special Christmas concert. The Wolgamotts will pull out early Monday morning to head to Blountstown (Florida) where they will reside. Pastor Steve will still minister when called upon but not in a fulltime capacity.

We, as a community, have been honored and blessed to have such a loving (and a little crazy) pastor that we call our friend. Pastor Steve and Mrs. Charlotte, we wish you the best in this new journey and pray God's continued blessings upon your lives.





## **CES Grinch Run Held Saturday**



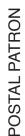
The 10th Annual Callahan Elementary School Grinch Run was held Saturday. The 10th annual event proved to be one of the largest for the school. PE Teacher Alma Bailey Williamson was the originator of the event and has been the organizer each year. At the end of this school year, Mrs. Williamson plans to enjoy the life of retirement after 36 years with the Nassau a fun event every year," said Williamson. "It's so good to see so many children and families come out and support our school in this fun way! I am going to miss all these great students!"

Student winners included: 1st - Sebastian Gancerez; 2nd - Avery Parm and 3rd -Nolan Faircloth. Adult winners included: 1st - Brooklyn Brecklin; 2nd - Kelsea &



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## Christmases to Remember

Pastor Ted Heglund, First Alliance Church, Hilliard



How many Christmases can you remember? Sure, some of you can remember something about every single one of them but for many, like me, I seem to remember certain ones. What are some of the outstanding events that have marked Christmas for me: Every year as I grew up, we sat around the tree before any gifts were opened and listened to Dad read from the Bible about the events of that first Christmas; I was an adult before seeing snow on Christmas for the first time; It was a joy to see our children wait patiently a couple days to celebrate Christmas so that a missionary, who served

at an isolated area, could join us at our mission station after the weather delayed her flight; Always seeing an envelope on the Christmas tree that said "Happy Birthday Jesus". In that envelope was a special gift to missions, a church project, etc. that was equal to a tithe of the amount spent on gifts to family and friends; The joy of times of singing songs of Christ's birth, worshiping and praising God with other believers whether sitting in a small grass roof church in a village, a beautiful church or just with family and friends; A time of fellowship and communion together at a candlelight service.

As I began to write, my first thoughts were of toys, gifts and activities. However, the more I thought, the more I realized that the most joyful and meaningful Christmases were centered around Christ. This joy is expressed through relationships with family and friends and showing the love of Christ to others.

Christmas should be a time of joy but many people confuse happiness with joy. Happiness is as an unanticipated or present good thing or circumstance that is used to cover a wide range of human experiences—victory, birth, achievements, intimacy, etc. Joy is from within, coming up from the heart and is not dampened or destroyed by circumstances of life.

Joseph and Mary certainly found themselves in a very difficult circumstance in their culture. An unmarried woman who became pregnant could be stoned to death. But joy came to them after the angel explained that the miracle that was taking place was fulfilling prophecy "...Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel." Isaiah 7:14

The shepherds were hardworking people who normally would be the last to hear any important news. To the shepherds that night the angels appeared and gave them this message: "...Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people." Luke 2:10

Real joy is a result of a life changed by Christ. Joy is a heart filled with gratitude to the Lord and not based on circumstances, difficulties and hard knocks of our lives. Jesus says, "I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!" John 15:11

The true joy of Christmas comes from accepting Jesus as your personal Savior and the joy of a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Your joy will overflow from within regardless of the circumstances of life. Has anyone seen joy overflow from your life?

Make this Christmas meaningful by centering your time and activities on Christ. Take time with your family to worship the Christ of Christmas!



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# JOURNAL

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## **CES Warriors of the Month**



Shown are the Warriors of the Month for November at Callahan Elementary School. Our character trait for the month of November was Gratitude. Students were chosen by performing a random act of kindness, smiling often, being positive and showing appreciation or thanks.

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## WESTSIDE JOURNAL ~ Thursday, December 17, 2020 ~ Page 3

## **OPINIO**

### Roger R. West

As the last flame flickers into darkness, so does our Constitutional Republic. What we are witnessing is a well planned and executed political coup. The hostile takeover of our country by the socialist Democrats is no different than an outside force invading our shores. We have allowed our country to fall to socialism/communism just as predicted and planned by the communist party. Not a shot will be needed they said. America will fall from within and we have.

President Trump had built an economy unlike anything America had ever witnessed. He had reached out to every group in America, doing more for black Americans than any President since Republican Abe Lincoln. He put America first and forced other countries to pay their fair share in world-wide agreements. His accomplishments are more numerous than I could ever begin to list. All of this occurred while battling a corrupt Democrat party and an equally vile and biased media. He has a massive enthusiastic following of supporters, received more votes than any other sitting President in American history, and you expect me to believe he lost the election? Never on God's green earth will I ever believe it.

To me it seems all too coincidental.

Along comes a pandemic that Dr. Fauci predicted in January 2017 during the Presidential election year. The liberals blame Trump and the media keeps throwing gas on the fire. The sheeple fall to the commands of liberal government and even accept and encouraged the use of mail-in ballots to elect the most powerful position in the world. They utilized Dominion voting computers made in Venezuela. China gave Dominion millions of dollars this year prior to the election. Ballot counting in certain Democrat strong holds are very suspect to say the least. Video of Democrat poll workers pulling suitcase of ballots from under a table, sworn affidavits from hundreds of poll workers describing fraud, impossible spikes towards Biden in the early morning hours during the count, ballots delivered to Pennsylvania from New York and it goes on and on. Even the Supreme Court failed to uphold their duties by refusing to examine the evidence.

There is still one last avenue to have this atrocity corrected and hopefully it will happen. If not, we are doomed as a nation.

As always...that's just my opinion! God Bless America!



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## Locals Attend MAGA Rally Again!

### Amelia Crane

We were so thankful to be a part of the second March for Trump in Washington, DC, this past weekend. It was an incredible experience with crowds as far as you could see in every direction. Multiple groups were there, including the Jericho March, Nick Fuentes and Women for

America First. The many speakers included Vernon Jones, Mike Lindell (the My Pillow guy) and General Michael Flynn. They were all very positive and passionate about the continued fight to save our Republic.



Shown (l to r) are: Timothy, Peter and Samuel Crane from Bryceville



Best of all, President Trump himself circled low in Marine One over the massive crowds while "The Star-Spangled Banner" was playing. That was a moment never to forget!

One of the most striking things about Trump rallies is the camaraderie. Perfect strangers become instant friends. Everyone is courteous and cordial, regardless of background, skin color, or creed. On Saturday, we all stood in one accord to support our President who is fighting so hard for all Americans. To hear public prayer in the name of Jesus Christ and to be in the midst of so many who stand for truth and justice gives hope in the midst of the uncertain days in which we live. May God show His mercy on our nation and President!

## Fatal Accident Friday Afternoon

A tragic accident occurred last Friday that took the life of a Vero Beach man. According to Florida Highway Patrol reports, the accident happened around 2:20 p.m. near Vintage Lane off US Highway 1 north of Hilliard.

The 49-year-old driver of the tractortrailer pulpwood truck was traveling southbound on US 1 in the inside lane behind a pickup truck driven by a 32-year-old male from Folkston with 3 passengers (32-yearold female, 4-year-old and an 11-year-old). The pickup slowed down to make a u-turn in front of the tractor trailer. The semi struck the right rear of the pickup where it came to final rest in the right shoulder northbound facing east. After colliding with the pickup, the semi traveled through the grassy median crossing both northbound lanes of US 1, off of the roadway colliding with a tree. The semi then became fully engulfed in flames. The driver was pronounced deceased at the scene.

The driver and passengers of the other vehicle were transported with minor injuries.





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Sincerely, Bert Norman's Plumbing Team

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## **Surprise! Home for the Holidays!**

Monday, Ashley Wood, a custodian at Hilliard Middle-Senior High School, was taken by surprise when she was greeted by her daughter Maggie Wood, who is currently serving in the US Navy. Maggie wasn't sure if her leave for the holidays would come through! It did and what a wonderful celebration she will share with her family! Welcome home Maggie!





## Breylee Donates Her Hair

Breylee Higginbotham, 7, of Callahan, donated 8 inches of hair to the Children With Hair Loss (CWHL) organization. She wanted to donate her hair to make another girl feel good about herself like she does. She has a heart of gold and is always thinking of others. In a world of crazy and dark times, she is giving another



girl a little piece of sunshine! She got her new cut by Melissa Johnston at Dot's Hair Salon in Callahan. She is the daughter of proud parents Karisa Cole of Callahan; and Kyle and Samantha Higginbotham of Hilliard!





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New Beginnings and Milestones

Happy 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday MaKenzie Rae Steedley & Tommy Lane Steedley



MaKenzie Rae Steedley & Tommy Lane Steedley will celebrate their first birthday December 23. They will celebrate their special day with a party in their honor with siblings Kylie and Kyle Bell and family and friends joining in the fun! Their proud parents are Bethann Bell and TJ Steedley of Hilliard!

Proud grandparents are John and Kathy Balance of Callahan; and Tommy and Penny Steedley of Hilliard.

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PERMIT SPECIALIST. Nassau County has an opening for a Permit Specialist in the Building Department at \$14.1907 - \$21.5932 hourly plus benefits. Applications will be accepted thru December 23, 2020. To apply please visit www.nassaucountyfl. com or for additional information contact the Human Resources Department located at 96135 Nassau Place, Suite 5, Yulee, Florida 32097, Telephone (904) 530-6075 or Fax (904) 321-5797. Drug Free Workplace. This position is eligible for Veterans' Preference in accordance with applicable laws. 121720

## **Classified Deadline is** Tuesdays at noon. Call 879-4180





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### **SCOTT GLEN HALL**

Scott Glen Hall, 57, of Jacksonville, passed away Saturday, December 5, 2020 at his home. He was born in Jacksonville and lived there 23 years of his life, coming there from Callahan. He was a printer. In his earlier years, he enjoyed hunting and fishing.

He is survived by his mother Penny Leann Stephens Rau and stepfather Robert Wesley Rau of Callahan; a brother Christopher Jason Rau of Orange Park; four nieces Anna Hall, Chloe Grace Rau, Micaela Damico and Aubriel Damico; two nephews Micah Aaron Hall and Nicholas Damico.

He was preceded in death by one brother Jimmy Cartlon Hall, Jr.

A graveside service will be held Friday, December 11 at 11 a.m. at Campbell Cemetery in Greenville, Florida.

Beggs Funeral Home is handling the arrangements, (850) 973-2258.

### **CECIL GLENN HODGES**



Cecil Glenn Hodges, 82, of Folkston, formerly of Hilliard, passed away Thursday, December 10,

2020 in Jacksonville. He was born June 6, 1938 in Folkston, to the late Bailey Hodges and Alma Sikes Hodges. He retired from the City of Jacksonville Health Department; then drove a car hauler for Dixie Transport; and then retired from the Nassau County Sheriff's Office. He was a member of Victory Baptist Church.

In addition to his parents; he was preceded in death by a son Abner Glenn Hodges; two brothers Dean Hodges and Clyde Hodges; and a sister Eleanor Sikes.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Joann Davis Hodges; two sons and daughters-in-law Anthony Glenn (Rhena) Hodges and Cecil Derrick (Polly)

# **OBITUARIES**

Hodges; a sister Margie McCullough; three grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and a number of nieces and nephews.

The family received friends Sunday, December 13 at Victory Baptist Church. The funeral service was held Monday, December 14 at Victory Baptist Church with Pastor Tim King officiating. Burial followed in Nathalene Cemetery in Hilliard. Condolences may be expressed at www.

shepardfh.com.

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home in Folkston, Georgia.

### Donna Gail Ryan

Donna Gail McIntosh Baker Ryan, 58, of Orange Park, passed away December 8, 2020 at Haven Hospice. She was born October 1, 1962 in Folkston, Georgia to the late Harold L. McIntosh, Sr. and Sandra Altman McIntosh. She was a homemaker and a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

She is survived by her husband Dan Ryan; children Donna Danielle Baker, Julie Nicole Gattung-Christensen, Andrew Brock Steven Baker, Alycen Elizabeth Camille Baker and Joseph Ilya Baker; a sister Lori Ann Brocato; a brother Hal (Regina) McIntosh of Hilliard; and two grandchildren.

Memorialization will be by cremation.

A graveside memorial service was held Tuesday, December 15 at Live Oak Cemetery.

Condolences may be expressed at www. shepardfh.com.

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home in Folkston, GA.

### MICHELLE JANIE STANLAND

Michelle Janie Cottle Stanland, 60, passed away Friday, December 11, 2020. She was a loving mother of two children. Michelle was born on March 29, 1960 in Fernandina Beach. She was a very happy person who always carried a big smile and loved to laugh. She had a genuine love for her family and friends alike and was never hesitant to help anyone in need. Michelle graduated from Florida Community College of Jacksonville. Some of Michelle's likes include visiting the beach, she had a strong love of animals, especially her dogs and sea turtles, she was very passionate about hunting for arrowheads, and she loved listening and dancing to Rock and Roll music. She had many girlfriends who she loved dearly. Some of her closest friends are Greta Wade Legus, Barbara Callahan Crews, Dana Smith, Cathy Highsmith Kimberly and Judy Britt. She loved telling stories of the great times she enjoyed with her girlfriends throughout the years. Michelle will be forever missed but will live in the hearts of all that knew her.

Friends and family would like to extend a special thanks to Erik Stanland, former husband but forever friend, we thank you for your time, support, kindness, prayers and your thoughtfulness for all involved. It means so much.

Michelle was preceded in death by her father Rueben Henry Cottle Jr.; her mother Jean Arlene Stump Phillips; and her stepfather Henry Phillips.

She is survived by her two sons Michael Wainwright and Joshua Wainwright; her grandson Michael Wainwright, Jr.; her sister Debbie Cottle Anderson; her Aunt Mary Jane Seidel; her Uncle Butch Eaton; and several cousins, nieces and nephews.

A funeral service for Michelle will be held Friday, December 18 at 6 p.m. at **GLADYS E. THORNTON** 



Gladys Elizabeth Thornton, 91, of Callahan, passed away December 11, 2020. A Celebration of Gladys

life will be held Thursday, December 17 at 2 p.m. at Nassau Funeral Home. A visitation will be held one hour prior to service. Burial will follow in Evergreen Cemetery.

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

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

### **DONALD WAYNE WHITE**

Donald Wayne White, 53, of Folkston, Georgia, passed away December 8, 2020 at Hospice of the Golden Isles in Brunswick, Georgia. He was born September 5, 1967 to the late Raymond White and Bertha Keene White.

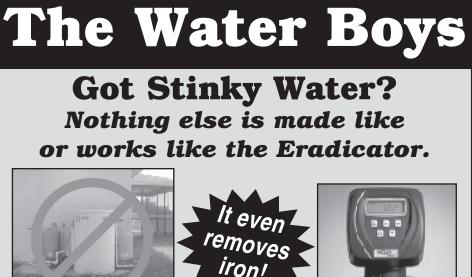
He is survived by four sisters Patricia Gerstorff, Kathy Johnson, Linda Arrington and Mary Arnett; two brothers Carl F. Johnson, Jr. and Joseph Johnson: and a number of nieces and nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Friday. December 11 at Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home Chapel. The family received friends prior to the service. Burial followed in Pigeon Creek Cemetery.

Condolences may be expressed at www. shepardfh.com.

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home in Folkston, Georgia.





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Callahan Funeral Home assisted the family, 879-2336.

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## Successful Christmas Giveaway Held

Last Saturday, after months of collecting, organizing and preparing, Bryceville Baptist Church held their Christmas Giveaway. Organizers collected and picked up donations from various locations from people wishing to donate. "The donations were amazing. People were so willing to give and share with others," said Tammy Wingate. "I have picked up items twice a day for most days. The event couldn't have

been possible without our volunteers helping and our wonderful community donating!"

The church served well over 125 people with clothes, shoes, toys and more. "The people were so thankful and so careful in looking through the items. They made sure to take their time not to mess up the table or the remainder of the items. It was a wonderful experience and great day," added Wingate.

Bryceville Baptist Church would like to thank Cherree Griffin, owner of CG's Hair Salon, her staff and their





clients for their abundance of donations and stuffed stockings; to Noah's Ark for donations; to the Zeta Phi Sorority group for all their donations; and Hilliard Winn Dixie for donations of fruit to give out.

We thank the community for the abundance of donations (new & used). We could've not done this without each and every one of you. We were able to bless so many families and in return bless us as well!

Have a blessed Merry Christmas!







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